

What was done to help

To cope with the enormous amount of incoming freshmen this year, the returning Antioch Community High School students and faculty had to tolerate some changes from years past. The most noticeable being: the circular commons tables as a replacement for the rectangular picnic tables and the 12 hour schedule instead of the eight hour schedule.

When students walked into the commons on their first day of school, they noticed that something was a little different; no more picnic tables! Over the summer months, the custodial staff replaced the dilapidated picnic tables with more conversation oriented round tables.

"The new seating in the commons leads to less discipline. There are less people at a table and the people at the table are friends, resulting in less negative interactions during lunch hours," said ACHS dean, Sean Garrison.

The outdated picnic tables were in poor condition and not worth the funds needed to fix them. So the administration spent the money on a new seating arrangement instead.

As new as it may seem to the ACHS student body, the

round tables are much more common in high schools and colleges than the picnic tables are.

“The new schedule is not perfect... ..with the number of kids, the old schedule would not have worked”
 -Dr. John Crawford
 ACHS Principal

The old schedule would not have worked, "said Dr. John Crawford, ACHS principal.

We may be at a slow crawl in the hallways at times, but can you imagine having all 2,300 students in the hallways at one time? It would be impossible to move.

The 12 hour schedule also gave students shorter periods from periods four through 10. Instead of 48 minutes per period they now have 24 minutes.

Even with these two drastic changes this year, the ACHS student body is handling itself very well.

What was done wrong

One step forward and two steps back; that's the attitude of the majority of the student body at Antioch Community High School after the changes were made to deal with the abundance of students during the 2003 school year.

Students feel that even though the administration tried to fix some things, it just wasn't enough. They feel that there are issues that haven't been addressed.

"I have sixth hour lunch. That lunch hour is very crowded; people are writing their names on tables and chairs to keep other people from using them," says ACHS junior Brendan Madden.

The majority of the students surveyed stated that they have to fight their way through the hallways to get to their classes on time.

“The commons look miserable; I don't believe that we addressed the issue like we should have.”
 -Mr. Ryan Estabrook
 ACHS Teacher

An additional problem that students feel has not been attended to is, the incredibly overcrowded hallways; this issue was supposed to have been eradicated with the implementation of the 12 hour schedule.

"I don't think that the new schedule helped with overcrowding; in the hallways you can't move," said ACHS junior, Krissy Schneider.

Many students are overwhelmed with the number of people in the hallways during passing period. They thought that with the 12-hour schedule, the hallways would be more maneuverable.

Another issue with the 12-hour schedule is the divided class periods that students have. Some students have a class, like English, during periods six and eight; for seventh hour they go to lunch. For the teachers and students this is an inconvenience.

The kids get riled up in anticipation before they go to lunch and they are extremely awake and hyper when they return from it. How can a teacher teach a class when the students aren't paying attention?

If a teacher is in the middle of explaining a new concept to his/her students and then the bell for lunch rings, everything the teacher just said was a waste of time. Most of the students weren't even listening, and if they were, they'll forget it over lunch.

Despite the inconvenience that the ACHS student body, faculty, and staff face this year, next year will be much better. All of the incoming freshmen and half of the sophomores will be sent to the Lakes Community High School. Resulting in a decrease of students at ACHS.



Students flood into the corridor that is located outside of the gyms for the homecoming pep rally on Friday the 19th.



Students in the commons (below) suffer from lack of seating due to the reduction of the numbers of table.

Problems still abound

The students of Antioch Community High School are fully aware of its overpopulation problem, but many do not realize that the administration is cognizant of this dilemma as well.

Rachel Andrews, a senior at ACHS, sums up the problem best. "The hallways are crazy," Andrews says. The administration knew that this year would take their full brainstorming ability to come up with workable solutions to the areas in the school with the most limited capacity.

better suited for about 1600 kids. The administration, however, has not sat idly waiting for the building to burst at the seams.

The administration has seen ACHS' problems and has already taken steps to help alleviate student suffering. Dr. Jon Crawford, principal of ACHS, outlined what his team has done so far. Even before the year started, preparations had to be made for the influx of students that would fill the limited number of classrooms. When a class became too full, the business manager, William Ahlers, had to authorize a new class to be created. This took away classes that once were free for student use, but this problem has been fixed as well. To provide students with a place to work and to receive additional help with their studies, a resource room is always available for student use, and is always staffed with teachers of multiple subjects.

Most students will argue that the most perplexing issue is the crowding of the lunch hours. Out of the students surveyed, this was the most common problem. "You can't find a chair in the cafeteria. I have to pull another chair from a different table to get a seat," said Justin Brown, a sophomore at ACHS. The commons also pose a problem. Since the institution of several round tables in place of the old long benches, many complain about not being able to sit down with their friends, as well as having their chairs stolen from them while in the lunch line. Andrews points out that fights break out over chairs, and that it is hard to

find a chair that is not saved. Many students feel that the round tables are more personal, which is a good thing, but they can also lead to discomfort when forced to sit with someone they do not know. Other problems, such as hallway overcrowding and classroom overcrowding, are also an issue. The school has around 2300 students in its enrollment to date, in a school

opportunities were made by creating a 12 period day, with periods 4-10 set up as lunch hours. This schedule has proven hard to get used to, however.

Paul Applegren, a junior at ACHS, speaks about the flaw of this new schedule. "We only have 25 minutes to eat," Applegren says, "and waiting in line takes half the time we have to eat." Since the acquisition of round tables in the commons was believed to have further limited space, the administration has seen to it that additional furniture is added. Crawford feels there now is enough space for everybody. "There are periods that are busier than others," says Crawford. Some, however, still choose to crowd themselves at one table to be with their friends, while other tables remain unoccupied.



Some students eat off trash cans due to the lack of tables.

As to the number of fights that have already occurred this year, Crawford does not believe that there is a correlation between the crowdedness of the school and the number of fights. Crawford says, "I would not say that the number of kids in the building determines the number of fights." He feels that fights would happen regardless, and that students should be more willing to compromise in the days ahead.

The future will change with ACHS and LCHS

While many complain about overcrowded lunch hours and hallways, help is on the way, but with a new school coming, many are still curious as to how the new school will help the old school with overcrowding.

With Antioch Community High School as crowded as it is this year, small changes, such as new commons tables and a different schedule aren't helping that much. All of the students and staff of ACHS knew that a drastic change was needed to help this district with its overcrowding problem. The answer was a new high school; Lakes Community High School will open up next year as a separate second campus to relieve the congestion at ACHS.

According to Dr. Robert Crist, the new principal for LCHS, in the first year of the new school being open, it will house approximately 1,028 students. Some 699 of which will be the entire freshman class and the other 329 coming from half of the sophomore class living in the 60046 zip code (Lindenhurst and Lake Villa). This leaves ACHS with only 1,549 students. This will not only alleviate the overcrowding problem but actually put ACHS back under its 1,600 student capacity. By the second year LCHS is open it will

WHO WILL GO WHERE?	
04-05	
ACHS	LCHS
9th - 0	9th- 699
10th- 342	10th- 329
11th- 637	11th- 0
12th- 570	12th- 0

have approximately 1,362 students and ACHS will have only 1,381; the schools should not only be equal in student count but also in quality.

Yet another problem at ACHS that shouldn't be a problem at LCHS is crowded hallways. Not only will there be fewer kids attending the school, but the school was better designed to handle the amount of kids attending where as ACHS has had several additions that make certain hallways much more crowded than others.

However, some problems arise from the new school, Junior Paul Applegren says, "As a senior next year I feel it will be good for our school but bad for their high school experience and team unity in sports."

But before the schools split, all teams that do not have separate practices from JV to Varsity will be

bussed from one campus to the other depending on location of practice.

Another problem that came up was that with two different schools, team sports is a daunting question. Shoshanah Kent, an ACHS alumnus said, "With two separate schools there will not be enough talent for two separate teams."

But, according to Dr. Crist, LCHS will only have separate sport teams the second year the school is open (in 2005-2006). So the schools will at least have the same size pool to pick teams from, even though ACHS will have the more mature of the two teams with only Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors, while LCHS will have Freshman, Sophomores, and Juniors.



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The new school will have the benefit of all of the new sport fields located directly next to the high school. These fields include baseball, softball, soccer, an eight-lane track, football field, and tennis courts. Although ACHS has most of these within reasonable reach, the new high school packs all of them in two locations on either side of the school where they are easily accessible.

Another problem that ACHS has had for several years and will have for a couple more years is parking. Not only is parking for students reserved to spots down at the football field, which is a lengthy walk, but also parking spots are limited. The new school will have ample parking for the students that attend and will be much more accessible, especially on those cold bitter days.

Hopefully, the new school will not only alleviate the problems at ACHS but also create a good experience for students attending LCHS.

