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### **1837 or 2021 School?**

If I had a choice between going to school at Franklin Township in 1837 versus now, I would choose today. There are many reasons why I would choose today. It seems like students back then had more responsibilities at home and school than I would have today. I also like advancements we have that we did not have back then.

Living in the 1800s sounds like a lot of work to go to school. There were no buses or transportation so I would have to walk to school. That would not be so bad because I live next door to the school on Old Franklin School Road. But if I lived further, it would not be fun to walk to school in bad weather. They did not have snow days. I would not want to walk to school in deep snow. There was no heat or electricity in the school. There were no bathrooms and students had to use outhouses. It would be cold to use outhouses during winter. The students had to carry the firewood in to heat the school. It sounds like a lot of work to go to school to learn. I would be tired from walking and carrying firewood and I may not learn as well. It would be nice to have September and October off of school but not to farm. My house used to be a farm, so I know I would have had lots of work.

Another reason I would rather go to school now versus 1800 is I do not think I would learn very well in a one room classroom. I am easily distracted by my friends. If there were forty children in the class at all different grades, I would get very confused. I like having my class of eight students. I had a very hard time learning virtually at the beginning of the year because of all the distractions. They only learned about reading, writing, and math. I really like history and science and there probably would not be enough time with all those grades in one class to learn a lot. I may have ended up having to help my sister with her schoolwork because she is younger than me.

Technology allowed us to go to school during the pandemic. I was able to talk to my friends this year. I would not have been able to do that in 1837 when there were no computers. I wonder if school would have closed and we would have had the whole year off because of COVID. I think technology we have allows us to learn more than we could then. I can look something up that I do not know very quickly on my laptop. I was able to research what school was like quickly. In 1837, I would have not been able to do that!

It sounds nice having less school in 1837 but even with more months off I would still have a ton of responsibilities at home. I like coming home from school and playing. I would have to leave school to farm and that does not sound like fun to me. That is why I like it now!