



Timberlines

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Woodmen Blvd. roundabout

Important dates...

Sept. 2

Labor Day (school not in session)

Sept. 14

Homecoming Dance

Sept. 20

Homecoming Football Game

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Ben Hommell photo

Decreased use of phones to raise state test scores

By Kara Ennis reporter

The new cell phone policy has taken full effect.

The policy bans students from having any wireless devices out during classroom instruction, and students who violate the rule lose their phones temporarily.

“Each teacher has a plastic case that the students phone is put in. The phone is taken down to the office and stored in Mr. Gasaway’s office until a parent can pick it up” Mr. Craig Bruns, assistant principal, said.

The phone ban is now a state law; it was signed into law on March 11.

“State legislators were looking for what we can do to get test scores back up, and one of the things they realized was that eating into students’ class time was social media,” Ms. Sandy James, psychology teacher and nominee for District 58 Indiana State Representative, said.

Benefits of this new phone ban were noted just one week into the school year.

“From an administrative point of view, students appear more engaged, focused and seem to be communicating with their teachers better,” Mr. Bruns said.

Although the phone ban does not include teachers’ phones, some teachers are also following along.

“I put my phone away just like the kids have to. It’s nice to sit there and not go onto Facebook or check my Twitter,” Ms. James said.

Unsurprisingly, many students are unhappy with this new rule as it limits phone use to passing periods, PowerHours and lunches.

“They need to give it a chance and be grateful for opportunities in PowerHour to have phones. Also, look at the positives of the situation rather than the negatives,” Mr. Bruns said.



“If this law leads to our teachers and students having a more engaged classroom, then I am all for it.”
- Mr. Michael Gasaway



“I think it makes students more productive. The more we’re off our phones, the better we learn.”
- Clark Thaxton, freshman



“I think its a little extreme. It does help get homework done at school, though, so I have more time at home”
- Kenna Martin, senior



“I love it! Students turn work in on time, are less disrespectful and pay attention in class. They do get irritable at times, though”
- Mr. Wes Melanson

Anonymous tipline to increase school security

By Hailey Hargraves reporter

Teachers and parents have one thing in common: they care about students’ safety. Greenwood Community School Corporation has developed a spot on the GWS website just for the safety of students and employees.

The Anonymous Tip Line allows students to share information about potential danger to themselves or others without providing their names. To submit an anonymous tip, students can go to the school corporation website and click on the anonymous tip line link.

The tips are sent to the principal and the central office as well as other officials as needed.

“Every tip is approached as accurate. Tips could be from anyone. We enter every situation taking it seriously,” Mr. Craig Bruns, assistant principal, said. “It could be ones we leverage out to our partnerships outside of school, such as the police and fire department.”

Sgt. Adam Burnett with the Greenwood Police wants everyone to know the tip line is actually anonymous.

“The tip line is a great tool for us. You know a lot of people want to report a crime but they don’t necessarily want to be involved. They don’t have to leave any information about themselves, and we can actually investigate that tip without the person feeling uneasy about it,” he said.

Principal Michael Gasaway shared his hopes for the tip line.

“I hope that people reach out and say something,” he said. “I hope that it is used to stop something going on. I would love for it to be proactive rather than reactive.”

Anonymous tips come in an average of one per month.

“If I average it out over the course of the year, maybe one a month,” Mr. Gasaway said. “I have not received any this year, but there are anonymous tips for investigating and making us aware of situations.”