Education from 1940’s until now has changed pretty drastically.  When you think of the olden days or try to imagine education that long ago, all that comes to my mind at least is being confined into a small classroom in a very little building somewhere out in the country.  I imagine girls making dresses or learning house wife duties while the boys are training or maybe not even attending school due to work and other family responsibilities.

I surveyed people ranging from 1939-1999 for elementary school, which was quite interesting.  First student said they had no school at first but then attended school and in log cabins.  He didn’t have a favorite subject because he rarely went to school and worked instead to help support his family.  While the children rarely misbehaved but if they did they would be walked down to the principal office, be beat, or clean the chalk boards.  You weren’t allowed to talk and if you did you hand to raise your hand.  The next person attended elementary in 1946.  Her favorite subject was math and said they didn’t have a lot of subjects to learn from.  There were about 20 children in the class and while she said no one misbehaved because they just knew better, if there was a problem the teacher would take them out in the hall and talk to them.  They had to stay in their seat, raise their hand to leave, and to be quiet all the time.  The next gentlemen attended starting in 1972.  His favorite subjects were history, art, science, and reading.  The average classroom size was 18.  If you were to misbehave you got a yardstick on the bottom.  You could only speak when you were answering a question, or if you did school in group.    The other gentleman attended school beginning in 1993.  His favorite subjects were language arts, and social studies.  There were an average of 30 kids throughout his elementary school tenure.  He can remember children misbehaving on occasion, but nothing extreme and habitual. He also said he believes that he was one of those kids who acted up on several of those occasions.  Teachers disciplined students who misbehaved sitting them in timeout, deducting stars on a behavioral chart, sending student’s to the principal’s office, contacting parents, and or corporal punishment.  Standard rules that teachers enacted in the classroom included: no talking, staying in your seat, raising your hand when you have a question, do your own work, keep your hands to yourself, be respectful of your classmates and class materials, and ask permission to exit the classroom.

As you can see in the classroom teaching has changed.  Some kids in the older days weren’t even able to study courses children do today let alone receive a decent education.  They were more concerned with working rather than educating. Also new subjects were introduced rather than just your basic math and English skills.   The punishment has changed rather than physical punishment it is more verbalized and so forth. You can see more ideas came about rather than resorting to physical punishment, like a behavioral chart, or contacting their parents. The rules of course are almost the same, as in no talking, or speaking when you only have permission.

It is mind blowing to think about back in the day some people went onto war or some didn’t even make it past eighth grade.  Or to think after school you had to go to work or sometimes even miss school to go to work and those earnings you earned went directly to your family and not you.  It was very rare for someone to go to college as well.  Now a days children in elementary are being tested, their learning more, they have a variety of subjects that they are learning and even learning new languages.  Also teaching strategies are changing as in some classrooms schools are using laptops, and iPad’s and relying on technology more because that is what the world is revolving to.   In high school you’re even allowed to take college courses and you have to take ACT’s and SAT’s to even get into college.  Now you can even do online classes rather than going to campus to attend class in a physical seat. As technology grows more and more everyday it will definitely have an effect on the teaching in the classrooms.