

## In the Halls...

How are you spending Spring Break?

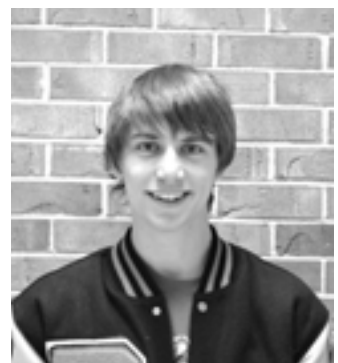


"Going to West Palm Beach to visit my sister and her kids."

**Corinne Funke**  
Teacher



"Cancun."  
**Katie Higgs**  
Senior



"Exec. Board stuff and hanging out with Sam."  
**Chase Reppen**  
Junior



"Disney."  
**Bethany DeMarco**  
Sophomore



"Cry a lot cause me lonely."  
**Zachariah Leatherman**  
Freshman

# Point/Counterpoint: Mock elections mock students?

## Point

Blake Loughran  
Staff Reporter

One of Brighton High School's most popular senior traditions is the Mock Elections. Senior Mock Elections are held by the Senior Class Council. Senior students vote for their classmates in fun categories such as: Best Smile, Best Laugh, Best Friends, Teacher's Pet, and much more. The Senior Mock Elections are part of the senior book that seniors get at the end of the year. The Senior Mock Elections are

part of the senior experience. Senior year students receive multiple benefits throughout the year; senior gifts, days off of school, and skipping exams. For seniors, its more of a laid back academic year, depending on if you have completed all of your credits. A time to reflect back on high school and take the time socializing with friends. The Senior Mock Elections make for great memories. You cannot vote for people in any other grade. The Mock Elections are a great way to break the high school cliques. Holding mock elections for the whole senior class helps eliminate the separate groups of friends; it

brings everyone together for a good laugh and a good way to end the year.

A small senior student poll of ten men and ten women, seven out of ten women voted serious while four out of the ten men voted serious. Its safe to say that women take the voting more serious than the men.

Why do women take the senior mock elections seriously, while men take them less seriously?

Mock Elections are set up for as a fun joke, to prevent any complications and people getting offended. The key to having fun on senior year is to not take anything too seriously and definitely nothing personally. Anything you go through

in life is a character builder, the Senior Mock Elections are one of them. None of the categories are even that important, so no one should have a problem.

If you are sad or angry because you didn't get chosen or you got chosen to be in a category you don't like then look at the bigger picture, it's all for fun.

The mock elections are all for fun and will make you a stronger person. A great experience to laugh at later on in life.

As Bobby McFerrin once said, "don't worry, be happy." A powerful quote that a senior student should take into their soul as gold, soul-gold.

## Counterpoint

Matt Klueger  
Sports Editor

Every year, the senior class votes for people whom they believe are the best in a certain category. This sounds like a fun way to end high school, but in reality it's nothing more than a popularity contest.

The only people who have a fighting chance to win in any of the categories are people who are super popular. Because of this, many people who deserve to win

a category never get the chance.

The time given to pick the winners is also way too short. This year only four days were given to make selections, because of this, many people including myself, were unable to completely fill out their ballots. Because of the shortage of time, the election results were much different than if the students had been given, say, a week or two to make selections.

The categories that were available to be voted on were also a little weak. Many of the categories were exactly the same as the ones from last years, so it would have

been nice to see some new categories to vote on. Categories like Tan-a-holic and life of the weekend were pretty silly, but categories like most likely to be a millionaire and most likely to become president were just fine. It would have been better if at the beginning of the year, the seniors were able to suggest categories, then the categories would have better reflected the interests of the graduating class.

A way to improve the chances of winning for less popular people would be to create a website or Facebook page that students could

upload submissions to. By doing this, everybody who looked at the page would be able to see the talents or traits of students that they may have never thought of otherwise. Because of this, people who would not have crossed the minds of other students would then be given a fighting chance at winning in a category. With these improvements, the mock elections could really become something much more fair and less like repeats of the winners of the homecoming and winterfest court ballots.

# Dress codes: distressing or necessary for students?

Jeremiah Johnson  
Illustration Artist

Dress codes are a difficult topic, always. For students who see their clothes as a vital means of expression, they're evil. But a necessary evil, as a school's main priority is education, and anything serving as a possible distraction from that primary goal requires regulatory attention.

The school's handbook clearly states that any clothing that is "materially and substantially disruptive to the educational environment" is prohibited. This makes enough sense because education is hopefully why we're all here and there just isn't enough time for any kind of interference in that, especially the kind that can be easily dealt with.

If you read a bit more, though, the handbook then goes on to say that, "All clothing must be neat, so as to present the best possible appearance." This is where it gets interesting, as things start to drift into the area of appearance over education, something that could come off as superficial for a high school to care about.

Based off of this rule, if a student came to school in baggy sweatpants and a sweater, could they really get in trouble for it? Most don't spend time worrying about little things like this, as a rule so small can hardly and is hardly enforced, which is a good thing, but it still makes me nervous that it exists.

The rest of the portion covers short-skirts and shirts that expose someone's tum, which is okay be-

cause we can all agree that girls shouldn't be flaunting that much down a high school hallway, right? Apparently not, as I spoke with numerous female students who felt the rule telling girls to dress proper, though reasonable, was also sexist.

"I don't understand why I can't wear the clothes I like just because some boy doesn't know how to control his body."

These hilarious, strong, and blunt words came from someone who would rather not be named here, but I found the quote interesting.

This girl argues that the fault doesn't lie with the distraction, but with the person being distracted. And I'd never thought about it like that. Even still, how do you keep someone from being distracted by something that is, in all honesty, dis-

tracting?

It makes sense. I mean, think about it, it's clothes. That's all this is. Their job is to cover us up and during these brutal Michigan winters, keep us warm. If what's being taught and how it's being taught is so painfully boring that the rags covering someone's bodies become a distraction, that says more to the learning experience than anything else, in my opinion.

Whether that matters or not isn't up to me, though, because we will always have our codes, and we, as students, will always have to abide by them. It only becomes a real problem when one feels said codes are violating them of their right to expression, and their imaginary right to wearing whatever they might want to wear.

# Parking lot pot holes causing problems

Mark Konieczny  
Staff Reporter

The potholes around Brighton are becoming a very big problem on the roads and in the parking lots around the school. They are costing kids and their parents money because of the damage they are causing to the cars. There are some potholes near Senior lot and A lot that a small car could get stuck in.

The potholes started appearing when they started construction around the school. All of the big trucks caused the roads to split and form holes. Along with the trucks ruining the roads, all of the cold weather has played a big part on the damage caused to them as well.

Since the roads expand when it gets cold, it caused the cracks and holes to get bigger. Since we already had potholes in the parking lots before winter started, the awful winter that we've experienced this year has done nothing but make the problem a lot worse.

The potholes are scattered all over the roads and the parking lots, but most of them are around the stadium and out front of the main office. There are other spots as well, but the major cracks and holes are around these areas. In most areas, the potholes are unavoidable, and at this point, they are affecting teachers and parents, not just the students.

The construction workers never really had a chance to fix them and they did not really want to waste the money because this upcoming summer they have more construction to do, which will only ruin the roads again. I think they should have done a better job at patching up the holes because they did not fix them completely. This could have solved some damage caused to the cars because the holes would not be nearly as big as they are right now.

This year, the school has been much stricter about handing out parking violations. Most of the time, the fines on parking violations are pretty small, but when there are a

lot of them, the money can really add up. The school should use that money or money from parking passes to fix the potholes.

The school thought that they were doing the right thing by leaving the potholes alone since there will be more construction this summer. They probably expected that to be the most cost effective. However, if they leave the parking lot alone, the potholes are just going to continue to get worse.

They should fix the parking lot after this summer whether or not they have the construction finished because the parking lots will be too bad to drive on by that time. The roads are already terrible enough, and since the parking lots are driven on 5 days a week, they're just going to continue to get worse. By this summer, it will be more costly and take much longer to fix them.

Hopefully they will have this problem solved in the near future so the roads will be safe for everyone again.

## Dear Brighton High,

The BHS Times staff here... we want to hear from you. As a newspaper staff that's still pretty new, we're still going through transition.

We would like to know what you want OUR opinion on in the next issue. What problems do you want us to address? What should we write our staff editorial on?

- 1) Anonymous Twitter Accounts.
- 2) Losing a day from Spring Break to make up for snow days.
- 3) Quarterly exams beginning third quarter.

If you don't see an idea here, please suggest one. Visit bhs-times.com to place your vote under "Letters to the Editor".

Thanks for sharing your voice!

# PDA in the halls cause distractions for students

Monica Weston  
Staff Reporter

Anyone that has been to a high school knows what PDA or public display of affection is. It can range from holding hands to full on making out. There is a time and a place for kissing and cuddling and that is not in school. It happens all over, from the cafeteria to the halls and we all know what happens at the school dances.

It's fine for couples to hug each other before they go off to class but a lot of the time they just get in the way. The halls are crowded enough, we don't need couples getting into a makeout session right in front of classrooms and lockers.

The worst time to have to see it is during lunch. Some couples go into the halls to eat and sit on the floor in each others laps while making out. I think that is extremely inappropri-

ate and I don't understand why they don't get in trouble. Also, there are some couples who sit on each others laps in the lunchroom. Lunch is a time to eat and be with friends. They really don't need to be that close to their significant other. We are in high school so I doubt they are in love so much that they need to be together 24/7.

Couples should devote time outside of school to spend with each other so they can focus their time at school on what matters. They can have date nights and keep the PDA at home. I'm not saying they should cut PDA out all together but it's not appropriate to display it at school and no one wants to see it.

There are many couples in Brighton High School who are able to keep a stable relationship and not broadcast their physical love to the entire school. Others should follow their lead and focus on their con-

nection, communication and shared interests during school hours. Not all couples need to be physical to show their love for one another. Talking is good enough.

Some of the couples don't realize that it can affect the way students and teachers view them. They are building a bad reputation that can stay with them all of high school. Teachers need to do more to stop PDA in the halls and classes, and students need to be responsible and think about what message they're sending about themselves when they are making out in public.

School only takes 7 hours out of your day so once it is over there is time when couples can hang out and express themselves how ever they want. People need to focus on school work instead of concentrating on how much they love their significant other. Hopefully, they will learn soon.

# Saint Patrick's Day traditions send students overboard

Camila Dos Santos  
Staff Reporter

Celebrated on March 17th, Saint Patrick's Day is an annual religious and cultural holiday which name came from Saint Patrick who is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland.

The Saint is known for bringing Christianity to Ireland and the reason the National Flower of the country is the Shamrock is that he used it to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity to the Pagans.

The date is March 17th because it is believed this is the date of Saint Patrick's death and the celebration's symbols are associated with Irish: the colors green and gold, shamrocks and luck.

Over time, St. Patrick's Day celebrations have gotten spread over different countries and became not only an Irish tradition, but also a custom in foreign countries.

In The United States, cities with a large Irish population consider

St. Patrick's Day a big deal. There are parades in which people wear green, there is Irish food and drinks, music, activities, and even in some communities, people will dye the river green.

The celebration sounds like a lot of fun and millions of people enjoy celebrating it, the only problem is as usual, people often overdo the festivities.

The holiday can often be used as an excuse to people who want to get drunk. During St. Patrick's Day, many restaurants and bars stay open later in order to hold the festivities. You don't have to read the newspaper the next morning to know how many people over did it.

I am not sure if people celebrate the holiday because it really means something for them or only because they have a day when they can drink the whole time.

Along with the drinking, another problem comes with the tradition of wearing green. People are supposed to wear the color that is an

Irish symbol and according to the customs if someone is not doing so the consequence is being pinched.

If someone does not want to participate in the celebration and traditions it is this person's right and no one should pinch or do anything else about it, only respect the choice. No one really cares too much about the truth behind the holiday anyways.

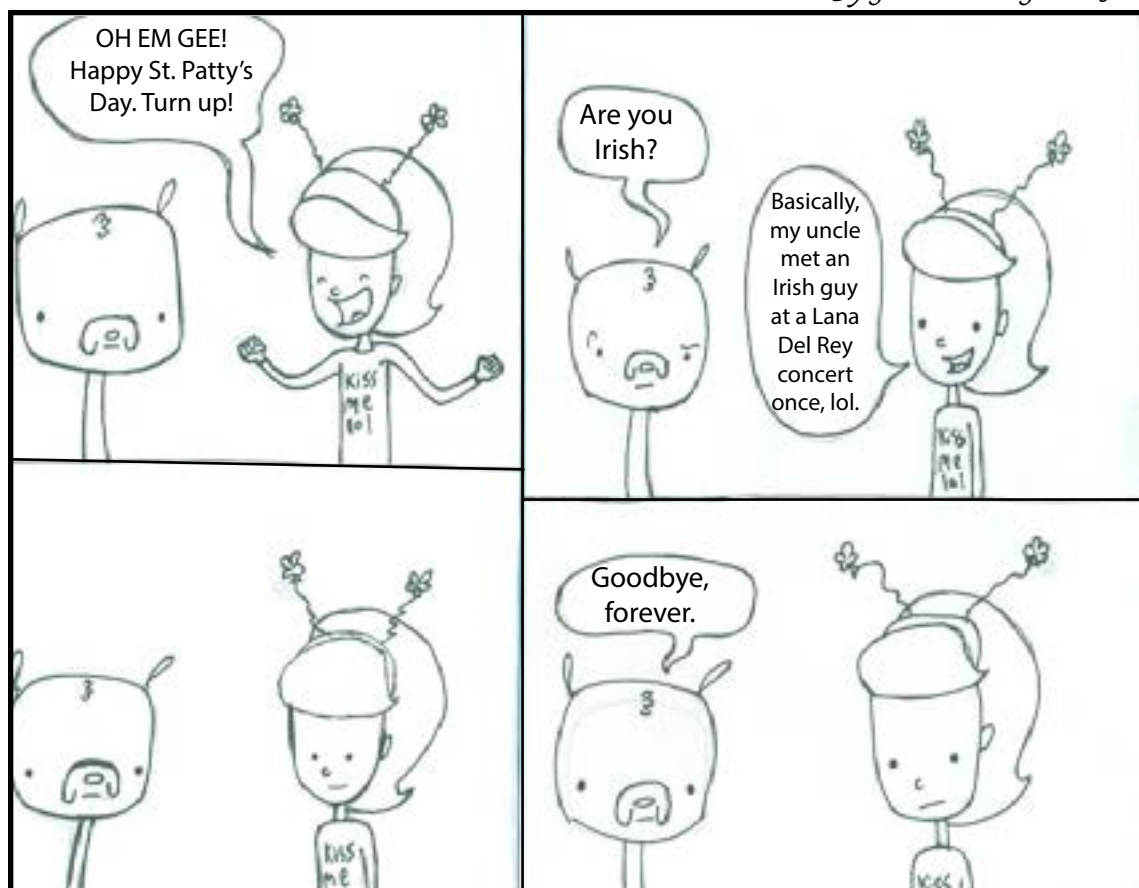
I like the idea of the celebration, it is a rich and interesting tradition, but I also believe that it is only good until the point where it does not invade a person's space and when it is celebrated in a healthy way.

What I am trying to say is that it is not necessary to go over the line to do something fun, you can be reasonable and have an enjoyable time while other people also do so. Just be careful to not go overboard.

Don't be that annoying person that can't have control of themselves and always go too far. Enjoy Saint Patrick's Day in a good way and have fun with it.

# Bentley Takes On Brighton

By Jeremiah Johnson



# Staff Editorial: Security precautions cause challenges for students

This year the bond has helped give Brighton Area Schools a freshened look. Our schools have gotten new technology, a new football stadium, a new pool, and many other things including a locking system that is wired to lock all of the doors to get in the schools at once.

Initially this idea's main purpose is to keep out people who do not belong in the school and to provide another way to keep students and staff safe from dangerous situations. And it is completely logical. At the high school, all of the doors are locked by 7:30 to 7:40 am. Usually if you get to the school after first hour ends you have to walk around to the flagpole entrance and have the secretary buzz you in from her desk, and let's be honest, who wants to do that in the middle of winter?

According to some students who have to wait to be buzzed in, they sometimes wait longer than they would prefer, especially in the winter. Though there is a camera next to the button you press to be buzzed in that the secretary uses to look who will be coming in, it seems like anyone could stand next to someone and be let in that way.

Students who have to leave the school to travel to another district can get a special pass from a security guard that lets them in without the buzzer when they return, but not everyone of them are aware they can do that.

One issue that isn't addressed about the doors being locked is when students are late, and get locked out of the school. Anyone can easily walk around to the flagpole doors when they are locked out, but in reality who really wants to walk around the school early in the morning? And in the winter no one wants to walk outside too long in the cold; that is how you get sick.

And even if you are locked out, it's not too hard to flag someone walking by to open the doors for you or call a friend to come let you in. Occasionally, some of the doors are not locked at times and students are able to walk in with no problem.

Something that could resolve this issue is giving every student at the school the same I.D. teachers have that can be swiped to unlock the door for you, like a key card for a hotel room.

Students could be given key cards with their information on them; instead of having a regular school I.D. we would be given a key card with all of the same information.

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## Editor's Note:

Opinions expressed are representative only of the artist's or writers opinion and are not necessarily a reflection of the views of the staff. In each issue, The BHS Times will publish a staff editorial that reflects the views of the majority of the editorial staff