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Woodbridge has been around for many years, while being chartered in 1669. The community has changed throughout the years. Some things have changed while others have stayed the same. More importantly, Woodbridge focuses on education. The Founding Fathers believed that the success of American democracy would have to depend on an educated population to ensure our rights and freedoms. **(Vol. XIV, School Days in Woodbridge)** In the past, children in school were put into 1 or 2 rooms, which is crazy to think about considering how many kids are in the school building (s). Before 1851, if kids were thirsty they had to go to nearby houses to get a cup of water, unlike now where we have water fountains. **(Vol. XIV, School Days in Woodbridge)** From the early 1900's through 2024, there are many similarities and differences in our Woodbridge Township school district such as honoring those who work hard for their grades, extracurricular activities, a dress code that kids have to follow, giving back to the community, and different types courses to learn.

Honor Roll has been an important part of education ever since the 1860's. Many schools include it to honor the kids that work hard for their grades. In 1927, 10 HS students were chosen to be listed on the honor roll because they had "A" or "B" grades. There were 4 seniors, 3 juniors, 1 sophomore, and 2 freshmen that were chosen. **(Woodbridge Independent, 1927-12-23)** School days in 2024 also have Honor Roll for kids with A's and B's. In school we would get a pass to go to what we call a "Honor Roll Breakfast". The breakfast includes 1 Capri Sun and 1 donut of your choice. I can say that from my own experience they are delicious. Best of all, we get to hangout with our friends. I know many kids don't like putting effort into school and schoolwork itself, but they don't realize that many good things can come out of having good grades. For example my particular school provides an honor roll breakfast and good grades can lead you into a good college. Trying to get good grades isn't as bad as people make it seem.

Something I like doing in my free time is sports. They are healthy for you and fun. Well..... most of them. There are many ways you can express extracurriculars such as a charity game, for fun, exercising, ect.. Physical education during the school day became required back in 1917. **(Vol. XIV, School Days in Woodbridge)** In 1932 there was a basketball game for charity. It was between two basketball teams, Avenal and Rahway schools. The game was at 8 pm during a Friday night. **(Woodbridge Independent 1932-03-11)** My school had a charity basketball game, it was called the "Blue and White Challenge". The money from the game was used to donate to a Cancer Charity. The basketball game was against the teachers and 8th graders, then the 7th and 6th graders mixed up to then verse each other. Lots of people went, including my friends and I. Plus, snacks were being sold during the game.

Dress codes are rules conducted to help kids limit what clothes / shoes they wear and how they wear it. Something that has changed is how strict the school and staff is about the way we dress. In the past students had to wear such fancy clothes! For example boys had to wear suit jackets and ties. The girls were dressed in long skirts with blouses or full-length dresses. **(Vol. XIV, School Days in Woodbridge)** Unlike now, we can express ourselves by how we dress, but there are some rules we have to follow when it comes to how we dress. Such as we can not wear crocs / slides, crop / tank tops, super short shorts, really ripped jeans, and much

more. Crocs / slides are a hazard because it is really easy to trip in them and get hurt especially during school hours. During the hot weather people would want to wear crop / tank tops, but we can't because the sweat that generates from our bodies spreads all over the desks and other places, which would be very nasty. Dress code keeps us secure and organized.

The community was always a big help to schools, so the best thing we can do is to give back to it. We can give back to the community by doing any drives, donating, ect.. For example, the WHS Junior Red Cross organized a "collection drive" which included collecting scrap metal, newspapers, rubber, tin cans, and discarded iron materials. **(Vol. XIV, School Days in Woodbridge)** In 2024 we have a group called "Student Council", similar to the Junior Red Cross. Student council is an organized group of kids that help address issues of concern and organize certain events and activities for their school. I am personally in the student council myself and I can say that it has been a wonderful experience. I know that student council is important and that we do anything to give back to the community. For instance we have done food, toy and cloth / shoe drives. Everyone in the student council works hard for the school to hold these events and other activities. It has been an incredible time with my group and I'm excited to see what other events / activities we will plan for the future.

Something interesting schools provide are classes that teach certain languages for us to learn. Speaking different languages can be difficult, but also very useful. They can help us in rough times, especially if you are out on vacation and do not have a clue of what someone is saying. New languages can boost our creativity, plus help understand and learn more about somebody's culture. In 1895, English and Latin courses were added to a new curriculum.

(Vol. XIV, School Days in Woodbridge) There were several changes since the past. For instance my school provides Spanish, English, and Chinese classes, but back then there were only English and Latin classes. I am included in the spanish and english classes, and I say that learning spanish will definitely help in the future, particularly for vacation. I am wondering if by next year they will add any other culture for us to learn about. Learning a new language is not as hard as it seems, though at times it can be difficult.

From the early 1900's through 2024, there are many similarities and differences in our Woodbridge Township school district such as honoring those who work hard for their grades, extracurricular activities, a dress code that kids have to follow, giving back to the community, and different types courses to learn. I wonder how the technology in the future is going to advance, especially by the time I'm in high school. I am excited to go to HS because I am looking forward to the new classes such as graphic design or economics. The only downside of going to Woodbridge High School is that some of my friends are going to JFK, which really sucks. Not having my friends by my side while in a bigger and newer school will be horrible, but making new friends is also a good thing to do.