

For All the Devils

The PHS 2023 Homecoming Carnival!

By: Ella Bravado

Take a look inside of the PHS Homecoming carnival as the booths gear up to deliver an



The booths setting up before guests at our 2023 Hoco Carnival

entertaining evening for all ages in the Plainville community. There were many interesting games and activities at this year's Homecoming carnival. The overall theme for the carnival: Barbie! Students, staff, children, and families filed into the large gym to participate in the carnival's engaging activities. April Carofano, a class advisor for the class of 2027, was asked about how her freshmen booth would follow the "Barbie" theme she explained that they were doing a "popstars" theme where they would decorate the booth like the people coming in were celebrities and customers could take a picture, win a camera, sing karaoke and eat cake-pops!

She excitedly explained that, "I haven't seen the movie but I hear it has a really good message and I think it appeals to a variety of ages so I think it's a good theme to draw people."

Emily Wasley, another source that was interviewed, explained her thoughts on the carnival as she is in charge of the Social Change Association booth. She said something similar, "the theme is very fun and relevant!" She enjoys also bringing her own kids and feels like while the carnival is a high school run event, it attracts people of all ages from the community which is a great opportunity to build connections townwide! "The kids seem so excited and I think that little kids feel like high schoolers are super cool so when the kids get attention from them they feel so special," she explained when asked if her kids enjoyed the event.

From a student's perspective Matthew Collado explained how he was excited for the senior booth this year: "We have a lot of fun games and activities for the kids and families to participate in including mini golf, pumpkin decorating, tattoos, and donuts with coffee! It'll be decorated as pink and blue for Barbie and Ken and we even have a 7ft Barbie cardboard cutout!"

The senior booth came out really great and was a big attraction for families and kids that evening. The evening was a success and families enjoyed the activities and chance to build a connection.

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Thank you to Teresa Lopez for being our Editor!

Homecoming at Plainville High!

By: Mariah Velasquez

At Plainville High School on October 21st, the homecoming dance was from 7:30pm till 10 pm. Students got to dress up, enjoy themselves and become closer together as a whole.

Homecoming was held at Plainville High School in the small gym. At the dance, the decorations were Barbie themed. There was a photo booth, disco balls, balloons and flashing lights. The tickets to the dance were sold in the cafeteria a couple days before homecoming and were only \$10. The only person who could purchase a ticket was yourself, meaning you couldn't purchase a ticket for a friend. They were only selling 400 tickets and all the tickets were sold. At the dance, there were about 400 students. The dance was loud and lively and everyone was dancing together, getting along, made everyone feel comfortable and made everyone have a better bond with each other in the school. At the dance there was a bake sale which had pizza, water and desserts.



Picture taken of 2023 Homecoming dance

Trinity Mckinnon, a senior at Plainville High School said “ I enjoy homecoming personally because I think it's a good way for people to come closer together as a whole.” Homecoming is a fun event that brings everyone together. Mckinnon stated “I believe that they should keep going on with homecoming because it gives a better way to express themselves at homecoming, rather than in school.” During homecoming, people do express themselves better at a school dance with everyone, than being in school on a daily basis. Homecoming brings a lot of joy to people. Mickinnon stated “There is nothing negative about this event, personally I like this event and I'm glad that they have this event at Plainville High School. Homecoming never showed me anything negative but only positive things.”

Homecoming is a bright and exciting event for all grades.

Stephany Barbagallo, the Student Council advisor at PHS, said “ It's a positive event at the school. I think students feel connected to each other because of the school spirit during the homecoming carnival, dance and football game.” Barbagallo also stated “The school has a decent turn out. Some students don't like the dance or the theme of the dance but the majority of the school enjoyed it. We had 400 tickets to sell and we sold out. The event is a very positive event we have at PHS because students and their families are always looking forward to this school event.” Every year the student council tries to improve the dance. This year there was a photo booth that printed pictures of the students, as well as balloon arches and disco balls hanging everywhere. The student council always tries to think about what they could do, decoration wise, to make it more exciting. If you have any questions you can contact Miss Barbagallo at barbagallos@plainvilleschools.org

Comeback Kids

By: Jeffrey Wasielewski



Plainville Football team before playing against Northwest Catholic.

The Plainville High School football team has been performing way above expectations this fall of the 2023-2024 season. They are 3-3 compared to 0-10 one year ago, so much improvement on their end.

One year ago the Plainville Blue Devils were a very young team as they lost their star senior quarterback MJ Bakaysa in the first drive of the season. They had to turn to sophomore Dominic Abarno who was able to develop into the quarterback he is now and has led to the success of the Blue Devils. Another player that has benefited by more playing time last year was Marcus Kiley. He's having a breakout year with around 800 yards over the first 6 games and has powered behind a strong offensive line.

The Blue Devils captains are Shane McCormick, Joseph Vazquez , and Bobby Wright who all have a chance to be All-State as they're off to a great start for their senior season. Vazquez leads the team with over 650 yards receiving. Coach Timothy Shea has been with the Plainville

Blue Devils ever since 2014 and has since led the team to the playoffs one time in 2019-2020 where they ended up losing to Bloomfield 35-7 in the semifinals.

Plainville started this season losing to Tolland in a very close game where they showed tons of improvement. Plainville then traveled to E.O Smith where they ended up winning . The next game they blew open a lead against Bethel but ended up losing and then they came home to play Bloomfield where they lost 56-13. After this they were left at 1-3

The next game for Plainville was home against Northwest Catholic and they had a huge win. Then the team had a big win on homecoming night, winning 48-0 to electrify the school and the team to bring their record to 3-3. When I spoke with Vazquez he told me that "I've seen a lot of the development of the team because they had a lot of young guys on the team last year which just started playing high school football but have developed into strong players and a strong core for us and has given us more experience overall as a team." Vazquez also stated that "I want to give credit to the offensive line. Without them we wouldn't have a good team that couldn't pass and couldn't run and they have improved a lot to be able to bolster the running game and help out the team".

When Shea was asked "what have you guys done better than the past year and how are you guys doing better?" Shea responded "Well we've had different opponents, new players, new coaches and we are in a different division and we have a different team and we are playing more to our strengths and giving ourselves a shot more and so it's not fair to compare it to last year. We are also more healthy than we were last year. We're 3 -3 right now, we're finding ways to win and we're trying to win again and we're gonna see how we end the season". Shea also talked about the offensive line and said "They've been working hard all offseason and season and have not allowed what they did last season and are opening up the run game. This team stands at 3-3 now the question is what's next?"

Blue Devils Volleyball Improves Despite Challenges Faced Early This School Year.

By: Alan Piotrowski



Plainville Volleyball Player Tipping Ball Over Net

The coaches and players of the Plainville High School volleyball team gear up for another Fall Season. The Plainville High School volleyball team currently stands at a record of 3-15 for the 2023-2024 and are looking to improve before the season comes to a close. The team, having had a rough start to the season, has been picking up a few wins to end the season off on a high note.

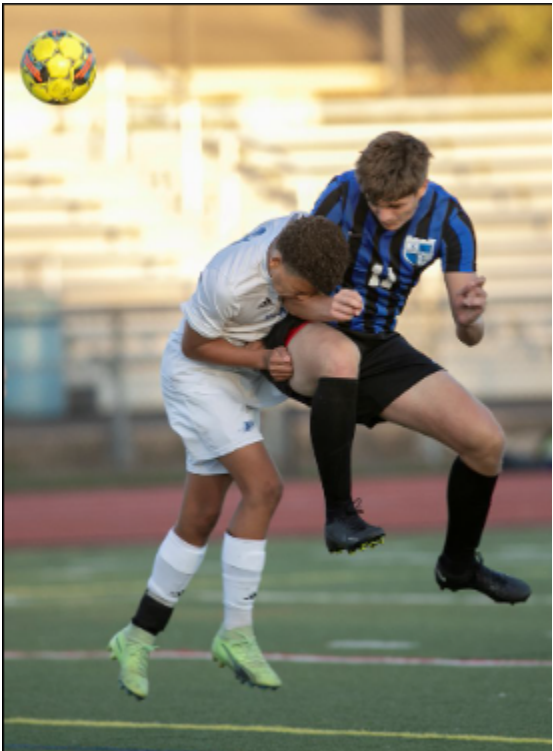
Coach Ethan Welsh said in an interview, “We went into the season with a poor mindset and attitude coming off of last year's upset.” Welsh, a first year coach also mentioned how “Getting the players to work on themselves and be passionate about their game is crucial for improvement.” This improvement can be seen throughout the season as the junior varsity and varsity team last year had great trouble breaking through the mental barrier and losing focus during tight game scenarios. This current season, they’ve improved in these tight in-game situations to get themselves a few wins.

Coach Richard Garuti, another coach of the team, states that “These girls have won more sets than last season and 3 more games than last season, which only shows how hard they have been working.” The team's newly gained mental toughness only shows in these inspiring words from the coaches. Another message Garuti wanted to deliver before the end of the interview was “Volleyball players, or any athletes need trust in their teammates and work on their individual skills like their mindset, and skills required to shine in their sport if they want to stand out, and I think our players are taking that seriously which has been leading to great improvement in their performance”

Daria Krzanicki, a senior player on the varsity team, said “The future of the team I think is entirely up to the players and how they treat themselves and their teammates going forward in future years.” Many of the senior players on the volleyball team agree, and we’ll see if the Plainville team continues to improve.

Fontana Field Brawl

By: Zarell David



Plainville Player in a soccer match

On September 19 , the Plainville boys soccer team played Southington boys soccer team at Fontana field where a brawl between the two teams broke out in the middle of the second half due to unsportsmanlike words said by both teams.

The two teams were battling. Southington scored early in the first half putting them up 1-0. Then early in the second half, Plainville scored to make it 1-1. From that point on the game got chippy. The official refereeing the game missed a call when one of the Plainville boys got tangled up with one of the guys from Southington which led them to get into pushing. Two minutes later, two more players got tangled up and this is when the brawl happened. Benches were cleared.

Plainvilles head soccer coach Devin Pugliese had some words to say about the altercation: “The game was getting chippy right after we scored. We didn’t have to get into a fight but the officials should’ve known what was gonna happen,” Pugliese thinks violence should never be used and made it clear in the conversation.

Varsity soccer captain Jamison McGinnis who played a key role in the brawl had some choice words when explaining his point of view of the fight. McGinnis said “They were mad after we tied the game that they had to act out and take things out of hand.”

Brian Grabowski, a fellow Plainville soccer player, was also involved in the brawl. In the moment, Grabowski asked his fellow players for support and had to be held back during the fight. Overall the altercation was very unsportsmanlike and it was made clear that nothing of the sort would happen again.

Unified Sports

By: Teresa Lopez

Plainville High School's Unified Sports team is an opportunity for students to play sports and build relationships with the students in the Special Education program. The Unified Sports program is run by Ms Wells and Mrs Jambard and runs every Tuesday and Thursday. By only attending a few practices it is very obvious how passionate every student is when playing sports. Brayden Shumbo is a player on the Unified Sports team and claims his favorite part of Unified is



Unified Sports Practice

“Being able to see all of my friends and play sports with them”. Unified Sports has given an opportunity to connect outside of the classroom and build relationships in and outside of school. Madyson Miller who was previously a peer helper and is now a current senior at Plainville High School explains her experience as “Rewarding because it was an inclusive after school activity and I was able to meet new people.”

Unified sports is such a large part of Plainville's community, but has progressed so much within the past few years.

Previously Unified Sports only had one winter season of basketball but with the help of Wells and current Vice Principal Kelly Hickey Unified Sports now runs all year.

Along with basketball the players now participate in soccer and track and field as well. When asked what sports he'd like

to see in the future, Shumbo shared how he'd “Like to be able to play flag football in unified”.

The positive impact Unified Sports has made in Plainville's community has helped shape Plainville High School for the better. Miller explains how “Being able to help provide happiness for my peers was the best part of unified”. Wells shares a similar thought and claims how “Seeing the relationships that form because of unified has been one of the best parts of working with Unified Sports”. The positivity that comes from the Unified Sports program follows students into the school day and brightens up our school's environment for the better.

Getting to Know Mr. Fritz

By: Lola Molloy

With a little over a year of being Athletic Director under his belt, Mark Fritz was due for a few questions on his transition from P.E. teacher to A.D. (Athletic Director) here at PHS. He has been part of the PHS community for years now, and has played an active role in athletic events and students careers throughout.

The qualities PHS students named as the most important for an A.D. to have included, “supportive”, “motivating” and “welcoming” as well as “caring to everybody”. With that being said, the proof is in the pudding. Teresa Lopez, a senior here at PHS, was asked about her experience with Fritz as her former golf coach. Lopez shared that he encouraged her pursuit of golf and “made the sport fun.” His positive attitude and dedication towards PHS athletics has undoubtedly played a role in the success of his position as A.D. The qualities discussed align not only with students' experience in working with Fritz, but with his personal beliefs about the job as well. Fritz explained that “Most importantly AD's must advocate for student athletes and always do what is in their best interest.” The environment he has created surrounding sports is something that PHS athletes acknowledge and appreciate. Varsity



Mr Fritz at a PHS football game

soccer player Jamison McGinnis applauded Fritz's work, saying “He's a good Athletic Director because he is easy to talk to and takes action on things quickly.”

Being A.D. takes a lot of work and comes with a lot of responsibility. Fritz gave us an inside look at what comes with the job, “ I am responsible for student athlete registration, scheduling of contests, transportation, scheduling officials and game workers, academic eligibility of student athletes, hiring for coaching positions, creating and managing the athletic department budget, hosting sporting events and much more.” On top of that, Fritz is consistently working towards his goal of growing student participation in sports. Fritz shares that “There are a number of programs that are doing really well in terms of numbers but there are some programs that are really struggling. I would love to find a way to grow the programs that we have to the point where we can offer multiple levels of each program. This would afford more student athletes opportunities to learn and grow through athletics.”

Fritz's hard work has been paying off around PHS, as varsity football player Matthieu Michaud had only positive things to say about Fritz: “While he is a new Athletic Director, he is a good one. He makes sure all of the athletic events at PHS are safe and welcoming.” His effort is ever-present around the building.

To close, Fritz was asked to leave students with a piece of advice. He responded with, “It's more of a message for all of the students at Plainville High School, and that is to get involved. Sports, specifically high school athletics, offer a unique opportunity for students to represent their school and community while learning valuable lessons that they wouldn't elsewhere. I urge everyone to find an activity that interests them and get involved. Join a program, become a teammate, and create lifelong memories with your classmates all while staying active and learning what it takes to be successful. Lessons learned in athletics translate effortlessly to the real world and the characteristics that are developed will stay with you for a lifetime. Go Blue Devils!”

Main Entrance Madness

By: Madyson Miller

The students of Plainville High School, are required to enter through the main entrance doors in the morning due to safety concerns. Last school year, 2022-2023, the option of all three doors, the pool entrance, main entrance and back parking lot doors were open. Due to certain safety concerns, the pool entrance and back parking lot doors are closed in the mornings.



Students of PHS entering through the main entrance in the morning.

Julianna Matos, a Senior at PHS, believes that entering through one door in the morning is not any safer and is unreasonable. “When it starts snowing, the sidewalks and parking lots will become icy which will become dangerous. When the students are entering through the main entrance and don’t wipe their feet on the rug, it makes the hallways very slippery.” Matos stated that this change has affected her morning in a negative way: “I have Spanish first sometimes and I park on the poolside so I have to walk all the way around to the front and basically pass Spanish, just to walk inside and have to walk all the way back down.” Matos mentioned that she brings her sister in the mornings and sometimes she needs to make extra time for herself to make sure they both arrive on time.

Jennifer DeLorenzo, the principal at PHS, said “One of the main reasons for only one door being open was because there were too many students in the building prior to 7:20 and there wasn’t enough supervision, whether that be in their classrooms, the cafeteria, hallways or the learning commons.” SRO Jessica Guerette made the

official call to implement this rule. DeLorenzo stated, “The SRO made this judgment call based on the feedback from a National School Safety Conference she attended.” Students should take extra time into consideration when it’s snowing or raining. DeLorenzo said “Admin had looked into turning your student ID cards into swipe cards making it easier to enter the building but it was too expensive. Our district-wide council did not support the decision.” DeLorenzo did consider this but when it was brought up to the council members, it was quickly turned away.

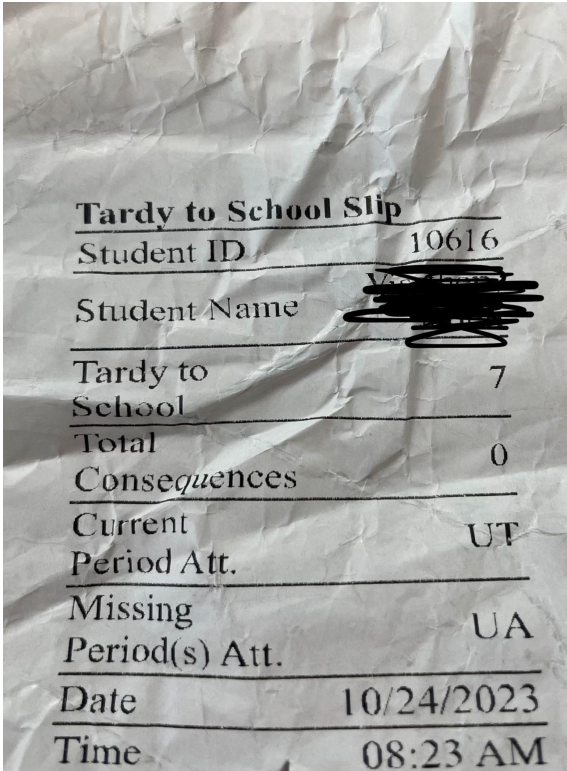
Nicole Caruso, a senior at PHS, thinks that having one entrance open in the morning is safer with monitoring who’s entering the building. Caruso said, “I have heard some things from students about this rule. Some say that some students agree that having one entrance is definitely safer and makes it easier for the staff to know who is entering. I know that students like having the option to leave out of any door at the end of the day which evens everything out.” Caruso believes that having only one entrance open is a much safer and smarter idea.

Plainville High School’s Controversial Dismissal Rules

By: Chase Gray

Plainville High School’s dismissal rules in 2023-24 School year have been a hot topic. There have been many complaints about the late arrival and early dismissal rule from the students. The rule states that students can only come in one block late and students can only leave one block early. This means if a student has two study halls to start the day, they would only be able to come in one block late even though they have a second study hall. This also means if a student has two study halls to end the day, they have to stay for one then they can leave.

When current PHS Principal Jennifer DeLorenzo was asked what the reasoning for the new rules, DeLorenzo said “People lose jobs for two reasons: chronically being on their phones and being late and we need to prepare the students for the real world.” When asked about the new rules and their effect DeLorenzo said “In the last three weeks, tardies have gone down 75%.”



Tardy to School Slip	
Student ID	10616
Student Name	[REDACTED]
Tardy to School	7
Total Consequences	0
Current Period Att.	UT
Missing Period(s) Att.	UA
Date	10/24/2023
Time	08:23 AM

Tardy Slip from PHS student

A Senior at Plainville High school, Teresa Lopez said “The new rules created are unfair and inconvenient for the seniors that have been looking forward to this privilege since our freshman

year.”

Although the new rule seems to be helping with our schools overall attendance, students are still bothered by the change.

Plainville High School Finding Ways to Improve Its Study Hall Rules

By: Jonathan Kafka



Picture of Plainville High School Library

Over the years Plainville High School has been keeping it in its best interest to maintain a safe and sustainable environment. The culture the school is trying to empower really shows how the ‘Plainville Blue Devils’ are representing our school. There have been talks over the past years ever since Covid came into play about our study hall rules. It gets people thinking, “Are these rules actually impacting our school?” or “Are these rules making a difference in our students' education?”

The principal of Plainville High School, Jennifer DeLorenzo was asked questions on the rules at the school. DeLorenzo said, “My job as principal is to provide the most well-balanced and organized

system to better our students, and I also want to reduce some of the students wandering around the place

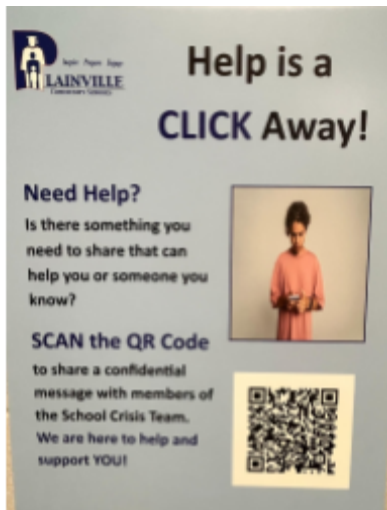
because our study hall rules should be used as a perfect time to study and get a good education out of it. Overall people at the school, whether they are students or any faculty and staff member, do have a say in these rules and regulations.”

Our teachers are the main people who play a big part in how things go at the school when it comes to anything that has to do with the study hall rules. One of the main people who is in-charge of the study halls and where they take place at Plainville High School is Michelle Tavernier-Morel, affectionately called Mrs. T. Mrs. T is the assistant librarian to the head Librarian Deboarh Pikell. When asked about how she felt about the new rules, Tavernier-Morel stated that, “It is going to change how the students get a better education and produce order and impact the students. These rules help build our community and make students want to come to school and learn.” The study hall rules are implemented to keep students in check and use their free time wisely.

With all of these rules and regulations taken into consideration, it will take time to see if this new rule is improving our school.

BE AWARE: The PHS Policies

By: Eli McGhee



School Crisis Team poster, on the wall in the 200s hallway, shares a valuable link to students in need.

Plainville High School, standing since the 1950s, wants its students to know their issues are heard.

The high school has two major policies against bullying and harassment defined as “Abusive treatment, the use of force or coercion to affect others, particularly when habitual and involving an imbalance of power” and “Negative interactions or attacking through words or actions based on one’s race, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexual orientation” or “Inappropriate and unwelcome sexual advances, posting inappropriate pictures online, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature” in the student handbook. The consequences range from 1 day of in-school suspension and a parent notification to 10 days of out-of-school suspension with possibility of expulsion and police referral. Administrators and teachers were interviewed to ensure the policies are enforced. Each individual agreed that bullying and harassment can be verbal or physical and online or

in-person. This may affect the severity of the incident. However, it should still be reported. Mrs. DeLorenzo, the principal, stated signs teachers should look out for such as “changes in behavior or personality, or a new pattern. For example, a student frequently goes to the nurse instead of to a specific class.” This may be explained with a medical condition, but any suspicion of bullying or harassment should be reported. As for students, Mr. Coe stated, “Students should be aware of sexual comments, inappropriate jokes or frequent name calling. These can be considered bullying or harassment.” If any of these signs appear a student or teacher can report them. Students should talk to a trusted adult such as a coach, counselor, or teacher if they do not want to talk to or email an administrator directly. Teachers should report to administration so incidents can be filed and investigated.

Once an issue is reported, an investigation will occur. Administration will sit down with the victim, if they agree to it, and the offender to discuss and issue a warning. Parents will be notified as well. If it is a repeated offense, more severe consequences are given. Police may be referred to. Mr. Vallera, a teacher, agrees that the consequences in the handbook should be implemented. In addition, he thinks “mandatory therapy should be given to repeated offenders to figure out underlying issues.” After the conference, victims and parents will receive concise updates that the incident has been handled and adequate consequences were given. Although, they cannot know the full extent of the consequences the offender receives due to confidentiality laws.

Plainville High School administration hopes to foster an environment where students feel safe at school. They hope that students will start being nicer to one another and treating each other with respect. This will create a more positive space in the future and will allow students' issues to be heard.

Disturbances in the Classroom Setting

By: Veronica Sakowski

Students in high school classrooms are impacted by the phone rule during active hours. The rule attempts to limit phone use. Most students, parents, and teachers have mixed opinions on the rule: You either like it or you don't. A majority of students rebel against the rule but teachers are fans of it. After speaking to students and hearing their opinions, many oppose this rule, but surprisingly some are fans.

Following the interview of some students throughout the high school, mixed opinions were reported. Alexa Jones stated “My opinion on the school’s rules for the phone is a bit negative. I don't like how strict they are with them. We are almost adults and should be treated like such. I understand paying attention while the teacher is speaking and going over directions, but we should be free to have our phones and use them.” She believes there should be some freedom with these rules.

Principal Jennifer DeLorenzo shared her opinion. She stated “This rule is trying to teach students to put their phones aside. Excessive phone usage is becoming a habit.” DeLorenzo believes this rule is helping the students across the school. In addition, she shared “The engagement level is much higher in classrooms.” This supports her point on the rule and how she intends to keep it.

A fraction of students are shockingly encouraged by this rule. Samantha Shumbo states “This rule benefits my learning. It is important that people have less distractions and do their work.” She mentioned that she “understands the rule” and “why it is there.”

It is important that students realize this rule can benefit them. Whether they have mixed feelings about them or feel encouraged by them. There will always be positives and negatives to these phone rules. Regardless, they will remain in place.



Student places phone in bag.

Chaz Transforms Passion into Haunting Realities

By: Jaden Visathep



Charles Calandriello, the creator of the haunted house in the stairwell of the 200 Hallway of Plainville High School

For the past four years, you might have seen an advertisement for a haunted house run by a Plainville High School Student named Charles Callendriello, who has been turning his passion for haunted houses and animatronics into a spine-chilling reality. Inspired by other haunted attractions, he has created a unique and terrifying experience for people to immerse themselves in. The haunted house, located locally, is full of illusions and eerie surprises that have become an annual sensation. When asked about his inspiration for the house, Callendriello explained “My inspiration was other haunted houses and the fact that I have so many animatronic characters; I can’t put them all outside.” One of the standout features of Callendriello’s haunted house is

the thrashing clown in the dark room. Callendriello explained that a lot of people have gotten too scared and walked back out of the entrance due to the clown.

Callendriello’s father, supportive of his son’s event, said “I think it’s something fun, and I like to see him going out and doing the things that he’s interested in.” and when asked about involvement he mentioned “Personally, I myself have participated in building it up. I bought the decorations, helped make the walls, and basically funded most of it. I have only participated in creating and shaping it.” Dante Gionfriddo, a visitor to the haunted house, shared he “ Was motivated to visit the house so I could see something new, as I’ve never gone to a haunted house before, and this event was both close and something I was looking for.” When asked about his experience, Gionfriddo recounted a frightening moment: “There was a realistic skeleton that jumped out at me halfway through the event and scared me.” Gionfriddo and many other students have visited the haunted house. Callendriello has expressed that the high school has been “a supportive environment for my haunted house” and he is “grateful to the teachers for allowing me to put up the posters everywhere.”