

When will the community school return?

Is your public school too large and distant (both physically and socially) for you and your children, too impersonal (“take a number, please”), and too bureaucratic (with layers and layers of officials)?

Though one-room and small schools are sometimes seen through rose-colored glasses, they made parents and students feel more acceptable, more welcomed, more interactive, more intimate with each other and the school’s programs, and—even today where they still exist in the United States (the mid- and far-West)—more academically superior.

Today, with electronic advancements available—computers, videos, distance libraries and learning for research—there is no reason to crowd students like a herd of cattle into schools and classrooms. Research has proven that a smaller economy of scale is not more expensive. Some have recently started talking about scaling down the size of schools (not those, of course, with vested interest in the large school “plant”), but it has been mostly talk. When will the *real* community school return?

This volume is in three parts: 1) The nostalgic remembrances of an early Maryland one-room school by those who attended and taught there (with interesting data and old-timey pictures), 2) a brief, but succinct, eye-opening and integrated history of one-room schools in America, and 3) easy-to read research that supports returning to smaller, local-community schools today.