

# Dr. Ralph Plagman

Inducted into the *Hall of Fame* in 1998

Ralph Plagman has been principal at Washington High School since 1981. Prior to that, he was principal at Metro High School and a teacher at Kennedy High School. He earned his B.A. from Buena Vista University, his M.A. in American History from the University of Iowa, and his Ph.D. in Secondary Education from the University of Iowa.

Dr. Plagman remembers the conversation after a PTA meeting in 1982 when Judy Carmichael and Margie DeKock, both active PTA members at that time, first proposed the idea of a performing arts booster group. Within months the first organizational meeting was held for a fledgling organization called Patrons of the Performing Arts. The organization has flourished throughout its 20-year history. In the last five years alone, financial support has exceeded a quarter of a million dollars.

Dr. Plagman was also involved in the late 1990's when Superintendent Finch asked each building in the district to identify its future facility needs. Another parent group was quickly formed, and the idea of a major expansion and remodeling of the performing arts area was conceived. Following a successful bond election in December of 2000, detailed plans for the remodeling moved forward in earnest. When the 2003-04 school year began, the new facilities were ready for use. Now the performing arts facilities at Washington High School (and at Jefferson and Kennedy) are the best in the Midwest.

During his career at Washington, Dr. Plagman has attended more than 200 plays, concerts, music competitions, and other performances where Wash students have been featured.

