

Students lack school spirit

One great aspect that has the ability to make high school an enjoyable four years is school spirit, this has been lacking at Bloomington High School lately. Sure the school has a week dedicated to spirit during homecoming week and each Friday, but those shouldn't be the only times of the year where students should be proud to be a Purple Raider.

The BHS football games are usually a location where students can let out all of their cheer and support. This year the support from the student cheer section was embarrassingly weak compared to years before. There were too many students that either did not cheer or wear school colors to the game. Some students even had the audacity to wear Normal Community High School clothing on a Friday.

Other BHS sports teams throughout the fall season unfortunately did not receive a lot of support from the students. The Intercity cross country meet had few BHS student fans cheer the runners on. Other school teams such as boys and girls golf also did not receive much student support either.

Another huge problem was the lack of unified cheering at the volleyball and football games. Sometimes a loud and positive show of support can make a difference in a team's performance during a game. The fans have the power to help motivate a team to victory. This especially was evident at the BHS volleyball game against Metamora. The Metamora fan section was on their feet screaming their hearts out the entire game compared to the Raider fan section that failed to get energetic. The outcome of the game may have been different if the BHS student section had shown more enthusiastic support for the volleyball team.

The winter sports season is in full swing and it is time to make a difference in the amount of school spirit this school is lacking in. Just wearing a purple or gold t-shirt is not going to cut it. It does not matter if you are a freshman or a senior, if you go to a game, you should plan on cheering for the Raiders. As Athletic Director Mr. John Szabo always says, "Remember you're a Raider, be proud of it!"

Heavy workload weighs down students



KAITLIN DUNN
Associate Editor

Students at Bloomington High School are "learning" for exactly six hours and 45 minutes excluding lunch. After school, the average student has two to three hours of homework. That is eight to nine hours of school every day.

The average 9 am to 5 pm job is eight hours. School could be considered a "job" for students. But, unlike the working world, students have school and extra curricular activities like sports or an actual paying job.

This leaves students no time to do homework. The problem of students not doing their work is in direct relation to the workload of students.

Busy work is given to students more than once a week; homework problems with the same concepts that repeat over and over again. One or two similar problems is enough. It should be the students choice if they want to do extra problems for practice.

The average student has two to three hours of homework a night, and the average honors student has about four to five hours of homework a night. This leaves literally no time to do anything other than study.

School is meant to be challenging and that is understandable, but when students are not able to sit down to a nice meal, it becomes too much.

Teachers need to realize that students have a life outside of school. Most students are tired when they get home and many, including me, do not start on homework right away. This may be thought of as procrastination, but we need at least an hour break after school.

Now, I understand the push for education. Other countries are way ahead of us, but I think that education can be pushed just as hard if students did not have so much homework. Students learn just as much in the classes where homework is not given every day.

ACT classes fail to prepare students for test



TRACY CARPENTER
Writer

As high school students enter their junior year, they also enter into a feeling of fear and nervousness for their upcoming ACT test. Although several students enroll in ACT preparatory classes, these classes do not significantly help students to prepare for the ACT.

These prep classes are offered at various locations in the area, including Heartland and Illinois Wesleyan University. An ACT prep class was also offered after school at Bloomington High School last year.

The ACT prep classes are not worth their cost. The classes range from over \$350 for seven sessions at IWU, or under \$100 for several sessions at Heartland. Regardless of which class signed up for, neither helps students adequately prepare for the ACT.

The class instructors teach the students aspects of test taking that they already know. A majority of the topics covered in the class are common sense that every test taker already knows. Very few topics are new to the student.

Not only do the ACT prep classes not help the students, but the majority of the students in the class also believe they were scammed. In the first session, the students are given a practice ACT test. This test is much more difficult than the real ACT, causing most students to get a low score. During the last session, the students are given another practice ACT test. However, this test is much easier than the real ACT and thus causes most students to get a high score. This causes the students to believe they improved significantly from the class. However, after taking the real ACT, few students get as high of a score as the practice ACT from the last session.

The only significant practice for a student is to take the real ACT several times. This helps the student know exactly what to expect. The ACT prep classes do not adequately help students to prepare for the ACT.

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