

**Joseph D. Smith**  
**Principal at East Technical High School**  
**1963-1974**

Joseph D. Smith became an outstanding basketball coach and principal of his high school alma mater.

Born in Montgomery, AL, Mr. Smith moved to Cleveland in 1920 at age 7. A 1932 graduate of East Tech, he went on to graduate cum laude from Wilberforce University with a bachelor of science degree majoring in chemistry and biology and a minor in mathematics. He was president of his class from his freshman through his senior year.

He later taught math at Central Junior High and East Tech. He coached at East Tech , and his basketball teams were often named the top high school team in Greater Cleveland by area sportswriters. Many of his teams won several prizes of distinction for their prowess as players.

Mr. Smith earned a master's degree in secondary school administration from Western Reserve University in 1950 and began his administrative career in 1954 as assistant principal at Patrick Henry Junior High. In 1956 he was appointed assistant principal at John Hay High School. He was promoted to principal at Kennard Junior High and then principal at East Tech where he was lovingly known as "JD". Mr. Smith retired in 1974 after 36 years with the Cleveland School System. Mr. Smith was an avid fisherman, bridge player and traveler.

Mr. Smith was a member of the board of trustees of the Cleveland District of the United Methodist Church, St. Luke's Hospital, and the Greater Cleveland YWCA. He was a 52-year member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Mr. Smith received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest adult award in Boy Scouting. Mr. Smith confessed Christ and was baptized as a teenager. As an adult he joined Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church and served actively in many positions. He loved and supported his church.

Mr. Smith's family was his greatest joy. He was married to his college sweetheart, Cornelia Shy, for 49 years. They had 3 children who were all educators: Sheilah Smith Williams who retired as a administrator with the Cleveland Schools in 2004; J. David Smith who began his career as a social studies teacher, and prior to his death at age 46, was a vice-president with Bell and Howell Company; and Pamela Smith who currently serves as Chief of Staff with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.