

appealed to the State to gain disciplinary control over 3HS students from Lawnside. The State ruled, “The students in the system are responsible only to Haddon Heights and subject to the Haddon Heights administration and must act in accordance with their rules and regulations.”¹⁰² New Jersey’s culture of strong municipal control was maintained and upheld by the state’s powerbrokers.

Haddon Heights school authorities reacted to the events by implementing measures to address some of the students’ demands in the hopes of preventing future racial incidents at 3HS. Efforts continued by the administration to hire African American teachers and add African American studies courses to the school curriculum. The school also heeded a primary demand from the student activists and approved the establishment of the Afro-American Cultural Society.¹⁰³ The administration also listened to the State Task Force members’ warning that residential segregation prior to the ninth grade created unfamiliarity between the students from the different feeder communities. To provide the future students of 3HS with opportunities to build trust and community, incoming freshmen from the three towns of Haddon Heights, Barrington, and Lawnside began attending a summer camp together to build trust and understanding.¹⁰⁴ These actions did not placate some Lawnside students who graduated in 1972. One Lawnside graduate wrote as her last will and testament in *The Scribe*, “I DO HEREBY BEQUETH to all revolutionary brothers and sisters: pride, power, and unity.” Another wrote, “I DO HEREBY BEQUETH to the Black Student body the strength and determination to endure any arrogance or ignorance you may encounter. The courage and capability to alter it.”¹⁰⁵

To conclude, African American young people from Lawnside engaged in significant political activism and student agency without the direction and guidance

¹⁰² Donna Kovalevich, “Lawnside Agrees to Pay Tuition Bill,” *The Suburban*, Aug. 19, 1971, 1.

¹⁰³ “Cultural Society Plans Activities,” *The Scribe* (Haddon Heights, N.J.), Feb. 23, 1972, 1

¹⁰⁴ “Advisory Committee Discusses Policy Changes,” *The Scribe* (Haddon Heights, N.J.), Nov. 24, 1971, 1. Former 3HS Principal Ronald Corn, explained in a 2016 interview, that this is a practice that continues to the present day. Ronald Corn, Interview by Jason Romisher, Aug. 24, 2016. At a 2017 lecture at Rutgers University that I delivered about my research, several current 3HS students from Lawnside expressed that the pre-high school activities suffer from lack of participation and did little to create a sense of community between the students from the different eighth grade cohorts.

¹⁰⁵ “Last Will and Testament,” *The Scribe* (Haddon Heights, N.J.), Jun. 12, 1972, 3.

