

Public high schools avoid helpful, controversial class

BHS fails to offer students a necessary philosophy course



CAMERON MELGOSA
General Assignment Writer

Bloomington High School offers many areas of study that are cardinal at most Western Universities and Colleges. Among these are psychology, sociology, and AP classes. All of these courses offer insight into an academic career beyond high school. However, missing from the class lineup is a rather substantial course called philosophy.

It appears that philosophy courses are seemingly avoided in high school settings because of the subject's tendency to stray into religious grounds. It is true that what is now considered philosophy is based on three ideas: aesthetics, political philosophy, and morality or religion. In order for a person to be considered a philosopher, they must understand all three of these branches.

Morality or religion is where the problem for high schools exists. For the same reasons most schools do not offer religion classes, philosophy classes are

overlooked. The problem of religion and school is no reason to dismiss the idea of a class dedicated to philosophy.

Under the definition of philosophy, religion is easily replaced with the term morality. Often religion decides morals, and vice versa, but when discussing morals, it is not necessary to bring up religion.

Once the topic of religious faith is taken out of the equation, there is no good reason for a philosophy-based class to not exist in a high school setting. Philosophy is a subject that transcends science. It is a study of all of the sciences combined, but one that cannot have scientific laws applied to it. Due to its complex nature, philosophy is the ultimate test of logic, and intelligent human thought.

Philosophy also offers the potential to increase a student's skill in the art of debate. Not only does a philosopher present and defend their ideas, they must debate meanings of answers, and context of questions.

It is unnecessary for a high schools to avoid any sort of a philosophy class. Even if there was only an introduction to philosophy course, which explained the fundamentals and ideas of the science, interest could easily be built for the field and the basics of philosophy would positively affect all aspects of a student's life.

Administration enforces new tardy policy



RENEE LEHR
Associate Editor

To prevent the amount of tardies and kids in the halls, the administration has come up with a new idea of sweeping the halls after the bell has rung for class. The new system began by giving any student found in the hall without a pass with a two-hour detention. Now, the punishment has been adjusted to a lunch detention.

Having the administration take action will prevent interruptions in classes, but the automatic two-hour or lunch detention will hurt many students and will be an unjust consequence. While some students do hang out in the halls and arrive to class late, most students try to get to class on time. However, if a student who is typically in class on time is late and in the hall, they will receive a two hour as well. Although the rule will help cut

back tardies, it will also punish those who do not deserve it. Students running a minute or two late usually have a reason. While these reasons are not excusable, they do not deserve a harsher punishment than a tardy, which a teacher would give. With administrators giving their own punishments, some teachers are confused about what further punishments should be given, causing even more interruptions in class.

Most students pass through high school without any tardies, or very few. Those who receive tardies every day should be addressed with new policies, but for those who are just a minute or two late and attempting to get to class, the two-hour detention is not fair.

If there is going to be floor sweeps, which would in fact help prevent tardies and interruptions in classes, administrators should allow time for students who are trying to get to class to get there first, allow teachers to handle punishments for the students who are only a few minutes late, and should only give more severe punishments to those who are repeatedly tardy.

The Aegis

1202 E. Locust Bloomington, IL 61701

Staff:

Editor-in-Chief:

Kaitlin Dunn

Associate Editor:

Renee Lehr

News Editor:

Paige Bolek

Student Life Editor:

Maggie Hatten

Sports Editor:

Jayne Johnson

Photography Editor:

Francesca Pelusi

Photographer:

Mykael Smith

Business Manager:

Reid Golowski

General Assignment

Writers:

Max Johnson

Cameron Melgosa

Clayton Mester

Advisor: Alan Kuchefski

The Aegis is a monthly publication printed by *The Pantagraph*. The opinions expressed in *The Aegis* do not necessarily represent the views of the District 87 administration. Letters to the editor may be submitted through *The Aegis'* website www.district87.org/bhs/aegis and must be signed by the author. Please refrain from directly referring to students and faculty members. *The Aegis* reserves the right to edit all letters.