

Passbook change one of many old rules, different enforcement

Any students traveling the halls during class now know the school's new passbook policy. Principal Casey Brewster sheds some light on this new policy, as well as some of the new school rules and several of the old.

"The passbook has been implemented as a consistent way for teachers to send students from room to room," said Brewster.

The pass exists so teachers no longer have to decipher odds-and-ends passes from other rooms, and so it is easier for staff to identify why a student is out in the hall during class. Students are susceptible to any staff member wishing to stop them in the hall, for any paid staff has the authority to stop a student and demand to see their book.

The administration is also hoping for another use of the passbook.

"Obviously the book has other features than just passes," said Brewster.

The hope is that students will use the book to stay organized and keep up with homework and other activities.

"We recognize that many students will probably not use every feature the book has to offer, but we hope that it will help somehow," said Brewster.

Like all school textbooks, students will be held accountable for losing the passbooks. A new one must be purchased immediately. Unfortunately for the students who lose or otherwise do not have their passbooks, there are further consequences.

"Typically what will happen is the pupil without his or her

passbook won't be allowed to leave the room. Should it be an issue of truancy, we'll follow all truancy punishments listed in the book," said Brewster.

As far as the passbook being utilized in future years, that is still uncertain. So far, the staff has been pleased with how the books are working and sees no reason to discontinue their current use.

Another issue that has caused some changes in school policy is mess localization in the cafeteria. As of now, each student is required to carry a tray with their lunches, a system that previously was optional. Brewster explains the school's intentions here as well.

"Before trays were mandatory, cafeteria staff was seeing a large amount of messes on the tables and floors. We feel that the staff shouldn't be forced to clean this up day in and day out," said Brewster.

By asking all students to use a tray, messes in the cafeteria will be situated in one spot and will be easier to clean, since trays are being cleaned anyway.

The trays, thought of as an inconvenience to some high school students, are not much compared to the junior high's new rules in the cafeteria. In addition to mandatory trays, junior high students must raise their hands once finished eating, wait for a staff member to check their table area, and then are dismissed accordingly.

"This is less a punishment than an effort to teach students to clean up their areas. This is something we want students to be able to do without being told," said Brewster.

The staff wants all students to take pride in their school. However, the amount and size of

messes during junior high lunch leads the staff to believe this is not the case.

The good news for the junior high is that these rules are conditional only.

"Good behavior can absolutely fix this problem," said Brewster.

One change in school policy that

has riled up older students somewhat is the relocation of student parking. Before, there was no defined separation of student and staff parking. This naturally led to some mixing of student and staff parking in all the various lots. This meant that staff would have a much larger area to monitor before and after school. By finally separating students from staff, the parking lots should become safer with the student lots monitored at all times.

"In this case, the benefits outweigh the negatives," said Brewster.

The staff does acknowledge that this typically places students farther away, but not by much. The furthest lot from the building is only right across the street, so distance should not be a major issue.

Furthermore, Brewster feels that such a change has actually given students more options of where to park as opposed to less. The only spots on high school ground that are off limits to students are the lots that sit next to the loop, the loop itself, the spots on the divider on the north side of the building and the lot closest to the band room. Contrarily, the lots by the flagpole, across the street, behind the auditorium and cafeteria, by the weight room and by the vocational building are all open to any student drivers with a permit.

Lastly, an issue that has caused a bit of a stir among students is the dress code; while no major changes have been made to the dress code this year, existing policies have been reemphasized. Brewster is completely fine with explaining many of the finer reasons behind each individual part of the dress code.

Facial piercings have long been a contested issue between several students and teachers. The main reasoning behind the rule against facial piercings is a safety issue. It is very possible for students, especially in physical education classes, to be hit across the face with an object causing the piercing to be ripped out.

"Honestly, a facial piercing doesn't enhance a classroom experience. We recognize that students want to express their individuality, but the benefits of having a facial piercing do not outweigh the negatives," said Brewster.

Furthermore, the staff wants to illustrate that facial piercings would not serve much of a benefit in future life. While a student might enjoy them now, a majority of businesses will not hire someone that has a facial piercing, and in many areas the piercings are not socially acceptable at all. Even though it is impossible to say how each student will feel about their respective piercings

down the road, it is entirely possible students will regret them, so if this particular dress code policy stops that regret, the staff feels they are doing a good thing.

Another issue between staff and students has been holes in jeans. While many students have wondered about the validity of this policy, staff has been insistent this policy continue.

"It's impossible to define exactly when a hole in clothing is too revealing. Whether or not a hole is revealing depends on the individual's body type and gender, so to set limits on each individual student would be unfair and almost impossible to do," said Brewster.

Currently, should a student wish to wear shorts or a skirt, the rule is that it needs to be knee length. This is a consistent way to measure each student. While the policy used to be fingertip length, this was not fair for many students. Students with longer arms could not necessarily wear the same shorts or skirts as another student with shorter arms. By changing the shorts and skirts policy to knee length, every student is afforded the same opportunities here.

The blanket ban on holes in the jeans, below and above the knees, is due more to convenience than to actual distaste in the fashion. While the holes may not necessarily be appropriate or not, the time that would need to be invested in each individual student to determine appropriateness would not be a large enough benefit to outweigh the consequences of the time that each staff member would lose judging student outfits.

Despite who presents any new changes in school policies, every change must be approved by the school board. Sometimes teachers or administration will want a change in policy and sometimes the school board wants one, but no matter what, the school board has to approve any change. Changes are typically made at the end of the year when the administration reviews all of the school policies and decides if each of them, individually, are worth keeping, or if there is some way they can be changed to become more efficient.

"We always watch to see if the benefits outweigh the consequences. Any change in school policy is done to help students and staff alike become more efficient workers," said Brewster.



Photo by Dylan Hoover



New library, new technology

Library provides multiple resources for all ages

For everyone out there who thought that print was dead, prepare to be proven wrong.

In production since November 2008, the new library is located on Water Street, less than a mile away from its previous residence on the northeast side of the town square. When the doors opened on August 30, the library was met with positive reviews by the public.

The new library sports some of the features of the original, including the front desk and four bookshelves from the previous library. There are still fiction and non-fiction sections, children sections and videos to check out, but there are also multiple new additions to the services offered by the library.



One of the most significant changes is the way in which things are now checked out. The Paoli library is now part of the Evergreen statewide checkout system. This means that a person can have any book from any other library in Indiana in the Evergreen system sent to them free of charge for checkout. This gives readers access to a vast amount of reading materials, as they can now get a book even if the library does not have it.

The new "Quiet Reading Room" is a room furnished with chairs and an electric fireplace, the latter of which was donated to the library by the Paoli chapter of the National Honor Society. This room is designed so that normal speaking voices may be used elsewhere in the library without disturbing those who simply wish to read in silence and comfort.

To reach the technology-dependent teenager demographic of today, the "Teen Room" is populated with books of all genres targeted towards teenage readers. In addition, the room features a number of desktop computers, multiple sets of tables and chairs and will at some point possibly feature both snack and drink vending machines.

"The staff is nervous about meeting the

needs of teenagers, but they're willing to give it a try," said Board President of the Paoli Public Library, Larry Hollan.

The library could not have been possible without community grants and donations from various organizations.

The furniture came from both grants by the Orange County Commissioners Supporting Organization and donations from JSI. The wrought iron fencing surrounding the new outdoor area was a gift from Gertrude Farlow, while the stained glass windows are from the estate of Elinor Gardner Jones.

The library is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays; and is closed on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Quotes found above the entrances really sum up the grandeur and excitement of the new public library. Above the children's area reads the popular Dr. Seuss quote, "Oh, the places you'll go." Above the adult area is something a little more thought-provoking. "Within these portals is found the sum of all humanity."



New year brings new faces to classroom

Last year PHS lost a few teachers that students had come to know and love, including math teacher Tom Stuckwisch, government and economic teacher Wes Whitfield and P.E. and basketball coach Joe Hinton.

This school year was met with three new teachers and a new assistant principal.



New math teacher **Adam Stroud** took over Stuckwisch's teaching job. This is Stroud's first year teaching.

He graduated from IUS in May and began his teaching career this year. He graduated from West Washington High School.

While at West Washington he participated in football. Stroud is currently a football

coach for the junior high.

"I love the school. There is a nice group of kids and teachers. The administration is great," said Stroud.

To step in and take the spot of Whitfield is **Scott Gudorf**.

Before teaching here, Gudorf taught at Dubois Middle School.

He graduated from Jasper High School where he competed in track and field. After high school he went to UJC College, where he later attended USI and got his Bachelor's degree in science. He plans on coaching cross country and junior high girls track.

"I really enjoy the school. I love the kids and teachers. They all seem excited. It's

pretty fun," said Gudorf.

Jason Harrell had the privilege to step up and take over Hinton's gym teaching position. He also has taken over the role of the head basketball coach. Harrell went to high school at Eastern Pekin, where he played basketball. After high school he furthered his education at Blackburn College in Illinois.

"I love the students, staff and facilities, in that order," said Harrell.

Todd Hitchcock took over as assistant principal when Casey Brewster stepped up as principal. This is one of the biggest changes for the school this year. Before Hitchcock came to Paoli, he taught at New

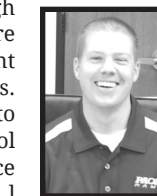


Palestine High School where he taught social studies. He went to high school at Lawrence Central High School.

Hitchcock attended college at Purdue where he received his social studies degree.

"It's hard keeping up with everything," said Hitchcock.

These new staff members have been chosen to meet the expectations of those whose footsteps they have followed in. It is going to be exciting to see how these new additions to the staff affect the school.



In other news

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10 List

Awareness movements you might not know about:

1 **"I (heart) boobies" bracelets and apparel:** Is a national campaign to help raise awareness about prevention and treatment of breast cancer by raising awareness of the disease.

2 **(Red):** Works with brands such as Armani, Hallmark, Converse, Nike, Starbucks and Dell. Fifty percent of profits go directly to Africa to help people who need it most, those fighting for their families' lives and trying to stay AIDS free.

3 **The Super Colon Tour:** A giant blow-up colon that people can walk through to raise awareness about the importance of your colon and the prevention of colon cancer. This traveling exhibit is currently located in Lafayette, CO.

4 **Sextexts.org:** Text one, three, five or six to 61827 for more information on contraception, STDs or certain relationship advice.

5 **GYT (Get Yourself Tested) Campaign:** Put together by MTV, the Kaiser Family Foundation, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Gives teens information in a way that will make them listen (such as the acronym for Get Yourself Tested). They have t-shirts that say "GYT: get yourself talking, get yourself tested," to help promote being tested for STD's.

6 **Stayteen.org:** Gives information on abusive relationships, abstinence and sexting. This website is promoted on *Secret Life of the American Teenager* on ABC Family through commercials.

7 **The Drive Against Prostate Cancer:** A national mobile, screening unit, which offers free and confidential PSA testing for men all over the US.

8 **"Get a Grip!" campaign:** Designed to increase awareness of testicular cancer and stress the importance of doing self-exams for early detection.

9 **Tourettes is Not a Dirty Word Campaign:** Spreads awareness about what Tourettes really is, instead of the stereotypical idea that those who suffer from Tourettes only say socially unacceptable words.

10 **StandUp for Kids:** A program to help end teen homelessness. *The Don't Run Away* program is a branch of this that gives teen's reasons to stay and what to do if they don't feel like they can.