



two-minute DESIGN BY DANIE EAVES & KATIE BURKE
WARNING
 NEW SOCIAL MEDIA APP LET'S USERS KNOW WHEN IT'S TIME ...

IN ROOM 223, math teacher Garrett Graves had just finished a Kahoot quiz with his Integrated Algebra class.
 "⚠️ Time to BeReal ⚠️ 2 min left to capture a BeReal and see what your friends are up to!"
 The notification sounded throughout the room. Students pulled out their phones and announced that it was time to BeReal. A few asked Graves to take their pictures.

"No. Go back to your seat," Graves said.
 Students assumed, sometimes incorrectly, that teachers were aware the app took a picture from both the front and back cameras. Graves knew. Rebuffed by Graves, the students paired up for a picture. Within three minutes, it was over and class resumed.
 Graves moved on to the next Kahoot quiz.

BeReal, a social app, rose to popularity not only around the world but within the school. The app sent a notification roughly every 24 hours telling those who had it downloaded to take a photo. Once the app was opened, it showed a two-minute timer slowly counting down. It continued to count down until the person pressed the shutter and sent the pictures. If pictures were sent late, the app noted just how late they were.

When the app was first downloaded, a link had to be shared before continuing into the app.
 "My friend sent me a link in August," freshman Sam Schill said. "I was like 'why not just try it out?' It seemed fun."

The app gave students a quick glimpse into the lives of their friends and what they were doing both inside and outside of school. Unlike other social media apps, BeReal didn't have filters, making it hard to fabricate an image. Like the name says: be real, "[Instead of] taking your time to make it look like you're having fun, it's actually what you're doing," Schill said.

Some students had others take their BeReal for them or for a group of people which made the app more exciting.
 "People started taking BeReals with principals, with their teachers or doing funny stuff at school," freshman Alex Torres said.

The majority of teachers didn't know about the app or what the concept was. Since BeReal takes a picture of both sides of the camera, a photo of the teacher would be captured without their knowledge.
 "Since they don't know what BeReal is, they don't know it has a front camera," Torres said. "That's kind of the joke."

As more teachers became familiar with BeReal, some offered to take pictures for their students.
 "A few teachers actually have BeReal and they know how to work it," Schill said.

BeReals were taken in the mall, the gym and in the classroom or hallways where students tended to hang around and have fun. Some reconnected with old friends through the app.
 "I've met someone that I used to play basketball with in elementary school for my AAU team," senior Evan Coates said. "I heard back from [them on] BeReal. I think it brings some people back together."

BeReal wasn't just an app to take photos with others or with teachers. "It's like a peek into their lives," Torres said.

STORY BY ALIYAH CARTER

BeReal.