

Rogers

Name:	John Rogers Elementary School	Enrollment:	337
Address:	4030 NE 109th Street	Nickname:	Otters
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	n.a.



Rogers, 1958 SPSA 266-4

The La Villa Station on the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railway stood near (N)E 98th Street and 49th Avenue NE. It served as a rail connection for the La Villa Dairy. The first Maple Leaf School operated nearby from 1896 until just before 1910.

In 1938, the Boeing Airplane Company developed the Clipper Ship, otherwise known as the “flying boat.” Two years later, Pan Am World Airways built a dock on Lake Washington at 90th and 51st NE from which it launched the first over-the-ocean service between Seattle, Juneau, and Fairbanks. After World War II, the area north of Sand Point became one of the city’s newly developing suburbs.

Around 1950, residents of the area were eager for a public bathing beach on Lake Washington. The Seattle Parks Department selected property owned by an early resident, John G. Matthews, just north of the old Pan Am dock and, in 1951, condemned his horse pasture. The resulting Matthews Beach Park bears his name.

Matthews had opposed having his land taken for a park. For three years following condemnation, he was able to lease the pasture back for his horses because there were no funds for park development.

Matthews School opened in 1953 at (N)E 105th & 40th Avenue

Name: **John Rogers
Elementary School**
Location: 4030 NE 109th Street
Building: 16-room brick
Architect: Theo Damm
Site: 9.2 acres

1956: Opened in September



Rogers, 1960 SPSA 266-2

NE, the former site of the La Villa Dairy, which had later been a hog farm and a cornfield. Matthews was just five blocks from Jane Addams Junior High School. It was the second all-portable school installed by the Seattle School District in the newly annexed northeast Seattle area. The cluster of 10 portables, with eight used as classrooms for 260 students, was needed to relieve overcrowding at Maple Leaf School.

During its second year of operation, and after some local controversy, Matthews School was renamed the John Rogers School on June 1, 1954. John Rankin Rogers was an early governor of Washington (1895–1901) and authored legislation providing financial aid to schools, which in turn served as a foundation for the present public school system. In September 1954, Rogers became an independent school.

It soon became obvious that a larger, permanent building was needed for the area. On a site four blocks away, the district built a facility “designed for future expansion.”

Enrollment continued to climb and, in 1960–61, reached 689, requiring the addition of five portable classrooms. In 1963–64 enrollment peaked at 779. From then, enrollment began to decline, hitting 425 in 1973–74.

During 1974–76, Janet Steputis designed and taught a program for 26 children in grades K–3 that focused on individualized learning and development. In a resource center at Rogers, she saw each student each day for 30 minutes to two hours to address their problems and to “keep kids from getting locked into a negative pattern in school.” Her goal was to identify effective means and help children reach objectives defined for them by their classroom teachers.

Under the district’s desegregation plan, Rogers (K–3) was paired with Madrona (K, 4–6) in 1979–80.

Recently Rogers has had Portuguese-language instruction for grades 2–5 that was also integrated with the music program. After a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant which trained teachers in inquiry-based science, a math grant from Social Venture Partners was used to train teachers in inquiry-based math. The school enjoys strong support for tutoring and reading programs from two local sources, the Lake City Presbyterian Church and St. Johns Masonic Temple.