

Firsts at Villisca Schools

- 1866 First public school built — a one-room frame building on Lot #404, just east of the middle school gymnasium on 5th Avenue
- 1872 First brick schoolhouse built, the West Building, 4 rooms
- 1875 An addition is made to the West Building
- 1875 Miss Emma Alger temporarily promoted to principal
- 1882 A bond issue passes for adding 4 rooms to West school
- 1884 First high school graduation ever is held at the Villisca Opera House
- 1884 Pins given to seniors in recognition of their graduation (G)
- 1884 Alumni Association created
- 1885 First high school newspaper created, *The High School Journal*
- 1888 First high school building erected, called East(side) building
- 1888 Miss Kellogg, first high school female principal elected
- 1889 Baseball game between VHS and Nodaway HS teams
- 1894 Interscholastic football played by VHS Eleven
- 1894 VHS Athletic Association purchases a new football
- 1894 VHS baseball team plays Sciola
- 1894 First high school declamatory contest held
- 1894 Iowa women can now vote on issues in which there is no candidate, like school bond issues; ballots counted separately
- 1895 First senior banquet held, given by freshman class
- 1896 Miss Theresa E. Peet elected principal of HS by school board
- 1896 Addition made to high school due to overcrowding
- 1896 First senior yearbook printed
- 1897 First Class Day held, seniors design own program
- 1897 First outside speaker hired for commencement exercises
- 1897 Seniors get class rings
- 1897 Second school newspaper created, *The High School Referee*
- 1898 Miss Starr forms boys and girls glee clubs

- 1898 VHS Athletic Association is part of the Southwest Iowa Athletic Association
- 1899 VHS girls play Corning High School girls in basketball at Villisca Fairgrounds in first interscholastic match
- 1899 Faculty abolishes football because of rowdyism
- 1900 Football returns to VHS
- 1900 First Baccalaureate Service
- 1900 First Junior-Senior Banquet held
- 1902 Lincoln Elementary School opens
- 1903 First telephones installed in schools
- 1906 VHS plays Corning under new rules that "tame" football brutality
- 1909 Villisca's schools gain North Central Association of Colleges' full recognition
- 1909 Tylers rebuild the baseball field at Tyler Park which is home field for VHS
- 1910 Manual Training begins in VHS
- 1911 Kindergarten class begins at Lincoln, Edith Wise, teacher
- 1911 Alarms system installed for fire or cyclones at schools; drill are held
- 1912 Football field built on north side of 3rd Street across from Tyler's Park baseball field
- 1912 First yearbook since 1896 printed, called Cycle I
- 1912 Twice a day recesses at Lincoln school replace calisthenics
- 1913 First interscholastic boys basketball game played; at new Armory
- 1913 High School Orchestra makes first appearance
- 1913 "New" high school building constructed
- 1913 Caps and gowns worn for graduation for the first time (gray & black)
- 1913 Normal School Training program begins at VHS
- 1913 Commencement exercises held in new Armory
- 1913 Cycle II yearbook published
- 1914 New high school building dedicated in April

- 1914 Football season cancelled because majority of team is ineligible because of poor grades
- 1915 VHS basketball team competes at Simpson College tourney
- 1915 Villisca loses NCA rating due to deficiencies in teacher credentials
- 1915 Girls play basketball against other schools' teams
- 1916 YMCA organization begins in VHS
- 1917 North Central Education Association credentials re-gained
- 1918 French replaces German in HS language studies
- 1918 Kindergarten held in 2 west rooms on 2nd floor of Armory
- 1919 Girl Reserves takes over from YWCA
- 1919 Kindergarten dropped because of lack of classroom space
- 1920 Student Council in test takes control of order and attendance
- 1921 First women elected to school board: Mrs. S. C. Boise and Miss Clara Cowgill
- 1921 Floyd Watt, junior class member, dies from injury suffered in VHS game against Clarinda
- 1924 Boys Glee Club begins (again)
- 1924 Football coach pleads for permanent field
- 1924 LaVern Enarson crowned VHS May Queen; apparently first high school queen
- 1925 Declamatory Contests begin (again)
- 1925 Girls basketball begins again, lasts 2 more years
- 1925 Vil-Hi-Sca (yearbook) printed in 1925, 1926, and 1927
- 1925 The 1925 VHS football team was generally recognized as the best in all of southwest Iowa in the 1925 season
- 1926 SWI Little Six Basketball Conference organized
- 1926 Commercial Contests begin
- 1926 1st Student Council organized (again)
- 1927 New addition to the high school opens
- 1927 Normal Training Club is new to the high school this year
- 1927 Kindergarten Class reinstated in Lincoln Building

- 1927 Attendance record broken with 620 students; frosh class has 101; there are 125 tuition students
- 1927 VHS joins 9 other schools in Little Ten football conference
- 1927 An ill school board director is sworn in on a telephone call in order to make a state-mandated deadline
- 1928 The first woman, Mrs. Zula Spargur, presents diplomas to graduates
- 1929 VHS Library created under direction of Miss Lila Gardner
- 1929 The Bluejay is chosen as the high school teams' mascot
- 1929 Gold medals presented to Frances Kuhn and Herman Christie as most representative senior girl and boy
- 1930 The School joins a new conference, Hawkeye Six
- 1930 The Villisca Volcano, a self-supporting high school newspaper, is created
- 1930 A school contest is held to pick new school song (results unknown), perhaps "On Villisca"
- 1930 First night football game played at Sidney; VHS wins 18-0
- 1931 Free milk is served at recess at Lincoln Building by Girl Reserves
- 1931 Seniors vote to wear daps and gowns for graduation again
- 1931 High School band created
- 1931 First Josten medals presented to Outstanding Boy and Girl
- 1931 Alumni Association folds
- 1932 Pep Club organized by Jeanne Stillians, Mila Ruth Atwood, Lois Kunce, Elizabeth Means
- 1933 First (and only) Miss Volcano crowned
- 1933 New uniforms purchased for band
- 1933 Football field lit for first time, night games now possible
- 1933 First homecoming held
- 1933 Boys make baseball bats in annual training for team
- 1933 Manual Training is removed from curriculum
- 1934 Girls basketball begins again
- 1934 Boys track team disbands in favor of baseball
- 1934 Girls track team organizes

- 1934 New 4.0 grading system tested in high school
- 1935 School board buys Tyler Field as VHS's permanent football field
- 1935 First band uniforms debut
- 1936 Homecoming bonfire lit
- 1936 Librarian's Club organized by Miss Gardner
- 1937 WPA rebuilds football field, including a cinder track; cinders donated by railroad
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- 1937 First Homecoming Queen crowned, Miss Marion Fryer
- 1937 VHS sends large group to state vocal contest for first time; 28-member boys glee club competes at Iowa City
- 1938 First bus makes daily route to pick up students (25 cents/week)
- 1938 First track meet held at VHS in 30 years
- 1938 School Board approves first dance to be held at high school
- 1938 WPA builds bleachers on both sides at football field
- 1939 Nov. 18, the Villisca Chapter of the FFA organized and held its first meeting
- 1939 FFA plans first girlfriend party
- 1941 Annual formal dinner dance given by Juniors for Senior Class
- 1941 Farm Shops Addition to high school is completed
- 1941 New uniforms purchased for band; Tyler Brothers donate band hats
- 1941 New school song, Loyal and True, introduced at Pep Chapel
- 1941 Completed stage, curtains, lights in high school auditorium
- 1942 Normal Training Club chartered by Future Teachers of American
- 1943 Final year of Normal Training at VHS
- 1945 The School District builds a bus barn
- 1945 Kindergarten is divided into morning and afternoon sessions

- 1945 A new scoreboard, installed at Armory, funded by donations by businessmen, teachers and janitors
- 1945 VHS purchases a juke box which resides in the gym
- 1945 Volcano staff sponsors basketball programs as a fund raiser
- 1946 Girl Reserves become Y-Teens
- 1946 HY-Y Club organized, elect Chuck Graham as first president
- 1946 FFA holds its first annual Parent-Son Banquet
- 1946 Hawkeye 6 becomes 7 with addition of Corning
- 1947 Because of married teacher housing shortage, the School Board buys "Teacherage," at southeast corner of the square, across Third Street from the high school
- 1947 First mention of a prom in Volcano
- 1947 Girls basketball begins again
- 1947 VHS hosts first district track meet
- 1947 Y-Teens reach 17th year of 100 percent membership
- 1948 1st Bluejay yearbook printed (after lapse in yearbooks since 1927); replaces Senior Edition of Volcano
- 1948 National Honor Society introduced to VHS
- 1948 First Jr-Sr Banquet and Prom held
- 1948 High School band gets majorettes/twirlers
- 1949 Student Council organized (again)
- 1950 Projectors Club formed
- 1950 Drama Club formed
- 1951 Ag boys build refreshment stand at football field, donated by Bill Day
- 1951 VHS Pep Club started (again)
- 1951 Hawkeye 7 becomes 8 with addition of Glenwood
- 1951 Seniors purchase caps and gowns with school board's help
- 1953 School lunch program begins in spring
- 1954 1st Annual All-Sports Banquet held (previously was Letter Club Banquet restricted to boys)
- 1954 Band Mothers begin to raise money for uniforms
- 1954 Girls volleyball played at VHS

- 1954 Seniors cancel class play; first time in many years without Senior Class Play
- 1954 VHS Pepe Club, this one The Boosters, started (again)
- 1954 Teen Haven opens over Palmquist Hardware south of park
- 1955 Dance band organized
- 1955 Teen-Age Drivers' Club organized
- 1956 First Bluejay Relays held for Class B and C schools
- 1956 FFA Chapter changes its name to Reno Smith Chapter of the FFA in honor of its longtime advisor
- 1956 1st Activity Tickets introduced to high school
- 1956 Janet Olenius named first Betty Crocker Homemaker at VHS
- 1957 The School District consolidates with many rural schools closing and their students coming to Villisca
- 1958 Girls Golf Team organized
- 1958 Initial Band Mothers' Smorgasbord held
- 1959 A second, major school consolidation takes place
- 1959 1st FFA Sweetheart selected (Connie Wilhelm)
- 1959 An overflow kindergarten class is held in the basement of the Public Library
- 1959 The bus barn is moved to the new elementary school location and is expanded
- 1959 Nodaway School becomes Villisca Consolidated middle/junior high school
- 1959 New elementary school is built, named for Sylvia Enarson
- 1959 High school expands; band room, shop, agriculture room added
- 1960 New gymnasium opens
- 1961 *Friday is Dress Up Day* introduced
- 1961 Hi-Y dissolves
- 1961 Science Club Chapter organized
- 1961 1st Track Queen named (Linda Moser)
- 1961 Teen Haven Corporation buys Teacherage from school board

- 1961 Baseball in summer will be part of Tall Corn Conference for first time
- 1961 Gas station is installed at Enarson School bus yard
- 1962 VHS joins Tall Corn Conference
- 1962 Electric scoreboard for football field donated by Walter Hyink
- 1963 New Letter Club organized, replacing boys-only group
- 1964 Driver's Education moves to summer
- 1965 Bluejays win Class B State Championship Indoor Track
- 1965 A concessions stand was built at the football field and a press box was added to the bleachers.
- 1965 A school nurse is added to the staff
- 1966 First Track Queen not a senior is crowned (Vickie Buckneberg)
- 1966 First Cross Country Track Team organizes
- 1966 First South West Iowa Science Fair held; takes place at VHS
- 1966 Bluejays win Class B State Outdoor Track championship
- 1967 Bluejays win Class B State Outdoor Track championship for second consecutive year
- 1967 New press box constructed at Bluejay Field by Booster Club
- 1967 Science Club sponsors 1st SW Iowa science fair held at VHS
- 1968 Miss Y-Teen named at Twirp Dance (Rachel Spencer)
- 1968 FFA and Y-Teens hold first Pheasant Feed
- 1971 Cross Country team wins State Mile Team Championship
- 1972 Lincoln Elementary School closes
- 1973 Spirit Week created to add spirit to homecoming week
- 1974 Science and Math clubs merge into one group
- 1975 Teen Haven to be sold
- 1975 Wrestling comes to VHS
- 1976 Band Mothers purchase new uniforms again
- 1977 School loses NCA accreditation
- 1977 Shop building addition constructed
- 1977 New floor laid in gymnasium
- 1978 School regains NCA accreditation

- 1978 The Lincoln Building property is sold
- 1978 The final issue of the Volcano is printed as part of the Villisca Review
- 1979 Girls volleyball comes to VHS
- 1979 Graduation and Baccalaureate services combined
- 1980 Lincoln School is demolished
- 1983 Top half of football field concession stand blown away
- 1984 First National Honor Society induction to Villisca Chapter
- 1985 Restrooms completed at football field
- 1985 Schools declines realignment with Bluegrass Conference
- 1986 Nodaway Building closes
- 1986 Nodaway School and property is sold
- 1986 Modular building purchased and placed at southern end of Enarson Building
- 1986 First All-School Reunion is held in conjunction with Homecoming '86 weekend
- 1987 Modular building purchased and placed to the east of the Enarson Building
- 1988 Booster club puts in all new lights at football field
- 1988 Jr-Sr. Banquet held at Villisca Country Club
- 1898 VHS joins Corner Conference
- 1989 Bond passes to build and furnish an addition to the Enarson School
- 1989 Joint '50s and '60s All Class Reunion held in August
- 1991 School board purchases land east of Enarson School for baseball and other athletic endeavors
- 1992 Construction class builds 24x30 foot building at bus barn
- 1993 School board okays Vocational Ed sharing with Stanton HS
- 1994 All-Class Reunion held
- 1994 Girls basketball moves to 5 on 5 play
- 1995 Girls' basketball and other girls' sports team members are now known as Bluejays, rather than Jayettes
- 1996 VHS Jaywalkers (dance team) organized
- 1999 Bond issue passes to build new junior-senior high school

- 1999 All School Reunion features farewell tours of high school building
- 1999 Jaywalkers win a First at States in “pom” division
- 2000 School board “buys” Armory from the State of Iowa to use as classroom space while new school is built
- 2000 VHS begins playing 8-man football
- 2001 New high school/junior high opens
- 2005 All School Reunion held
- 2006 Villisca Alumni and Friends Association organized
- 2008 Wrestling is back as a VHS sport
- 2009 All-School Reunion held
- 2011 www.villisca-volcano.com begins search for missing issues of the student newspaper and begins posting digital copies as they are located
- 2011 www.vhsgrads.com posts two VHS Grads lists, by year and by last name
- 2012 www.vhsgrads.com completes posting of 70 years of VHS yearbooks
- 2012 Villisca School board auctions Armory; sells to VHS grad
- 2013 Both boys and girls basketball teams win Corner Conference Tournaments in their final flights; boys ake it to substate; girls to state
- 2013 Final Class graduates from Villisca High School
- 2013 Villisca joins Corning in an All-Grade Sharing arrangement
- 2013 Villisca HS and its Bluejay mascot come to their final day
- 2013 All-School Reunion held: Forever a Bluejay
- 2017 All-School Reunion held