

Tazewell Elementary School

History

The first public school in Tazewell County was started in 1873, in a log building located at the site of the present high school. The first frame school was built where the public library now stands, and when it was torn down, a brick building was erected on the same site. This building housed both the elementary school and the high schools from 1906-1953. From 1953-1964 the elementary school in what now is the Tazewell County Administration building. In September, 1964 the elementary school was moved to the new building adjoining the grounds of Tazewell High School.

Due to an increase in the number of programs, notably kindergarten and special education, nine portable buildings were added to the grounds of the school. However, during 1990 twelve new classrooms were added to the existing structure causing the portables to be abandoned and alter destroyed. A gymnasium was completed in September 1990, thus completing the renovation and new building process.

Tazewell Elementary School is located on the east side of Tazewell; approximately 3.0 miles form the county courthouse and can be reached by turning off Routes 460 and 19. The school serves an area of sixty square miles, which stretches fifteen miles east of the Bland County line, eight miles west of the Maxwell and Clifffield area. The section most distant from the school is Tannersville. Large portions of the children come from the Town of Tazewell, which covers an area of five square miles and has a population of approximately 5,000.

The Thompson Valley and Cove Elementary Schools were closed at the end of the 1990-91 school term. As a result of these closings, the enrollment at Tazewell Elementary School increased. The inclusion of this school practically doubled the size of the attendance areas, extending the service zone to the Smyth County line.

