



Abilene Unified School District No. 435

Board of Education Offices

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABILENE SCHOOLS ARE PARTNERING WITH THE EISENHOWER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM TO CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF '09, 100 YEARS LATER

Nearly one hundred years ago, in 1909, an 18-year-old boy named Dwight D. Eisenhower graduated from Abilene High School and later became a 5-star General in WWII and then President of the United States. In a collaborative effort, Abilene schools and the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum are planning ways to celebrate this connection between the Abilene High School class of 2009 and the class of 1909. Throughout the 2008-2009 school year, the community will have an opportunity to learn more about Ike, his classmates, his teachers, and Abilene High School as we celebrate Abilene's most famous graduate and the class of 1909. This new initiative is just one of many collaborative activities over the past ten years between Abilene schools and the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

During Eisenhower's senior year, his course schedule included Economics, American History, Physics, and English IV. Abilene High School students today share some things in common with their counterparts a century or more ago—required courses in English and U.S. History, school plays, musical performances, sports and a host of school activities. Eisenhower also played football during his school years at Abilene. During Ike's senior year, AHS played Junction City High School twice, Chapman High School, and the Agricultural College which is now Kansas State University. All games were held in Abilene except for one in Junction City.

As our Abilene High School senior class approaches graduation, the community can show their support by encouraging them to pursue their dreams. Each and every one of them has the potential to change the world as did the 1909 graduate, President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

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