

Crowded halls cause chaos during passing times

Anderson Day
Brighton Patch Editor

Walking in the halls during passing time is brutal, and can sometimes even be dangerous. I know I use most of my time going from one side of the school to my locker back to the other side of the school for my next class.

Not only is passing time used for getting to and from your locker and classes it is also a social time. As some might say school is for learning not socializing, but the social part of school plays a big role. The over crowding of the hallways makes it not only hard to get from class to class, but also hard to talk to your friends in between classes. If we make passing time longer it allows for people to have more time to interact with our peers. It is better that this is done during passing time and not in class where we are learning.

Also with the hallways being

crowded it can be kind of dangerous. As soon as class gets out, I always seem to bump into a least one person. Especially for those with injuries. I know from experience that walking around the halls with a broken collar bone was very frightening. Even a couple times I was bumped into on my bad shoulder. As much as high school students want to get out of their classes and on to the next one, by making passing time longer, it will allow for kids to not feel so rushed when the bell rings.

Having crowded hallways could be a fire hazard. You're in the middle of passing time and you hear the fire alarm go off. If there was a real fire in the school would there be enough time to get out safely. During fire drills the hallways are crowded and people get out of the building at a slow pace. This could be potentially deadly consequence to hallways being over congested.

The ideas for helping passing time is limited. You could extend the passing times so kids don't have to run to their classes, even though some will still barely make it. Or a new school with bigger hall ways. But making the length of the passing times longer, we would either have to take those minutes away from lunch or class time, or make the day longer. Building a new high school is an expensive and lengthy process which is very unpractical, due to the bond just being passed for upgrades on our existing facilities. By making passing time longer, it will allow kids to have time in between class to socialize and get the materials they need. But still, some might say that school is a learning place, not a place to socialize.

The bottom line is kids are going to want to socialize no matter what and socializing during passing time is more productive than doing it in class.

Oversized classes create obstacles for students

Alec Lingo
Staff Reporter

Our school has never had a higher amount of students than it does right now. In the classroom there is an average of 33 students per class, a 33 to 1 ratio between students and teachers. This causes many challenging obstacles for the teachers, such as making it harder to control a large class. Making a quiet comfortable learning environment can be challenging with a big class. Having large classes also makes the students lives harder, it can become harder to focus because of distractions, since it is also uncomfortable because the students have to fit so many people in a small room.

We have to cram classrooms because we do not have the funding to hire more teachers and therefore teach more classes allowing the class sizes to reduce. We need to make our school seem more appealing to transfer students and new students to the area and increase

our funding.

Every student that goes to Brighton high school is worth about 7,000 dollars in funding, so if we increase our total number of students, we will get more funding to hire more teachers and use the extra rooms and therefore reduce classroom sizes. If we start to run out of classrooms to use we can build outdoor classrooms such as the one used at Scranton.

I have a class this year with 35 students. It is very hard for me to focus when there are so many kids doing so many different things around the classroom.

One of the most frustrating parts for me must be how squished I am in my seat, you can barely fit into your seat and once you get in your seat it is impossible to get back out. So many kids in the same classroom can make the class uncomfortably hot and make it harder to focus.

When students go into their classrooms and sign up for classes they want a limited number of students

in the class because they can get more individual attention. It is much easier to do better in your class when you have more individual help.

We made a step in attracting more students to our school with the passing of the bond and receiving all the new technology we really won over a lot of students. We re-did our football field and that also helped bring more students to our school. I think we could make improvements in the hallways such as lockers and ceiling tiles, make the school look better from the inside not just the outside. This will help bring more students to our school and help with the funding so reducing the class sizes.

Overall I think we need to make an effort to take some steps to make a change for the overall benefit of the entire staff and student body. We are packing the classrooms to their limits and I believe it is unfair to jeopardize the learning experience of the students.

Staff Editorial: Students suffer from scheduling problems

This year, the class sizes are higher and class choices are down due to the school trying to save some money.

Little does the school board know, students are quite angry about the class choices being at a minimum.

Some underclassmen are forced to take all of their social studies credits during their senior year of high school because all of the core classes are filled up this year. Some are even over-filled.

Over-filled classes are good things for teachers because their pay actually gets raised due to there being more students to teach. Instead of that money going to new teachers to teach more classes, they are paying current teachers more to teach over-filled classes, which is bad for the students because they don't get as much one on one with the teacher.

The only way around taking all of your social studies in your senior year is to take an online class.

Although many students think that an online class would be easy, it is just the opposite. They are far from easy. To start off, you don't have a teacher in front of you that went to college to teach the subject you are taking to help you out with questions, you also don't have any classmates to compare notes or to ask for help either. Basically, you are all on your own. The only "plus" side to taking an online class is that you have the choice to leave school an hour early or come in to school an hour late since it is a class that you can take at home.

Due to classes being full, the school board is trying to take away electives so the teachers that teach the elective classes can teach core classes.

This means that kids who want to go to college for a business major won't have to chance to try it out in high school by taking Entrepreneurship or Personal Finance.

The reason that students are so angry with this is because Brighton just got an \$80 million bond and they are still cutting classes.

By senior year, most students have completed all of their science and social studies credits to graduate. This leaves them four out of the six hours of school to take electives and with less and less electives being available they will have to take more core classes.

You would think more money would translate to a larger variety of classes but it turns out it is the polar opposite.

Cellphone policy needs an update

Connor Konas
Managing Editor
Amanda Stutzman
Opinion Editor

or don't understand it. It makes no sense to me that we are allowed to use computers and netbooks to enrich our learning experiences, but not our phones.

Using our phones to listen to music during work time can also help some students stay focused and get their work done. I know from personal experience that when I have long packets to complete, listening to music quietly helps me concentrate.

The fact is that Brighton High School's policy about cellphones in class is outdated and in need of a revision. Teachers need to try to understand that not all students use their phones in class just to be rude, many actually have a legitimate purpose for using the device. If students don't pay attention in their classes, it's not the teachers fault that they do bad in class. The student knows that it is his or her fault, and the teacher isn't obligated to give them extra credit or any free points at the end of the quarter when they need just a few more points to pass the class.

It also doesn't make any sense at all when a teacher ends class early and still won't let students go on their phones. If class is basically over and the teacher isn't teaching anymore, phones shouldn't be that big of a problem.

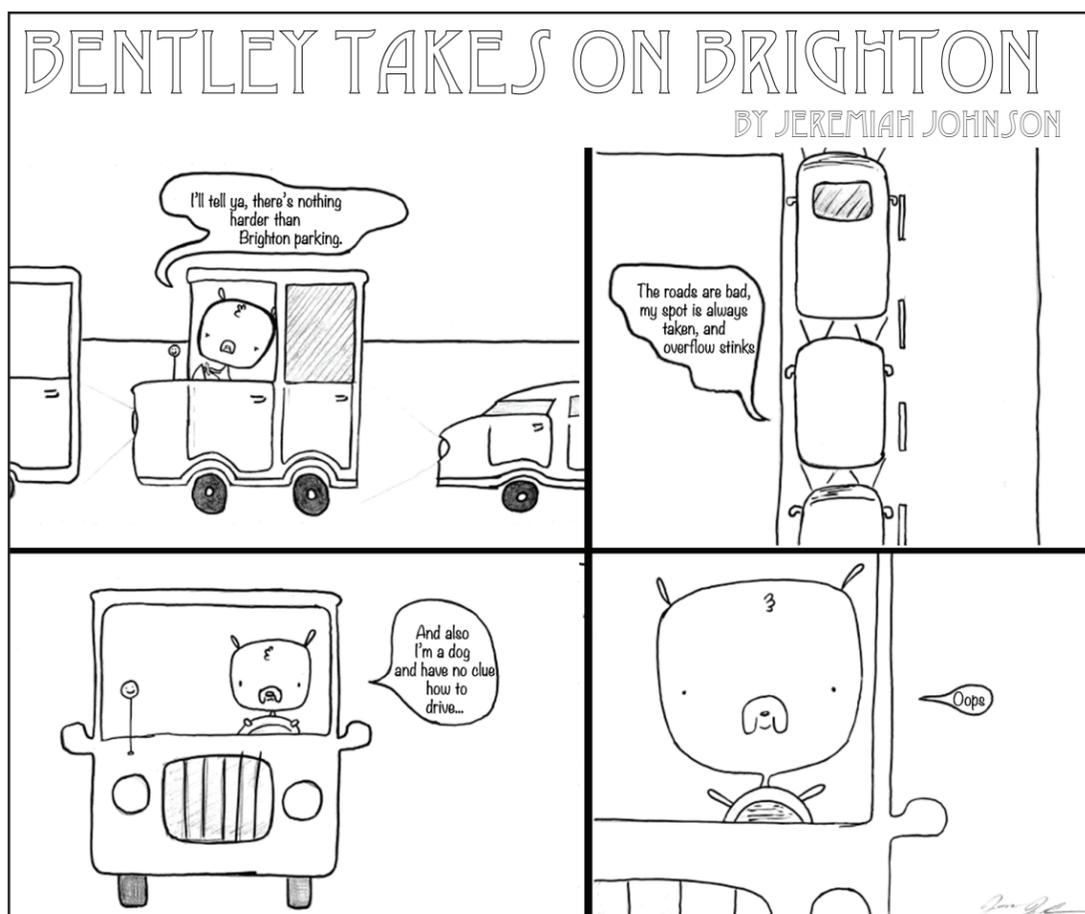
I think that cellphone use in class isn't as big of a deal as it used to be. There are many benefits of using cellphones in class, and we should learn to embrace this new technology.

Each year, students are exposed to new technology which enriches their learning experience, and I think we should be embracing it. Cell phones are, without a doubt, the most helpful tool a student could have.

At Brighton High School, we have a "strict" no phones in class policy, however, many teachers are becoming more and more lenient about it. As long as phone use doesn't cause a class disruption, there really isn't any reason for teachers to be so strict about it.

There are a couple main reasons why students use their phones throughout the course of a class period: to text their friends, or to look up information they can't find on their own. Now, I don't think that it's the best idea to waste class time and not pay attention to your teacher, but it's no secret that we are living in a decade dominated by technology. If my classmates don't want to pay attention in class, and risk getting bad grades, that's their choice.

Many of my teachers run class by handing out worksheets and hoping we find the answers somewhere in our books, or maybe we just magically know the information. I don't think it should be a big deal for a student to pull out their phone and look up information online if they can't find it anywhere in the book,



Trick-or-treating: not just for kids

Amanda Stutzman
Opinion Editor

For many of us, high school is the final frontier before we enter the terrifying world of adulthood, so why are we giving up early, and not using our last years of trick-or-treating to their full potential?

One of the worst parts of growing up is realizing that you and your friends will outgrow certain activities at different ages. Once you reach high school, you quickly learn that the interests that once held you and your friends together will begin to lose value. I have experienced this first hand, especially as my last Halloween as a high school student is fast approaching.

There is no worse feeling than a

shrinking circle of friends who value Halloween for its true purpose. How could anyone ever be too old to dress up and receive free candy?

The majority of remaining teenagers who still participate in the annual event of trick-or-treating now put in minimal effort. I cannot even count the number of teenagers I have seen since I started high school that go to door asking for candy in plain clothes. Doesn't that take away from the whole idea of Halloween? Dressing up is just as important as actually going trick-or-treating, and I do not understand how anyone could ever pass that up.

We are now old enough to drive ourselves to the store, buy our own costumes, and dress up as anything that we choose. Our days of cele-

brating Halloween by going door to door in hopes of receiving free candy are dwindling. We must enjoy our last few years before they're gone.

I cannot wrap my head around the idea that most teenagers would rather spend their Halloween at home passing out candy, or vandalizing houses. We are nearing the end of our years here at Brighton High School, which is a scary thought for most of us. While students are being pressured into adulthood from all angles, they need to remember that there are still parts of their childhood that they can cling to from comfort before the inevitable.

Many seniors have been spending their Autumn drowning in college applications and ACT tests. By the end of October, I will be done with

most of my applications and I like the idea of having a holiday to celebrate with. And honestly, what is a better way to celebrate than dressing up, having a party, and getting free candy?

Now I am well aware that I cannot spend the rest of my life trick-or-treating every year when October 31st rolls around, but I am pleading to my fellow classmates to embrace the spirit of the holiday instead of racing towards adulthood.

I believe that trick-or-treating should have no age limit, and while I am being rushed towards adulthood, trick-or-treating is a nostalgic activity that gives me a small sense of security, knowing that growing up does not mean abandoning everything that I loved as a child.

Freshmen lose homecoming court due to bullying

Joseph Benkarski
Feature Editor
Tony Mirabatur
Staff Reporter

Bullying. This is how senior principal Henry Vecchioni described the freshman homecoming vote. We'll be the first to admit we did some stupid stuff during our freshman year here at Brighton High but this year the freshman went too far.

This has been going on for a long time but this year it was directly addressed by Principal Gavin Johnson. He came over the loudspeaker and after announcing the candidates for homecoming court for all the other grades, he took on a more serious tone and told the school that the freshman would not be having a homecoming court.

Johnson said that they had a thor-

ough investigation involving teachers and students and this led to the discovery that multiple students had 50 or more votes.

The fact that two freshman were voted into the court isn't the problem. The problem is that neither of those students when asked if they wanted to be in the court said yes. The vote was clearly being used as a tool for bullying.

"Any form of teasing to me is bullying and I won't allow it," Johnson said.

There had even been reports of freshman shouting out who to vote for in class which makes it clear to us that this was a joke for them. If we put students on a pedestal, we should do it for the right reason.

The blame should go on the freshman class because they did something wrong and they should reflect on their mistakes and try to make it

right even if it means they are to be exempt from a homecoming court.

The freshman have shown that they cannot handle the honor of being in a school tradition by ruining the tradition with their little joke. And they almost ruined the reputation of some fellow classmates in the process. These freshman bullies have managed to both ruin the reputation of their class and the school itself.

This is the result of peer pressure put on students by their classmates. Rather than using their own voices and voting for who they wanted, they just went with the flow and voted for whoever everyone else was. This has destroyed countless traditions that were alive and well until peer pressure took control and the tradition had to be disbanded.

Take this for example, would you like it if you really did not want to do

something and were forced into it just to get laughed at and mocked by your fellow peers. This is both childish and wrong, and shows how little peoples' consciences really are.

The freshman treated the homecoming court with disrespect and made a mockery of the vote by treating it as if it was some kind of joke. Homecoming court is a privilege that has to be earned and if you're disrespectful about the process it should be revoked.

The freshman should know well enough to not single out people on a scale of such size or any size for that matter.

They purposely abused a privilege and it was taken away, as it should have been. The freshman got what was coming to them, and no one should feel bad for them. Johnson did the right thing when he took the court away.

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School technology undergoes much needed update

Quaid Stouder
Technical Advisor

Since the technology bond passed last year the school has been updating all of its technology in the school. I think it's wonderful that we are updating the school's technology, but why has it taken this long to do it?

Other schools like Hartland and Howell have had devices for years like the interactive boards that we just got this year. These boards offer a fun and interactive way to learn things from graphic design to learning about the human brain in AP psychology.

For the last three years I've been a student at the highschool and if we needed to look up information in class we would have to go to a computer lab, but there were only limited number of labs available so it was extremely difficult and now we have carts full of chromebooks that are fast and reliable that can be right on our desks in the classroom.

The high school media center was full of computers, slow and unreliable ones except for the seven near the entrance that were only offered to us if we had a pass from our teacher, but most of the time I'd go in the morning to finish a paper or print it off. Now it is literally full of rows of fast and reliable ones that you can just walk in and use.

This year the incoming freshman have a good start at using all the

new and wondrous technology that I as a leaving senior won't have the luxury to receive the full benefits of this technology.

In class, if we were to watch a movie we all would turn and watch this ancient cubed TV hanging from the ceiling, but this year they replaced them with brand new TVs that are now flat screen.

My sophomore year I took a programming class with Michelle Costa. It was a load of fun but the computers were slow and the chairs were uncomfortable, but this year they have better computers with better chairs along with new programmable finch robots that they get to play around with.

They also got little computers they can use called Raspberry pi, to my knowledge they are supposed to be cool and fun to use but with my graduation this year I will never find out.

The first time I walked into this school as a freshman I noticed all the cameras on the ceiling and was told by many of my friends that a large portion of them didn't work, I somewhat believed them until a teacher said the same. This year they installed brand new security cameras that pick up sound and have color. I think this is a splendid idea in the case that something terrible happens during school.

This is why I think the bond is much overdue and is a wonderful idea that we are finally updating this school.

In The Halls... What's your favorite Fall Activity?

Senior
Blake Pokorski



"Hunting, because I get to spend time with my buddies and it's peaceful."

Junior
Madison Wiljanen



"Going to apple orchards because I love donuts."

Sophomore
Katie Bellauer



"Haunted houses because they're fun."

Freshman
Jake Crespi



"Hockey because I'm sick."

Teacher
Kim Davis



"Going to cross country meets because they are so fast and I like to cheer for the girls."

Tell us what you think

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 250 words in length and may be edited for grammar and spelling. We will not print libel. Please send to Mr. Day's room F-11 or the newspaper email, bhstimes@gmail.com.

Editor's Note:

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