

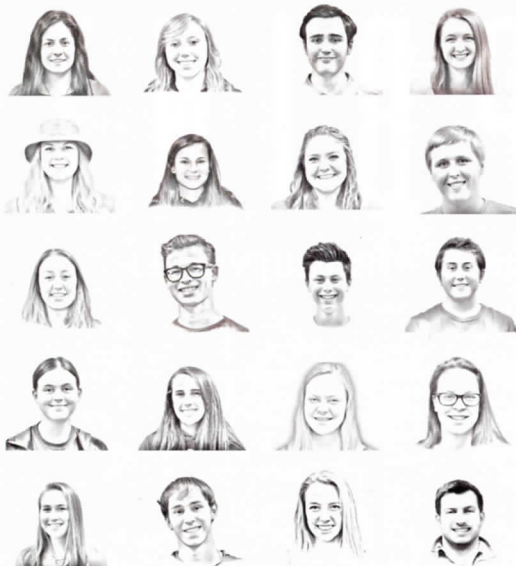
THE HOOFPRIINT

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UNPLUGGED

Our addiction to
handheld devices
controls our lives.



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In the midst of a booming technology industry, it's almost a given that the new waterproof iPhone 7 or the slickest new tablet computer will end up at the top of our wish lists. As a society, technology has become a key component of our lives. It impacts how we interact with others, it composes our daily tasks, and it even encourages us to be up-to-date on what is happening in social circles outside of our own. Few at our school aren't reliant on social media and/or cell phones, and in some classes, access to Facebook or Remind101 is even a requirement. Technology has become our new heartbeat.

But what happens when that heartbeat... suffocates us?

"It was like I had a huge sign on my back that said "kick me". Every way I looked, people were exclaiming about the new group message update on snapchat. The constant reminders of the social media that was so close yet so far away was clawing at my insides." – #SocialMediaCense, pg 4.

"My life is just as good, if not better without the constant checking of the internet. I highly suggest a social media cleanse. It was hard, but there's so much out there in the world to experience without the obligation of sharing on social media." – #SocialMediaCense, pg 5.

"The best memories are the things you don't take pictures of: the little local hole-in-the-wall sandwich shop, the conversations with friends on long bus rides, the ordering of food in another language, the climbing of a mountain. The world isn't in the camera, the communication isn't in the phone; it's all about getting out of the technology and living life in the present moment. That's how to learn, that's how to really grow, to see the world, to get to know people." – Spectrum of Tech, pg 14.

Maybe, by disconnecting from technology's heartbeat, we can discover our own.

Taylor McNitt
Editor-in-Chief

Leighton McAlpin
Editor-in-Chief

CRACKING DOWN ON ELECTRONICS

Student phone use plagues the classroom

Carson J.S.
Reichardt
COLUMNIST



Mobile phones are a fact of life in 21st-century U.S.A. Whether someone is using a classic cell phone with a sliding keyboard or an iPhone 7, Pew Research

Center estimates that 88% of teenagers own some sort of mobile device. Considering there are almost 42 million teens in America, that's around 37 million phones in adolescents' hands alone. For better or for worse, phones aren't going anywhere anytime soon.

Because of their constant presence, there's a lot of debate surrounding how often teens are using them, specifically with regards to school and other academic environments. A report by Common Sense Media claims teens spend nine hours using different forms of media every day (though this isn't all necessarily on phones). Another report from the same group says that 50% of teens feel addicted to their phones. Considering this, it's no wonder teachers have to struggle to pull students' attention away from their phones and to the whiteboard.

This conflict has given rise to a frequent, common threat from teachers, informing students that they have the right to confiscate their phones if they see them using them in class too often. However, at BHS, this seems to be nothing but an empty threat. Only once in recent memory has a teacher approached a student and demanded they hand over their phone. The student refused, leading to a silent standoff between the two. Apparently deeming the fight not worth the trouble, the teacher relented, and the student kept their phone.

This interaction says a lot about how teachers view the ongoing battle with phones in class. No matter how much an instructor wants a student's attention, taking precious minutes out of an eighty-minute period wastes too much of every other student's time to be worth the wait. Because of this, students seem to have won the battle of attrition, earning themselves the power to use phones whenever they want to.

Even so, this seems like a hollow victory. With phone addiction becoming a more legitimate concern, spreading their use to classrooms seems like a sign that the problem is not going away. For now, the only suggestion is for students to just willingly take breaks from using them every once in awhile. If users choose not to check their phones all the time, their usage in class may be reduced as well. Plus, reducing usage will help prevent the addiction, leading to a win-win scenario for both students and teachers, and such compromises are just another fact of life.



Straight from the Handbook

What does the BHS Student Handbook say about phones?

Electronic Devices: Cellular phones, laser pointers, electronic games, iPods or any other electronic or picture taking device that may cause disruption are not allowed in the academic setting, locker rooms, or lavatories unless preapproved by the instructor.

Recommended Policy:

1st Incident - Verbal Warning (to put the device away)

2nd Incident - Teacher may confiscate the device up until the end of the day.

3rd Incident - The teacher may confiscate the device and give it to administration in which case a parent will be called and may be asked to pick up the device.

#SOCIAL MEDIA CLEANSE

Our eighteen day break from social media

Lily Hershley and Lauryn McAlpin
Voices Editor and Writer

In a school where we are constantly linked to our social media, we fill our awkward silences and loneliness with online friends. Lily and I took a step back and realised that we needed a break from this overbearing addiction. With one glance, we decided that we were going to go on an eighteen day social media cleanse where we would log out of all of our current social media apps.



Day One: It was the beginning of a daunting Monday. Lily and I looked at each other in disbelief as we logged out of all Social Media apps. This included, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. This was going to be difficult.

@LaurynMcalpin



140

Day Seven: Anxiety crept through me today, as I sat contemplating what the rest of the world was doing. With no connection to my classmates' online lives I felt as if I was on a deserted island, destined to never have human contact again! I yearned to see what people were doing, what my online horoscope was, and which Twitter video was a viral hit. This was turning out to be harder than I expected.

@LilyHershley



140



Day Eight: It was like I had a huge sign on my back that said "kick me". Every way I looked people were exclaiming about the new group message update on snapchat. "Hey Lily, how do you like the new update?" "You're in our group message, check it out!" "Why haven't you been responding to my snaps?" The constant reminders of the social media that was so close yet so far away was clawing at my insides.

@LilyHershley



140



Day Twelve: I wanted to look at my memories so badly. I wanted to be reminded of all the fun times over the past year, but they were locked away in my Snapchat like a prisoner in a dungeon. Lily and I looked at each other and fell apart: we logged into Snapchat. In the end it didn't make me happy to spend the present reminiscing about past experiences, and in that moment we vowed to not break the cleanse again.

@LaurynMcAlpin



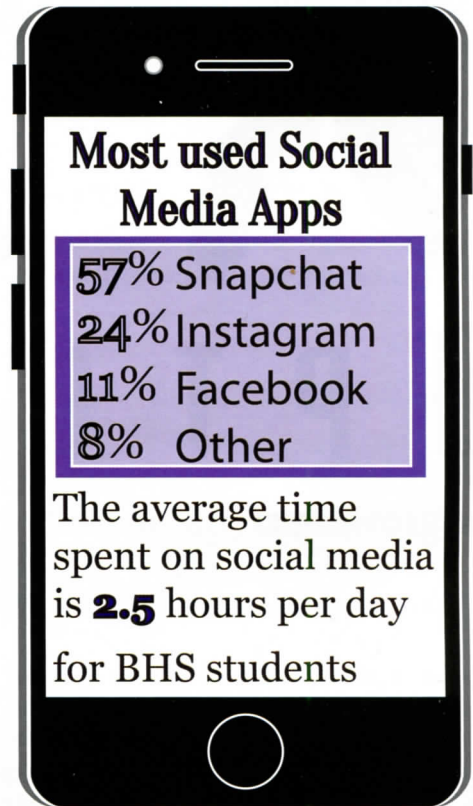
Day Eighteen: After I finished my Chemistry exam on December 22nd I didn't log in to any of my social media accounts. I thought, "I've gone so long without it already, what's another hour?" and I quietly studied for my French exam instead. Next block I was too occupied to even think about social media, so the first time I logged in ended up being near the end of the day during lunch. There were no eye opening differences, no magic or sparkles flying out of my phone, just random pictures and friends talking about nothing. I had a couple more follow requests, a new Snapchat to navigate, and the impulse to post a picture on Instagram. I did. @LaurynMcAlpin



Day Eighteen: As I turned in my Chemistry exam at 9:30 am on December 22nd, I realized that it had been three weeks and four days since my cleanse began. I weirdly felt no urge to login to my unused apps. Expecting some sort of huge relief I logged into Instagram; I had a total of 2 follow requests and that's about it. Twitter and Snapchat came with the same amounts of disappointment. I guess my absence had not left an impact on the world and that was relief enough. My life is just as good if not better without the constant checking of the Internet. My prior habit of opening up my social media apps every chance I got has slimmed down and it's actually very nice. I highly suggest a social media cleanse. It was hard but there's so much out there in the world to experience without the obligation of sharing it on social media. @LilyHershley



STUDENT SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS



Graphic by Carter Barton



Graphic by Carter Barton

OPTING OUT

The growing trend of students open enrolling out of the BHM school district

Jack Oisted
Staff Writer

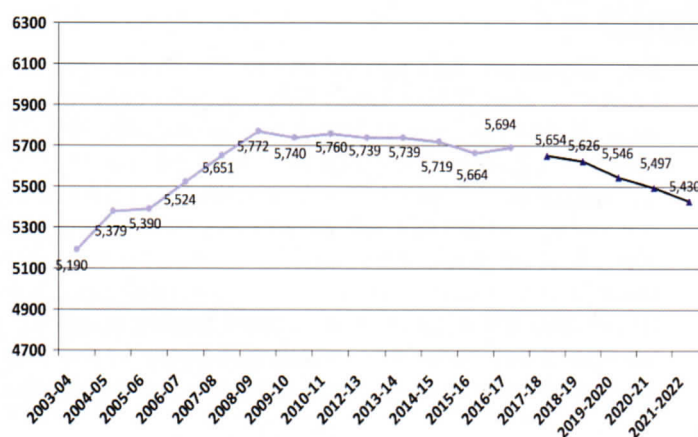
The Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District has a paradox; as the population of residents in the school district increases, the enrollment of students in the district decreases. This can mostly be explained by the open enrollment policy, which allows students of one school district to enroll in another public school district free of charge. This policy causes some districts to gain students and others to lose students. Currently, the BHM School District is losing more students than it's gaining, a difference of 497 students last year.

Students' choice to go to other school districts often revolves around geography. Students who live in Hanover or Montrose on the border of the school district choose to open enroll because they want to go to a high school closer to home for convenience's sake. However, there are still other reasons why students choose to open enroll.

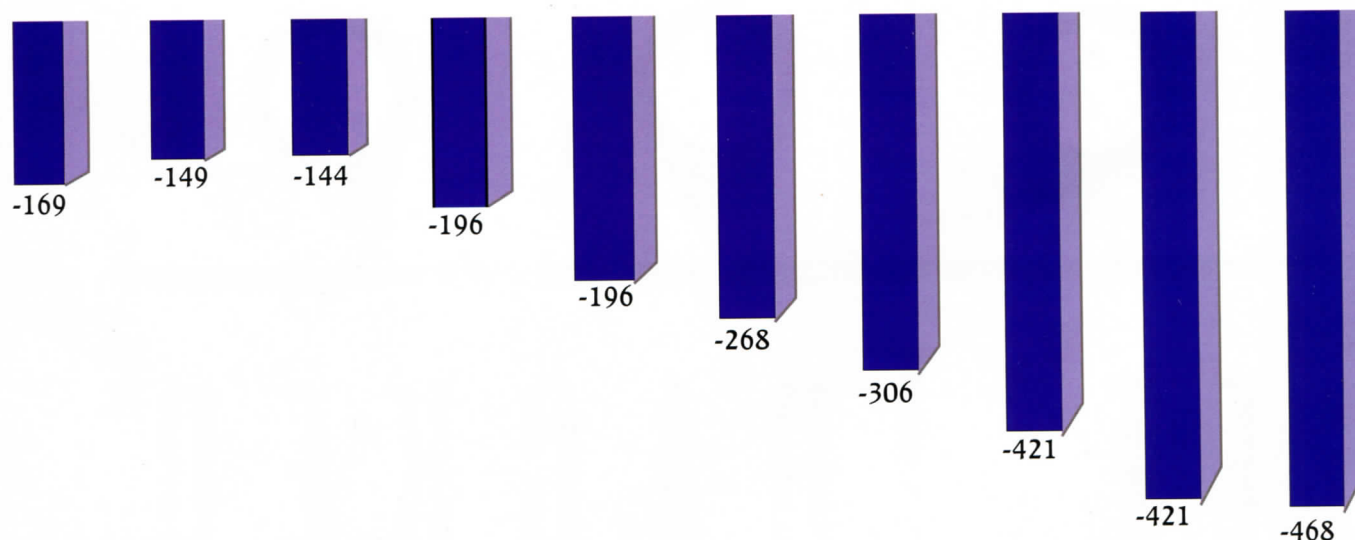
"A lot of this is because of the proximity to other schools," Buffalo High School Head Principal **Mark Mischke** said. "I'm hearing that some of it is [due to] religious reasons, some of it is homeschooling. Some [students] want to go to a smaller school system like Maple Lake, and some kids don't like the volume of Buffalo High School. In some cases, it's what they hear from their neighbors. Word of mouth is still pretty significant when people decide on schools. Some of the other school districts are busing into our school district, which is something you normally don't do. [For instance,] Rockford buses our entire district. There is some frustration with schools when they go outside the normal

procedural expectations [by busing] into another district to get kids."

Some students choose to leave Buffalo due to programs or an atmosphere other schools can offer their students that Buffalo cannot. **Rachel Lenz** is a Hanover resident and a St. Michael High School senior who chose not to attend Buffalo because of hockey. "I had already made so many



The light purple line shows student enrollment numbers and the dark purple line represents projections for future enrollment numbers. After years of growth, the district began losing students. Despite the increase of student enrollment this year, projections still show the school district will lose kids in the coming years.



Each year since 2005-2006 school year the net gain or loss of students lost to open enrollment has been graphed. For the last ten years more students have left the district than came in, which means the district has a net loss. In recent years the number of students who chose to opt out for another district have been drastically increasing.

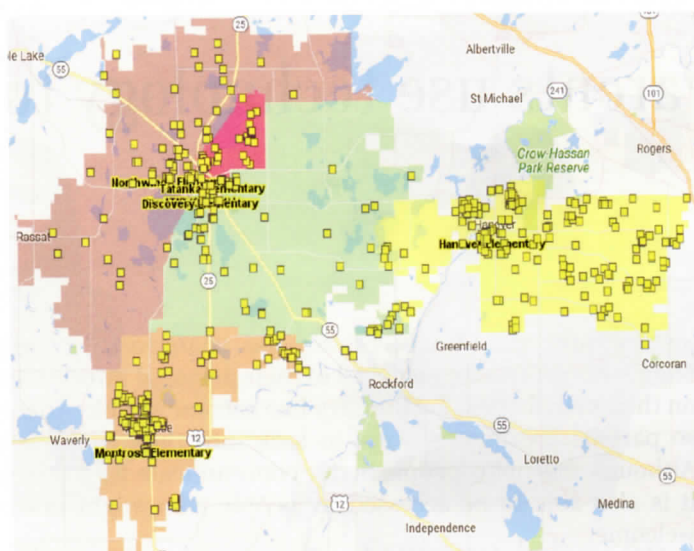
good friendships I didn't want to lose with that hockey team, so that's why I decided to go [to St. Michael]," Lenz said. "St. Michael holds pretty high standards and that's also what's appealing about it. We have a really good athletic program and we just have a lot of school spirit. Our school is overflowing. I don't know why there are so many kids wanting to go to St. Michael but I know we have insanely growing numbers."

If these trends continue, there will be negative effects on BHS and the school district at large, including some staff members not having a place here with a smaller enrollment.

"[If we keep losing kids,] we will have to cut staff," Mischke said. "You would have less people in the building because there is less kids; it isn't any more complicated as that. Quite a bit of our money goes to people: teachers, paraprofessionals, cooks, custodians, people who help our building or work with kids. The fewer kids you have, the less funding you have, the less [staff] you have. That is not a trend we would like to see. If you look at it long term, [if] I'm a new teacher, I want to settle in, have a family, and work for twenty years, this might make me hesitate a little bit on whether my job is secure."

To battle this trend, the school district is trying to reach out and convince families with young children to settle in the district.

"We are trying to boost our marketing efforts to make sure families choose to come to BHM Schools over somewhere else," said **Gary Kawlewski**, District Director of Finance and Operations. "Looking into early childhood programs, we have started to send a gift pack when a child is born. It has some information about the district and even has a little Buffalo Bison onesie. Everything from trying to get to families early and often, from making sure that the programs we offer at our buildings are going to keep kids' attention and make them



This map of the school district pinpoints every student who open enrolls out of the district with a yellow mark. Two large clusters of these students can be found near the border of the district in Hanover and Montrose. However there is a large cluster of open enrolled students in Buffalo.

want to attend here."

However, very recent indications this year might show this trend finally reversing after over a decade.

"We were projected at 1847 [students] this school year, and we came in at 1899," said Mischke. "Starting in October, we had more kids than we had expected. Also, over the last year the elementary schools gained seventy kids; they have never gained that many kids before. That is just one year of measurement, so we will see what happens this year. Hopefully these trends continue and we will see a positive trend at our school."



GET TRACKED

Parents use technology to track their kids

Ella Shuherk
Issues Editor

Over time, the idea of privacy has changed drastically. High schoolers now conceal all of their personal information on their cell phones. Technology has become simpler to use, so parents are finding ways to look into their kids' lives. Although this helps people better communicate with others, it is also able to be accessed by people who might not be welcome.

Some students, such as Sophomore **Cammie Meeker**, have parents who use the Find My Friends app to track her location. "[My parents] aren't super-strict about my phone, because they like to give me some privacy, but my mom mainly just goes through my pictures every once in awhile and they have my location on Find My Friends," she said.

Other students have parents who keep track of phone records, such as Junior **Payton Dannewitz**. "[My parents] get a record each month from our phone company that says how many messages I send throughout the month and amount of calls I make," Dannewitz said. "They also get the times that they're sent and have access to my messages and see the numbers they were sent to and what the messages say."

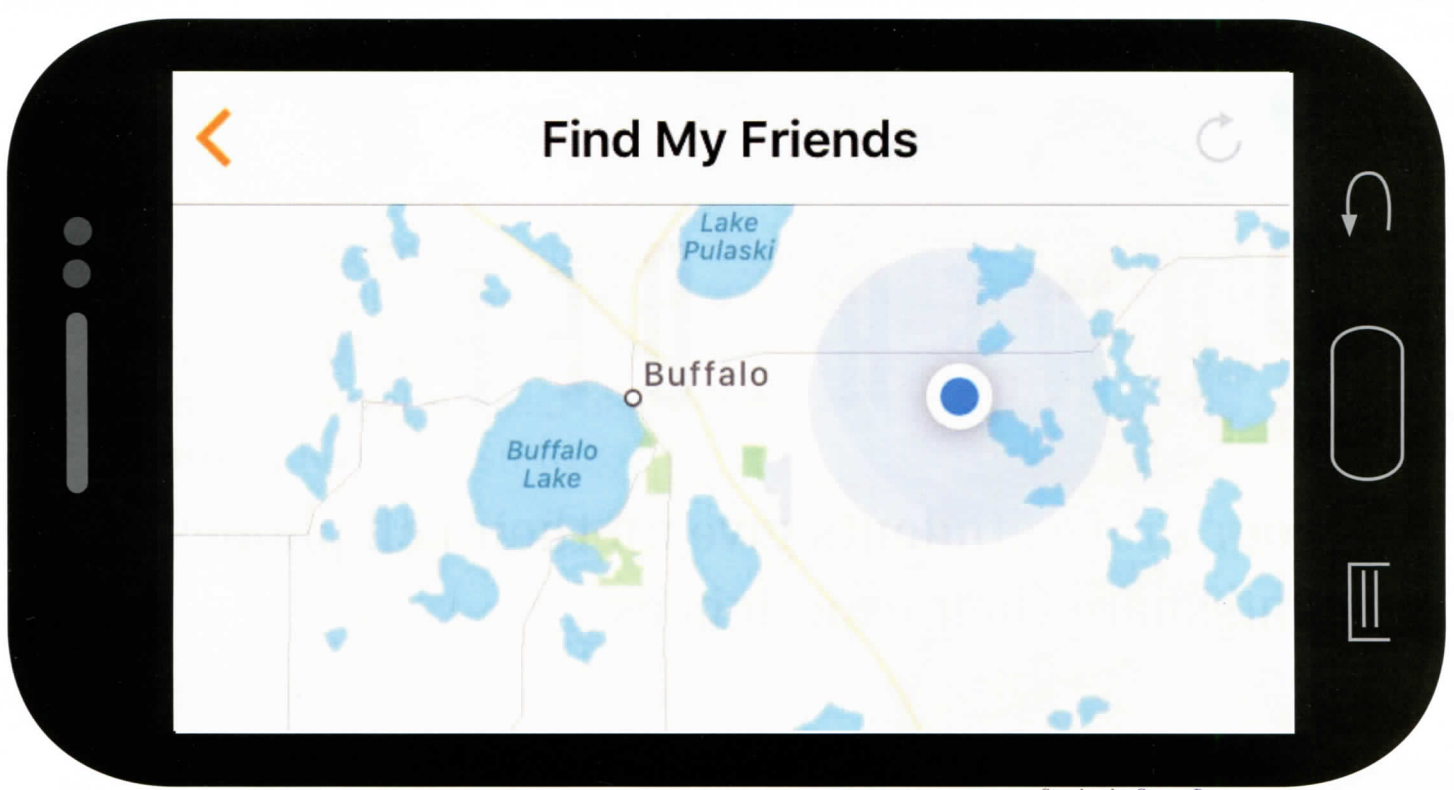
Either way, both students are punished when rules are broken. Meeker's parents prefer to ground her. "They just took my phone away for what was supposed to be a month, but they gave it back early."

For Dannewitz, it is slightly different. "They only get mad when I send messages past 11PM and will threaten to make me leave my phone upstairs. I don't think they've ever looked at what the messages say, but maybe they have and just haven't said anything to me about it."

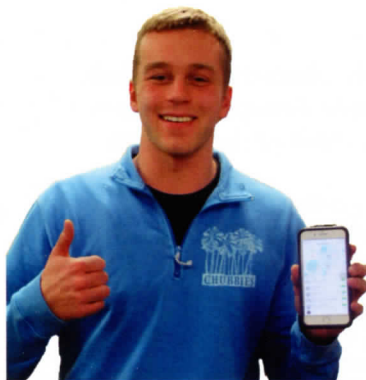
Most kids appreciate their own freedom, and Meeker would like more privacy from parents. "I think parents shouldn't even be allowed to go through their kids' phones at all or track their location," she said. "We all say things we don't need other people going through, and if I want my parents to know where I am, I'll tell them."

High school students want to feel independent and to be trusted by their parents, and parents want to make sure their children are acting safely and smart. These differing opinions cannot be changed in a day, and it may take compromise to coexist happily.

"We all say things we don't need



Graphic by Carter Barton



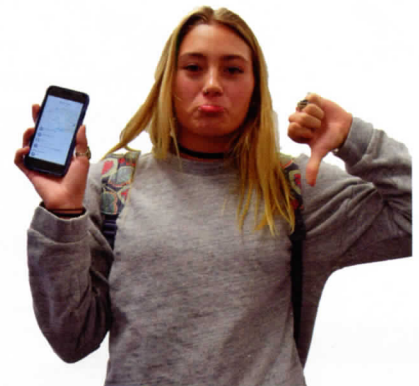
Joshua Muntifering

"I started using the app this past summer. I use it to track where my parents are and my friends. The app helps because it lets me know if my parents are going to be home at a certain time or if I want to hangout with friends if they are even around. This app could harm me if I allow people to follow me because if I don't want to hangout with someone they would know if I'm lying."



Abigail Vogeler

"Privacy is a huge down fall. I found out about the app when I was hanging out with my friend. She was grounded, but her mom tracked her and found out where she was. I was kinda creeped out because I wouldn't people tracking at any given time. Although, I think it would be nice if you need directions to meet someone, or you can check to see how far they are."



Sydney Johnson

"I started using the app when it first came out. I use it to track both family members and friends; my friends track me every once and a while to make sure I'm being truthful about where I'm going. I hate that about the app. I allow people to track me just because my parents need to make sure I'm where I'm supposed to be. The app really doesn't benefit me at all, but it doesn't hurt much either."

Photos by Ella Shuherk

other people going through." Sophomore
Cammie Meeker

POWER OFF

Four brave students give up their cell phones and share their experiences

|Lucie Goede
|Culture Writer

Today nearly two-thirds of American adults own some kind of smartphone. This amount has almost doubled since 2011, according to Pew Research Center. As we start off 2017, technology is rapidly advancing, and we now have the whole world at our fingertips. Although this is considered to be beneficial, we are becoming so connected to the little devices in our hands that it may be becoming unhealthy. Nomophobia is a phobia in which someone becomes extremely anxious and less comfortable without their phone in their hand. Four BHS students took the challenge to see if they could spend a week off the grid.

Sophomore **Roberta Rooker** was one of the participants who gave up her phone. Rooker had a very positive experience taking a break from technology.

"It wasn't really a big deal or anything for me. I don't have a lot of people I talk on my phone anyway. And I would rather talk to people in person anyway," Rooker said. "[Not having my

phone] definitely positively affected me and made me get out and talk to people. Being able to share emotions and feelings in person are better than over text."

Although Rooker had a positive experience losing her phone for a week, others didn't like it as much. Overall, Junior **Rebecca Westrum** enjoyed the experience, but sometimes it was difficult.

"Not having my phone was good but also bad," Westrum said. "It was bad because I couldn't send a quick text to my parents if I needed something. But, other than that I can survive without my phone because I don't talk to a lot of people. I liked not having my phone because then I wasn't worried about getting it taken away by teachers."

Although some people may find it impossible to live without their phones and total connection to the world at their fingertips, it is completely possible to live normal lives without a cell phone, and in some cases, it results in a positive outcome.

“ Overall, not having my phone positively affected me. I got to look at the world a little bit more and notice things I never noticed before.”
- Freshman Katie Dismang



“ If you surround yourself with technology that's all it's gonna be, but if you let go of it sometimes you'll be more social and open in person. ”
- Junior Rebecca Westrum



“ The best part about not having my phone was being able to talk to people in-person. You are able to feel something that you can't feel over text.”
- Sophomore Roberta Rooker



“ It felt good to get away from everything for awhile and not have my phone as a distraction. Not having my phone helped get rid of drama on social media and with friends.”
- Sophomore Angelica Schug



WORKING OVERTIME

Heavy schedules' impact on student athletes and their schoolwork

Mason Schmidt
Staff Writer

Bob Johnson said it best when he stated, "It's a great day for hockey." The quote may be taken a little too seriously when it comes to the construction of the Buffalo's Boys Hockey schedule. Both Varsity and Junior Varsity players have been living at the rink ever since their season started on November 14th. Between practices, scrimmages, tournaments, and games, it seems that every day must be a great day for hockey.

With longer, more intense practices and challenging opponents, everyone is looking to improve upon a lackluster 11-11-3 record last year. The boys only have six days off throughout the season. The question is whether or not this congested schedule could kick start a more successful season or whether it is too demanding for these student athletes.

"On school days it can be difficult to find free time to do things beyond hockey," Senior **Nick Mueller** said. On average, the team will practice 5-6 times a week, spending up to 15 hours a week at the rink and on the ice. The effort put forth by the players has so

far proven to benefit the team. They have started the season 6-6 in their first twelve games as opposed to the 4-7-1 record they started with last year.

Mueller said, "My least favorite thing [about the schedule] is having to balance hockey and school work to maintain good grades. It can be hard trying to use time management skills to balance it all when you're tired." These two statements highlight a major concern shared by both the coaches and staff. They are called student athletes for a reason. It is difficult when nobody can determine where the line should be drawn.

"I do like the schedule because it's tough and we play against teams that are ranked pretty high. It has allowed us to build better connections as a team," Mueller said. This ostensibly was a consensus between nearly all of the players. Junior **Jared Sullivan** said, "I think having the busy schedule is good because when you don't practice, you begin to notice it on the ice and you feel sluggish. The biggest thing that's different this year is the school start time, which has thrown everything off."





Some players have barely noticed any difference in the schedule, and others just want to be on the ice as much as possible. Senior **Blake Habisch** emphasized that the schedule has only benefitted him in his pursuit to better himself as a player and teammate. "You always have to work on your skills to keep up with other players in the sport," he said.

Habisch has a strong love and passion for hockey and has spent a large portion of his life on the ice. "It's my last year, so playing with a busy schedule is fun. I might as well soak it all in because I'm never going to play high school hockey again."

You can imagine that the busy schedule could be harder on certain players more than others. Sophomore **Nathan Mueller** had to confront the

task of transitioning into a varsity sport in the midst of their busiest season yet. However, he was able to tackle the challenge head on. "I believe that the schedule has helped to connect the team. It's made the transition from youth to high school much easier." This, accompanied with his astounding .910 save percentage and three shutouts as the goalie, has helped to show how well this difficult schedule has served him and his team.

While it may seem to be an uphill battle, the boys have so far been able to pull off this tedious task. The busy schedule has strengthened the team and has brought them closer together, enhancing the chemistry they have on the ice. Each player's individual passion for the sport has allowed them to push themselves to the max and win the battles that count.

SPECTRUM

OF

TECH



Whether a constant presence or a rare luxury, the use of technology is different for everyone



ANDREW SCHERBER

Senior Andrew Scherber sees his phone as mostly a distraction from real life. He prefers to store exciting life events in his memory instead of in technology. "When I visited Europe for two weeks this summer I only took 32 pictures," Scherber said. I realize people like the evidence, the memories, but I find the best memories are the things you don't take pictures of. The world isn't in the camera, the communication isn't in the phone; it's all about getting out of the technology and living life in the present moment."

Naomi Curran
Staff Writer





GARRETT FADDEN

While not an avid user, Sophomore Garrett Fadden recognizes the benefits and disadvantages of using technology.

"[I use technology] less than a lot of people, actually. I use social media, but I don't like to sit there and text all the time. I'm more of a face-to-face type of person," Fadden said. "You can get addicted, which can be a definite con. It can consume your life. The pro is that info is easier to get."



■Photos by Eric Braun

EMMA WEBER

Snapchat and Spotify are where Junior Emma Weber spends a lot of her time. She starts the day by updating her streaks and ends it on her phone as well.

"I use (my phone) to be social, to make connections --I like to be able to reach out to others," Weber said. "I still hang out with people in person fairly often, but when you get busy like I have that's not always an option. So sending my snaps and liking those Insta pics is a way for me to be social without having to sacrifice time."

