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## Could You Have Passed the Eighth Grade ...in 1895?



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(Editor's Note: Ilona sent this along as an attachment on an eMail and I share it with you "verbatim")

Remember when grandparents and great-grandparents stated that they only had an 8th grade education? Could any of us have passed the 8th grade in 1895? This is the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 in Salina, Kansas, USA. It was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, KS, and reprinted by the Salina Journal.

### 8th Grade Final Exam: Salina, KS -1895

#### Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of capital letters.
2. Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define verse, stanza and paragraph.
4. What are the principal parts of a verb? Give principal parts of "lie, play, and run."
5. Define case and illustrate each case.
6. What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.
- 7 - 10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

#### Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts/bushel, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?

4. District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find the cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at \$20 per metre?
8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance of which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

**U.S. History** (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, and 1865.

**Orthography** (Time, one hour) (WHAT IS THIS ANYHOW?)

1. What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, and syllabication?
2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, subvocals, diphthong, cognate letters, and linguals
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u.' (HUH?)
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.
6. Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

**Geography** (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall and Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.
7. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

Notice that the exam took SIX HOURS to complete. Gives the saying "only had an 8th grade education" a whole new meaning, doesn't it? THEY HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING!!!!

# Webbster n Button



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Thanks to PETER HENS, Webbster & Button have found a new home with the Oconee Humane Society of Seneca, S.C. <http://www.OconeeHumane.org> - Take a gander!

HI GANG! I'M WEBBSTER AND THIS IS MY BEST FRIEND BUTTON...



GANG? THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE A GANG TO ME THEY LOOK LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE.



IT'S A FIGURE OF SPEECH...



ANYWAY, WE'RE GOING TO BE THE NEW 'SPOKESMUTTS' FOR THE HUMANE SOCIETY AND...



WAIT A MINUTE! I OBJECT TO THE TERM 'MUTTS!' SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE MUTTS!!



LET'S TALK.



# Blumenthal Gets Nod for GHS Graduation

By Keach Hagey Staff Writer  
The Greenwich Time

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Greenwich High School will have a high-profile lawyer as this year's graduation speaker, but it won't be Mickey Sherman.

School officials announced yesterday that Attorney General Richard Blumenthal will give the keynote address at the June 16 ceremony. The slot was initially offered to Mickey Sherman, GHS Class of '64, but school officials changed their minds after several parents and students expressed concern over some of his clients. Sherman is best known for defending Michael Skakel, convicted in 2002 of killing GHS student Martha Moxley in 1975 when they were 15-year-old Belle Haven neighbors.

Blumenthal, 59, will be the first speaker in recent years who did not attend the high school. However, his wife, Cynthia, is an alumna, and the couple has lived in Greenwich for more than a decade, Blumenthal said. All four of their children attended Greenwich Public Schools until high school, when his three sons transferred over to Brunswick School. His daughter enrolled at Greenwich Academy.

"It will be a challenge and an honor, because it is my hometown high school, my wife's hometown high school, and it's a great school," Blumenthal said.

The graduation speaker is chosen by an eight-member committee, comprising five students, two teachers and the student activities director. Recent speakers have included GHS alumni Fernando Espuelas and Jack Chen, founders of StarMedia in Latin America; George Bodenheimer, president of ESPN; and Trey Wingo, SportsCenter anchor at ESPN.

Alan Capasso, headmaster of GHS, said he recently heard Blumenthal speak at a forum on family values and was "very impressed" by the strength of his message.

"We try to get alumni sometimes, but we have the honor of (Blumenthal) happening to live in our community," Capasso said. "I personally thought he was a very good choice."

Since being elected attorney general in 1990, Blumenthal has become nationally known for helping launch high-profile state lawsuits against Microsoft, HMOs and big tobacco companies. He also spearheaded a national campaign against deceptive sweepstakes mailings and has taken a prominent role in negotiating with gun manufacturers.

Before becoming attorney general, he served in the state Senate from 1987 to 1990 and the state House of Representatives from 1984 to 1987. In 1977, President Carter appointed him the U.S. attorney for Connecticut, making him, at 31, the youngest U.S. attorney ever.

Blumenthal went to high school in New York City and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard and attended Yale Law School, where he edited the Yale Law Journal.

During an interview yesterday, Sherman said he brought up this list of accomplishments at a recent Harpoon Club Dinner at Greenwich Country Club, before nodding to Blumenthal sitting in the audience and saying, "This guy is a terrific second choice."

Blumenthal said he has gotten to know Sherman well during the decades that both attorneys have been working in Connecticut's courts.

"Mickey Sherman is a good friend," he said. "We had a good-humored conversation about it. Life is full of ironies."

## Introducing Our Website

We are currently under construction, but will soon be up and running at our new web site. The Home Page will be available at:

<http://www.TheMcMillanGroupLtd.com>

Where you will find:



After my son completes the construction of the website, we will be featuring a link to the long list of back issues for the newsletter under the heading:



We will keep you up to date of the developments, when they occur.