

Jens Gallacher  
First Place, fourth grade  
Janet Prassl, teacher

Dear Franklin Township School students from 1837,

Hello from the future! I am Jens Gallacher, and let me tell you, I prefer the modern school building I have today to a one-room schoolhouse. Nothing personal!

According to my research, one-room schoolhouses are very small and I would like to go to a school that is big and has a lot of space. I would be sweaty in a room like that, I imagine how cramped it would be. I think I would learn more at a modern school because they are (hopefully!) a cooler temperature, and I could focus more in a classroom that's not blazing. In the 21st century, we have these things called "air conditioners" that cool the air, and out of all the information I found about you, I couldn't find anything telling me about a cooling source besides open windows. I think that class should not go through the summer because of your fall farming chores. You ought to have a big summer break like I do.

How did you not get too hot with the wood-stove? I would not want a wood-stove for the heat source. How much wood do you have to carry to school? I hope you have large windows that let in a lot of sunlight. You do have an hour of outside time, and busting out of the tiny room must feel refreshing.

Another reason I would rather go to a modern school is that the students are separated into their own rooms and grades. At your school, everybody age 17, 9, or 5 would be all together. I would rather have separate grades for different ages. A 15-year-old might have the skill to do algebra and would be bored if they were doing multiplication, but an 8-year-old could be very mad and confused if they were doing algebra because they need to learn the basics first!

I can't imagine being smacked on the behind when I do something wrong, I would rather have detention than that! Students shouldn't get hurt when they do something wrong! In my lifetime kids just get consequences, but not a punishment where you get hurt.

I noticed that your one-room schoolhouses are sometimes dusty, made of logs with holes in them, or are old buildings when our 2021 schools are made of bricks and other materials like finished wood.

Your school day goes from 9 am to 4 pm and I think that is okay because it is the same length of time we go to school today. Did you guys really have to walk an hour a day to school? That sounds crazy to me!

I enjoyed the opportunity to learn about your lives in one-room schoolhouses!  
Have a great rest of your 19th century!

Sincerely,  
Jens Gallacher