

PAOLITE

501 Elm Street Paoli, IN 47454 • 812.723.3905 • www.thepaolite.wordpress.com

GOTCHA!!!

Eyes of the school keep watch-out for dishonesty and drama

Security in schools are going through a revolution. More and more schools are going through changes to keep students safer and out of trouble. Paoli Junior Senior high school has met those changes head on.

Since the 2004-05 school year potential thieves, vandals and other rule-breakers have been thwarted with the assistance of security cameras.

In all, there are 48 cameras inside and outside the PHS campus. The footage is connected to three different digital video recorders located in Vice Principal Todd Hitchcock's office.

The cameras are constantly on and recording, but the footage saving starts when they sense motion. The cameras are able to pull up footage from before the motion. All video around three seconds before and after the motion and all the way during is recorded and saved. You will not catch them unaware.

Because the cameras see everything, many mishaps are miraculously managed with this

technology.

Consider the following scenarios: a student says that someone has stolen a purse from their locker. They brought it to school, it is not in their locker, that could be the only solution, right?

Well that is when the cameras come in, with the footage it can be proven that the student took their purse into a classroom and did not bring it out. The purse is found in the classroom, no one is accused of being a thief and a lengthy investigation is avoided.

The cameras work as a reminder to some students that they are being watched.

"The cameras are more preventers than solvers," said Principal Casey Brewster.

Would-be vandals know that the cameras are located around school and they would most likely (if not definitely) get caught doing any monkey business. This keeps the crime rate low and PHS pristine.

The administration may view footage at any time or place they so choose. Whether it be a Saturday in June, or in Kansas on a Tuesday,

Brewster states he can "pull up footage from my Smart Phone."

In addition to the administration, the town of Paoli's emergency personnel may also see what is going on in the school at all times.

"Our police department has access to our video surveillance for intruder type situations. If we ever have a situation where there is a hostile person in the building and it is locked down it would benefit our students safety if law enforcement can see what is going on inside the building to help track down the intruder," said Hitchcock.

All of the safety, problem-solving, crime preventing benefits the security cameras bring the students and staff of PHS comes at a price.

For a company to come in and install the cameras, the costs was around \$30,000. The school had a company install the system but the upkeep and updates are done by the faculty and staff.

With all of these advantages the security cameras give, the investment seems well worth it.

Story by Gracen Dunn Photo by Alyx Ross

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