



Hardin-Houston Wall of Honor



Elaine Laughlin



Tonight, we honor a woman whose presence shaped generations of Hardin-Houston students—a teacher, artist, and friend who gave her heart to this school district. Ms. Laughlin, affectionately known as “Lainer,” was a proud 1974 graduate of Houston High School who returned to her alma mater to leave a legacy that will be remembered for decades to come. For 28 years, Elaine taught 7th and 8th grade social studies and art, bringing history to life and helping students discover their own creative voices. But her impact went far beyond the classroom. She poured her time and talent into nearly every corner of student life. Ms. Laughlin served as a cheerleading coach, student council advisor, and organizer of countless Homecomings. She assisted with the school play, coached junior high and assistant varsity girls’ basketball, and served as an assistant girls track coach. Always willing to open the world for her students, she even chaperoned two overseas student trips.

Among her many accomplishments, Elaine was especially recognized for her remarkable “Barn Project.” This celebrated collection of student artwork was displayed at the Piqua Mall Art Show, the Ohio State House, and the Ohio State Fair—a testament not only to her artistic vision but to her belief in showcasing the talents of her students. In the 2002–03 school year, Elaine received the prestigious Golden Apple Award, a reflection of the excellence, dedication, and compassion she demonstrated every single day. Her influence lives on not only in the hearts of the countless students she taught and advised, but also through an annual scholarship created in her honor, ensuring her spirit continues to lift up Houston students just as she always did.

Tonight, we proudly induct the late Ms. Elaine Laughlin into the Hardin-Houston Wall of Honor—a place fitting for a woman whose life was defined by service, creativity, and an unwavering love for her school and community. Her legacy is woven into the story of Houston High School, and it will continue to inspire for generations to come.



Hardin-Houston Wall of Honor



Elaine Laughlin

Elaine Laughlin was inducted on December 6, 2025



The family of Elaine Laughlin on the night of her induction.