

Meagan Shifley

Instructor's Name

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Date

Harrison Middle School Versus Harrison High School

There are many differences between Harrison Middle School and Harrison High School. Middle schools and high schools in some other towns may be alike in structure, recreation, and peer pressure, but these schools differ in many ways in Harrison.

The first difference is in structure. At Harrison Middle School, students are assigned teams, and within those teams the students are split among three teachers. Each teacher teaches two subjects. The teachers' classrooms are next to each other in the hallways, so there is not much walking that a student has to do. Since each team has three designated classrooms, the students have assigned desks in each classroom, which means they can leave their books in their desks at all times and not have to worry about someone taking them.

At Harrison High School, students are not assigned to a team with only three teachers. Students are assigned to seven classes with seven different teachers. Since students have so many classes, walking distance between classes can be great. Also, since students have seven different teachers, they are assigned a locker to keep their books and personal belongings in.

Besides the structure of Harrison Middle School being different from that of the high school, the recreation also differs. Recreation in middle school involves recess, physical education, computer lab, music, and field trips. Everyone goes to recess at the same time everyday, but not everyone attends the optional field trips. Unlike the field trips, physical education, computer lab, and music are not optional. During middle school, students are

required to take these three classes. Each lasts only about thirty to forty-five minutes, but every team is required to take one of these classes every day.

In contrast, recreation at Harrison High School includes sports, clubs, electives, and a few special events. Some sports are volleyball, soccer, basketball, football, golf, and tennis. Some clubs are Future Business Leaders of America, or FBLA, and Family Career and Community Leaders of America, or FCCLA. Electives are classes that some students take if they have room in their schedule. Some electives are choir, art, band, and yearbook. There are also some special events that occur at Harrison High School, and they include pep rallies, Homecoming, Colors Day, and Prom. For Homecoming, the football team elects a queen, and the student body elects six other girls to be the queen's court. Colors Day is the same event except during basketball season, which means the basketball team gets to elect the queen.

In addition to the many differences between Harrison Middle School and Harrison High School when it comes to recreation, peer pressure is also extremely different. During middle school, students pressure each other about which groups of kids someone is hanging out with, whether a student wears clothes from Wal-Mart or Abercrombie and Fitch, and whether or not he or she has a boyfriend or girlfriend. Everyone wants to be popular and hang out with the cool kids who wear clothes from Abercrombie and Fitch, and if all the other boys and girls have a boyfriend or girlfriend, he or she has to have one too.

In high school, peer pressure isn't about where someone buys his or her clothes, who is hanging out with whom, or whether or not everyone has a boyfriend or girlfriend. Peer pressure in high school deals with sex, drugs, and alcohol. When it comes to sex, a guy will worry about what others will think if he is still a virgin, and the girls gossip about how far they have "gone" with a guy or talk bad about others who have "gone" further. Use of drugs and alcohol also

involves peer pressure when it comes to Harrison High School students. If there is a party, there are usually drugs, alcohol, or sometimes both. Some students go to parties just to socialize, but by the end of the night someone has tried to pressure them into drinking a beer, smoking a cigarette, or taking some kind of pill.

Overall, Harrison Middle School differs from Harrison High School. They differ in their structure, their recreation, and peer pressure.