

The One-Way Hall Problem

By Adam Robb

Covid-19 has changed everything, including our ways of life. To ensure the safety of many of the students and the staff of the school, Oak Hills has taken many precautionary measures. These measures range from staggered after school releases, mandatory mask mandates, and one-way halls. On paper, these one-way halls seemed like a good idea, but they soon created problems that were felt throughout the school.

After weeks of at-home learning, Oak Hills High School opened for the 2020-21 school year with many safety precautions, like the one-way halls. On the first day of school, these halls created a large nuisance and more confusion. The one-way halls were a blindside for many of the returning students, who had little to no knowledge about them. This resulted in many of the students confused about how to get to their new classes. This also had to create confusion for the incoming freshman that have never or rarely walked the halls of the high school.

Not only did these halls confuse but they are also causing many to become late for their respected classes. It's unfair for a student to be marked absent, or tardy because they had to navigate the confusing and downright annoying pathways. From personal experience, I have to travel from my Spanish class, which is in the language hallway, to the math hallway on the other side of the school. This becomes a race against time as I have to walk around the entire school to get to a class that would normally take me two minutes to get to. And on top of that, when the courtyards are closed, the walk between classes becomes even longer. For many, the courtyards became a lifesaver for getting to class on time, but even with the slightest sight of rain, they shut down. The closing of these courtyards results in the students having to delegate to finding different routes, even if that means going down the hall in the wrong direction.

It seems unfair for the teachers to rely on students to get to their classes on time when they aren't able to go down certain halls, even with the six minutes in between classes. Some may say that limiting the direction that a student can travel will limit the spread of germs and the virus, but this doesn't seem logical. Having one direction halls results in student's funneling in one direction. If one person in the entire crowd somehow has Covid, could spread it to the many that are walking next to them. A possible solution to this problem would be to divide the main halls, which are largely populated, with two directions flowing in different ways. This would allow students to get to classes on time and not have to rely on the courtyards. Overall, this problem can be easily solved.

