

**GRACE ANNETTE BROOKS SNELL**  
**1901 – 1988**



Grace Annette Brooks Snell; called by many *The First Lady of Snellville*, was born in September of 1901 in Lawrenceville, Georgia. She graduated with honors from Lawrenceville High School in 1920, and soon afterwards began teaching in local area schools. In the beginning of her teaching career, she taught in various one-, two-, and three-teacher schools, serving as both teacher and principal at times. After dedicating her early years to teaching, “Miss Grace” married Joseph Thomas Snell in 1934 and they became the parents of Joseph Thomas Snell, Jr. and Fredrick Brooks Snell. She attended college faithfully through the years and eventually graduated from Oglethorpe University in 1948.

During her long teaching career, “Miss Grace” taught over 1,500 students. She gave her students guidance for life, but her strongest legacy was the example she set in the community. She received numerous awards for her work in the classroom and the Snellville community, including the first Gwinnett Teacher of the Year Award in 1956, the Jaycees first “Great American Award,” and a Gwinnett County Chamber of Commerce “Outstanding Citizen” Award. She was also a prolific writer, writing about local people and events for *The News Herald* for twenty-six years. In 1983, the city of Snellville expressed its appreciation to Grace Snell by dedicating a fountain in her name.

As a teacher, Grace Snell taught sixth and seventh grade classes for thirty years in Snellville. It is fitting that Gwinnett County’s newest middle school be named after this distinguished middle school educator. The faculty and staff at the new Grace Snell Middle School, as well as the Snell family, are proud to continue the legacy of excellence in teaching and service to the community that Mrs. Grace Snell embodied.