

# The American High School: A Historical Perspective on the Third Century

The American high school is a relatively young institution, with its origins in the 19th century. However, it has played a major role in shaping the lives of young people in the United States. In the third century of its existence, the American high school has undergone significant changes, both in its structure and its curriculum.

## The Early Years

The first high schools in the United States were established in the early 19th century. These schools were typically private academies that served the children of wealthy families. The curriculum was classical, with an emphasis on Latin, Greek, and mathematics. In the mid-19th century, public high schools began to be established, and by the end of the century, they had become the dominant type of high school in the United States.



## Running with Robots: The American High School's Third Century

by Greg Toppo

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The early public high schools were designed to prepare students for college. However, as the 20th century progressed, the curriculum began to change to meet the needs of a more diverse student population. Vocational education was added to the curriculum, and more emphasis was placed on practical skills. By the mid-20th century, the American high school had become a comprehensive institution that served a wide range of students.

### **The Late 20th Century and Beyond**

The late 20th century saw a number of changes in the American high school. The baby boom generation led to a surge in enrollment, and schools had to be expanded to accommodate the increased number of

students. In the 1980s, there was a renewed emphasis on academic achievement, and schools began to implement more rigorous curricula. In the 1990s, technology began to play a major role in the classroom, and schools began to offer online courses and other forms of distance learning.



In the early 21st century, the American high school continues to evolve. Schools are facing new challenges, such as the need to prepare students for a global economy and the increasing diversity of the student population. However, the American high school remains a vital institution that plays a major role in the lives of young people in the United States.

## **The Future of the American High School**

The future of the American high school is uncertain. However, there are a number of trends that are likely to shape the school in the years to come. These trends include:

- The continued growth of technology in the classroom
- The increasing diversity of the student population
- The need to prepare students for a global economy

The American high school is a constantly evolving institution. It has faced many challenges over the years, but it has always adapted to meet the needs of its students. The future of the American high school is uncertain, but it is clear that the school will continue to play an important role in the lives of young people in the United States.



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