



Allegra Charles Banks – Class of 1990

“My most vivid memory is of Mr. Herron. He cared so much for the students of Southeast. I remember him knowing our names and giving us so much encouragement. I used to say that the students of Southeast are the best kept secret of Kansas City, MO. He wanted to build our self-esteem because he knew that people had negative connotations about inner city, urban high schools. I really looked up to him.”

High School Memories

I also remember Mr. Meyers, I think he was Assistant Vice Principal and I remember how kind my guidance counselor was, I think her name was Ms. King. Any hue, was picked on a lot my freshman and sophomore years at Southeast and they really helped me get through those hard times and kept me strong through it.

I lived in the Royal Woods Apartments (used to be Hanover in the Woods) on Eastwood Trafficway. I ran track my senior year. I was on the honor roll, yearbook staff and the 80's Ladies Pep Squad. The talent shows and prom are some very vivid and wonderful memories.

My most memorable classes and teachers were:

- Speech and Stenography class – Ms. Mallory
- Typing – Ms. Harding
- Home Economics – Ms. Long
- Citizenship – Coach Thompson
- Anatomy and Physiology – Ms. Henry
- Life Science
- English – Ms. Mary Rogers
- Computer Survival – Husband and Wife taught this course; I can't remember their names.

The current events I recall are the crack epidemic and the gang violence. My freshman and sophomore year was also hard because of the drug

dealers and gangs on the school's premises. I remember Mr. Herron trying to keep that activity out of the school by chaining the doors, but the city told him he could not do that because it was a fire code violation. I remember two shootings in the hallway of the school and several bomb threats, but through it all I was able to obtain a good education that prepared me for college. I remember kids bringing weapons to school and coming dressed in their gang colors, but by the time I became a junior, that type of activity subsided a bit.

Outside of school, I liked to hang out with my friends, go to the mall, talk on the phone, I liked going to the movies, going to my friends house parties, and I loved dancing and also reading. I also had part-time jobs. My first job was at Pizza Hut and after that I worked at Sears.

After High School

I attended Penn Valley Community College for one semester and then I transferred to Lincoln University. I am not doing what I set out to do in life, but I have a good job running a computer lab at a community college. I have a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Management/Marketing. I am still pursuing more education.

“The message is that I believe I got a very good education from an urban predominantly Black High School. I was well prepared for college and when I attended college I started at college level courses.”