

HISTORY OF THE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

The Candlelight Ceremony used by the Senior Class has been part of graduation for over seventy years. It was first suggested by the Class of 1939 and its advisor, Miss Mildred Nightingale, and was adopted by the 1939 Board of Education.

The spirit of learning symbolized by the flame is passed from class to class. The Valedictorian (Proctor of the Flame) of the last graduating class lights a flame placed in front of the class which is currently receiving diplomas. It is from this flame that the candle of the present Valedictorian is lit and used to pass the flame to all members of the current Senior Class.

The unique feature of this ceremony is the manner in which the candles are used to pass the flame to the next class. Each senior carries a candleholder upon which his or her name and year of graduation appears. Each senior selects a candlebearer, usually a junior, who receives the holder and the candle at the end of the ceremony. This person in turn places his or her name on the candleholder and carries it at the next graduation. The purpose is not to break the chain of the original candleholder. Our school district takes pride in maintaining the candlelight ceremony.