



## Fair

By Davion Jones  
reporter

Office Staff realized that students are coming in later every day, and they are taking action to stop the tardies. The punishments are harsh but understandable.

Students are required to be in their classes before the 7:30 a.m. bell every day. They have been granted four free passes, but after the fourth, they will face consequences. The rules are strict, but they are strict for a reason. Students must be on time to get as much learning time in as possible as to avoid interrupting classes already in session.

There are some obstacles, though, such as the morning traffic. The school has only one entrance, and Smith Valley is always clustered in the mornings due to the buses, student drivers, parents and adults trying to get to work. An easy fix is arriving earlier so student drivers have no chance of being late.

Students who come into class late make it difficult for teachers to teach their lessons if students are not there and unable to participate. Teachers are constantly interrupted because of students arriving late and missing school hours, which causes all students to suffer. Not only does a student who is consistently arriving late to school establish bad punctuality habits, that tardiness also disrupts the learning of other students in their classes. Teachers are on a schedule, and any disruption can put classes behind.

Student attendance is one of the most common predictors of academic achievement. Students who consistently miss school hours develop habits that will lead into their adult lives, affecting their education, career and social connections. In contrast, students who participate fully in school activities will have more opportunities to succeed in their futures and make healthy informed lifestyle choices. If schools are training us for success after high school, holding us accountable for attendance seems to go along with that.

Students being on time is important, and the administration making stricter rules for students to show up is understandable.

## New Tardy Policy



Sophomore Ashton Jones-Shell fills out tardy form after running late to school. The new tardy policy requires all late students to check in at the front office. Max Flowers photo

## Unfair



By Ashton Jones-Shell  
reporter

The recent tardy rule is unfair to many students. This rule states that students who are tardy or unexcused four times have to attend a Wednesday school. If students are tardy/unexcused five, six or seven times, they have to serve Saturday schools. If students are tardy/unexcused eight or more times, they have to serve OSS.

This rule is unfair because it puts a lot of pressure on kids to get to school on time, which might lead to reckless driving. This increases the chance of injuries and possible fatalities.

This rule is highly unfair to students who do not live close to the school and students who have to travel on roads with heavy traffic. This new rule is also unfair to students who have family issues because some kids have to take care of their siblings and cannot leave their homes early enough to get to school by 7:30 a.m. With some students also having to pick up other students, this causes multiple students to be late at a time.

This rule can also cause some students to start arguments and protest against the principal because of how it is unfair to them. To the kids who think this rule is unfair and inconsiderate, they will argue against the teachers because kids obviously do not like serving punishments like Wednesday and Saturday schools. While kids argue against the rule, the protests will cause even more punishments for students, which can only get worse and worse.

Most kids in high school will stay up late at night and because of this, they are exhausted in the morning and are lazy or slow, which causes them to be late to school. According to the National Educational Association (NEA), 29 percent of high school students sleep through their alarm or even forget to set an alarm to get up for school. The NEA also states that 33 percent of high school students miss the bus in the morning.

This rule is unfair to students who have many reasons to not get to school on time. When kids have the pressure of getting to school on time without speeding and not being able to regard the effects of anyone else, it is unfair to enforce this new tardy rule.

## Presidential election results

The 2024 Presidential race has concluded with Donald Trump winning the electoral vote and popular vote over Kamala Harris.

This election cycle has been historical on multiple levels. Set to begin his second term in office next year, Trump will be only the second president in American history to serve two non-consecutive terms. On the opposing side of the podium, Kamala Harris joined the race late after Joe Biden dropped out only three months before Election Day. The last time a candidate dropped out of the race for re-election was in 1968.

Following the election, many people including students have taken to social media to voice their opinions. People across the country have been posting on apps like Instagram, X and TikTok to express how they feel about Trump winning. Some extreme posts include people threatening to leave the country and people believing crazy things will happen to the country now that he is back in charge. Others include those who support him whole-heartedly and think this decision is best for the country.

We as a staff believe that although tensions between political parties have been



amping up for the past couple of elections, it is important to remember that the election happens in order to elect a leader who will unite the country and lead it successfully. Regardless of how someone's ideas match up to those of the presidential nominee, backlash against whoever wins is not helpful. When people protest and give backlash against the

winner, it only creates more divide within the country. The goal of electing presidents is to create unity, and the retaliation that took place four years ago provided no benefit for our country.

In order to efficiently run a democracy, peace needs to be kept at the core. Since the election, relations between Trump, Harris and even Biden have appeared

friendly and supportive, which is the way we as citizens should act and treat each other.

Regardless of opinions, we are all U.S. citizens who want one thing: to see our country succeed. We may have different ideas on how to get there and different preferences for leadership, but at the end of the day, we all want to see our country thrive.

The first step is to accept the decision that the country has come to and to make the best of the next four years rather than pitting ourselves against one another.

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