

# A Brief History of Keene Adventist Elementary School

On January 7, 1894, when the Texas academy opened its doors to welcome the first students, grades one through twelve were included. The students were separated into two groups, the academy grades and the elementary grades. Professor C.B. Hughes was principal for the entire student body, but devoted his time to the academy students. Mrs. Flora Williams and her daughter taught the elementary grades. For the first few years the salaries of the elementary teachers were paid by the state. Both groups of students were in the same building, occupying different rooms.

The enrollment in the new school increased so rapidly that it was necessary to erect a new building to accommodate administrative and classroom facilities. The elementary grades were located in the new building.

As the enrollment continued to grow, the academy grades needed more classrooms. To provide for this growth, the academy board authorized the construction of a separated building for the elementary grades. It was named the normal building, and was located on the north-east corner of the campus.

Through the years the elementary department of the school at Keene continued to grow along with the academy and the college. In November of 1949 after three years of investigating and planning, work was begun on a new building for the elementary. The new Demonstration School was built with a limited budget by student labor under the supervision of Ed E. Seamount, builder, and J. Randall Sloop, business manager of the college, for half of what it would have cost as a contracted job. The school later became known as Ella E. Hughes Elementary School of Southwestern Junior College.

In 1966, the school would make one more move to its present location and the name changed to Keene Adventist Elementary School. The school operates as a ministry of the Keene Seventh-day Adventist church and provides Christian education for children grades Pre-Kinder through eighth grade. KAES offers music, technology, Spanish, PE to round out a strong academic program.

*“Of all the institutions in the world, the school is the most important” ~E.G. White*