

## SCHOOL LIFE

### HISTORY KIT

Thank you for selecting this history kit to use in your classroom. This kit and others from Heritage Village are designed to help you enhance your students' studies of Florida and Pinellas County's rich and diverse history.

The information below combined with the artifacts and photographs will give you the tools that you need to set up a classroom exhibit and create a variety of hands-on learning opportunities. It is a trip through time using primary and secondary resources as a travel guide to Pinellas history.



### Introduction

Early settlers of Pinellas County and Florida, like those in other frontier areas of the country, were initially more concerned with survival than education. Many families earned a living through agriculture, and children spent a lot of their time doing daily chores in the fields and around the home. Children would learn from their parents and/or neighbors who would teach some of the basic learning skills of reading, writing and arithmetic.

As towns formed and grew, so did the need to have a more formal educational system throughout the county and Florida. The establishment of the Pinellas County school system occurred in 1912, the same year the peninsula was declared a separate county from Hillsborough. At the time, there were 22 public school houses: 18 for white students and 4 for black students. Many were one room schools that taught all grade levels. (*A Tradition of Excellence – Pinellas County Schools 1912-1987*)

Currently, Pinellas County has more than 80 primary and 35 secondary schools. (*Pinellas County Schools Communications Department*)