

## Do we need school lockers?



By Kolton Pauley  
opinion editor

### We need lockers

Lockers are now mostly irrelevant, but here are some reasons schools should still have lockers in them.

Nowadays people do not see students using lockers as frequently as we used to. Students now mostly just put their stuff in their backpacks. However, lockers provide great places to put their items. Lockers teach students responsibility and reduce clutter in the hallways. So students should still use lockers.

School lockers provide security for students by giving them a safe place to store all their belongings, including books, chromebooks, binders, papers, and other valuable items. They can put anything they want in their lockers and not have to worry about anyone touching or stealing anything of theirs.

Lockers also offer students a private place to store their personal belongings and learn about privacy and personal boundaries. If they have something that is valuable to them, they can store it in their lockers and no one else can touch it. This teaches them that they need to respect other people's property, too.

Lockers teach students responsibility for their belongings by memorizing a combination and respecting others' belongings. They better remember their locker codes, or that will be a problem. If they forget, though, they can just go to the office and ask them to open their lockers or just ask for the codes again. Having a locker shows them they have to keep track of their stuff and not lose it. But having a locker helps with this. They will always know where their stuff is. This also teaches them to respect other people's stuff by not touching their lockers or what they put inside of them. If someone touches someone else's stuff then they can get in really big trouble.

Lockers also provide flexibility for students to bring in more supplies and not have to worry about keeping them in your backpacks. This includes additional books, reference materials, or even personal items they might need later in the day.

Lockers also reduce clutter in the hallways and in the classroom. Students will not have stuff falling out of their backpacks when walking or in class if they put it in their lockers. Lockers take away the stress of putting stuff in a backpack and worrying about it getting crumbled up or lost. If they just put it in their lockers they will always know where their stuff is and that will take all of that stress away. Students also will not be distracted in the classroom by some stuff in their backpacks if they just put their stuff in their lockers.

This is why schools should keep school lockers and more students should start using them more.



By Sam Thompson  
sports editor

### We do not need lockers

One thing that goes unnoticed as students walk by them every day are the lockers. The green and tan metal boxes sit in our school, taking up pointless space in our hallways.

The idea of lockers is good. They are storage units for school supplies, which can lessen the load for students during the day. The problem is that no students want or use them. The lockers are out of the way, inconvenient to use when everything can just stay in a backpack, and becomes just another code to remember.

Between classes, there are five minutes. Some students have to take a long trek to their classes, want to chat with friends, or fill up water bottles. There is not enough time to add a locker run in the middle of all of that.

Also, the lockers are out of the way from the classes. Many students struggle with tardies, and as the punishments become more severe, the last thing students want is to be late because they have to run across the school to get their books. I also have homework most nights and need to take my school supplies home every night. This means I would need to load and unload everything from my backpack to my locker every day.

The lockers are also just a pain to have. They involve just another code to remember. Many students are swamped with a hundred of items from every class, and the last thing they want to do is remember another bit of information. This would cause more problems in the school when students forget their codes and are left going to classes with their supplies stuck in lockers until a staff member can help them. This problem is minor to some, but to other students, like incoming freshmen, this task can be a real struggle as they learn how to navigate the school and inevitably get lost or forget items in their lockers.

The lockers take up so much space. If they were taken out, something could take their place. There could be new classrooms built where the lockers are which could create new classes or thin certain classes out to get a better ratio of teacher to students. There could be a bookstore in one of the areas. This could be a place that

sells notebooks, pencils and binders which save students a trip to the store and earn some money for the school. Another idea is a sitting area that could be put in the area outside of the cafeteria. It could become a place for students to eat, a study area, or for classes to have different environments for a day. I think the area taken up by lockers is wasted and could be put to better use for our school.

There are zero benefits to having hundreds of lockers take up space in our school.



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## Mental health matters

Our publication has chosen to highlight the issue of students with mental health problems in order to bring awareness and help students feel less alone in their struggles. By bringing awareness to the topic of mental health, students may feel more inclined to speak up about their struggles.

According to the CDC, more than forty of students struggle with mental health issues.

Many aspects of a student's high school career can challenge their mental health, from struggling friendships, toxic relationships, classwork, and family struggles. Mental health issues come in all shapes and sizes.

During the course of the school year, many students are likely to feel hopeless, depressed, or anxious, especially in the wintertime. If someone is struggling with mental health, the best thing to do for them is to listen. Refrain from offering advice or attempting to fix the person's problem. Instead, offer a place the student can talk openly about those struggles.

Bringing awareness to mental health has been a goal at GHS for at least the past

three years. Groups have organized several awareness weeks as well as suicide prevention walks. During the month of October, students in various clubs worked to raise awareness for those who struggle with mental health issues. GHS's new DECA club organized Highlight Mental Health Week, a week full of activities that aim to improve students mental health. Different clubs provided different activities for

students to improve their mental health such as, art therapy put on by counseling associates, "Bring us together" activ-

ity in the cafeteria put on by student council, "How food affects mental health" by world culture club, Aromatherpy put on by Peace Family Counseling, Yoga put on by Toni Breeden and the Service Club, and lastly "Highlight Mental Health Swag" put on by Bring Change to Mind and National Honors Society.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, resources are available through your guidance counselor as well as through the crisis intervention hotline at 988.

### What WE Think Staff Editorial