On September 1, 1961, Charles B. Aycock High School opened its doors for the first time to four hundred eighty-four students under the leadership of Principal Jerry D. Paschal and twenty-five teachers. This opening was the culmination of four years of meetings, talks among citizens, and innumerable planning sessions on the part of the Wayne County Board of Education under the leadership of County Superintendent R. S. Proctor.

The new school consolidated three smaller high schools in northern Wayne County: Eureka, Nahunta, and Pikeville. Superintendent R. S. Proctor recommended that the new school be named Charles B. Aycock High School in honor of Charles Brantley Aycock, a man known as the educational governor of North Carolina. Governor Aycock’s birthplace is only a few miles from the school site. The name Charles B. Aycock High School was approved and dedication ceremonies for the new building were held on December 3, 1961, with Governor Terry Sanford as the guest speaker.

Consolidation enabled more students from grades nine through twelve to have advantage of a more enriched curriculum. Students had opportunities to take courses such as advanced grammar and composition, speech and dramatics, as well as other academic and vocational courses. The athletics department offered both boys’ and girls’ basketball and the teams became members of the 2A Coastal Plain Conference for their first season of play.

Within two years, there was an obvious need for additional classrooms and as a result, three mobile units were placed behind the main wing of the building in 1964. It was during this same year that Charles B. Aycock, after undergoing extensive evaluation, became accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
In May 1965, after four years of dedicated service to Charles B. Aycock High School, Principal Jerry Paschal resigned. Mr. Paschal went on to become the Superintendent of Goldsboro City Schools. Mr. R. Donald Jones became the next principal of Charles B. Aycock High School. Many changes occurred at the school during the tenure of Principal R. Donald Jones. In September 1965, seventeen black students enrolled at Charles B. Aycock for the first time. Also, the Vocational Department added auto mechanics, masonry, and carpentry to the curriculum. After the first black students were admitted to the school in 1965, the County Board of Education began making definite plans for the integration of students in all schools.

During the summer of 1967, the Fremont School District merged with Wayne County Schools. All students in grades nine through twelve transferred to Charles B. Aycock. This led to an increased enrollment and a larger staff. Once again, more mobile units were put into use.

In 1970, Charles B. Aycock High School became a senior high school with grades ten through twelve. The high school served all students, white and black students in Northern Wayne County. Norwayne School, the formerly all-black school, became a junior high school for all students at that grade level in the district.

By 1970, enrollment had increased to the point where there was a definite need for expansion of the facilities at Charles B. Aycock. A rear wing, currently the 400 wing, was added in 1971. The expanded facility had a music complex, a vocational facility, and six classrooms. Growth had also brought about a change in the area of athletics. In 1971 Charles B. Aycock became a member of the Eastern Carolina 3A Conference.

In April 1972, Principal Donald Jones resigned to become Superintendent of Wayne County Schools replacing Dr. Gerald James. Mr. Amos Cox, assistant principal, became the
acting principal, and Mr. Leland Godwin became acting assistant principal. Both of these men did a wonderful job leading Charles B. Aycock the remainder of that school year.

In late August 1972, Charles B. Aycock High School opened the new school year with a new principal, Mr. John M. Turnage. At that time, Charles B. Aycock had grown from a school of four hundred eighty-four students and twenty-six teachers to a student body of seven hundred with forty teachers. It was still a school committed to all students. Principal John Turnage brought his vision for student achievement to Charles B. Aycock and worked hard to make positive things happen in the school. Charles B. Aycock High School was proving that its administration, faculty, staff, and students were not satisfied to be better; they desired to be the best. Students at Charles B. Aycock continued to excel in both academics and athletics. In 1974, the Charles B. Aycock High School baseball team, coached by Mr. Randolph (Bud) King, won the 3A State Baseball Championship.

Wayne County Public Schools began planning to renovate and expand the Charles B. Aycock High School Media Center in the fall of 1976. After much planning, construction finally began in the spring of 1977. Charles B. Aycock High School operated with very limited access to library materials during the 1977-78 school year. The expansion was not large as the administration and staff had proposed but the new addition was a very welcome site in the fall on 1978. A course in Library Science was added to the Charles B. Aycock curriculum in the fall of 1979.

Enrichment resources were in constant use in all areas of the curriculum. Guest speakers talked to classes about experiences in various areas of the workforce as well as their travels in foreign countries. Students were given opportunities to travel through trips offered in areas such
as music, foreign language, and the various vocational courses. Several students took a student tour to France during both 1979 and 1980.

During the summer of 1981, Principal John Turnage left Charles B. Aycock to become the principal at Meadowlane Elementary School. In the fall of 1981, Mr. Bobby E. Cooley came to Charles B. Aycock High School as principal.

Student enrollment at Charles B. Aycock High School decreased during the 1980’s. This probably was a reflection of a general decline in birth rate. Many economic and social changes were evident in the Aycock community during the 1980’s. The economy was the most influential force in the changes. Inflation caused more students to hold part-time jobs. The administration, faculty and staff continued to change to meet the needs of the students, thereby providing a valuable service to the community. The administration and staff realized that emphasis must be placed on the individual student. Because of the number of students in the workforce, vocational courses and related materials were adjusted to correspond with the required skills of the working world.

Under the leadership of Mr. Bobby Cooley, Charles B. Aycock High School continued to provide a flexible curriculum adapted to meet the needs of each student. In 1983, the State Board of Education approved the North Carolina Scholars’ Program. This offered students at Charles B. Aycock an opportunity to pursue a well balanced but more rigorous and challenging high school program. This program required students to have twenty-two units of credit for graduation.

Several major facility changes took place at Charles B. Aycock High School during the 1980’s. The most welcomed change was the installation of air conditioning in the oldest wing of
the school. Now the entire facility, with the exception of vocational shop areas, had an excellent cooling system. Additional telephones were strategically placed throughout the building for use by faculty and staff.

Several departments underwent major changes during the late 1980’s and early 1990’s. In the fall of 1983, Junior ROTC was added to the curriculum at Charles B. Aycock. A major departmental change took place in the Foreign Language department in 1988. For twenty-five years, French had been the only foreign language taught at Aycock. Spanish I was offered in 1988. Spanish II was added in 1989 and Spanish III in 1990. Latin was added to the Foreign Language Department in the fall of 1996 through the use of Distance Learning by satellite.

The Charles B. Aycock library media center was also transformed. During the 1989-90 school year, the old card catalog became a thing of the past. Mrs. Linda King, media coordinator, along with Mrs. Patricia Thomas, media assistant, transferred all Aycock media data into an electronic format. Students then has access to all materials through the use on an online card catalog.

Another major change came to Charles B. Aycock High School in the fall of 1990. After twenty years, ninth grade students were once again assigned to Charles B. Aycock High School. Norwayne Junior High School became Norwayne Middle School serving students in grades six through eight. Charles B. Aycock High School’s student population of approximately five hundred twenty five students immediately increased to a population of more than seven hundred.

In May 1993, after twelve years of dedicated service to Charles B. Aycock, Principal Bobby E. Cooley retired. Mr. Dexter Simms replaced Mr. Cooley and served as principal for two years. Charles B. Aycock High School, along with other schools in Wayne County,
implemented the philosophy of “Effective Schools” introduced by Dr. Lawrence W. Lezotte.
His research began the basis on which Charles B. Aycock focused as the administration, faculty
and staff worked on school improvement efforts.

In May 1995, Principal Dexter Simms resigned to take a position with Wilson County
Public Schools. Mr. Randy M. Bledsoe came to Charles B. Aycock as principal in July 1995 and
remains the principal as this history is being written.

Many positive changes have taken place since Mr. Bledsoe came to Charles B. Aycock as
principal. Implementation of more technology became a real focus. Mrs. Linda G. King, media
coordinator had begun making plans for a local area network (LAN) at Charles B. Aycock High
School immediately after automating the media center. During 1993-1994 school year, the
media center was connected to one classroom in each of the CORE curriculum areas, and a
computer was purchased for these classrooms. This gave faculty and students access to media
center materials in the classroom.

Mr. Bledsoe worked with Mrs. King and more network drops and computers were added
to other areas of the school during the next school year. On October 26, 1996, community
volunteers ran at least one cable drop to all classrooms that did not have access to LAN.
Businesses and organizations throughout Wayne County donated both materials and manpower
for this project. With the additions of these network drops, students all over the school were
connected to a server in the media center and had access to the online catalog and many
additional curriculum related materials.

A big curriculum change came to Charles B. Aycock High School also in the fall of 1996.
Block Scheduling was effectively implemented into the school curriculum. Students were able
to take four classes each semester, eight classes per year and thirty-two classes while in high school. Block scheduling brought new courses to Charles B. Aycock. The Vocational Department has added courses such as Health Occupations, Introduction to Trade and Industry, Sports Marketing, and Digital Communications. Advanced placement courses were added in both the English and History Departments. Through a collaborative effort between Wayne County Public Schools and Wayne Community College, Students began to take part in the ‘Jump Start” program that allowed them to take college level classes while still in high school.

Distance Learning classes also expanded in recent years. German was added to the ‘Starnet” curriculum and Internet classes started at Charles B. Aycock in the fall of 2001. Students have access to classes over the Internet through a program called “Virtual High School”. This program gives students access to many courses that are not available in the school curriculum.

Graduation requirements also changed in 2000. Under the Block Schedule (4x4 program), the total graduation requirements were changed to twenty-eight units.

Students at Charles B. Aycock continued to enjoy the various areas of the athletic program. The Lady Falcon Tennis Team, coached by Mr. Luke Vail, won the NC State Tennis Championship in 1999. An example of just how much community support Charles B. Aycock High School had was realized during our “track project” in 1999-2000. The parents and community assisted in raising more than half the funding needed to build a paved track around the Charles B. Aycock High School football field. In 2003, Charles B. Aycock finally got a new gym to replace the gymnatorium used since the fall of 1961.
Parental/community involvement and a staff dedicated to providing excellence in education remain the keys to the many successes of our school. Involvement with the academic rigors of the curriculum, along with support of all the extracurricular activities, provides the positive school climate prevalent at Charles B. Aycock High School.

Continual growth increased the student enrollment at Charles B. Aycock from 780 in 1993 to 1122 in the fall of 2002. Charles B. Aycock is no longer that small high school in the northern end of Wayne County. By the fall of 2004, Charles B. Aycock had a student enrollment of twelve hundred thirteen. The certified staff includes our principal, two assistant principals, and eighty faculty members. Included in the eighty faculty members are three guidance counselors, two media coordinators, and one media assistant, five secretaries, three custodians as well as our cafeteria staff and bus drivers.

For students entering 9th grade between 2000 and 2009, the graduation requirements consisted of 4 diploma types and a minimum of 28 credits to graduate. In 2007, the required credits from graduation dropped to 24 credits. For students entering 9th grade after 2009, the College/University, College Tech Prep and Career Prep diplomas were replaced with the Future Ready Core diploma. The Occupational Course of Study is still available to students in the Exceptional Children’s Occupational program directed by Mrs. Crystal Casey.

Standardized testing has evolved drastically over the last decade. The NC Competency Test, the NC Computer Skills Test and the 10th grade Comprehensive Test were phased out by 2009 and are no longer part of the state graduation requirements. End-of-Course testing has dwindled from 10 subject areas to only 3 subjects (Algebra I, English I, Biology) for 2011-2012.
In addition, many standardized tests are being administered as online exams through the NC Department of Public Instruction.

The WCPS Board of Education implemented an additional local graduation requirement in 2009 known as the Graduation Project. In addition to earning course credits, all students must successfully complete 4 components including a paper, a product, a portfolio and a presentation. This process begins in the freshman year and continues through grade 12.

As the “school within a school” concept became popular, CBA introduced several career academies offering specialized courses to the student body. The academies fostered integration of curriculum areas and articulation with Wayne Community College. The Project Lead the Way Engineering Academy, directed by Mr. Steven Thorne was the first academy and graduated students in 2011. Other academies include the automotive and business departments. Academies are funded using vocational grant money.

Dual enrollment has provided students with a variety of learning opportunities. The Jump Start program provides tuition-free courses at Wayne Community College for juniors and seniors. The Learn and Earn Online (LEO) program initiated by Governor Mike Easley in 2008 expanded Jump Start across the state and allowed all students in grades 9-12 to earn college credits online without tuition or book fees. Due to state budget cuts, this program ceased in 2011. The University of NC at Greensboro jumped onboard with online learning with the UNCGI School in 2009. Again, budget cuts terminated this program. CBA students have enjoyed participating in the Huskins program and taking college classes in the high school classroom taught by a Wayne Community College instructor. Distance learning evolved from satellite-based instruction to internet based instruction. NCDPI introduced the NC Virtual Public
School in 2006. Students can now take a combination of classes including traditional face-to-face and virtual classes. Class offerings range from standard-level courses to Advanced Placement courses. Currently CBA has 87 students taking over 100 classes in the 2011 fall semester. Most of these students report to the distance learning lab during one block of the day in room #419 to work on the computer.

Randy Bledsoe continued as the principal of CBA through December of 2005, at which time he transferred to neighboring Greene County. Eventually he became Dr. Bledsoe and was named the superintendent of a western NC county. Mr. Edward Radford was named interim principal from January 2006 through June 2007. Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, Dr. Earl Moore was transferred from Brogden Middle School to CBA as principal. Dr. Moore was previously a teacher and assistant principal at CBA. Dr. Moore came home to CBA where he had spent most of his professional career.

In the 2007-2008 school year, Mrs. Renee Dilda was celebrated as the lead district counselor and received counselor of the year. CBA had players of the year chosen for soccer, women’s cross country, men’s cross country, men’s tennis, and softball. The softball player of the year was Emily Jordan, who would later return to CBA as a teacher. The coaches of our men’s soccer team, men’s tennis team, and softball team were all awarded coach of the year.

During the 2008 to 2009 school year, Charles B. Aycock High School received second place standing for the Wachovia Cup (now Wells Fargo Cup). Men’s soccer won regular season and conference championships, while cheerleading won its conference championship. Regular season champions include softball and men’s tennis, and players of the year were chosen for men’s soccer, wrestling, softball, and men’s tennis. In the spring of 2009, Beyanka Lewis
graduation project coordinator, saw the first round of Graduation Projects completed as Wayne County prepared for the state requirement implementation.

From August 2009 to May 2010, CBA saw another important year in the school’s history. In the counseling department, smaller counseling groups were created to better aid the student population. Ms. Gladys Diggs was also voted the district counselor of the year. In terms of sports, we were men’s soccer, men’s basketball, women’s basketball, and wrestling ECC champions. Also, we had the player of the year in women’s swimming (coach of the year as well), men’s basketball (and coach), and women’s golf. In the spring of 2010, CBA began its partnership with the Microsoft Academy to help prepare students for careers in the business sector.

The 2011 CBA graduating class celebrated the fiftieth graduation with a change to a white cap and gown and drapes. The release of doves and balloons made for a very special occasion when the members of the first graduating class participated in the ceremony. During the school year, Mrs. Yvonne Mills won district counselor of the year. Also, two females were appointed to the Air Force Academy, a first for the United States. Devin Hall was the state champion in diving. CBA had players of the year chosen for women’s golf (Tara Simmons), wrestling, women’s swimming, men’s tennis, women’s soccer, and softball. Coaches of the year were awarded in women’s golf, wrestling, women’s swimming, women’s basketball, women’s soccer, and baseball.

In 2011-2012, US News and World awarded CBA the bronze award for being one of the best high schools in the country. It was an unforgettable moment under the leadership of Dr. Earl Moore as he turned a cartwheel in front of the entire student body once this announcement was made. The school was also identified as a “School of Distinction” by the state department. CBA
further advanced its focus on academics by holding its first curriculum fair to assist students in choosing elective classes. Students began online course registration through CFNC.org, and created a counseling-center blog to keep students informed about scholarships and other important information. In sports, CBA was awarded the Wells Fargo Cup, a "symbol of overall sports excellence among high schools in North Carolina" (NCHSAA). The fall brought its own successes in tennis (regular season champions, player of the year, coach of the year), volleyball (coach of the year), and women's golf (regular season champions, player of the year - Tara Simmons). In the winter, we saw successes in diving (state champion - Devin Hall), women's swimming (ECC champions, player of the year, and coach of the year), and wrestling (ECC champions, player of the year). Furthermore, CBA continued to enjoy many athletic achievements in the spring, in such sports as softball (state champions, regular and ECC champions, player of the year, pitcher of the year, and coach of the year), baseball (runner-up state champions), and women's soccer (regular season champions). The library media program also evolved with the times, adding a collection of eBooks to its database so that students could access books through the Internet. Debbi Long, school library media coordinator, was named to the first lead media position for the county. In the summer of 2012, Amanda Barnes, business teacher was recognized at the State CTE Summer Conference for having the most Microsoft Certifications in the state. Faye Davis was recognized by the Red Cross for her outstanding blood drives that have continued to be a success at Charles B. Aycock High School.

The 2012-2013 school year brought even more success to the school both inside and outside of the classroom. The Implementation of the Common Core and Essential Standards was in full force and the staff prepared for the roll out of PowerSchool under the data management of Stacy Savage. Summer Pennington and Myra Brooks sponsored the CBA students in the First
Wayne County Mock Trial Competition where they received first place. Also during the 2012-13 school year, the graduating class earned the most scholarship money in the history of the school, and Senior Tara Simmons won her second state championship in golf. Conference champions in athletics included the cheerleading, baseball, softball and golf teams. The Project Lead the Way Academy, under the leadership of Steven Thorne, began earning AP credit through a variety of courses offered at CBA. Art teacher Carol Frederick was recognized by the county as Art Teacher of the Year. In the summer of 2013, CBA alumnus Rob Wooten made it to the MBA when he signed with the Milwaukee Brewers and alumnus and former FFA president of the CBA chapter Bradley Glover was elected to the state FFA office of Vice President.

As of August of 2013, the school has eighty-nine teachers (including one media coordinator, one technology facilitator, three counselors, a school social worker, and 15 CTE teacher) nine teacher assistants, five secretaries, two assistant principals, a school nurse and a school resource officer, and 1,234 students. Charles B. Aycock High School has several academies which prepare students for future careers, including Project Lead the Way, Microsoft Academy, JROTC, Transportation Academy, Health Science Academy and a Virtual High School Lab and thirty one athletic teams. Charles B. Aycock’s commitment to excellence, family, and tradition lives on!

In December of 2014, Superintendent Dr. Steven Taylor retired from Wayne Co. Public Schools and the Dr. Sandra McCullen became the interim superintendent. In February of 2015, the renovations for the additions to Charles B. Aycock High School began.