

How Would You Describe Our Education At Albion High School (~1974)? Great/ Mediocre / Poor?

The following was copied off the Facebook responses with names removed. Excuse typos – this was casual conversation.

- I guess some of our education would be what we put into it. I am going with mediocre.

Mediocre-Poor

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- Leaning toward poor! I got A's & B's & thought I was doing good UNTIL I went to college & learned how behind I really was. My 1st semester was a real struggle but fell in the groove okay after that & finished good.

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I really don't know I think I slept through school high school anyway

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- OK...so now I'm more than just curious...

Mediocre! Some teachers were good!! I also think you get out of it what you put in it!! I could have done better!!

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- Mediocre - I never studied in high school but did well. In college I realized I had to learn to study to do well. It definitely is what you put into it to a large degree too.

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- Trust me guys I have a lot of regrets about my education now I'm really struggling with the new college classes I'm taking the one thing there's a lot of help so I use that help and make it through I can't believe I'm taking 300 level classes now

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In retrospect, pre-1970's, as an educator-- I would say great. At the elementary and high school levels-- some really phenomenal teachers that continue to impact me. My only regret is that I didn't take advantage of what was available-- so, as previously stated per usual, you get out what you in....

- Mediocre. They didn't have classes that really taught us to write, to study, or to critically think. The science and math classes we had did not put us in a position to compete with the kids from the best schools. It was a great shock to me when I got to U of M at how poorly prepared I was. We had no AP classes. Some teachers like Owen Gordon were great teachers but his classes had such a fixed curriculum that the most driven students and the least driven students learned exactly the same amount. As ___ said, you didn't have to study outside of school to get an "A".

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D. All of the above

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- I went to Coldwater before coming back to Albion! In Coldwater I really had to study and do my homework I had average grades B's and C's! But when I came to Albion In 11th grade I was getting A's and B's without much studying! Couldn't believe the diff!

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- Poor

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- I was several years ahead of you, and at that time, my education at AHS was great. I felt very prepared when I got to college.

· [Like](#)

- I went to 2 other high schools before Albion. I came there as a sophomore. I felt the education at AHS was not as challenging as the other 2 schools. Somehow I had enough more than enough credits to graduate going into my senior year except government which was required and only offered to seniors. I found that strange. I was also allowed not to attend a full day. I needed 4 hours to be able to participate in sports.

- Kim I was told the same thing I had to many credits that if I wanted to I could get out of school in January of my Senior year because I had my Government class that first semester! Well I took it got out in January ;(wish I had not had that option! Just wished I hadn't taken it!

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- As I recall, Albion High School was on probation over three consecutive periods, which made Albion High below school standard. In junior high Albion College students without experience were "trying" to teach. The list goes on and on, I love Albion, its a great loss . Yes there were some good teachers, but how many principals and assistant principals? They were afraid to enter the bathrooms.....they didn't know how to handle it.

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- Poor. No real motivation to work and do well. There was no consistency throughout the school that coordinated the preparation to learn or how to study. When I got to college I was told in short order that my education to that point did not prepare me for college.

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- I've been thinking about this, [Victoria](#), since I saw your post yesterday. My career at Albion High School did not prevent me from going to the University of Michigan. I'd learned enough French at AHS to place out of a year of university-level French. I learned about labor history - something they don't teach in high school anymore - and the French Revolution (what high school offers that option?) Once I got to UM, of course I saw how sophisticated many of my cohort were, but there was often jadedness that went with it, too. But I was excited to be in classes with these people and learning from them as well as the professors.

Albion High School was not Birmingham Seaholm, but the kind of education I got there - and in Albion itself - is still with me and helps me participate in a world where most people don't look like me or have the advantages I had - or the privilege I have.

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- Poor

- I must say I had a few good teachers that changed my life...Ms. Valdez and her excitement about learning impacted my life to become a teacher later in my life...there were other good teachers but the education was very poor.

- To me AHS was somewhat mediocre, but compared to today's standards, it was probably great. Failing to apply study technology such as understanding the definitions of words are major outpoints and continue to not be applied. In addition, the current avenues that are being approached, are going to be dangerous.

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•Checking my class rank pretty much answers that, mediocre. Did well at MSU but I actually had to work for those grades. On the other hand, there were a couple of teachers along the line who were awesome (Mrs. Sharp is looking over my shoulder as I write this). AND, we had a house full of books and a mother who thought that reading them was a worthwhile use of time.

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•If you grade a to e I would say D but we had some good teachers.

[Like](#)

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[Victoria M. Young](#) Celebrities have their “people”; writers have voices in their heads. You people are the voices that matter to me. Thank you. I needed to hear what you had to say.

My Albion friends seem to understand, as many expressed, that part of what determines the quality of our education is what we put into it.

But as others pointed out that for many of us there was no real motivation to work and do well; we coasted through school, unchallenged.

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[Victoria M. Young](#) Several diagnosed the problem of being “unchallenging” in pointing out how easy it was to get A's and B's without much studying which left us poorly prepared. For those of us who went on to college, doing “well” in high school and not knowing how under-prepared we were UNTIL going to college is something many of us shared.

And Tom spoke the words often heard yet toady, “They didn't have classes that really taught us to write, to study, or to critically think.”

And I was also among the students that was told we had enough credits to graduate early. I chose that option because I didn't feel Albion High School had anything more to offer me and I also did not feel welcomed, in my physics class in particular, which I should have had a full year of but didn't - because of my choice.

It is also interesting to hear from others that had other schools to compare to and found Albion High School was not as challenging as the other schools. Same here; I went to Lumen Christi Catholic High School for 11th grade. I

managed to get a C in English but easily got an A in Chemistry (I don't know if I would have been as interested in Chem at Albion?)

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[Victoria M. Young](#) I would like to think that all of us encountered a teacher who made a difference to us. Several mentioned that some teachers were good. My list would include Mr. Freeman (science, jr. high – that really cool lecture room with separate lab gave a special “feel” to science), Ms. Geary (or was it Gray? Jr. high creative writing – so glad she didn't just kick me out), Geometry with Mrs. Ryser (loved having answers when she didn't think I would), and last but not least Mrs. Sharp (HS English Lit) – talk about a teacher with expectations.

This is an excerpt from the Acknowledgements for my book “Particular thanks to Tom Koerner [my editor] for setting the stage for my final revision by reminding me of my former English teachers who seemed to be looking over my shoulder as I worked. Thanks to those teachers.” ... Yes, our teachers – each our own favorites – made a difference.

Overall, I agree with D. All of the above. Yes, mediocre to poor But as pointed out, none of this prevented some of us from going on if we were able. We did get a different kind of education that has given us a different perspective than many – a valuable perspective I think.

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[Victoria M. Young](#) And the Albion people with a longer view like saw their education as better than those of us graduating in the mid-seventies. One didn't go as far with his “somewhat mediocre” review but he went on to compare to today's standards reminding me why I got involved in education to begin with; where my kids went to school, the academics were not as good as in Albion but the learning conditions were better.

And as one classmate reminded us, there were administrators that were afraid to enter the bathrooms.....they didn't know how to handle it....and I think some just looked the other way....easier.

And I learned something.... I did not know Albion High School was on probation over three consecutive periods, which made Albion High below school standard. Or that, in junior high Albion College students without experience were “trying” to teach.

Least we forget, there are the other factors in education; “we had a house full of books and a mother who thought that reading them was a worthwhile use of time.”

That is all folks! - for now.....you all are brilliantly insightful

- Mine was a long time ago, but I have fared well. My writing was the weakest but that was a result of my own behavior and lack of participation. I would totally agree with Nancy, Albion put me where I needed to be in order to handle life and people. Also, my children have now attended through the 6th grade and are finishing 7th. They also have done well and scores on standardized testing would agree.

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- Good to hear, Tom.....But makes me wonder - so why did half the students chose to go to other schools necessitating "closure" of the high school?

- I can't speak for them. I chose to stay. My children are happy and doing well, so I do not need to make any other decisions. I honestly wish others had stayed and been part of a solution, but that was not to be.

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- I think you have all touched on some very valid points, but where I think Albion High School (and the community itself) excelled was teaching me how to live in a world that was not lilly-white. I went full circle from the 60's unrest to having two memorable "crushes" on women of color. My first week in college was eye-opening as I was surrounded by many from private schools, and somewhat sheltered, who prejudged our small but diverse minority population. And, it was very evident how early children pick up on these things as one of my daughters left Albion in first grade to move to west Michigan. Her second day in school the principal called to tell me my daughter was quitting school because they did not have a black teacher for her. So....did we have a below average curriculum? Yes. Was there motivation in the schools to succeed? Some. Was I the best academic student I could have been? Nope. Did I pay for it in college? You bet. Was I far more culturally aware than my college friends, or beyond college? Hells yea I was and that was pretty cool I think.

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[Victoria M. Young](#) Nailed it!

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•[Victoria M. Young](#) But I still have concerns...and that is where I began days ago and why I asked the question to begin with - something nagging at me. But this group answered that first question. And yes, we did fine; we overcame our disadvantages and appreciated our advantages. But I think we are missing some folks who aren't joining the conversation, who didn't have some of the outside supports that we did, or the self-motivation. ...Now something else to think about. Did the school provide the opportunity they needed?

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•I agree with what Paul had to say we all moved on with knowing about other cultures and how to live and learn from them! I think that is pretty cool also!!

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•the point has been made that you get out of it what you put into it and that is exactly what my experience was. I did not value my high school education and thought that it was insignificant but I did learn. I learned that when I got to college I was not well prepared and truly had to work my ass off to catch up and it was a struggle, but I learned. I look at many of the people that I went through high school with at that time went off to top rated college's and unversities and have done very well in life. Our high school education may have been mediocre but that did not hold many back from success in life. thanks for a thought provoking question [Victoria M. Young](#). A community does have to put in the resources (yes, that reads money) needed for students to thrive and learn.

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•I think that the microcosm of Albion with its diversity is what helped us all learn to live in the big world. The High School just had the same diversity as the town. If Albion had had better schools then the town would be more vibrant today.

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•that's the point that many don't seem to understand. Nevada lost out on a new Tesla (forgive the spelling error) factory due to our education system.

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