

Staff editorial

Consequences outweigh the benefits to texting at school

Some students would like to argue that they should be allowed to access their phones during school hours. Teachers and legislature argue against this, making claims that it disrupts the school day. We personally agree with these people.

Many problems have been surrounding this issue including cheating, distracted classrooms, and increased cyberbullying.

According to Lawyers.com, a survey of 2,000 middle and high school students was conducted in 2009 and showed that 35 percent of them used cell phones to cheat and 52 percent used the internet to cheat. Students would be able to text other students for the answer or get on the internet to look up answers during a test. They would also be able to save notes on their phone, giving them an advantage during a test or quiz.

Although some students would like to argue that they work better when listening to music, Peter Bregman wrote in the Harvard Business Review Blog Network that multi-tasking can reduce productivity by as much as 40 percent, increase stress and cause a 10-point fall in IQ. When students are al-



Graphic by: Mikaela Click

lowed to listen to music, or use their phones for activities that the teacher has not allowed, this takes away from the students ability to learn.

As of March 6, 2012, a nationwide bill was in consideration for putting principals into students' lives even more. The law currently states that a student can be expelled from school if they partake in illegal activities if it distracts from their schooling or other students schooling. The new bill would allow teachers to take responsibility for students' actions on the internet and cellphones. If we allow students to text during school, more cyberbullying could happen, and more students could get in trouble.

But, there are benefits to texting at school. During emergencies, students would be able to call their parents and alert them of any danger. They would also be able to write papers, or research information for homework when waiting for others to finish their tests. Of course, there will always be kids who abuse the privilege. It is a choice that administration and legislature will have to make in the future.

As technology becomes more prevalent in students' lives, the issue of using cellphones in schools becomes even bigger. Although the staff will make the decision, the students must also take on the responsibility of being considerate for the education of others.