

a retrospective from the west side



ONE

PAST & present

Technology, traffic jams, total enrollment. Those were some things that popped into the heads of West High alumni when asked about the biggest changes they had noticed about the high school.

For Nancy Wittenberg ['69], grandmother of Allyson Geasland '18, making the move from City High to a brand-new West in the fall of 1968 was a bit disappointing to her and her fellow graduates.

"I remember that nobody wanted to be here, because we had gone through school at City High," Wittenberg said. "So nobody was happy to have our senior year divided. All of our friends were at City."

Some of those friendships diminished as City High became a rival. As the years went on, West expanded its course and club offerings, giving students an abundance of learning opportunities.

"There are a lot more clubs and extracurricular activities to do [now]," said Heather Moore ['91], the mother of Zac Moore '19. "I think they do a much better job with coming up with things that interest everybody."

Besides larger class sizes and more extracurricular options, the physical size of West has increased dramatically.

"It's like three times bigger than it was when I went here because they added onto it," Wittenberg said. "When I first started, for about the first month we had a lot of classes in what they called the little auditorium because there were still contractors working on the rest of the school."

Now, 50 years later, attending a school that has such a strong reputation fills students, parents and grandparents with pride.

"It makes me proud for my kids to be part of the Trojan tradition," said Renda Greene-Fishman ['89], the mother of Colby Greene '18. "West has a reputation for excellence in education and in sports."

Sharing that view, Zac Moore said he enjoyed having something special in common with his mom.

"I think it's cool that we live in a community where we have high schools that were built back in the day," he said. "It's cool to think about my mom walking the same halls I do today."

—By Allie Hambright & Julia Austin

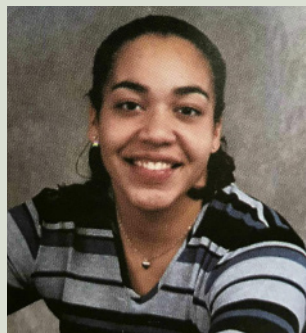
“My favorite memories from West High are the great friendships and, of course, bringing home the Boot.”

—Steve Brady ['88]

PAST PERFECT

Staff members who were Trojans themselves a decade (or two, or three) ago shared some thoughts on how things have changed since they were sitting in the student desk. Business teacher Abbie Weipert, who was involved in BPA as a West student, said BPA "feels much bigger and now includes a greater focus on technology." Weipert also remembers "the bad fashion and music of the early 2000s. I distinctly remember Avril Lavigne had one of the top hits. If I hear that song today, it still takes me forever to get it out of my head." The biggest change, according to science teacher Maureen Head, is West "is a much more racially diverse school. We have more students from other countries and more students of color, which is wonderful." The building's West Wing had just opened

when technology specialist Tyler Meade was a sophomore. "That was a big deal for a while," he said. "And I was here right before they changed the nutrition guidelines and got rid of the vending machines. So I fondly remember having donuts and milk shakes and greasy Falbo Bros. pizza for lunch." Science teacher Kody Pudil probably didn't enjoy many donuts as a wrestler. "West seemed a lot bigger and more crowded," Pudil said, "but I was a lot smaller then." His favorite memory? Winning four State titles. Math teacher Jean Morsch said that when she attended West, "there was no football field. We used the field at City High. There were no computers, no graphing calculators, and a classroom with typewriters." Graduation, now held at Carver-Hawkeye, was in the gym.



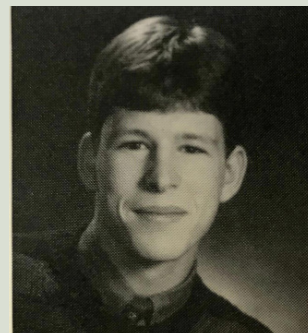
2000 18 YEARS AGO MAUREEN HEAD



1980 38 YEARS AGO JEAN MORSCH



2007 11 YEARS AGO TYLER MEADE



1992 26 YEARS AGO CHRISTIAN AANESTAD



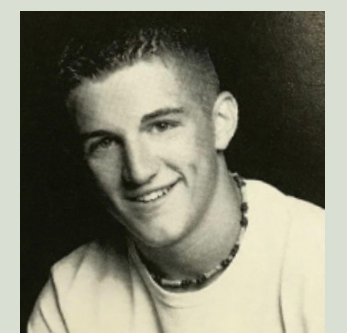
2006 12 YEARS AGO JANA WARNING



2003 15 YEARS AGO ABBIE WEIPERT



2005 13 YEARS AGO JEFF CONNER



2006 12 YEARS AGO KODY PUDIL

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THREE

ONE Peyton Brady '19 poses at home with her dad, Steve Brady ['88].

TWO Zac Moore '19 stands with his mom, Heather Moore ['91].

THREE Allyson Geasland '18 displays the 2017 Epic as her grandmother, Nancy Wittenberg ['69], shows West's first yearbook.

FOUR Lily Ernst '20, mom Kelly Smith ['90] and Lauren Ernst '18 display a Trojan Epic from one of their years at West.

FIVE Colby Greene '18 poses at home with her mom, Renda Greene-Fishman, an '89 West grad.



TWO



FIVE



FOUR

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