

It is increasing social interaction, especially at lunch or passing period because you're not just staring at your phone.

- ERIN STITT, 11



Without our phones everybody really has to interact with everyone.

- HARLAN BARBOUR, 10

It kind of is increasing social interaction because when you're on your phone you're just kind of like by yourself and all.

- AVA SKINNER, 9

It's a lot harder to conduct interviews in journalism, so I have to work around that.

- COOPER UNRUH, 11

# Staying Unplugged

Students Share Perspectives On Cell Phone Ban

Cell phones have been a crucial part of everyday life for years, including at school. Before the school year, the state banned student cell phones, causing obstacles for some technology-dependent programs.

"There's been a little bit of frustration as I try to navigate a no-cell-phone world when it used to be a primary tool for my anatomy class," science teacher NeQuelle DeFord said. "I actually went out and purchased some student cameras."

The state law declared that personal devices were not allowed in classrooms from bell to bell. However, schools could decide whether there were exceptions to this rule for educational purposes.

DeFord did not feel the ban was all bad. "I think that even though students are frustrated, in the classroom there is a lot more focus," DeFord said. "I'm seeing more productive students and focused students."

This isn't only an issue in classrooms but

outside of them, too. Programs like Student Council use phones to keep people in the know about events and changes.

"The phone policy makes it very hard, especially just for my job," StuCo historian Aarylin Holt said. "A lot of my posts have to be later than when they need to be posted. It makes it a lot more difficult."

The law continued to impact programs. While teachers noticed more focus in class, others worked to find ways to function without phones. // Written by Hadley Byler

It doesn't really affect me personally.

- REESE RENO, 9

Not being able to submit any assignments on my phone because it's easier that way.

- SCARLETT GATES, 10

Yes and no. I think that's what they try to do – they try and be like old high school days where everybody was talking to each other and phones wasn't a thing.

- ALBERTO RUIZ, 11

It makes it a bit difficult trying to find places and times you're able to record for STTV because it's a lot easier to record on your phone.

- OWEN GARRETT, 12