

Office Hours Cont.

been the best, most productive times.”

Alaura asserts, “I don’t like that it is frowned upon for the students to go to their lockers.” And proposes that it might be easier if a teacher stood by each set of lockers or nearby so that they could see what we are doing and not have anything to be suspicious about.

Charlotte shares, “I don’t like that on days where there are big tests, there is a large number of people in the classroom because people need to cram in more study time,” and she recommends that there should be a limit of people that can be at a studying Office Hour at a time.

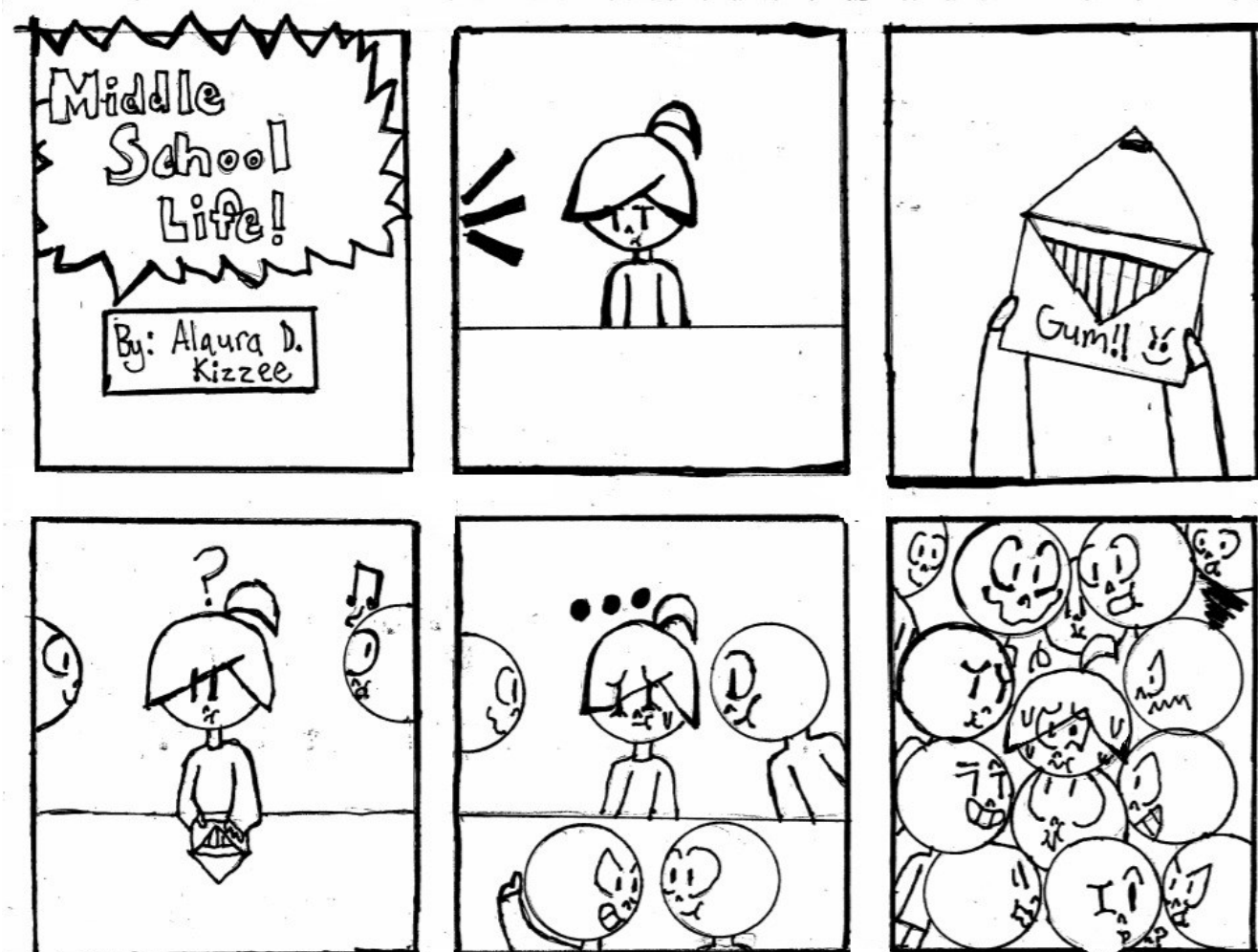
All seem to agree Office Hours is time well spent.

Recognition Cont.

that Audrey knows people that she thinks should be recognized, “I know a lot of people that should be recognized.”

The teachers are missing one very important perspective when giving out these awards: the students’. Ms. Howland poses a perfect solution: “A committee of students should sit in on [the meetings where we decide who get the awards].” Hopefully, if this change was made, more students would get recognized and the teachers would see who the good people are all around.

Maybe student voices should be recognized.



Office Hours Offer One-on-One Opportunities at BMS



By Helena Sidel

Office Hours are a rather new part of the life of Bexley Middle School students. From 7:45-8:30 on Wednesdays on Fridays, you can get work done, serve out time for wrong-doings, and ask one-on-one questions to teachers.

Students go to Office Hours for a variety of reasons. Charlotte Salmon, a 6th grader at the Middle school explains, “I use it for catching up on work from when I was absent, or asking teachers questions.”

Alaura Kizzee, a current 7th grader at the Middle school, related, “I like to catch up on missed work and upcoming assignments during Office Hours.”

A 7th grade BMS teacher, Mrs. Kimble, says, “I have students who regularly come in to work on math. I have some students drop-in when they have a question or two about the homework. Sometimes, I'll schedule a retake opportunity during that time for kids who don't have Study Hall or Flex.”

There are many reasons that the students and teachers are enjoying office hours. Alaura continues, “I like Office hours because there aren't as many people in classes.”

Mrs. Kimble explains, “Students coming in to Office Hours are usually pretty okay with coming in then. Less students coming in to Office Hours means it's easier for me to work with students. Plus, I'm not spending time signing passes for kids to go places.”

Charlotte adds, “I like it because it’s like we can have more one-on-one with teachers, and being able to ask about questions that I don’t understand and start on the days classwork.

Though the staff and students both enjoy Office Hours, they do have some improvement ideas. Mrs. Kimble says, “Not sure I would make any changes other than I wish more students would use that time to get help. We've tried many ways over the years to create time to work with students, and I think Office Hours - and Flex - have

Hello and welcome to the next installment of Ask Janice! These are actual questions answered by a very helpful Bexley Middle School student.

Ask Janice!

Dear Janice,

Someone keeps opening my locker and stealing my snack from my backpack. Can you help me? They keep unlocking the lock on my locker despite me having the only key!

Please help,
Snackless Sender

Dear Janice,

My friend always is talking to me in class and it makes it impossible to focus and even worse he doesn't get caught but when I tell him to shut up I get yelled at by the teacher! How do I get them to stop?

Regards,
Frustrated Friend

Dear Janice,

I need help finding time to do my homework because I do karate, orchestra, band, soccer, and swimming. I have no time to do my homework.

From,
Distressed Dude

Dear Snackless Sender,

You may want to get a padlock instead as they have a code and a copy of the key cannot be made because there is no key! Or you may want to keep your snacks in a new spot in your backpack. Or you will probably want to set up a secret camera in your locker.

Sincerely,
Janice

Dear Frustrated Friend,

You may want to see the teacher after class and ask them to change your seat or just tell them what your friend is up to. You might also want to try ignoring them or telling them to stop outside of class.

Sincerely,
Janice

Dear Distressed,

You may want to drop some things or use the mornings to have time and possibly do some work during class when you have a minute or two. You may also choose to use office hours to your advantage.

Sincerely,
Janice

Recognition Assemblies: Are Students Involved?



By Annabel Long

When many students hear the words “recognition assembly,” they groan. There are a few reasons that may justify these groans; and the recognition assemblies could be improved.

First and foremost, many students are annoyed at the prospect of going to these assemblies. They recognize 21 individual, but the rest of BMS’s population is just there because they must go. As Audrey Shirley points out, “If students are never recognized, they feel it’s unreasonable to go to an assembly where they know they won’t get anything. Then they feel bad.”

The most widely agreed upon problem with these assemblies is the fairness of the awards given out. Many students agree that the kids who are consistently doing good things aren’t recognized, while a kid who is usually bad can do one good thing and get an award for it because the teachers are pleasantly surprised.

As Mrs. Rowley-Welsch walks us through the process of picking these students, she says that

teachers choose “Somebody that we’ve noticed doing well in a certain area or a quality they’ve been exhibiting recently.” The word “recently” might lead one to think that the teachers often recognize kids that have only been showing these behaviors for short periods of time.

Aside from all this, there’s one obvious flaw in the system. As Audrey points out: “Multiple kids may display a certain behavior, but teachers only see one, and when they award that one kid, the others feel bad.”

It may be because teachers aren’t seeing good things that kids do; it may be because the awards aren’t fair; it may be because the consistently hard working kids aren’t being noticed; it may be because not enough kids are recognized; but for whatever reason, the recognition assembly has gotten a not-so-great reputation from the student body.

Something can be done, though, to help more kids get recognized and help the awards be distributed a little more fairly. As Ms. Howland points out, “We don’t know how students act around one another.” The teachers are blind to a large part of of their pupils’ interactions when giving the awards.

This quote very well may sum up the reason why so many students think the awards are given out unfairly: the teachers have a one-sided perspective on these kids. After digging a little deeper, it turns out