


Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation

December Newsletter, 2022

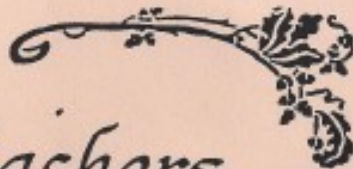
So You Think You're Smarter Than an 8th Grader

Readers of this newsletter may remember last month's article highlighting some of the rules by which 19th century teachers were required to conduct themselves.

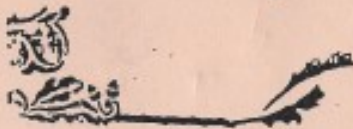


1915

Rules for Teachers



1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.



Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum

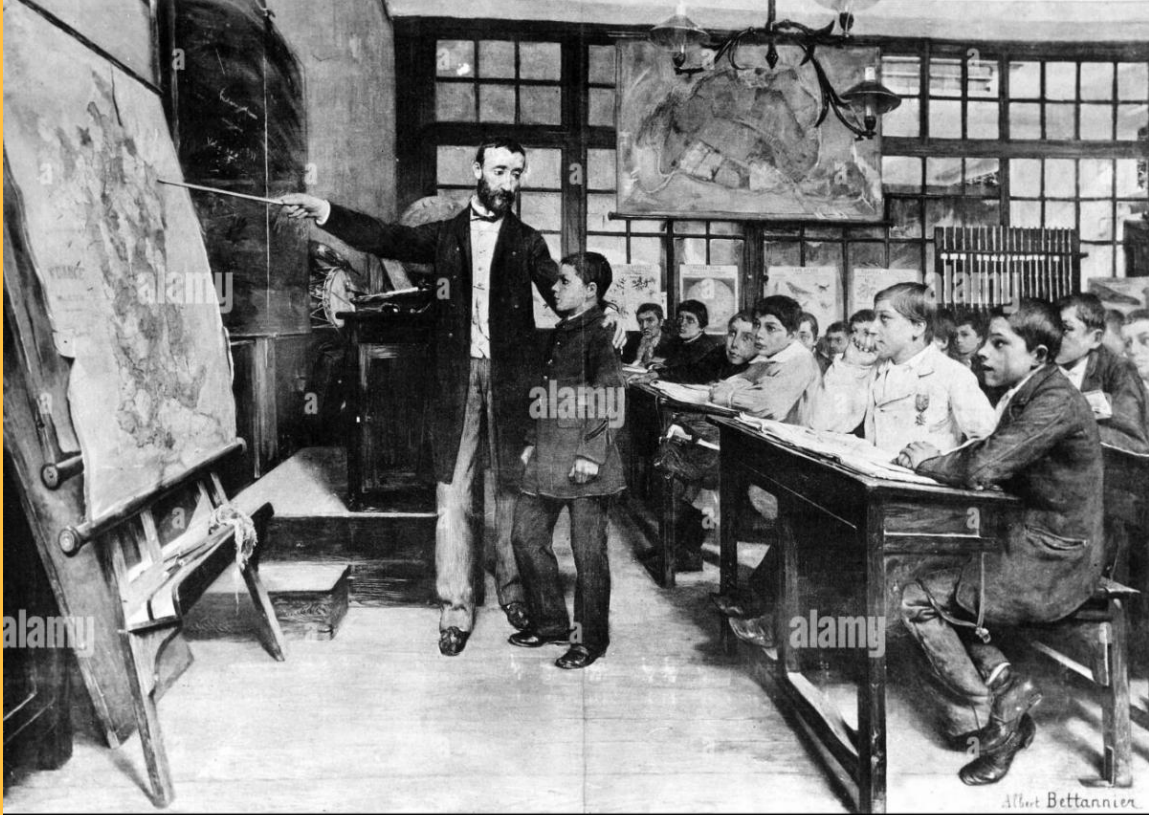
While these rules may seem invasive and restrictive to us today, you have to remember that societal attitudes have changed in 150 years. Teachers were expected by the community to be morally upright as well as beacons of education and information. Teachers knew EVERYTHING!



All this benevolent guidance was aimed in one direction - no, not the repression of teachers, the idea was to make the young, up-and-coming generations better educated and better informed than their parents had been.



Throughout the entire educational process, there are the dreaded quizzes and tests that must be administered in order to gauge a student's progress.



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So put away your cell phones and shut down your computers while you peruse this partial examination to be passed for graduation from the eighth grade.



Remember, the kids answering the questions were 12-13 years old.



{Note, there is no key to answers. I was going to provide one, but apparently I was more distracted during my "educational experience" than I realized.}

Eighth Grade Examination for Grammar Schools, November, 1912

Spelling

{Have someone read these words to you and see how many you can spell correctly. No Hints! You don't want to have to stand in the corner do you?}

Exaggerate, incentive, conscious, pennyweight, chandelier, patient, potential, creature, participate, authentic, bequeath, diminish, genuine, vinegar, incident, monotony, hyphen, antecedent, autumn, hideous, relieve, conceive, control, symptom, rhinoceros, adjective, partial, musician, architect, exhaust, diagram, endeavor, scissors, associate, saucepan, benefit, masculine, synopsis,

circulate, eccentric.

Reading

Reading and Writing (given by the teacher).

Arithmetic

Each Correct Answer is Worth 10 Points

1. Write in words the following: .5764; .000003; .123416; 65310965; 43.37
 2. Solve: 35.7 plus 4, 5.8 plus 5.14 - 59.112
 3. Find cost at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per sq. yd. of kalsomining the walls of a room 20 ft. long, 16 ft. wide and 9 ft. high, deducting 1 door 8 ft. by 4 ft. 6 in. and 2 windows 5 ft. by 3 ft. 6 in. each.
 4. A man bought a farm for \$2400 and sold it for \$2700. What per cent did he gain?
 5. A man sold a watch for \$180 and lost 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ %. What was the cost of the watch?
 6. Find the amount of \$50.30 for 3 yrs 3 mo. and 3 days, at 8 per cent.
 7. A school enrolled 120 pupils and the number of boys was two thirds of the number of girls. How many of each sex were enrolled?
 8. How long a rope is required to reach from the top of a building 40 ft. high, to the ground 30 ft. from the base of the building?
 9. How many steps 2 ft. 4 in. each will a man take in walking 21.4 miles.
 10. At \$1.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ a cord, what will be the cost of a pile of wood 24 ft. long, 4 ft. wide and 6 ft. 3 in. high?
- {Extra credit from the editor for knowing what kalsomining is.}

Grammar

1. How many parts of speech are there? Define each.

2. **"William struck James." Change the Voice of the verb.**
3. **Adjectives have how many Degrees of Comparison?**

Geography

1. **Name and give boundaries of the five zones.**
2. **Name and give the capitals of States touching the Ohio River.**
3. **Through what waters would a vessel pass in going from England through the Suez Canal to Manila?**

Physiology

1. **How does the liver compare in size with other glands.**
2. **Where is the chief nervous center of the body?**
3. **Give at least five rules to be observed in maintaining good health.**

Civil Government

1. **Define the following forms of government: Democracy, Limited Monarchy, Absolute Monarchy, Republic. Give examples of each.**
2. **Name five county officers, and the principal duties of each.**
3. **What is a copyright? Patent right?**

History

1. **Who first discovered the following places: Florida, Pacific Ocean, Miss River, St. Lawrence River?**
2. **During what wars were the following battles fought: Brandywine, Great Meadows, Lundy's Lane, Antietam, Buena Vista.**
3. **Name the last battle of the Civil War; War of 1812; French and Indian War, and the commanders of each**

battle.

Yikes! I hope you were as astounded as I was at the complexity of this exam. Today's exam is only about two-thirds of the number of questions on the actual exam. No wonder there were 17-year-olds in the eighth grade. Today we may look back on past education standards as basic or rudimentary, even primitive.



Judging by the sample of questions presented here from 1912, I wonder how the world ever got along without the internet?



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Send contact information to info@sccbf.org to be added to our
distribution list.**

The Historic Sutter Creek Grammar School is rich in Gold Rush history. This beautiful building is California's second oldest two-story brick schoolhouse. The Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation has restored the first and second floor making it a wonderful rental for any occasion. There are four rooms within the Historic Grammar School that can be rented.



Contact the City of Sutter Creek for information on rates and availability - (209) 267-5647 ext. 230 or email info@cityofsuttercreek.org

Whether it's a love of our heritage, a special connection to our town's diverse, deeply rooted cultures, or a desire to improve your community, every donor's passion for Sutter Creek is unique. A donation to Sutter Creek Community Benefit Foundation is the perfect way to fund your passion and watch it prosper. By connecting people who care with causes that matter, we help ensure a stronger, healthier tomorrow. We provide a simple, powerful and highly personal approach to giving.

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