

Edna and John W. Mosley P-8 School Name Background Information

The name **Edna and John W. Mosley P-8** highlights the Mosleys' groundbreaking achievements and contribution to Aurora and the greater community.

Edna Mosley is recognized as Aurora's first African-American city council member and a trailblazer who championed many causes, including racial equality, women's rights, veterans' affairs, housing and education. John Mosley has received wide recognition for his pioneering achievements as an athlete and in the military.

Edna Mosley was a member of the first graduating class of Metropolitan State University of Denver in 1969, and received an honorary doctorate from Colorado State University in 2004. Edna Mosley was elected to the Aurora City Council in 1991 and served 3 four-year terms. During her tenure, she was influential in anti-gang programs, local gun control legislation and civil rights issues. She was also instrumental in the redevelopment of the former Fitzsimons Army Base into the Anschutz Medical Campus and in the transformation of the former Lowry Air Force Base into a vital new community. Edna Mosley also held positions with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission and as director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission with the University of Denver. She was a founder of the Women's Bank, created in 1978 to provide women equal access to financial services. When she died in August 2014, Mosley was lauded as a respected civic leader and philanthropist who worked vigorously for social change and contributed greatly to the Aurora community.

After graduating from Manual High School in 1939, John Mosley won a National Merit Scholarship and attended Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (now Colorado State University). As an African-American student, he was barred from living in college residence halls, denied service in local restaurants, and experienced racial discrimination on campus. Despite these obstacles, Mosley became the first black student to play on the CSU football team and in the Mountain States Conference. He also won all conference honors as a wrestler and served as class vice-president during his junior and senior years. After graduating from college in 1943, John Mosley tried to join the U.S. Army Air Corps but was sent to an artillery unit in Fort Sill, Oklahoma instead. After writing many letters to Congress and the White House, he succeeded in his appeal to join the famed group of pilots known as the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-black squadron trained to fly fighter planes during World War II. John Mosley also served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and retired from the Army in 1970 as a Lt. Colonel. He subsequently worked as special assistant to the undersecretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C. and for the Department of Health and Human Services in Denver. He was elected to the Colorado State University Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. He was honored by CSU with a Doctor of Humane Letters in 2004.

In 2002, the couple created a scholarship fund, the John W. & Edna Wilson Mosley Scholarship Fund, to assist African-American students from the Denver metro area in attending their first year of college, university or post-secondary education.

Mascot and Visual Ideas	Tagline	Color/s
<p>Red-Tailed Hawk: The Red-Tailed Hawk is one of the most common hawks in North America and is adaptable in different climates. Red-Tailed Hawks soar above the open field where the new P-8 is being built, and have a nest in the cottonwoods just west of new school. The Red-Tailed Hawk is a reference to the Red Tail Tuskegee Airmen pilots of World War II.</p>	<p>Aim High – Rise Above (Tuskegee Airmen slogan)</p> <p>Soar High – Rise Above</p> <p>Never lose focus</p> <p>Soar to great heights</p>	<p>Red/Silver/Blue</p>

