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Martin Luther King Junior once said, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character- that is the true goal of education.” Now, using the information provided in the quote, readers should begin to realize the true importance of education and the way school buildings consist of more than just learning. Throughout history, schools within the Woodbridge Township School District have made sure to involve the student population in various extracurricular activities, resulting in the school building to feel more like home rather than a schoolhouse. For example, every school in the Woodbridge Township School District has given their students the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs, sports, and other thrilling events. Overall, the members of the Woodbridge Township community have made it their mission to ensure the idea that students enjoy coming to school everyday.

For starters, one extracurricular activity that many students find amusing is the High School Orchestra. With this being said, in the early times of 1934, students were able to express their true passion for band and their true talent when playing different instruments. In fact, the members of these early orchestra programs often played at churches and other social gatherings before being given the opportunity to play at school; in other words, these students found joy in showing off their skills to their peers. All things considered, many changes have occurred regarding the topic of Orchestra from 1934 to 2023, especially in Woodbridge Township. For instance, according to the leader journal, officials first made the addition of Orchestra in school buildings as they believed it would enhance listening skills, learning skills, and leadership skills. In contrast, Orchestra is now viewed as a fun and exciting program in which people are given the chance to express themselves.

Furthermore, the dress codes of different schools within the Woodbridge Township School District have drastically changed from 1936. For example, as stated under the subheading “From Our Back Window”(leader journal), female students were permitted to wear knee-length skirts and light sweaters, no matter the weather. Not only this, but male students were authorized to wear loose jeans and small jackets, even in below-freezing temperatures. Fortunately, the school board has identified this issue and has managed to make some small adjustments. These adjustments involved removing the strict dress code and allowing the students to wear whatever they please. Still, many schools have rules when it comes to certain pieces of clothing; such as ripped jeans, tank tops, shorts, etc.. All in all, the people within the Woodbridge Township School District are lucky enough to have been given the choice of what clothing THEY WANT to wear.

Lastly, sports have always played a major role in the student environment. With this being said, even in the early times of 1936, the need and want of an Athletic Stadium was highly stressed to the education board. This stadium was very important to the school as many students found extreme joy in playing sports. Not only this, but the major addition of an Athletic Stadium in the school building really goes to show how much the education board of Woodbridge Township School District cares for the student body. Luckily, the investment of this stadium was put to use as students are using it everyday! For

instance, this stadium is not only used by athletes, but also by a variety of spectators. Some spectators may include other students, parents, staff, and members of the community. Overall, by building an Athletic Stadium, Woodbridge Township School District has created an amazing social setting for kids to express themselves in doing what they love most, sports.

In conclusion, it should be extremely obvious to the readers that Woodbridge Township School District has drastically changed over time. This is seen as simple things such as athletics, dress codes, and even Orchestra have changed. Luckily, all of these changes have managed to improve the Woodbridge Township School District for the better. In summary, I hope the readers now realize the true care this township has for its students, staff, and community.

Resources:

<https://www.woodbridgelibrary.org/1132/Local-History-Digital-Collections>

(When using these sources, you must know the name of the newspaper, title of the article, date of newspaper and page the article is found on.)

Bergen-Troeger, V. & McEwen, R., Woodbridge: New Jersey's Oldest Township, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2002

Woodbridge Township Historic Preservation Commission, Historic Tour of Woodbridge. Vol. XIV. School Days: A History of Education in Woodbridge Township, 2022,
<https://woodbridgehistory.com/historic-tours>