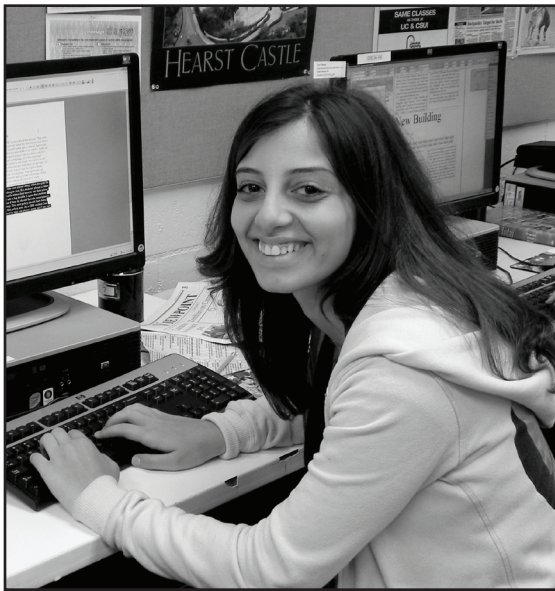


VIEWPOINT

STAFF EDITORIAL

Taking Unnecessary Measures



Going into our final year at Glendale High, I think I speak for all the seniors when I say that leaving school early is one of the best advantages for this crucial year. According to the School Board of Education we need to stay for five periods at school.

The only exception to this policy is that seniors can leave after fourth period if we have a job or go to college. We all know neither one of those are a walk in the park. Finding a job these days is not easy, especially if you are a high school student who has not had any prior experience.

Those going to GCC know that high school students are left last to enroll in classes, which means you will be lucky to find a class that is not full. Plus, any class that is not full is probably not a course you are interested in anyway. This is coming from the girl who was only left with the option of taking beginning yoga.

I believe everyone at Glendale High is aware of the epidemic that is going around that we all like to call senioritis. Senioritis is making it even more unbearable to endure the seven long hours we spend at school. So, I say why make us stay longer than needed at school if we have the credits to graduate? If a student has all their credits so far, they pretty much only need to take three periods in their senior year.

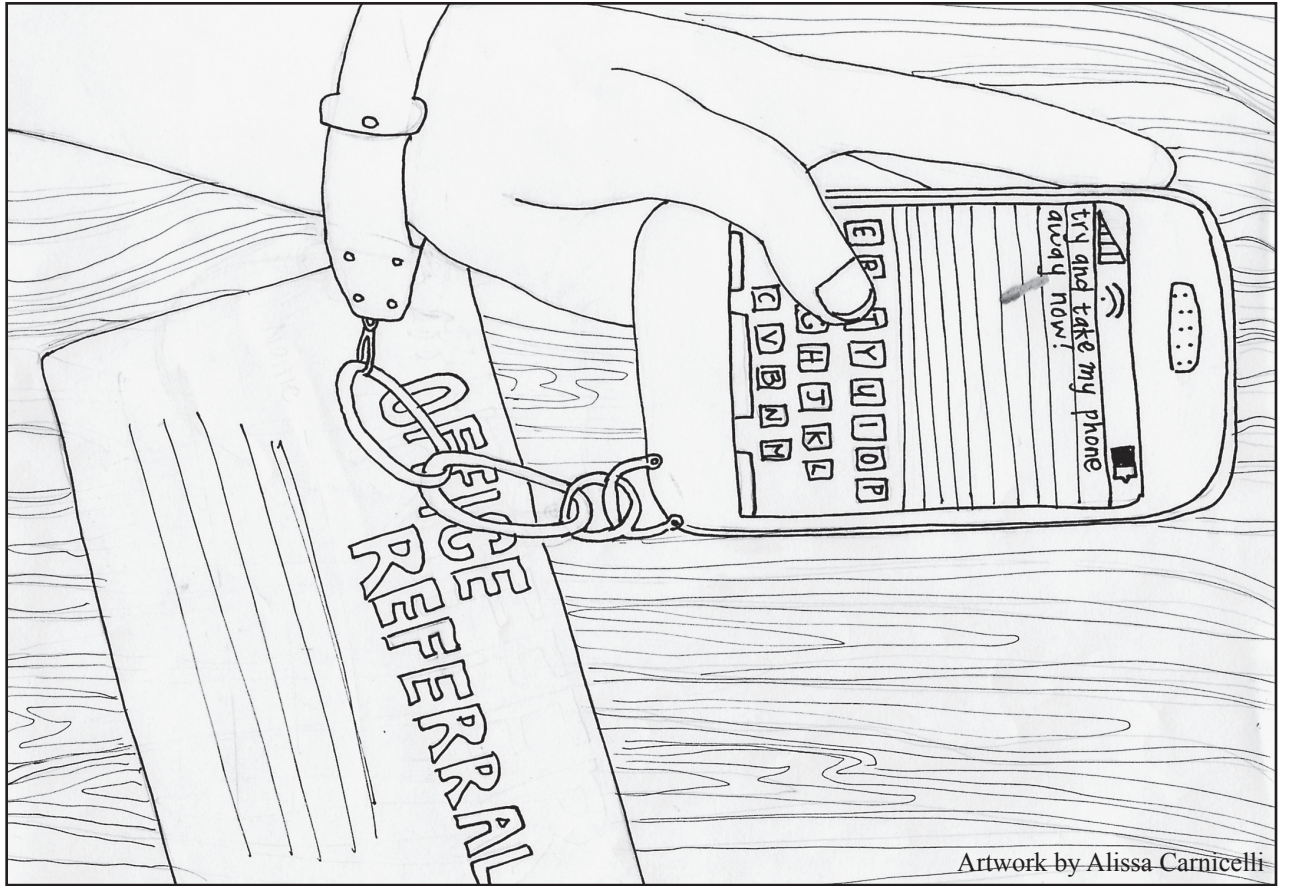
If we stay in those extra periods, we will only be taking classes we don't need. I believe we will be more diligent in class if we didn't have those extra hours at school, because that gives us more time to focus fully on what we have to do before graduation. As seniors, we constantly perfect our personal statements for the Universities we hope to attend after high school.

This is our year to act like adults, so give us the time to do it. No employer is going to let me come in for an interview at 4 o'clock because I couldn't make it due to my somehow-required T.A period. Now it is time to practice what you preach and let us be the responsible adults you prepared us to be.

Everyone complains about how the classes are overcrowded, so they should take out some of those seniors in those classes that don't even need to be there. The seniors will be more than happy to help out with that problem. Also, the most common water cooler talk these days is the deteriorating economy. So with all these budget cuts, especially now when the teachers are dropping like flies, why take unnecessary measures to keep students in classes that are not even needed?

I mean I respect the fact our teachers and advisors work hard to make sure we graduate so by all means, if someone is lacking the credits let them stay the full seven hours to earn their credits. Let us only take as many classes as we need.

This column was written by Mariana Shakaryan, Viewpoint Editor of *Explosion*.



Artwork by Alissa Carnicelli

We are sure that everyone is aware of the new policy at Glendale High School concerning all the electronics that students are not allowed to use on campus.

This new policy states and ensures that no teacher or staff member is allowed to take our phones and/or other electronic devices away for any given reason. However, the consequence now is to automatically write a referral for that student.

This change was brought about when a parent sued a school for taking her child's phone away. She complained about the potential danger it is for students to be walking home without having a way to contact parents or police in an emergency.

At the end, the court sided with the worried mother, and agreed that confiscating phones from students is a safety issue. Many school districts, including the Glendale Unified School District, have reviewed their policy regarding cell phones and electronic devices and recently implemented new policies that say that staff will not take equipment away from students.

We believe that many student will approve of this new policy since it is better to receive a referral than to have the item taken away. We think the district made the right call when it come to student cell phones and they recognized that student safety is the top priority.

In this day in age when cell phones come to use more often than one would think, who is willing to go a week, if not more, without a cell phone? Students' parents already worry about us 24 hours a day, can you imagine their panic and worry when they can't keep contact with their children for a whole week or more?

Last year, not only were administrators and teachers advised to confiscate student cellular devices for a week when they were found to be turned on during the school day, they also had the right to take it away for the whole school year if it was the second offense.

We are satisfied with the new terms for phone usage policy and think the students should understand and follow the rules.

Like any policy there are consequences for students who violate the rules. Students who use their cell phone during the school day may get a referral, but at least the phone will not be taken away.

It is understandable that students should not use their phones during class time, and if they do, they should grin and bear it for breaking the rules. The school board should have introduced this system a long time ago, but at least we have this policy now. As one GHS student said, "Finally, we have a policy that makes sense." Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope this all goes smoothly.

GLENDALE HIGH SCHOOL EXPLOSION

The Staff believes it is our duty to report campus news, to inform students of affairs in the surrounding community and world, to explore issues, and to offer constructive criticism where necessary. By-lined articles reflect the views of the writer, while editorials reflect the majority opinion of the editorial board.

Explosion welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and in good taste. We reserve the right to edit for space or clarity.

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