

EIC COLUMN



Pony Clapback

Jasmine Allison

With the political climate extremely polarized, all eyes are on the 2022 midterms. Historically, the party in the White House loses control of Congress during the midterm elections. However, recent polling and events indicate that it may not be the case in 2022. There is a chance that Democrats may hold onto half or all of Congress. Democrats must maintain their control of Congress. If Republicans take control of Congress, they have made it clear that they will stall Biden's agenda, introduce unpopular legislation against the will of the American people.

Currently, Democrats hold extremely slim majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate: 223-212 Democrats and 50-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris being the Democrat's tie-breaking vote. Even with their slim majorities, Democrats have passed significant pieces of legislation. The legislation passed by Democrats is, for the most part, popular with the American people, but has been passed with minimal or no support from Republicans.

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Staff Editorial: Office hours should be reinstated

PONY EXPRESS STAFF

The building administration made a decision to take office hours away for the beginning of the 2022 to 2023 school year. The staff provided the incentive that if everyone follows the new tardy and attendance policies, students will get office hours back. This has students upset because they believe they deserve office hours as a staple to get through the week.

Students deserve to have office hours no matter what. Office hours provides nice break in the middle of the week to improve student work ethic and mental health. Without office hours, students struggle to get work in on time, get the help they need and makeup tests in a reasonable time frame.

"It is completely unfair that we need to have any incentive. People who need it, really do need it. It should not just be based on the few people who do not use their time wisely at school," junior Raye Drake said.

Office Hours used to be on Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. This was a time when students could get help from their teachers, work on missing assignments or take a make-up test. Although it got a little chaotic and not enough students used the time to their own benefit, it was still more helpful than not.

Office hours were really good for people who could not get their work done all the time. It is convenient for people who need more help managing their time.

Many students have full schedules with sports, clubs, having a social life and to add to it all they now have to



EDITORIAL CARTOON BY AUBREE BIGGER

find time to make up that test they flunked last week. Students feel this new sense of anxiety because they do not have time to get the extra help they need to get good grades.

Some staff said that office hours were beneficial for people who participate in a sport or do not have much time at home.

Office hours helped provide extra time to do homework, because a lot of people are extremely busy.

One of the things students felt improved within themselves, due to office hours, was their work ethic. With designated time during the week to get caught up on their schoolwork, students believed they were doing better in school and keeping up with the coursework more efficiently.

The staff understands teachers stress accountability. High schoolers are getting older so their grades fall

on their own shoulders now, no one else's. By taking away the opportunity to explore that new sense of freedom and accountability, it is not really giving them that experience.

Although office hours did work for some, it was chaotic and some students took advantage of the time. Some students used that time to go home, hang out with friends or were stuck at school because they took the bus. This caused some to use the time efficiently because it was so easy to do other things that did not help their grades.

Despite those who chose not to utilize office hours to the fullest extent, most students found it valuable.

Many students took advantage of office hours last year. With it no longer in their week, many agreed they would use it to their own benefit if office hours came back.

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The staff editorial is written by the *Pony Express* staff and headed by Editors-in-Chief. The *Pony Express* is a member of the High School Press Syndicate, the Columbia High School Press Association, International Quill and Scroll, National Scholastic Press Association and the Minnesota High School Press Association.

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