

Study hall would be of benefit—too bad there is no money

JOSHUA KIM

Hectic work and activity schedules hinder student study time, while study hall gives students time to finish homework earlier and to do last minute studying for a test.

Extracurricular activities take time, leaving less time to do homework. If a student participates in school activities that conflict with student studies, students may be discouraged from participating in order to finish their homework in a timely manner.

However, students could take advantage of this option and use it as free time. A school cannot influence how hard students will work on their studies. A student's effort is something that they choose for themselves. Study hall would be a class where students would do work because they wanted to.

"Yeah, [study hall] would actually be really nice," Christopher DelBene, senior, said. If a student needs the

extra time to study, why can we not give it to them?

Study hall is not an option during the day because we technically have a study hall before and after school according to Aaron Downs, Assistant Principal. However, in many situations students do not have the time or a ride to come to these study halls.

An additional problem with providing study hall during the day is that it would require another teacher, and obviously after our recent cuts that would not be feasible.

If study hall were to be given as a class option for students, credit would not be received for taking the class. To earn the required 48 credits over four years, taking study hall one semester would require you to take an early bird or summer class. If a student were to fail a class, the student would then have to make up for that as well. If a student feels he or she will need study hall in the future,

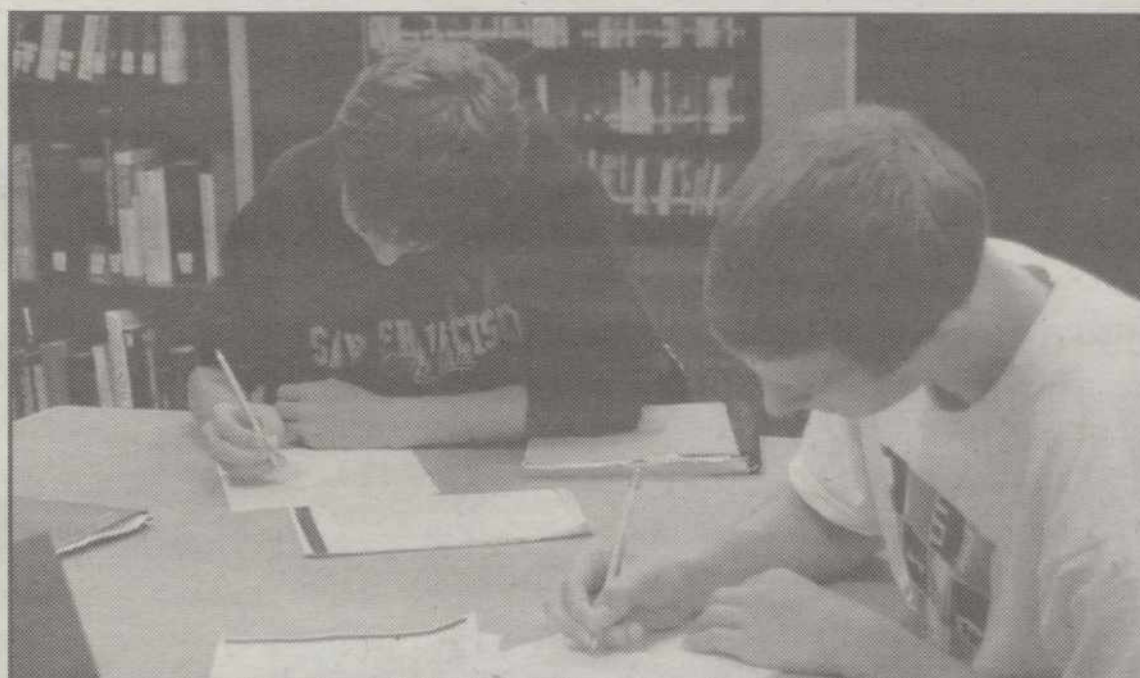


Photo by Rachael Woolley

James Topping and Derek Sunkle, freshmen, study during their second period English 9 class. With students working at different paces and being involved in extra curricular activities, study hall could be a desirable option for some.

the student could plan ahead by taking an early bird class to receive an extra credit. The option of study hall would require student responsibility and would also give students a cushion if classes ended up being more difficult than expected.

Allowing students to take study hall during the day

would show understanding of students' needs. Graduating with honors is not easy for everyone. If a student needs more time for school work, the school should give it to them. High school is an important time for kids as it helps to shape their future. If a student has the ability to succeed in challenging classes, but does

not have the required time to study, then the student is missing out on education and a heightened future because of an avoidable absence of time.

Four hundred thirty-five students are enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement class this year and 27 take four or more. In order to graduate with honors, at least 12 honors/AP credits must be earned. Study hall would provide an opportunity for students to pursue goals such as graduating with honors as it would offer the time to study for the more challenging courses.

I believe that giving a study hall option that requires responsibility and accountability could not hurt anyone. It could provide opportunities for a better future by allowing students to reach their full learning potential. Study hall during the day is not necessary for a school to run, but it would help all of those who really need it.

Large classes create frustration; students, teachers affected

PATRICK DOUGLAS

Students and teachers are being forced to accept and deal with the oversized classes. Classes have gone from a range of 24 to 30 students, to 29 to 37 students per class, according to Lou Bailey, principal.

"Nobody got hit as bad as us," Kathy Logan, Scheduling and Assessment Administrator, said. Districtwide, WLHS suffered the greatest strains from the budget cuts. The entire district has been adversely effected, but West Linn is in worse shape than most of the other schools in the district, according to Logan.

"I feel so sorry for the teachers and the kids," Logan said. Larger classes mean that teachers now have much less time to focus on individuals, which will make it harder for teachers to meet individual needs.

Large class sizes are an

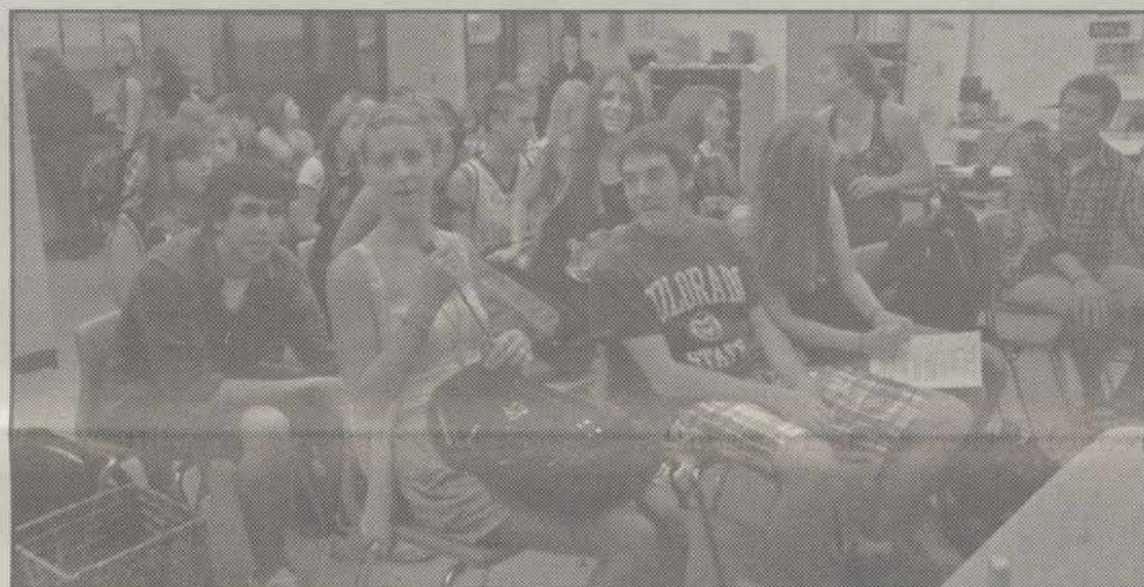


Photo by Patrick Douglas

Fourth period Advanced Photo consists of 36 students in room D103. As was true in numerous classrooms, more chairs had to be brought in to accommodate the increased number of students.

unfortunate part of the cuts. Class sizes can't return to normal until the Oregon economy improves.

Spanish is one class that has a large increase of students. Some Spanish classes have up to 37 students, stretching the limits of effective schooling. Though language may have taken a huge hit, it isn't the

only class that's affected. English and math teachers alike face unbearably large class sizes.

"We're all in the same boat," Curt Collingwood, Spanish teacher, said. Students and teachers are feeling the same pinch as a result of these oversized classes. Aside from overcrowding, there are

additional problems resulting from these changes.

"It's making the classes kind of hot too, with all the bodies in the room," Collingwood said. Between the decrease in air conditioning and increase of people, some classrooms are uncomfortably warm.

Letting go of teachers and scaling back programs is unfortunate. The administration's priority is to keep all the programs that we have. The only exception is that Chinese 1 was not offered this year.

We have seen many cuts to teaching and classified staff. So why is money being used on technology, renovation and other less important school needs? There are two types of funding; capitol money and operations money. Money used on

technology and renovations comes from a bond approved by voters. This money cannot be used on operations, such as teachers salaries.

The common misconception is that we are using money on technology and renovations when we could be keeping teachers. This can't happen.

"Can we design something different?" Bailey said. One of the administration's possible solutions is to look at alternatives to how we split up classes. Bailey suggests we might be able to give some students a greater degree of autonomy in classes, giving them time alone to work.

Teachers and students are facing dramatic changes this year. With all the budget cuts, the next few years will be difficult.

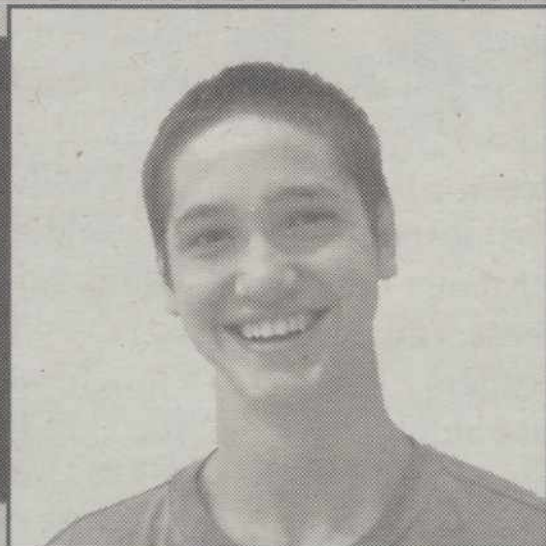
STUDENTS speak out

How would you feel if the school offered study hall as an elective?



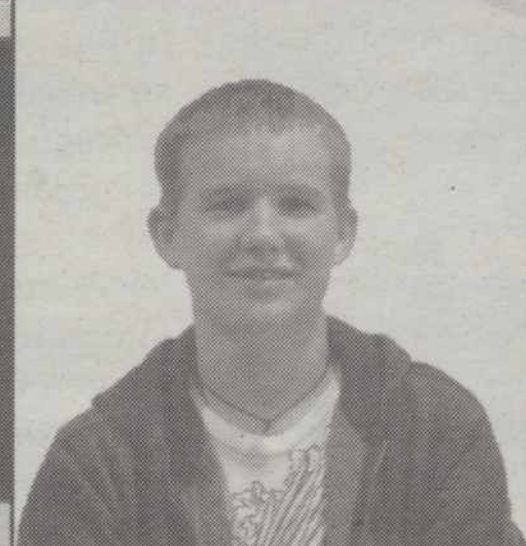
"It would be good sometimes, especially for people who have after school activities or sports."

—Amanda Comings, freshman



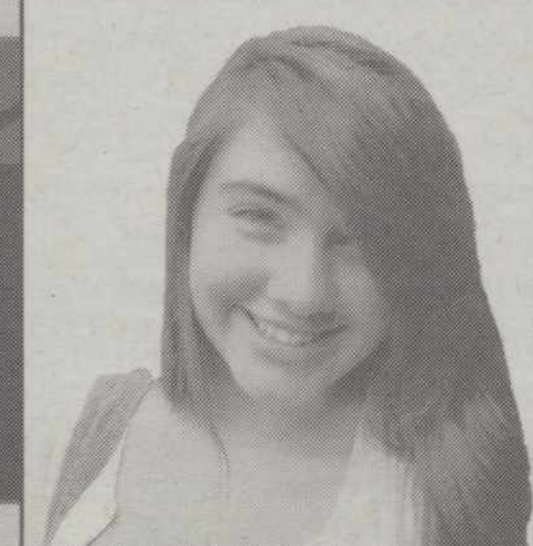
"I would like it because it would give the students time for homework if they choose to offer it. I would take that class."

—Daniel Plotnick, sophomore



"I think a lot of people probably wouldn't take it that seriously, but for the people who do it'd be very helpful."

—Bryan Steele, junior



"That would be cool, I would've taken it for sure."

—Savannah Ellingson, senior