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Many high school students believe the bill is a good idea, and could lower the amount of car accidents caused by teenagers.

“If you’re texting, you might not see a light change,” said Pyne. “Some people say they can safely [text while driving] but they can’t.”

Bean also believes using cell phones while driving is a stupid choice to make.

“It takes your mind off what you’re doing,” said Bean. “It not only affects you, but also the people around you.”

Rheeling has the same opinion as many other high school students on the topic.

“I think it’s not smart, but some people can handle it alright,” said Rheeling.

Numerous high school students agree with Rheeling because they believe that it’s dangerous, but they are willing to take the chance anyways.

The irony is that many BHS students believe they are good drivers, even after they have gotten in a car accident. For instance, in Ms. Amanda Holloway’s 4th hour sociology class, eight out of the 12 students with licenses have gotten in a car accident, yet every person in the class believes they are a good driver.

Rheeling, for instance, considers himself better than the average teenage driver, yet has gotten in two car accidents.

Although this may seem alarming, the results are common. In Mrs. Gloria MacElwain’s 5th hour ELC class, 14 out of 22 students have gotten in a car accident, yet 17 of them consider themselves better than the average teenage driver.

The surveys do not appear to be coincidental. This is because statistics agree

with the result that the percent of teenagers who believe they are a good driver is significantly higher than the percent that have gotten in a car accident.

Because of this frightening statistic, many people are trying to take control of the situation.

This year, BHS has introduced a Safety Squad to the school, which takes an aim at ending teenage car accidents. The BHS Safety Squad includes six juniors at BHS.

“The BHS Safety Squad was started to win money for after prom,” said Kissel. “We are competing against 15 other schools.”

As a part of the competition, the group had to film their efforts.

“We documented everything we did and submitted that and a movie we made,” said Kissel.

Besides making the documentary, the Safety Squad did a lot to try to increase awareness on safe driving. The efforts include making posters, floor mats, and speed signs in the parking lot to remind BHS students how to act while driving.

“We also set up a booth at lunch to inform students on safe driving,” said Kissel.

Due to the Safety Squad’s effort, BHS has made it to the top seven schools, and will find out soon if they won the competition. The winner gets up to \$2000 for their after prom that year.

With help from the Safety Squad and personal experience, many BHS students have learned valuable lessons for driving.

“I learned not to do dumb things while driving,” said Rheeling.

Students prepare for the PSAE and ACT tests

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Writer

As the school year comes to a close many students will count the days until the final bell of the year rings and they are free of school for three months. But for the juniors, the ending of the year means preparing for one of the larger tests of their high school careers.

Juniors have already begun preparing for this test by going to weekly classes held at Bloomington High School that prepare them for the ACT and PSAE.

“The classes are pretty boring to be honest with you. We just sit there and learn test taking tips and stuff that will prepare us for this test,” said junior Chris Childers

The PSAE is made up of two tests, the ACT and the Work Keys test. These two tests combined mean a lot more for students than they may have realized.

The combination of these two will determine if juniors this year will be exempt from senior finals next year.

“There’s a lot of pressure on [students] when we take these tests, usually you can just blow these standardized tests off, but these tests determine whether we’ll get into a good college and then that determines if you get into a good job,” said junior Jackie Morris.

The two tests take two days and are held in the school.

“Taking these tests is all endurance, its just like running a race. You have to be mentally tough to sit down for four hours and recollect all that you’ve learned throughout high school. To be tested on that, it’s rough,” said math teacher Mr. Keith Enyart

Some tips that students have been taught are to get a good nights sleep the night before the test, have a good breakfast the morning of the test, make sure you give yourself enough time to answer all the questions right and most importantly believe in yourself.

