

AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AOSHS) ON-LINE YEARBOOK INITIATIVE



The mission of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) is “to collect, record, and preserve the unique history of educating American children and youth abroad; and to enhance public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the contributions made by American educators and their students in the advancement of democracy around the world.”

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has a long working relationship with American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS). DoDEA and AOSHS are collaborating in many ways to pursue their common goal of preserving the history of the school systems that have educated the children of American military Servicemembers for more seventy-five years.

The preservation of the Department of Defense Education Activity’s (DoDEA) history is a critical step in building our legacy for future generations. Approximately 15 million American school children have been educated overseas in our schools since the end of World War II. In the coming school year, we will celebrate the 75th anniversary (1946-2021) of that noble mission.

Through an enduring partnership with the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS), DoDEA and AOSHS are collaborating on the goal of preserving the history of the school system. The preservation of our system's history requires far more resources than the system can manage alone allowing access to data and memorabilia for research and historical purposes. Our partnership with AOSHS endeavors to address that gap and keep our legacy alive and accessible for future generations.

**See the AOSHS
Museum &
Archives Tour
at**

<https://aoshs.org/museum-archives-video-tour/>

One important project underway is the Yearbook Initiative. The goal of this effort is to collect, digitalize and archive every yearbook in the history of our school system so they are accessible online to everyone anywhere in the world. To make this a reality, AOSHS and DoDEA need your help.

School yearbooks reflect the events and lives of students and adults involved with a school for a given school year. They capture moments, memories, events, and faces that are frozen in time. They help people associated with our schools to recall the DoDEA experiences that often had a lasting and profound impact on their lives. It is a project that will help preserve and recall those memories for many years to come.

AOSHS is building a complete collection of yearbooks from every school. AOSHS will digitize your yearbook and will return your yearbook(s) with the utmost care in a timely manner. DoDEA Administrative Instruction 4160.1, "Disposal of Department of Defense Dependents Schools Memorabilia," allows school personnel to ship the

yearbook(s) (and other memorabilia) to AOSHS at government expense.

The efforts to collect, record, and preserve the unique history of educating American military-connected children will enhance public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the contributions to military families made by DoDEA employees and their students. We all share in that responsibility as DoDEA employees. The Yearbook Project will help us immensely in that regard, enabling the wider DoDEA community to have virtual access to materials in the archives.



AOSHS has a webpage dedicated to the project at: <https://aoshs.org/collections/yearbooks/>.

You can also see a video about the initiative at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BS0G6IGPSZo>

AOSHS maintains a Yearbook Inventory Summary Spreadsheet and an interactive map that identifies the yearbooks that have already been scanned at <https://aoshs.org/collections/yearbooks/>

If you are willing to donate your copies to the AOSHS archives that are not yet in the inventory, you can send them to:

American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS)
704 W. Douglas Ave.
Wichita, KS 67203

If you would only like to loan them, then AOSHS will return them safely to you once they have been scanned. Once they are scanned, they will be available online through the AOSHS website. This is a huge project for AOSHS, so we need your help to gain access to all possible materials.

If you need any information or assistance, please contact Doug Kelsey at AOSHS by email at dkelsey@hotmail.com.

We welcome your help as AOSHS <http://aoshs.org> and DoDEA collaborate to preserve the past, present and future history of DoDEA.

As always, thank you!

