

Curiosity Corner

Treasures from the FCS Archives

Welcome to **Treasures from the FCS Archives**, a repository of resources for teachers and history enthusiasts. Every month, we are sharing photos, artifacts, documents and other treasures for you to review, discuss and discover. We encourage you to click the links, scan the photos and dig deeper into these treasures, all of which can be found in the Fulton County Schools Archives.

FOOTBALL AND SCHOOL SPIRIT IN FULTON COUNTY



Football Players at College Park High School, c. 1920s
Fulton County Schools Archives, 1927.H22.11

Fall brings, along with a colorful leaves and cooler weather, football games and homecoming celebrations. Sports and school spirit have always been a favorite pastime in Fulton County Schools. This month's *Curiosity Corner* provides a historic example—two College Park High School students ready for the game. While the exact year is unknown, based on their uniforms, this photograph is dated to the circa 1920s.

As this photograph attests, sports have been a mainstay since the early years of the school system. In fact, the FCS Archives and collections reveal that many sports and extra-curricular activities were a regular part of the experience of Fulton County students—from [football](#) and lacrosse to marching band and theater.

In Georgia, competitive sports began in the early 20th century. Annually, a contest was held where student participants from different school districts competed in various events, such as public speaking, essay writing, musical performances and track competitions.

School-sanctioned sports in Fulton County began in 1927. The first "[Field Day](#)" was held in April near what is now Lakewood Stadium, south of downtown Atlanta. Students competed in running, jumping and potato sack races. These school-sponsored extracurricular activities continue to foster a culture of [school spirit](#) and competition. This month, we will delve into the history of football in Fulton County Schools.



Curiosity in the Classroom: *A Closer Look*

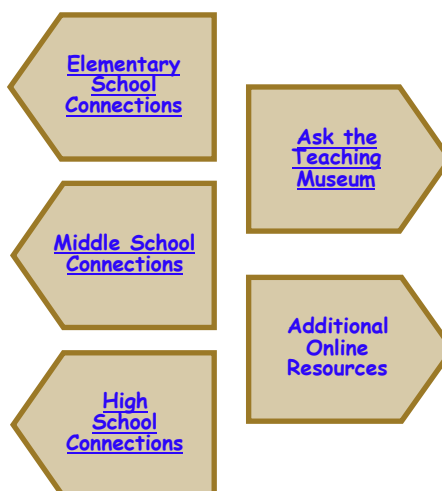
Click on the image above for a higher resolution jpeg. Project or distribute copies of the image. Ask students to study the image and note anything they find interesting or surprising. Use this image as a prompt for students to compare football uniforms across the decades. Have them find an online image of their (or their future) high school's uniform and compare it to this photo and the 1965 uniform to the right.

Ask students:

1. How are these uniforms similar? How are they different?
2. How would you describe the materials for each?
3. How do you think each uniform was made? By whom?
4. What does each uniform say about America and football during these various time periods?

Have students compare uniforms for other sports across the decades—swimming, baseball, basketball, volleyball, golf, etc.

Lesson Ideas & Links: Connecting to Standards



For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the **Teaching Museum**, contact us at archives@fultonschools.org

Football Uniforms Over the Years

Just as fashion has changed over the years, so has the football uniform. Beyond a statement of style, advances in safety gear also impacted the standard uniform.

[Click here for a closer look at this 1965 College Park Uniform](#)

