

Gym rentals discontinued

Esther Jun

Contributing Writer

A dollar will no longer cover you when you forget your uniform. As students walk past the gym office, there is a black and white sign on the door that says gym rentals are no longer offered.

Although teachers have explained what this means to their classes, some students, such as junior Megan Dincher, are still confused about the details of the new policy that took effect on Oct. 23.

"I didn't know that there were no more gym rentals," Dincher said. "I think it unfair that they expect us to remember our uniform every day."

According to P.E. teacher Ruben Hinojosa, the superintendent first suggested eliminating uniform rentals. Most P.E. teachers supported this idea because many rentals were unreturned. Contributing to the decision was the fact that students didn't take advantage of renting uniforms to get class credit for the day. Instead of participating, they would just sit out.

In addition, many teachers felt uncomfortable charging students money and keeping it in the P.E. office due to a concern of robbery. However, Hinojosa says that charging money was imperative for gym rentals.

"If we don't charge students, then the gym rentals become a laundry service. Students would [have] a clean uniform for free," Hinojosa said.

The dress code policy for students who do not come to class prepared says they will receive a "no dress" for the day. Student receive a detention for three "no dresses" and class failure for five.

This original regulation still holds true despite the elimination of rentals, but some teachers allow students to have credit for participating with their normal clothes.

According to P.E. teacher Nicole Baldassano, safety comes first. That way, students do not have to worry about running in flip flops. These rules are all up to the teacher's discretion, however.

According to Hinojosa, this policy does not affect a significant number of his students.

"This problem [of forgetting the uniform] usually occurs with the younger students. My students who are generally older have matured and dress regularly," Hinojosa said.



Logue photo by Helena Yu

WHAT'S THAT SMELL? The scents from the meals created in foods classes have been wafting into neighboring rooms.

Foreign smells float into nearby classes

Helena Yu

News Editor

For students taking foods classes, the wonderful aromas wafting through their classrooms are pleasant signs of their creations. But with the relocation of the foods room to the front hallway, hazy odors have made their way into other classrooms, disrupting class activity.

According to English teacher Marilyn Berdick, the foods rooms' smells have twice wafted into her classroom.

"I had nowhere else to take my class, and I had to suffer through it," Berdick said. "I remember general discomfort and complaining from everyone else in the room."

Junior Chris Scattaglia dislikes the smells in his class. "A majority of them don't smell too good, and I find it harder to concentrate on English," Scattaglia said.

But Family and Consumer Sciences Chair Christi Parsons says only a few students have noticed the odors.

"Personally, I have not heard complaints first hand, but some of our students mentioned that their friends thought it smelled upstairs during one of our labs," Parsons said.

The foods rooms are in a new location, which may contribute to the odors.

"The new foods rooms are more centralized and surrounded by classrooms and offices," Parsons said. "In

previous years, they were on an outside wall near the main entrance, so the smells were minimal."

There were no complaints in the past because the food smells blended together in the former location of the foods room, according to Principal Marina Scott.

But a second foods room was needed, which prompted the department's move to a new location.

"We didn't want the department to be across different entrances of the school," Scott said.

Scott says she is unsure how to control or eliminate smells emanating from these two rooms.

"Having taught foods, when you're cooking all day long, you smell like food when you leave there and [the smell] seeps out," Scott said.

Assistant Principal Eric Dolen agrees that after cooking, there are residual smells remaining, but that the ventilation on the ceilings was designed for a foods room.

"It was designed to be a foods lab for a high school," Dolen said. "[Those classrooms] have ventilation needed to operate a foods lab."

The smells may bother some students, but Scott says that the issue is simply one that students must bear.

"I think it's a matter of new surroundings and people that haven't been used to being around [foods rooms]," Scott said. "We live in a community, and we have to deal with each other."

Homecoming and Turnabout now restricted to high school students

Matt Maher

Contributing Writer

Students who decide to venture outside school walls and date someone who isn't in high school will have to reconsider their dates for the next dance. A new policy states that students are no longer allowed to bring dates to Homecoming and Turnabout if they are not enrolled in high school.

In the past, students could bring an older date as long as guests filled out passes and turned them in at the door. For further approval, administrators contacted the parents of students who brought dates over the age of 21.

Principal Marina Scott says overcrowding prompted the new policy.

"The dances have been extremely crowded in the past. When we looked over our attendance records for the last dance, we noticed we had over 200 visitors," Scott said. "This was a problem we needed to address."

The policy reduces the possibility of a fire hazard, which could be posed by over-crowding.

Assistant Principal Eric Dolen, who serves as the activities coordinator, says safety was the main factor, but not the only one.

"Not only will this new policy help with the over-crowding issue at the dances, it

will help ensure the safety of everyone there," Dolen said. "It will help give us a better idea on who exactly comes to the dances."

Although visitors not enrolled in high school are no longer permitted as dates, students can still bring friends from other schools.

"Students from other high schools are still allowed to come to the dances with a Fremd student just as long as they have a valid school I.D.," Scott said. "This helps us because if we have an issue with a non-Fremd student at the dance, we are able to contact their high school for further information and disciplinary action for that student."

Junior Caitlin Rice, whose boyfriend graduated from Fremd last year, is angry about this new policy.

"It's frustrating that they'd make this policy. My boyfriend lives in Minnesota, and him coming home for Homecoming and Turnabout is one of the things I look forward to all year," Rice said.

Administrators chose not to include Prom while determining the new restriction.

"Prom is a special evening," Scott said. "It's outside of school, so much time and money is put into it, and I think people outside of high school would definitely want to come back to experience it again. I mean, what high school graduate is re-

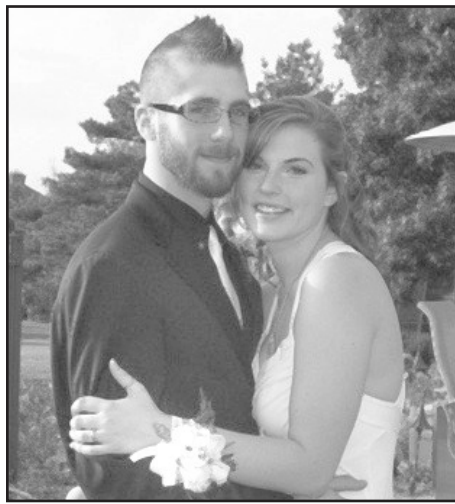


Photo courtesy of Caitlin Rice

TOO OLD FOR NEVERLAND. Junior Caitlin Rice will not be able to bring her college boyfriend to Turnabout this year.

ally going to want to go through the whole Homecoming and Turnabout deal again?"

Even so, some students will not be happy during Turnabout week when everyone is figuring out who their dates will be.

"It would be totally unfair for me to go to a dance with another guy just because the school won't let me go with my boyfriend," Rice said.

Fremd is the only school in District 211 with this policy, but the administration says it's worth considering.

"So far, no other school has put the policy into effect," Dolen said. "But it would be a good thing to address to the whole district."

New TVs used for announcements

Krishan Thakkar

Staff Writer

When students came to school on Oct. 31, two TVs were mounted outside the gym and lunchroom, and a screen with a projector was displayed in the cafeteria.

The system was donated by the Booster Club and will be used to display announcements, according to Assistant Principal Eric Dolen.

"It's a basic announcement delivery system using PowerPoint slides," Dolen said.

The system was set up by Troxel Communications but is not yet operable.

"They're still not finished," Dolen said. "I would hope [they will finish] within a couple weeks."

Senior Ryan Negele thinks the system will be useful in the future.

"If we can turn them on, then people will watch it," Negele said.

But sophomore Francis Wong says the new system is unnecessary.

"I think it's pretty cool, but it's pointless," Wong said. "None of the students have time to watch it anyways."

The system is placed well for availability to students and staff, according to Dolen.

"I really think that the cafeteria is prime location to communicate with a large audience," Dolen said.