

Fact Sheet: Selected Chronology of Phoenix Union Colored High School, Carver High School

- 1913: One Black student, Elizabeth Harris, graduated from Phoenix Union High School.
- 1914: The Phoenix Union School District established The Department of Colored Students. Johnnie Credile was the first student to graduate from this department in 1918.
- 1914 - 1923: The Colored Department, later known as the Phoenix Colored School, shared the campus of Phoenix Union High School. The Colored Department's only teacher was Mrs. C.B. Caldwell.
- 1920: To assist with a growing number of students (25+), The Colored Department hired an additional Teacher, Miss Myrtle Rodgers.
- 1923: The Phoenix Colored School moved to 9th and East Jefferson into a two-room cottage. This move allowed rooms for athletics, the study of science, and a library.
- 1925: At the cost of \$11,000, 4.87 acres of industrial landfill was purchased as the Colored High School site; 415 E. Grant Street. An additional \$110,000 was spent on the construction of the building.
- 1926: The Phoenix Union Colored High School was completed and opened to students. The following year a grandstand, including two storerooms and two dressing rooms, was added.
- 1926-1945: The school was poorly furnished and equipped. Most of the books and equipment were leftover from other schools. Faculty struggled but diligently provided students with a quality education.
- 1943: The passing of renowned American Educator and Scientist George Washington Carver inspired the school name to change to The George Washington Carver High School.
- 1945: Principal W.A. Robinson, and his newly recruited faculty worked with the local community to successfully pressure the school district into increasing education funding for Carver High.
- 1948 The Campaign For Change: Three citizens appeared before the board of education to request the closing of Carver High School and placing African-American students in the other high schools of the district.
- 1951: The citizens again appeared before the Board of Education to discuss racial segregation in high schools. New legislation had passed, giving school boards original jurisdiction in the matter of segregation.
- 1953: The constitutional issue of segregation was raised involving Carver High School. The Phoenix Union High School and Junior College District required all African American students to attend Carver High School.
- The case was brought before the Maricopa County Superior Court by the parents of Robert B Phillips, Jr., Tolly Williams, and David Clark Jr. Their attorney's Herbert Finn, Hayzel B. Daniels, and Stewart Udall, challenged the right of the district to refuse African American children admission to Phoenix Union and West High Schools.
- Judge Fred C. Struckmeyer held that the action of the twentieth legislature giving school boards arbitrary power to segregate groups of pupils is unconstitutional; and that the actions of Phoenix Union High School District in segregating members of the African race from those of the white race to be unlawful.
- On July 7th, 1953, 14 months before the US Supreme Court Brown V. Board of Education decision, the Phoenix Union Board decided to end its segregated school system and close Carver High School.
- 1954: The doors of Carver High were closed, June 30th.
- 1996: The Phoenix Monarchs Alumni Association purchased the school to create a significant community resource, The George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center.