

Conflict in the commons

New lunch rules spark different responses from the faculty and student body



Students face problems in finding seats in the lunchroom due to the new policy that bans students from eating anywhere except the lunchroom and the front of the school. Photo by Vinnie Garimella

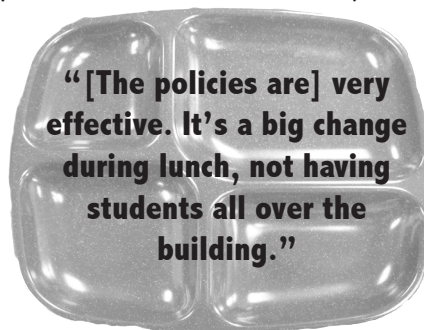
After one week it was obvious that the way lunch operated was changed. Teachers were guarding the entrances as if they were secret service agents, there were no students to be found roaming the halls, and in the library, small chip bags were snuck in instead of plates full of food.

Due to the new lunch policies, the academic areas including the hallways, library and senior locker area are now off limits to anyone who wants to eat lunch there, along with the courtyard and the back entrance.

In lieu of this, the foyer and the front entrance have been opened up to students as designated eating areas. The faculty believes that the policies have been effective in solving problems from last year, but some students believe that the rules are a hinderance to studying and enjoying lunchtime.

across issues of students being where they shouldn't be and finding food and trash all over our building."

Stubblefield also explained that food eaten in the library, had become an issue for the janitorial staff.



"The library became a second cafeteria in terms of our custodians needing to go in and clean up, and the library has carpet, so we would have to steam clean it," Stubblefield said. "It was a situation where we needed to look at alternatives."

Students loitering in the hallways had become a disturbance to teachers and another issue that Stubblefield needed to fix.

Stubblefield noted that the new lunch rules have successfully fixed all of the problems from the lax policies of last year.

"[The policies are] very effective. It's a big change during lunch, not having students all over the building. Supervision is easier, the building is much safer, and students are where they are supposed to be," Stubblefield said. "[The faculty] thanked me, they enjoy the way we are handling it now because it is a lot

less stressful in terms of cleaning up and interruptions, so the policy has been for the better."

Although the policies have solved many problems, Stubblefield has had to address new problems such as the lack of seating for students.

"We brought up temporary chairs, ordered new chairs, opened up the foyer area and set up table and chairs," Stubblefield said. "We allow students to go out front and eat, a privilege that students enjoy. It's easier for us to supervise, and I think it's a shorter distance from the courtyard and open to all students."

Another problem that students have expressed is the inability to do homework while eating lunch in the library, which Stubblefield said was a sacrifice that was needed for the betterment of the school.

"We had to weigh what was best for the overall building. We still encourage students to use the library, but also to eat then utilize some time in the library. We're just saying you can't bring food in there," Stubblefield said. "Some students eat quickly and go up to the library. We aren't trying to impact them in terms of studying. I think it's also healthy for students to enjoy lunch and down time so they don't get burned out."

Stubblefield says that the rules will be kept the same for the foreseeable future, but he is open to suggestions from the student body.

"I think for now, it's going to stay the same, and there is a time where we can evaluate and reflect on best practices," Stubblefield said. "I think our student body has done a great job with handling this change, and I am always opened to suggestions from our students."

The StuCo perspective: Miranda Hall

Although there has been a lot of change to the lunch system, All-Stuco President Miranda Hall believes that the student outlook towards the new policies is positive.

"The reaction from peers that I have witnessed has been minimal," Hall said. "I know that some people and I myself would really like to be able to eat in the courtyard, but as of right now, everyone is being really positive and mature about waiting to figure that out and enjoying the temporary seating arrangement."

Many sources such as the North Report and the StuCo Seniors Facebook page have provided information about the new policies which Hall said can allow more input from the student body.

"The North Report did a great story on the new eating arrangements and our senior class has been kept updated about the lunch room through Twitter and Facebook in particular our class 2014. "We really want the student body to know about

The administration perspective: David Stubblefield

Principal David Stubblefield explained that the reasons for all of these changes were issues with supervision and school cleanliness.

"It became a supervision issue," Stubblefield said. "Once students left the commons, it was difficult to keep track of where kids went and we started coming