



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Wadleigh High School collection**

1938-2007 [bulk 1960s-1999]

Sc MG 746

Processed by Janice Quinter, February 2008.

## Summary

**Creator:** Wadleigh High School (New York, N.Y.)

**Title:** Wadleigh High School collection

**Date:** 1938-2007 [bulk 1960s-1999]

**Size:** 3.12 linear feet (8 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of the Wadleigh High School Archives Committee, 2004-2008.

**Abstract:** Wadleigh High School, located in Harlem, was founded as a high school for girls and moved to its current landmark site in 1902. It is now known as Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing and Visual Arts. The Wadleigh High School collection provides some documentation about Wadleigh High School, and the two schools (Wadleigh Junior High School 88 and Wadleigh Secondary School) later housed in the same building. The bulk of the documents deal with the time period when students and staff were predominately Black.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Wadleigh High School collection, Sc MG 746, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Janice Quinter, February 2008.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: books and periodicals

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

## Creator History

Wadleigh High School, located in Harlem, was founded as a high school for girls and moved to its current landmark site in 1902. Beginning in the 1920s, Wadleigh High School began to accept Black

students and hire Black faculty. By 1945, the student body was predominately Black and by 1948, all the students were Black. Reflecting the general shift towards co-education, Wadleigh was converted to a co-educational junior high school in 1954. The school underwent some renovation and alteration and reopened in 1956, as Wadleigh Junior High School 88. By 1995, the school was transformed to include grades six through twelve. The new entity incorporated three separate and specialized schools as the High School of Communications, Media and Technology with separate vice principals for its schools of writing and publishing, the arts, and science and technology. Later, Wadleigh focused only on the performing and visual arts.

An African American, Doris Brunson taught English at Wadleigh Junior High School 88 from 1957 to 1990. She also served as chair of the 100th Anniversary Steering Committee, which planned and celebrated the school's anniversary in 1999. Today, the high school is known as Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Wadleigh High School Collection provides some documentation about Wadleigh High School, and the two schools (Wadleigh Junior High School 88 and Wadleigh Secondary School) later housed in the same building. In addition, there is information on the Wadleigh Alumni Association, mostly regarding its 100th anniversary. The bulk of the documents deal with the time period when students and staff are predominately Black.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into four series: I. Wadleigh High School; II. Wadleigh Junior High School 88; III. Wadleigh High School Alumni Association; and IV. Wadleigh Secondary School.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American high school students -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American students -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American teachers -- New York (State) -- New York  
African Americans -- Education (Secondary) -- New York (State) -- New York  
Educators -- New York (State) -- New York  
High school teachers -- New York (State) -- New York  
High schools -- New York (State) -- New York  
Junior high school students -- New York (State) -- New York  
Junior high school teachers -- New York (State) -- New York  
Scholarships -- New York (State) -- New York  
Teachers -- Training of -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Scrapbooks

### **Names**

Brunson, Doris  
Wadleigh High School (New York, N.Y.)  
Wadleigh High School Alumni Association  
Wadleigh Secondary School (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

### Wadleigh High School 1927-2008

The Wadleigh High School series includes information about the history of the school and building, a literary journal from the French Department (1939), a yearbook (1942), programs, biographical information and obituaries about the alumni and staff, and documentation regarding the building's designation as a landmark site by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1994.

- b. 1 f. 1-2 History
- Students
- b. 1 f. 3 Senior cap cardboard 1939
- b. 1 f. 4 Diplomas and honor roll certificate 1941-1944
- Printed material
- b. 1 f. 5 "The Wadleigh Girl" song sheet, words and music by Hazel Epstein 1927
- b. 1 f. 6 *La Petite France, French Department's literary journal* 1939 January
- b. 1 f. 7-8 *Owl yearbook* 1942 June-1943 June
- b. 1 f. 9 Programs 1939-1947
- b. 1 f. 10 Alumni biographies 1938-2007
- b. 1 f. 11 Alumni and staff obituaries 1988-2008
- b. 1 f. 12 New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1984-1994

### Wadleigh Junior High School 88 1957-2004

The Wadleigh Junior High School 88 series includes information about the Wadleigh Scholarship Program, an organization established in 1964, which identified and provided assistance to minority students (then the majority of the student body) pursuing scholarships to preparatory schools throughout the country. One can find printed material about its alumni and staff; programs and skits of the Faculty Follies (1967-1969); the yearbook, *Wadleigh Way* (1967-1990); literary journals; and a memoir written by an alumnus. Most of the series consists of lesson plans, tests and grade books (1959-1987) generated by Doris Brunson, long-time English teacher at Wadleigh.

- b. 2 f. 1 Correspondence 1975-1989
- b. 2 f. 2 Faculty rosters 1975-1989
- b. 2 f. 3-4 A Better Chance Scholarship program 1966-2004
  - Includes correspondence and publicity.
- b. 2 f. 5 Staff notices 1972-1990
- b. 2 f. 6 Wadleigh alumni and faculty in the news 1981-1999
- b. 2 f. 7 Administrative notices and graduation platform seating 1981-1990
- b. 2 f. 8 School letters and notices 1983-1988
- b. 2 f. 9 Redesign plan 1988
- b. 2 f. 10-11 Faculty Follies 1967-1969
- b. 2 f. 12 Class play, "Reunion: Class of 1973" ca. 1973
- Printed material
- Wadleigh Way yearbook*
- b. 2 f. 13 1975
- b. 2 f. 14 1980-1982
- b. 3 f. 1 1984-1985
- b. 3 f. 2 1986-1990

Wadleigh Junior High School 88 (cont.)  
Printed material (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 3 Creative writing 1984-1988
- b. 3 f. 4 *The Tale of the Mighty Warriors* 1989 February
- b. 3 f. 5 Student Parent Handbook
- b. 3 f. 6 Graduation and events (programs and tickets) 1965-1990
- b. 3 f. 7 *Anderson, Mamie-Louise (alumnae). The Shuttle: A Biomythographical Memoir* 2001
- b. 3 f. 8 News clippings 1984-1986
- Brunson, Doris
  - b. 3 f. 9 Biographical information 1987-2007
  - b. 3 f. 10 Letters and poem by Brunson 1973-1984
  - b. 3 f. 11 Student letters to Brunson 1977-1988
  - b. 3 f. 12 Administrative evaluations 1957-1990
  - b. 3 f. 13 School rules 1981-1984
  - Lesson plans
    - b. 4 f. 1 1959-1962
    - b. 4 f. 2-5 1970-1972
    - b. 4 f. 6 Required reading 1973-1974
    - b. 4 f. 7 Administrative lists 1973-1976
    - b. 4 f. 8-9 1974-1975
    - b. 4 f. 10 1978
    - b. 4 f. 11 1980-1984
    - b. 5 f. 1 1983-1985
    - b. 5 f. 2 1985-1986
    - b. 5 f. 3-4 undated
    - b. 5 f. 5 Readings 1960s
    - b. 5 f. 6 Teaching English notes undated
    - b. 5 f. 7-9 Tests, lessons, and plans undated
    - b. 5 f. 10 Tests and notes 1978-1985
    - b. 6 f. 1
  - Grade books
    - b. 6 f. 2 1964-1973
    - b. 6 f. 3 1973-1978
    - b. 6 f. 4 1981-1987
    - b. 6 f. 5 Plan book undated

Wadleigh High School Alumni Association 1987-2005

Wadleigh High School Alumni Association series incorporates material from three of the incarnations that the school has taken on in its more than one hundred-year history, and is primarily concerned with the planning of the 100th anniversary luncheon in 1999. There are also minutes from 1987, programs from other reunions (1980-2005), and a scrapbook containing news clippings, programs, and related printed material for the Alumni Association's annual luncheons and other events (1980-1984).

- b. 8 Guest book, 50th year graduates 1942-1993  
Box 8 replaces box 6, folders 6-7.

Wadleigh High School Alumni Association (cont.)

- b. 8 Scrapbook 1980-1984  
Box 8 replaces box 6, folders 6-7.
- b. 6 f. 8 Minutes 1987 January-May
- b. 6 f. 9 Luncheon programs 1980-2005
- b. 6 f. 10 Anniversary journals 1986-1996
- b. 6 f. 11 Printed material, correspondence 1988-2001  
100th Anniversary Celebration
- b. 6 f. 12-13 Correspondence 1998-2005  
Steering Committee
- b. 7 f. 1 Correspondence 1999
- b. 7 f. 2-3 Agendas, minutes, and financial reports 1998-1999
- b. 7 f. 4-5 1998-1999
- b. 7 f. 6 Students and establishment of archives 1999
- b. 7 f. 7 Luncheon program 1999
- b. 7 f. 8 Guest book 1999

Wadleigh Secondary School 1986-2007

The series Wadleigh Secondary School discusses the establishment and renovation of the school, including information from the New York City School Construction Authority, graduation programs, and a yearbook (1996).

- b. 7 f. 9 Establishment of school 1991-1999  
Renovation
- b. 7 f. 10 1987-1994
- b. 7 f. 11 New York City School Construction Authority 1990
- b. 7 f. 12 Memorandum of understanding ca. 1993  
Printed matter
- b. 7 f. 13 *The Originators: Walianza* 1996
- b. 7 f. 14 1986-1996
- b. 7 f. 15-16 1993-2007