

A Bit of Trivia:

1871

Henry R. Harris and Rolly Gleason become the first graduates of DHS.

1898 – present

The high school has had 23 principals, including current principal Robert Morton.

1901

Requirements for graduation increase and high school curriculum is extended from three years to four. No commencement ceremonies held since all students in upper class return for additional year.

1902

First varsity football team includes Harry “Red” Miller, future All-American and first of five Millers to play at Notre Dame during the Knute Rockne era.

1904

First varsity basketball team.

1931

Defiance joins Northwest Ohio Athletic League.

1937

First Friday night football game at Central Field.

1939

To encourage “low scoring” pupils, letter grades replaced by satisfactory or unsatisfactory marking in primary grades. High School faculty recommends eliminating “E” from grading system for “conditional failures.”

1940

Adult education classes first offered.

1941-1943

Defiance High School trains 307 machinists after school in support of national defense program.

1947

Graduating class receives national attention as subject of article in Ladies Home Journal about what happens to typical seniors in the year after graduation.

1948

Driver’s education classes first offered.
Schools closed briefly for polio outbreak.

1955

Defiance resigns from Northwest Ohio Athletic League after 24 years.

1961

Defiance Senior High School, previously grades 7-12, is re-chartered as a four-year school.

1965

Defiance joins Lake Plains Conference for three-year stint.

1969

Four County Joint Vocational opens near Archbold, Ohio.

1973

Defiance joins Western Buckeye League.

1973

Marching band featured on national television during New Year's Eve Orange Bowl Parade in Miami, FL.

1981

March band plays in Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA.

1982

A *cappella* chorus sings at National Cathedral in Washington, D. C.

1984

A *cappella* chorus sings at World Fair in New Orleans, LA.

1992

Defiance baseball team wins Division I state championship, first team title ever.

1997

Defiance wins Division II football championship in Massillon.

1999

Defiance Band marches in the 110th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA. Blizzards in Midwest delay return and strand band members in Los Angeles, Dallas, Chicago and Detroit.