

## Bedford Throughout the Years

In this unit, we will focus on the historical thinking skill of *change and continuity*. History gets a bad rap of being always about memorizing dates and timelines. A better metaphor to describe history is that it is like a roller coaster that never stops. It has ups and downs, loops backwards, and speeds up and slows down before going down a huge cliff. *Change and continuity* describes this roller coaster effect of history.

For this assignment you will be examining the roller coaster that has been Bedford High School. In the library we have a collection of Bedford's yearbooks for the past 50 years. Using these yearbooks you will respond to the following prompts in your online journal.

- How would you describe the things that have stayed the same since Bedford's first yearbook?
- How would you describe the changes? Were they widespread or patchy? Did they happen suddenly or slowly?
- Did the changes improve Bedford or make it worse?
- What might explain why certain things stayed the same while others changed?
- Did particular events cause the changes, or were they part of a gradual process?
- How could you break BHS's history into different chunks of time? What would you call those chunks of time?
- What does this activity tell you about history?