

## Students should buy used vehicles



By Bre Wheatley  
reporter

Many high schoolers' dream's are to drive new, name brand cars. However, used cars might be better choices for teens.

Wrecks are prone to happen with every 16-18

year old. In 2022, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that more than 2,000 teenagers between the ages of 15 and 20 died in car crashes. Students looking at their phones, not paying attention, or being distracted by their passengers can result in crashes within seconds. Even if only fender-benders, students are going to damage their cars. Buying a used car instead of a brand new one gives students room for these mistakes.

Used cars are easily accessible. There are local dealerships like Ray Skillman, Drive Hubler, and Indy Auto. Alongside these dealerships, someone can look at a car through a third party app. Facebook Marketplace is a popular place to sell and buy used cars. People can interact with each other to negotiate prices and plan meet-ups. There are other easy ways to

access websites for used cars like Cars.com, Carvana, Edmunds, CarMax, and TrueCar. These apps are promoted to help someone with the experience of buying a car.

The payments on used cars are much easier to pay. Along with lower insurance costs, registration fees, lower costs, and warranties, used cars can save money out of a student's pocket or a parents' bank account. Most students do not keep cost in mind when buying a car, but their future selves will thank them for the lower fees.

My car is a used one, and I barely have problems with it. It is a Ford Edge 2016. I have been in two fender-bender wrecks, and is still running. The first car I



Senior Lilly Ebeyer enters her used 2013 Buick Regal on her way home after school. Ebeyer purchased the vehicle from a family friend as a used car in 2023. Isaac Apgar photo

was given was a new car, and it was Voltz-wagons convertible 2021. The damage to my new car was more detrimental than the crashes that happened with my Ford. My parents had to pay more to fix the car

than what our monthly payment was for the car.

This proves in real time that buying used cars for high schoolers is much better than a new one.



**"My dream car is an all pink Porche 911 GT3," junior Kaitlyn Cruz said.**

**"I want a 2023 black Hellcat with red interior," sophomore Damien Foster said.**

**"My dream car is a 2007 red GMC Yukon Denali," junior Ayden Houseman said.**

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By Malakai Cruse  
reporter

When thinking about buying a car for a high schooler, there are numerous factors to consider and multiple routes to take.

Student drivers often lean toward options like Facebook Marketplace or other online used car dealers. Often these services are unreliable and it is possible to receive a lesser product than expected or a car with masked flaws. With budget as a big aspect of choosing a car, students often rule out the possibility of buying a new car. It would be unreasonable and largely improbable for a student to purchase a new car in cash. However, there are more affordable options to take a brand new car home right from the dealership.

Trusted dealership names such as Tom O'Brien, Ray Skillman, or Hubler come to mind, and it is realistic and reliable to purchase a 2024 model for around \$25,000 off the lot with a co-sign. These big names assure buyers the quality is top notch as they have a standard of excellence to uphold.

If price is the problem, sales representatives can help con-

struct a payment plan that works. If teens take out a 36 month loan, they could have a 2024 car paid off in three years time. A car that should last you at least another decade. A loan for 60-72 months would have a less expensive monthly payment but for a longer period of time. All in all, this is guaranteeing a top of the line vehicle that could last you for the long haul.

When exploring new car options there are many benefits for new drivers. Looking at a 2024 Chevrolet Trax with a price range from \$20,000-\$25,000, countless safety features are included, such as automatic emergency braking, rear park assist, and even a teen driver mode. There are hundreds of options and certainly a car out there that comes in pristine condition with all the benefits of incredible fuel efficiency, safety features, and the latest technology

The final benefit of purchasing a new car would be the manufacturer's warranty. Some companies guarantee up to 10 years of coverage. Other companies measure mileage and offer from 36,000 up to 60,000 miles covered.

I would recommend buying a new car because of the guaranteed quality, reliability, style, safety, and all the latest comforts and technology.



By Ellie Hockersmith  
reporter

## GHS student donates hair to Children with Hair Loss charity

If hair holds memories then most of mine belong to someone else.

Hair is one of the most important parts of a person. It can define them and be a way of expressing themselves whether they have crazy colors, short hair, long hair, curly, wavy, or straight hair. It can also affect the way they look.

I had long hair from middle school to my sophomore year of high school. I loved my hair with a passion. If anyone were to ask my freshman-year self, I would have never dreamed of cutting my hair off. But as junior year summer came around, I was so used to how I looked, and my life was getting too boring, I decided I needed some change.

The first step in this process was figuring out what I wanted to do with my hair. At first, I wanted to go a little bit lighter with highlights and keep the long length. The second choice was going darker but that idea did not last very long. The third option was going short, and the fourth option was going short with bangs. I was going to do some bangs, but I didn't want to do anything too dramatic and it turn out not good. By the time the day to cut my hair arrived, I chose Option Three.

The second biggest struggle of this process was

finding a place to go that I knew would cut my hair well. I asked my family and friends for recommendations on where to go, but none of them came to my appeal. One day I just decided to look on Google for salons in Greenwood, and one of the first ones to pop up was Penelope June Salon. That is where I decided to go and they did an amazing job.

When I got there I was a little anxious and because I did not know how it would turn out and I was not sure if I was making the right decision. As soon as they started cutting, I knew that I was going to love it, and I knew I made the right choice. After they finished cutting my hair, I knew that I would never go back to long hair.

At first, I missed my long hair, but I knew donating it was a better choice. Like I said in the beginning, hair can define a person, and I feel more like myself ever since. A lot of people have also told me that this haircut suits me a lot or makes me look older, and I agree.

The third struggle was finding a dependable organization I could donate my hair. I decided that I wanted to donate my hair because the thought of helping someone in need is so important to me. I have a heart for people who are struggling, and I will do anything I can to make even the smallest impact, and if that means I donate my hair to them, then I will. When my mom and I were at the hair salon, we asked them if they had any

recommendations on where I should donate my hair.

They recommended Children with Hair Loss. Children with Hair Loss is a nonprofit organization that helps children and young adults with hair loss and provides hair replacements at no cost. I thought this was amazing, and out of all the places I looked, that one stood out the most. I donated about 12 inches of hair to the organization, and I hope soon they will make good use of it. They are a more recent organization. They opened in September of 2000. They care a lot for the children they help. People can donate hair, sponsor a child, donate hair items, like hair brushes and hair ties, people can buy stuff from their online store. They use that money to help their organization improve their wigs.

I am so thankful I had this opportunity not only to cut my hair but also to donate it. I am blessed for it to have been my hair. Although I will not know who gets my hair and when they get it, I know they will pull it off better than I did. I pray that whoever God gives this wig to also gets strength through their hard times and the courage to keep going.

I get inspired by other people, the bravery of these children and the determination they have inspire me, and I will always look up to them. People say hair holds memories, and if it takes me losing memories for someone else to have more, then it is worth it.