

Timeline

Timeline: 1703-1907

- 1703: First school built in Westport, at Green's Farms Commons
- 1801: Horace Staples born; Thomas Jefferson is president
- 1835: Westport officially incorporated
- 1837: Adams Academy, one-room schoolhouse on North Morningside Drive, opens
- 1866: Horace Staples offers building lot for a high school; town refuses to act
- 1870: Westport Union School District unites all the schools in town, in seven districts
- 1882: Horace Staples redraws his will, directing money toward a new high school
- 1884: April 22, cornerstone laid for high school on Riverside Avenue; school opens in September in National Hall; red-brick building officially opens on October 31, with James H. Tufts as principal
- 1885: Wilbur Cross becomes principal
- 1886: Thomas C. Stearns becomes principal
- 1887: The first class – six girls – graduates
- 1890: Howard Pratt becomes principal; no graduating class
- 1891: Bessie Taylor becomes first female principal; again no graduating class
- 1893: Howard Pratt returns as principal
- 1894: Town requires vaccinations for all students
- 1897: Horace Staples dies on March 6, age 95
- 1898: First student publication, *The Bugle*, debuts
- 1899: Town of Westport agrees to take over Staples High School
- 1903: Special meeting held to finalize agreement for the town to take over Staples High; Frederick A. Curtiss is principal
- 1907: Fire drills introduced; athletic club for boys organized

Timeline

Timeline: 1908-1934

- 1908: Bessie Taylor returns as principal, replacing a Mr. Boyden who had replaced Mr. Mead midway through the 1907-08 year; student council formed
- 1909: State Board of Education calls Staples one of best high schools in Connecticut
- 1912: Commercial course introduced; first “annual” (yearbook) appears
- 1913: F. Jay Bates is principal
- 1914: Grover Chester Bowman is principal and superintendent
- 1917: PTA established
- 1918: German courses dropped, due to anti-German feelings
- 1919: Town adapts “6-3-3” plan: grades 1-6 in elementary school, 7-9 in junior high (in the Staples building), 10-12 in high school
- 1920: John A. Young becomes principal
- 1921: Elizabeth K. Chatfield is principal
- 1922: Alan B. Henderson is principal
- 1923: Horace Beach becomes principal; lunch counter opens; first newspaper published
- 1924: First “modern” yearbook published
- 1925: Gladys Mansir, English teacher, hired
- 1926: Bedford Junior High School opens just north of Staples; seventh through ninth graders leave the high school building
- 1929: Walter Stevenson, math teacher, hired
- 1931: Douglas Young becomes principal; *Inklings*, the student newspaper, begins publication; Students in the college preparatory course begin taking separate classes; Staples’ population surges as the Depression forces students out of private schools
- 1932: Rifle Club organized
- 1934: Fathers’ Club founded