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Teacher: Mr. Miller Period Three

Woodbridge History Essay

Woodbridge Middle School

### Woodbridge's History of Education

What did the life of a 7th grader look like in the 1900's? It was much different, in terms of education, from then to now. Many things have changed as technology advanced, and more opportunities opened up for students. If a student from the mid-1900s walked into a modern-day classroom, they would be puzzled, because most of the many things you see in a classroom, you wouldn't see in the one-room classrooms they had back then. If a student from our times went back to the 1900s, they would be puzzled about why there was no electric whiteboard or lights that changed tones, or why the desks were wooden. Advancements in education have made education accessible to all types of students.

"Go Woodbridge Warriors! Let's go!" That's what the first cheerleaders of WHS cheered. Sports and after-school activities have been a crucial part of Woodbridge Township's educational history. Extracurricular activities were organized to increase student enjoyment of the school environment. Baseball, football, basketball, and cheerleading were major sports that were brought to schools, but there were existing options for non-athletic students. Music was introduced to Woodbridge schools, and the WHS Band spread their passion to a wide mass of people and made music an important school activity. Today we still have all those sports but we have much better equipment and new sports. For example, football helmets weren't the safest for protecting your head if you fell. The helmets caused a lot of injuries. Nowadays, we have much more durable and safer helmets that will protect you from busting your head open, but we still have injuries but not as much as we did then. Protection was something that evolved with time, as better equipment started to come out. Basketballs have also evolved from leather to rubber, and so has equipment for other sports. There are a lot of activities for students to do in Woodbridge Township now, but back then you were stuck with limited options. Sports and

extracurricular activities have made a valuable impact on the education of Woodbridge Township.

(WTHPC Vol. 14 School Days)

Allowing students to have opportunities to express themselves and go above and beyond to learn new things is a dominant factor in education and the learning experience. New Jersey passed a law that would establish vocational schools at the county level. These schools would teach students how to cook, draw, make dresses, agriculture, and more. A vocational school opened up in Woodbridge in 1938. Schools like these still exist but they are there for the people who are not interested in an academic curriculum but want to learn towards a more particular option. The difference between now and then, is that most of this information can be found anywhere on the internet. Just go on YouTube and search “How to plant seeds” and hundreds of videos will show up. Of course, they didn’t have the internet back then so they relied on others to teach them but nowadays with just a little bit of typing and clicking, we will be able to find that information in a fraction of the time. Accessibility is a prime part of education. Making sure all kids can go to school is important because those kids are going to hold our future. In the ’20s public schools taught kids the basic things of life, because back then most kids in the community grew up to be farmers or held out in family-owned businesses, so schools did not need to go above and beyond for students. In our times, schools do teach the “basic things” of life, but instead of kids becoming farmers and other non-degree jobs, schools teach us everything we need to face any kind of career.

(WTHPC Vol. 14 School Days)

Technology itself has advanced to make our learning easier. Back then, they didn’t have lights in their rooms that could dim or brighten with just a few buttons, their desks were made of wood, and they had chalkboards instead of the electric whiteboard we have now. So much has changed to make learning a better experience as technology advances. Back then, if you had to do a research paper, it was much more time-consuming and tiring than it is now. You would have had to walk to the nearest library, scan through all the books until you found the one you needed, read through it, write your research paper on paper by hand, and keep the paper safe so you didn’t lose it and have to rewrite it. With the advancements of technology now, just type into Google, scroll through the articles, find one that appeals to you, read it,

type your paper, save the paper, and do all that in the comfort of a fluffy bed, while munching down on some delicious snacks. Technology has made learning much easier and accessible for everyone. If a student needs help understanding algebraic expressions, they can just YouTube it. But back then you would need to go to your teacher, ask them the question, and sometimes they might not even have enough time to explain it to you, so you would go home without understanding what algebraic expressions are. We must understand how our Woodbridge Township education system has changed from the times of my grandparents to now. (WTHPC Vol. 14 School Days)

A 7th grader's life would have been much different depending on what period they are going to. If a student from 2024 went back to 1920-1950, they would be shocked at how different it is, and vice-versa. Technology has changed our education and made learning accessible to all people. Sports became a way to learn in classes and socially too. Technology in our schools has made researching and learning new hobbies much simpler than it would have been back then. Lastly, technology has changed everything for students and made life easier. Without a computer, we students now wouldn't have been able to access so many opportunities. Classrooms have changed, and so has our curriculum. As new advancements are being added, 20 years from now, just watch how much has changed.