



P.O. Box 9333
Chesapeake, VA 23321
www.cornlandschoolfoundation.org

November 3, 2021

ATTENTION ALL CORNLAND SCHOOL ALUMNI!

Re: Cornland School update and request for alumni information

Greetings!

We hope you are doing well! We want to update you on what's happening with Cornland School and ask for your help in providing some information. On August 6, 2021, Cornland School was relocated from its Benefit Road site to city-owned property along the Dismal Swamp Canal on Glencoe Street in order to restore it and create a museum. The Cornland School museum will be the anchor building in a planned historic village that will highlight African American education, as well as the role of the Dismal Swamp in the Underground Railroad and Maroon communities. This village will be an exciting tourist attraction for Chesapeake where visitors will come and hear your stories of attending Cornland School and the perseverance and determination it took to receive an education!

Cornland School is now on its permanent foundation and the roof is reattached. Next comes the building restoration process, then we will be ready to set up interactive displays, recreate furnishings, and display actual artifacts to tell your stories. This is where we need **your** help! We are in great need of ANY type of memorabilia you may have of your time at Cornland School that you are willing to either donate or let us photograph. This can be anything from an old report card, notebook, papers, notes, lessons, diplomas, certificates, and certainly any photos of you or relatives during the time of attending school at Cornland. Also, we would LOVE to have your stories of attending school recorded to use in interactive displays for the public to hear firsthand what education was like during that time. All of this will help make your stories come alive to all who visit the museum!

We would greatly appreciate it if you or a family member would contact us to update your information. We would like to obtain the following: **contact name, mailing address, email address, phone number, alumni birthdate, any memorabilia from your Cornland School days you would share, and if you are interested in being interviewed so your story can be included in the interactive displays in the museum. Please contact us by Friday, November 19th by either emailing Barb Russel (Board member) at Brussel481@cox.net or text/call at 757-560-9714 (please leave a message if no answer). You may also contact Councilwoman Dr. Ella Ward (Board Chair of Cornland School Foundation) at eward@cityofchesapeake.net or by calling Dr. Ward at 757-488-6843 if you have questions. We look forward to hearing from you!**

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We are so excited about creating the Cornland School museum! With your help, the museum will serve to educate future generations of the inequities and struggles of African Americans to receive an education post-Civil War during the time of segregation. Please visit our foundation via www.cornlandschoolfoundation.org and our Facebook page, Cornland School Foundation, to see other information, pictures, and videos. Thank you!

With warmest regards,

Dr. Ella P. Ward

Dr. Ella P. Ward, Chair

Ellen S. Magill

Ellen S. Magill, Secretary