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## A Look Back at Newark Schools: Digital History Lesson Plan for High School Students



**Boys in a music class at East Side High School (1943)**

The Newark School Photos collection shows everyday scenes of children and teachers from the 1940s to the 1960s. Included in these photos are images of classrooms, cafeterias, libraries, playgrounds, concerts, and more. Many of these photos were taken during World War II. When looking through this collection, you will see the ways in which schools in Newark were both similar and very different when compared to schools today.

**Directions:** Access the Newark School Photos collection and respond to the following questions and activities.

**Newark School Photos:** <http://cdm17229.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/>

**Step 1: Exploring similarities and differences.**

Begin browsing the Newark School Photos. You might start looking through the collection by picking a specific school such as Weequahic High School or you may also start by selecting a specific search term such as *libraries*, *cafeterias*, or *playgrounds*. You can also view the entire collection by clicking the “Browse This Collection” link.

Once you have looked closely at a minimum of 10 photos, fill in the chart below with 5 bullets on each side.

<i>Ways in which Newark Schools were different. . .</i>	<i>Ways in which Newark Schools are still similar . . .</i>

### **Class Discussion Questions for Step 1**

1. What differences did you find to be the most shocking? Why?
2. What is something you saw in the school photos that we no longer do in schools today? Why do you think we no longer do such activities?
3. What were you surprised to find was similar about the students in these photos? Why did that surprise you?
4. A student in the year 2067 is looking at schools photos from the year 2017. What do you think he or she would find to be the most surprising? Why?

### **Step 2: Group Project**



Students will be broken into small groups. Give each group one of the following topics:

1. Classrooms (Social Studies, Science, English, Math)
2. Libraries
3. Physical Education and Playgrounds
4. Cafeterias
5. Concerts and Other Performances
6. Art, Exhibits, and Displays

## Step 2 Directions:



1. Conduct a search of your topic in the Newark School Photos collection. Take some time to look at the photos that appear in your search. Critically examine the ways in which your topic has changed from the schools of Newark in the past to the schools in Newark today.
2. Create a Google Slides or PowerPoint presentation about your topic. Your presentation should discuss the history of the topic you were assigned, how it changed over time, and its importance in schools today. You may need to conduct additional research about the history of schools in the United States to complete your presentation.
3. **Photo Requirement:** You will need to use at least ten photos in your presentation. Five of these photos will come from the Newark School Photos collection and the other five will be of photos you take of your school. Make sure you caption your photos with the name of the photographer and the dates on which they were taken.
4. Present your topic to the class. Your presentation should be between 5 and 10 minutes. You will use the photos in your presentation to help you effectively convey your research.