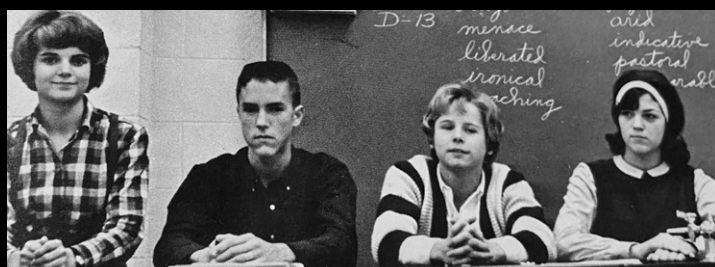
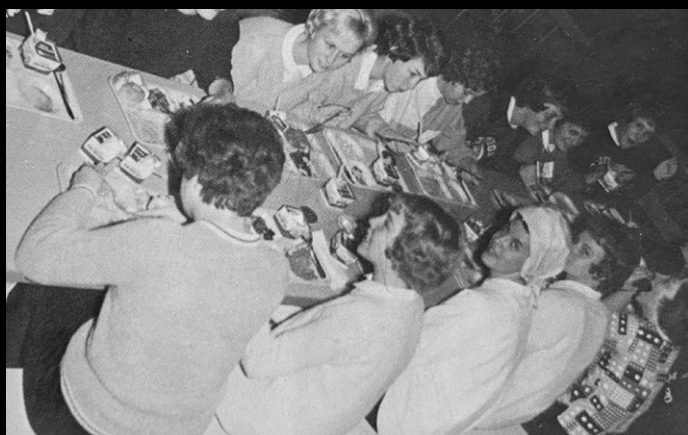


60 YEARS



of Brookfield EAST



Volume 63, Issue 1 • Fall 2021
Brookfield East High School
3305 • Lilly Road Brookfield, WI 53005



Elenore Cornelie

Editor-in-Chief

As we recover from these last two stressful years, we can't help but look forward; look forward to Covid-free days, maskless social outings, and a peaceful school year. Instead of looking to the future, the Spartan Banner looked back. We decided to focus on Brookfield East's 60 years of success, including anything from a class reunion to an interview with a higher schooler from the first graduating class. Although everything is far from normal, let's celebrate this huge milestone and admire Brookfield East's evolution throughout time.

Happy 60th Birthday, Brookfield East!

- Elenore Cornelie, Editor-in-Chief



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MEET THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Writers: Ella Kelsey and Lucy Irwin

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Logo Design: Emeka Ikem



WHO REDESIGNED OUR LOGO?

Read about the talented designer of the new Spartan Banner logo! Brookfield East's own Emeka Ikem!

A memorable logo is key to a successful organization. The ideal logo will grab the audience's attention through creative designs and meaningful messages. Emeka Ikem's new design for Brookfield East's Spartan Banner is a huge improvement, and perfectly symbolizes our school paper.

The design began a year ago, when Emeka Ikem entered a challenge for his Digital Editing 2 class as a sophomore. Although initially he tried to quickly finish the assignment, he soon became interested in this project. He used past Spartan Banner logos and previous design knowledge for inspiration. His vision was simple: memorable and fun, but not cartoonish. The trick was to come up with something professional, but avoiding simple and bland elements. Emeka accomplished this through a monochrome color palette, school advertising, relevant images, and clean shapes. He started by sketching a rough draft. By first outlining his main focus, a paper scroll, he was able to return with circles, a centered Spartanhead, and wording.

Students in Mrs. Mollitor's Digital Editing class are taught how to incorporate basic elements of editing, and how to create unique and abstract logos. In this class full of future-designers, Emeka's entry won the prize. So what is in store for his future? Emeka is open to a future job centered around design, although this junior isn't positive about what he wants to study in college. He does plan on taking Design Seminar here at Brookfield East his senior year. Besides digital editing, Emeka enjoys acting, making fun videos, learning languages (Spanish and Mandarin), and playing video games. He and his two fellow triplets lived in Chicago until they were 13, where Emeka immersed himself in videography. He even won a competition with his Smart Saving video. We are glad to have Emeka here at the Spartan Banner, and thank him for his unique logo!



a SIT DOWN with MR. FARLEY

Writer: Angelica Yang Editor: Angelica Yang
Designer: Audrey Hameister Photographer: Elizabeth Redmond

MR. FARLEY

Read about Mr. Farley's special memories here at Brookfield East, and his advice for students.

It's hard to imagine teachers in your shoes, but they were all students at one point, too. They were kids- going to school and hanging out with friends, playing sports and joining clubs, stressing over homework, college, and careers. Even Mr. Farley! Our very own principal walked the halls of Brookfield East High School as a student from 1992 to 1996. He played basketball and football, took chemistry and English, and went to homecoming dances, just like any other student today. In an exclusive insider interview, Andrew Farley shared his experiences as student, teacher, and principal here at Brookfield East.

What were your favorite traditions here at Brookfield East as a student?

"Homecoming has always been a really big deal. There used to be a bonfire, that even probably your freshman year (2018) we had. That's sort of the biggest tradition that I remember connected to Homecoming... Sporting events were nothing like it is now, in the late '90s. You just didn't have the crowd that would come." He notes that since his time here as a student, the biggest shift in the last 20 years has been a growth of school pride.

"Like the Gold Out game. Between East and Central, you've got football, the service from Key Club, National Honors Society, the band, Spartanettes, cheer- it becomes so much more than just the game."

He's right. A strong sense of community stems from school pride, where students and staff alike are able to bond. As he talks, it is clear in his expression that he is exceptionally proud of the community Brookfield East has fostered over the years.

What about any under the radar traditions, he responded with a laugh (most likely to keep from giving students any ideas): "Not that I was aware of!"

What was your favorite part of high school?

"The people. Friends you develop in high school are like lifelong friends." There's a smile on his face as he goes on. He cites highly impactful relationships with teachers and coaches to be among his greatest inspirations to become an educator. As a student, he found his calling to be a teacher in this very building.

"I think educators have this unique opportunity to change lives more so than any other occupation that exists... They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself, and that sort of started here. And I'm forever grateful for those relationships." Mr. Farley went on to become a teacher in AP Psychology, World History, and Current Issues.

Who were some of your great inspirations?

"I had an English teacher, named Mrs. Kotsoris," he says, already beginning to laugh at himself, "that would always put B.S. on my papers. She meant 'Be Specific' by that, and I still think of it to this day."

"There was Mr. Ritter, who was phenomenal and still is phenomenal today, so it's amazing to see his impact at our school and in Launch when I was a recipient of that impact 25 years ago."

Some teachers you may have shared with Mr. Farley at some point include Mrs. Gommerman, Mr. Harder, Mr. Steiner, and Mr. Miller. Impactful relationships with teachers and coaches are pillars here at Brookfield East: he is proud to watch students continue to receive the quality guidance and support he experienced during his time here.

What do you enjoy most about being principal?

He accredits his love for his job to both students and staff. He feels deeply inspired watching students grow, developing cultures

and strengths with support from teachers.

"I think about how our kids will change the world... Our best days as a community and as a nation are ahead of us because kids come here and do amazing things in high school, and then they go on to do even greater things in the world." Truly inspirational and very well said, Mr. Farley.

If you could be anything else at Brookfield East (student, teacher, food service staff, coach, etc), what would you be?

"I would love to teach AP Psychology again." He notes the importance of the class, regardless of post secondary career. "It helps you understand how people think and behave... it can really be an engine for other occupations." You heard it here first: start making room for AP Psychology in your schedules next year!

In a final message to any student readers, he hopes to let everyone know that he feels so fortunate to see the brilliance of the Brookfield East student body. The return to normal (as normal as it gets) is something to enjoy, so enjoy it! Make the most of your high school experience this year.

Get To Know Your Principal!

Favorite Color: Navy blue.

Favorite Food: Pizza with sausage, green peppers, and extra cheese.

Favorite Subjects: Psychology and history.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be? To be a speedier reader.

Top Three Movies: A Few Good Men (1992), Lincoln (2012), and The Fugitive (1993). (Off the record, he also loves Dirty Dancing (1987), according to Ms. Bridger!)

Favorite Books: Dream Big by Bob Goff, Atomic Habits by James Clear, and Dare to Read by Berné Brown.

Favorite Music Genre: Country, for sure.

from **STUDENT** to **TEACHER**



Writer: Cadance Walsh Editors: Bennett Kinney

Designer: Audrey Hameister

PROFE PESKE

Did you know that Profe Peske was a student here at East?

is one of our Spanish teachers here at Brookfield East. Elenore Cornelia (12), a former student, says, "Profe is a caring teacher, strict but fair. She is definitely appreciated here at East." Something people may not know is that she also used to be a student here.

As a student here, she said she excelled in and enjoyed taking Spanish classes. In addition to taking Spanish in high school, she took basic Spanish throughout middle school as well. Her first Spanish teacher ever was Señor Stark, a former Spanish teacher in Elmbrook. During her first year of teaching here, she was then collaborating with him as a colleague.

"It was crazy, it was funny, it was weird." Profe Peske's inspiration for becoming a Spanish teacher included the teachers that she had as a student. Surprisingly, alongside Spanish she took Latin. She had a strong passion and appreciation for both languages.

In her junior year of college, Profe Peske spent a semester studying abroad in Costa Rica. "I absolutely loved it. It was magical for me." Then, after she graduated, she went back and did another study abroad trip to Costa Rica. In the future, she took students there too. She has also visited many other Spanish-speaking countries.

Traveling is one of her favorite things to do because she likes having chances to practice her more advanced Spanish speaking skills and also to learn more about other cultures.

She said her favorite experience from her time studying abroad was during one of her trips to Costa Rica. She did a week away and chose to work in a Nicaraguan refugee camp. The refugees were living in Guanacaste, a province in northwestern Costa Rica bordering the Pacific. She lived in the refugee camp and helped the refugees recover after the war.

"I was taking down their personal stories, their histories, from their time, and how they escaped the country, and what they saw before they escaped" This was a very memorable and impactful experience for her. She then ended up writing a newspaper article about it for Colorado College, which she attended at the time.

According to Profe Peske, there was no better choice than to teach at Brookfield East. When she was a young adult, she always thought she'd move away to Colorado, where she attended college, and never come back to Wisconsin. However, with her family situated here, she decided it would be best to return. She intended to stay at home for a while instead of teaching right away, however

as luck would have it, a teaching position opened up three days before the school year of 2005, and she decided it was fate to take the job.

When she first started working here the building looked very similar to how it did when she graduated. In fact, it was so incredibly similar that she had, in her words, "a culture shock." However, the huge renovation done to the school from 2006 to 2008 was a big help for her and it made a huge difference in the environment here. "The changes that I've seen since I've been teaching here have been amazing, and the opportunities for students are just so much more than when I was a student here."

Besides Spanish and Latin, Profe Peske has been studying French as a hobby and has a 730-day streak on Duolingo, which she loves. She would also like to learn Italian. Traveling to Italy has always piqued her interest and it would be a dream come true to witness the beautiful city of Florence.

Profe Peske has gone above and beyond to help students feel happy and comfortable in the Brookfield East community. She has gone through many intriguing experiences in her lifetime, including her study abroad experiences, but she said she couldn't be happier to be a teacher here, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

SPARTAN

CLASS OF...

We have all heard stories from our parents, grandparents, and other relatives about their childhood. They drone on and on about how it was so much better without cell phones and technology. Brookfield East's class of

1980 recently held their reunion at a local pub. Some of the alumni shared their experiences at Brookfield East, revealing the similarities and differences in school life, as well as the changes our school went through to become the way it is today. In 1981, the Spartan Banner staff was a small group, yet very diverse in terms of interests. It was a safe space for everyone to collaborate without the fear of being judged. Since students did not have social media or many technological resources to help search for articles, most articles

were about school clubs, events, and local subjects. "We did a 1960s dress-up," Nora Russo said. "I remember a photographer taking pictures, and we wrote articles about how everybody dressed up for the '60s theme. You just tried to find fun stuff to write about.

It was an awesome experience." Russo said that the Spartan Banner inspired her to major in journalism and communications in college, and allowed her to step outside her comfort zone and expand her social boundaries. Russo was also in sports at Brookfield East. "I started playing around 13 and 14," she said, "and by the time I was 15, I somewhat had the skills, and I had a good friend that helped. I loved it. It got me out of my shell, and when you do something competitive, you gain some more confidence in yourself." Her memories are motivating and encourage students to embrace change and all social interactions. Her husband, a former football player for the Brookfield East Spartans, said, "[Football] was a big way to meet other people that I didn't know." There was an ongoing rivalry with Brookfield Central and both schools were competitive, he said. Mr. Russo was named the most valuable player in his senior year and dabbled in basketball and track as well. He offered some advice to current football players: "Make better use of your time, as far as going to practice and making sure you get your studies done."

REUNION

Writers: Mehru Siddiqui and Shakti Iyer Editors: Angelica Yang and Bennett Kinney Designer: Audrey Hameister

You want to keep a good reputation and keep up your grades. You [have] to make a good impression for the team and the people of Brookfield East.” “In the ‘80s, the cars were all hotrods,” Jim Jakus said. “On the last day of school, everyone would bring their hot cars to the North park-ing lot and lay rubber, and half the school would be lined up to watch-- it would be super dangerous but nobody stopped us.” Jakus thought that rules and enforcement were quite lenient, since the police “looked at us, smiled, and then drove away.” The alumni at the reunion shared so many interesting details of their high school days, yet some completely stood out. For starters, no one used back-packs. Instead, everything would be put in lockers or carried from class to class. With only four minutes to grab books and put away other supplies, it must have been much more rushed during passing times. One woman recalled people writing on her desk and in the bathroom stalls-- which, after the Devous Lick trend, seems much less destructive than what schools have dealt with recently. Another surprising fact was that there were no freshmen. Brookfield East used to only consist of

students in 10th - 12th grade. In addition, alumni talked about the picture of the class of 1979. “We were told to go to the courtyard and [the photographer] took a picture of us from the roof. [The photo was] for the yearbook.” This shows how much Brookfield East has grown and expanded over the years. The difference between a class that could fit in the courtyard and the court-class that fills the bleachers in the football field shows just how far our school has come. Students today have count- less new technological advancements, and can connect and research more easily across the world. Nevertheless, they still struggle in similar ways to the people before them. Students can feel nervous when joining new clubs and stressed while trying to maintain their reputations and grades. However, it is also important to remember the significance of these four years. That way, after another 20 years, they may get the chance to share them with a new generation.

BROOKFIELD EAST THEN AND NOW

Writer: Mellynda Jia Editor: Angelica Yang Designer: Audrey Hameister

For years, Brookfield East High School has been ranked one of the top educational institutions in Wisconsin. The school's mission of achieving academic and human excellence within the student body has led many to great success, yet Brookfield East has not always been that way. This 2021-22 school year will celebrate East's 60th anniversary and all of the changes and improvements made along the way.

Brookfield East split from Brookfield Central in the school year of 1962. Brookfield's population was growing, and more than one high school was needed to educate students living in both Brookfield and Elm Grove. The first school year, the building housed only freshmen and sophomores. There were a total of 442 students. Today, those two classes have over 600 students, and the school as a whole has over 1,300 students attending today. In that first year, Brookfield East

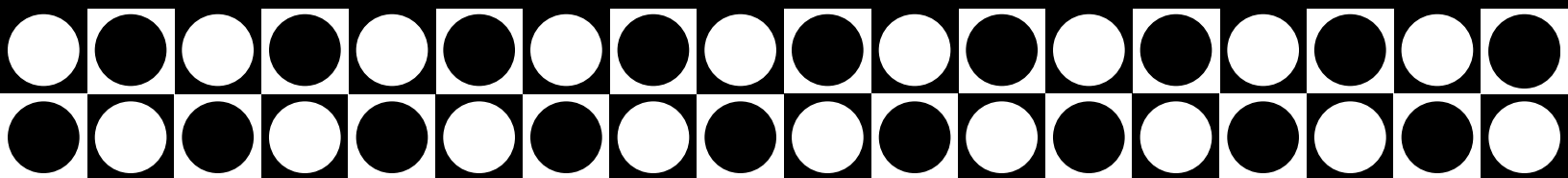
was only partially built. In fact, construction wasn't completed until a decade later. Paul Westermann, an alumnus from Brookfield East class of 1970, participated in the Spartan Banner and created cartoons for the magazine.

"The school wasn't even finished when I graduated, Westermann said. There was no swimming pool, no track, no baseball diamond, no tennis courts. There was a football field but just teeny tiny bleachers...it was just bare bones." Even the classrooms were incomplete. Many rooms lacked supplies and were roughly furnished.

Students faced another decision - there were many decisions to make! The first student council was assigned the task of determining school symbols. Should the school colors be red, white, and blue, or orange and brown? Should the school mascot

be the Spartans or the Falcons? After much deliberation, the council finally decided on the school colors of white and blue with red trim and chose the Spartans over the Falcons. They even created a school song, long lost to history.

In the first school year, more than 20 clubs were started, as well as sports teams. In addition, there was Student Council, Spartan Banner, Echo, forensics, debate, and more. Clubs were very inclusive, and anyone could join; most of these clubs have been continued to this day. As for sports, many teams were established, such as football, basketball, tennis, cross country, cheerleading, etc. In the '61-'62 school year, because there were only two grade levels, freshmen played on JV while sophomores played on Varsity. Back then, only boys were allowed to play sports, cheerleading was exclusively for girls.



There have also been physical changes to Brookfield East, such as the Spartan Union established in 2016, the newly renovated library, and fields.

Some things have stayed the same. For example, the graduating prank has persisted through the years. Mr. Westermann said, "In 1969, the graduating class topped the books. Seniors who were taking industrial arts hid in lockers after school on a Friday night. Once everyone was gone, they emerged and took apart their teacher's old car. They moved all the pieces and reassembled them in the courtyard. It even ran." Presently, graduating class pranks are less remarkable due to more adult regulation. They are still interesting nonetheless.

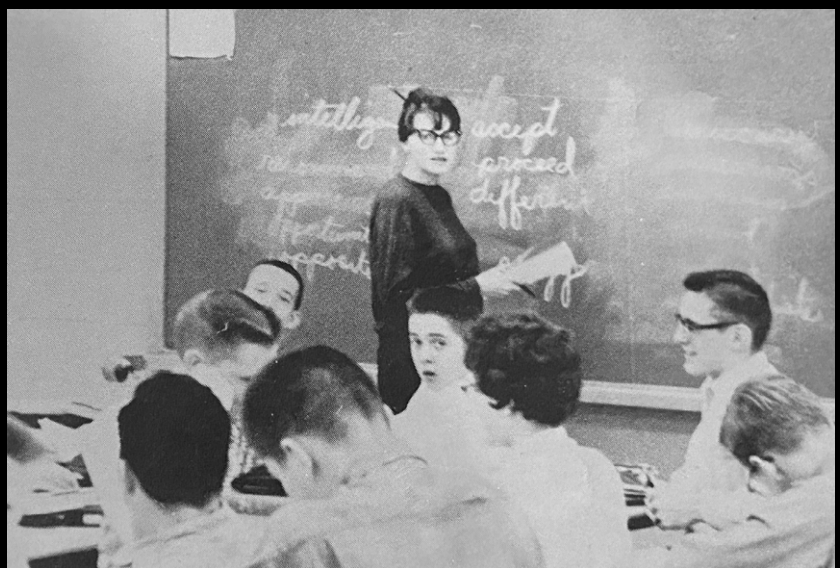
Over the decades, many changes have been made to Brookfield East High School. These advancements have allowed it to achieve the rank of the top public schools in the state of Wisconsin by Niche and US News and World Report. It has an average graduation rate of 96% and standardized test scores well above the national average. This year, as we celebrate Brookfield East's 60th anniversary, students will continue to strive for excellence and make the city of Brookfield proud of them.



Current Brookfield East Logo



Original Brookfield East Logo



MORRIS SHARES: CHANGES AT EAST

How has BEHS changed in the last 60 years? James Morris, class of '65, discusses his experience and how it compares to the typical experience at Brookfield East today.

Writer: Coda McMullen Editors: David Jia and Angelica Yang Designer: Audrey Hameister



The school climate is constantly evolving, with different trends, styles, and methods of communication that shape the daily experiences of students. Much has changed throughout the last few decades, where rock n' roll was popular and gas was \$1.73 a gallon. Being subject to a host of these experiences, James Morris, class of '65, revealed what high school was like for him growing up almost 60 years ago. Outlined in this article are some of the biggest changes in Brookfield East since the 1960s.

seemed to me to be all about taking 'cookie cutter' courses one was expected to take to be considered educated."

Two Brookfield East students, Sameer Bhatt (9) and Akash Moorching (10), agree, citing school as merely a stepping stone into future interests, though specific classes do grab and inspire attention.

Muthu Sundar (11), another student at East, disagrees, saying "school is a site where I have learned and developed many of my interests in areas like debate, finance, and technology".

Previously, the curriculum lacked real-world applicability, failing to address things like money budgeting, job hunting, and resume writing. That issue has now been resolved with the introduction of classes such as personal finance, writing for college,

Courses and Curriculum

Classes and learning content have changed throughout the years. Newer, more individualized classes have been implemented at East, which diversifies course selection and creates more specialized pathways for students to pursue - both in academics and in the workforce.

Morris believes that the changes at the school have been revolutionary. Before, classes were limited to "English, math, science, foreign languages, bookkeeping, salesmanship, and civics," two of which, bookkeeping and salesmanship, are no longer offered as year-long classes. Morris furthers that "high schools back then



and business management: these all allow students to develop skills to prepare them for life after high school. Specialized courses aimed towards real-world preparation are some of the greatest (and arguably, most beneficial) changes over the last few decades.

Though there have been many changes in course curriculums, some things have stayed the same. Morris mentions specifically that he took English literature every year. Despite the curriculum having shifted in standards (it used to require memorization of Old English passages), these classes expanded worldviews for students both then and now, oftentimes through classic literature- such as Moby Dick.

Lunch Lobbying

The quality of a school's lunches can make or break a student's evaluation of it. Numerous factors contribute to its appeal, including diversity, healthiness, and cost. In the case of Brookfield East, opinions seem to be satisfactory.

According to Morris' experience, school lunches have changed much from when he was in high school. Sixty years ago, "the food was awful, with trays that were segmented and nasty." Morris makes a comparison between lunches at Brookfield East and the military, with the trays being "roughly the same." There was a little section for vegetables, ditto for potatoes (aka a starch), and then a "protein of some sort," as well as a slice of bread and a patty of butter to round it off. The beverages served would have been either milk or some sort of soft drink.

Comparatively, present-day lunches are much better and more diverse. The current school cafeteria has a large selection of drinks, ranging from water to carbonated drinks. The meals include a changing cycle of primary meals, which can include anything from pizza to Chinese food, as well as additional fruits, like apples and oranges, and a salad bar.

Bashaw finds the lunches delicious, with the main meal being "tasty," as well as the

average prices being "both fair and reasonable." This opinion seems to be shared by many at Brookfield East, with few complaints about meal quality. Covid-19 uniquely has increased meal appeal, with the Elmbrook District writing that all lunches, as per the USDA, are free for students regardless of income status, making eating much more accessible.

Student Discipline

Student discipline policies in the sixties were extremely strict. Rules included students not being able to drive to school, with "only teachers being allowed to park in the lots." In addition, students were not allowed to leave campus during lunchtime, a rule that still seems partially in place today. Dress policies included a ban on blue jeans for boys and girls, with girls being mandated to wear either skirts or dresses. The most intolerable rules included the no-gum policy, which is now nonexistent.

Facility Development

Brookfield East high school was first established in 1962, marking its upcoming 60th birthday in 2022. Since then, the school has undergone numerous renovations. These changes include, but are not limited to, building upgrades, new rooms, and much more.

Morris, after experiencing a building tour in 2015, states that "BEHS was quite impressive," as the original building was expanded, with plenty of new features and facilities. Sixty years ago, Brookfield East was limited to a few areas set aside for physical education, with the majority of space being dedicated to a few select classes.

Currently, renovations include additional gyms for dedicated sports activities, a theater for plays, and an entrepreneurial area with a "coffee" enterprise reminiscent of Starbucks to encourage entrepreneurial endeavors. Morris states that these additions would have been "unimaginable" in his era. The current students at BEHS are incredibly fortunate to have access to all of those facilities that make our high school careers much more enjoyable.

60 Years Later

A lot can change in 60 years. From academic courses to lunch quality, to dress codes and building renovations, the changes we've been lucky to experience indicate that the future holds more in store. Be sure to celebrate Brookfield East's 60th anniversary this upcoming school year- and for a more in-depth (and authentic) glimpse into the past, the school library has copies of old yearbooks for you to check out!

The changes in school policy have furthered and advanced the institution, and will continue to do so into the future, bringing tastier food, more interesting classes, and a more beautiful school.

Morris mentions that specifically, he took English literature every year. In the class, he read books like Moby Dick and memorized Old English passages. Today, memorization is required less in English classes, yet the workload and dedication levels required are much higher. These classes widely developed Morris and other students as individuals, where they were surrounded by peers they grew up with in Elm Grove and Brookfield and whose presence was both comfortable and predictable.

That much has largely remained consistent throughout the years, with students going through elementary, middle, and high school with familiar faces, promoting a sense of security and family that allows for a positive high school experience. For example, Jack Bashaw (11) says, "the people at East are everything, knowing that all my friends are here for me if I need them, [which] provides me with a stable support environment," a sentiment that is likely shared by the vast majority of students in Wisconsin.

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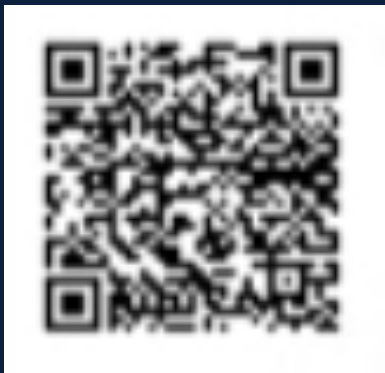


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