

# **School Yearbook Collection**

**Finding aid prepared by Jill Fuller**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Ida Public Library

10/2013

320 N. State St.

Belvidere, IL, 61008

815-544-3838

[localhistory@idapubliclibrary.org](mailto:localhistory@idapubliclibrary.org)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Ida Public Library
<b>Creator</b>	Belvidere Central Middle School.
<b>Creator</b>	Belvidere High School.
<b>Creator</b>	Belvidere Junior High School.
<b>Creator</b>	Belvidere North High School.
<b>Creator</b>	Caledonia Elementary School.
<b>Creator</b>	Capron High School.
<b>Creator</b>	Marengo High School.
<b>Creator</b>	North Boone High School.
<b>Creator</b>	Perry Elementary School.
<b>Creator</b>	Poplar Grove School.
<b>Creator</b>	St. James Catholic School.
<b>Creator</b>	Washington Junior High School.
<b>Title</b>	School Yearbook Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1912-2013
<b>Extent</b>	6.0 Cubic feet 128 items

**Location note** Collection is located in the yearbook cabinet in the Local History Room. The 1935 and 1939 Washington Junior High School yearbooks are located in file folders in Cabinet 5, Drawer 1.

**Language** English

**Language of Materials note** English.

**Abstract** The School Yearbook Collection consists of yearbooks for Belvidere and Boone County high schools, elementary schools, and middle schools. The bulk of the collection contains a complete series of Belvidere High School yearbooks from 1912-2013. Yearbooks of various dates from Belvidere North High School, Poplar Grove School, North Boone High School, Perry Elementary School, and more are also included in the collection.

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## Historical Note

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The Belvidere High School was formed in 1912, with the consolidation of the North and South Belvidere high schools. Classes were held at the South high school building on Pearl Street until a new building was erected in 1916; this building was used for the high school until 1966, when a new building was constructed on East Avenue. Belvidere became the home of two high schools in 2007, when Belvidere North High School was opened at the west end of town.

High school classes began meeting in Capron in the mid-1880s, but an official Capron Community High School building was not built until 1916. The first high school classes in Poplar Grove began in 1905 and a three-year high school was begun in 1925. However, both high school and primary school classes met in the same building. In 1948, the Capron High School, Poplar Grove High School, Caledonia High School, and the district in Manchester township consolidated into one high school, the Boone-McHenry High School. In 1957, with the erection of a new building, this high school became North Boone High School.

Caledonia Elementary School began in 1922, with the consolidation of rural schools. The Perry Elementary School was built in 1900 and opened in 1901. St. James Catholic School was built in 1909 and dedicated in the spring of 1910. The Belvidere Junior High School began after 1966, when all junior high students were moved into the former high school building on Pearl Street. Before this, junior high students were divided among the grade schools. The junior high stayed in this location until 1989, when a new building was built. The building of Belvidere Central Middle School was begun in May 2001 and completed in September 2002.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The School Yearbook Collection consists of yearbooks for Belvidere and Boone County high schools, elementary schools, and middle schools. The most complete series is Series 1, Belvidere High School Yearbooks, from 1912-2013. The yearbooks contain photographs of students and faculty as well as the school building, classrooms, local Belvidere scenes, and other events of interest. They vary greatly in content but often highlight academics, athletics, achievements, the arts, clubs and organizations, and often feature speeches, poems, advertisements, class histories, memorials, news and world events, and other pieces of cultural and social interest. Many of the yearbooks also contain autographs, handwritten notes, and inscriptions; some were inscribed to the Ida Public Library by yearbook staff. Earlier yearbooks were bound in paperback, though books became hard-backed after 1931. Recent yearbooks are printed in color.

The second series is of the Belvidere North High School Yearbooks, which date from 2008-2013. Printed primarily in color, the yearbooks contain photographs of student and faculty, as well as sections on athletics, academics, world events, school social events, the arts, clubs and organizations, and

volunteering. The yearbooks also highlight student opinions on a variety of topics and stories on particular students.

The Elementary & Middle School Yearbooks series contain yearbooks from several schools in Belvidere. The earliest are from Washington Junior High School and date from 1935-1939. There are two yearbooks and one class scrapbook for Perry Elementary School, dating from 1994-1996. Other yearbooks include one from Belvidere Junior High School for 1997-1998, Caledonia Elementary for 2001-2002, two from Belvidere Central Middle School for the years 2003-2005, and one from St. James School for the year 2006-2007.

The final series, Other Area High School Yearbooks, includes a 1932 yearbook for Poplar Grove School, 1917 yearbook for Marengo High School, a scanned copy of the 1919 yearbook for Capron High School and four yearbooks for North Boone High School, from 1962-1965. The yearbooks are similar in content to the yearbooks discussed above.

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## Arrangement note

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The School Yearbook Collection is arranged into four series: Belvidere High School Yearbooks; Belvidere North High School Yearbooks; Elementary & Middle School Yearbooks; and Other Area High School Yearbooks.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Ida Public Library 10/2013

### Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is available for research but is kept in a locked cabinet for security reasons. Several marked copies are not able to be handled. Duplicates should be made through scanning, not copying. Please ask staff for assistance.

### Accruals note

Every year, Local History Room staff orders and purchases one yearbook directly from both Belvidere High School and Belvidere North High School and receives them in August or September of the next school year.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

The yearbooks have been donated to the library and acquired by library staff throughout many years. There is no specific donation paperwork on any of the yearbooks, though it is noted at the front of each North Boone High School yearbook that they were donated by Dianne Loft. The Poplar Grove School yearbook is also marked as donated by the DeKalb Public Library. There is evidence, in the form of inscriptions in the front of some of the Belvidere High School yearbooks, that some were donated by the high school directly to the library as early as 1941, perhaps earlier. Others seem to have been the property and donations of individuals, as many are inscribed and autographed. In recent years, the Ida Public Library has purchased both Belvidere High School yearbooks and Belvidere North High School yearbooks directly from the schools, adding them to the collection every August.

### **Existence and Location of Copies note**

The copies of the Belvidere High School yearbooks are located in the Local History Room.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Related materials can be found in the Local History Room. These include the Bessie Sullivan Collection of High School Ephemera, located in the Local History Room, Boxes 1 & 2. Subject file folders for the two high schools, the middle schools, and the Belvidere elementary schools are located in the Local History Room, Cabinet 5, Drawer 1.

### **Separated Materials note**

The library holds multiple copies of most Belvidere High School yearbooks for safekeeping, which are not considered part of the main collection and have been stored separately. They are not handled by the public.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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**Genre(s)**

- School yearbooks

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Boone County (Ill.)- History

**Subject(s)**

- High school students
- High Schools-Illinois

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**Other Finding Aids note**

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See catalog record.

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**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note**

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Most of the yearbooks in the collection are in good condition. Some of the earlier yearbooks are a bit more fragile and their bindings are loose. The two Washington Junior High yearbooks in the file folders in Cabinet 5, Drawer 1 are in poor condition. Their covers are frayed and torn on the edges and not well attached to the yearbooks.



## Collection Inventory

**Series 1: Belvidere High School Yearbooks 1912-2013 5.0 Cubic feet 101 yearbooks**

**Series 2: Belvidere North High School Yearbooks 2008-2013 0.5 Cubic feet 6 yearbooks**

**Series 3: Elementary & Middle School Yearbooks 1936-2007 (Bulk, 1994-2007) 0.3 Cubic feet 10 yearbooks**

**Series 4: Other Area High School Yearbooks 1917-1932, 1962-1965 0.2 Cubic feet 7 yearbooks**