

Students create cleanliness issue



"Once the [lunch periods] are finished, it looks like a hurricane went through the lunch room," Eric Sotello said.

Photo by **Alyssa Deplaris**

By **Alyssa Deplaris**,
Social Media Director

Students and staff have begun to notice a decrease in cleanliness during the 2019-2020 school year, specifically during lunch periods. The custodial staff has acknowledged an increase in the amount of garbage throughout parts of the building.

Staff believes students should be held accountable for their actions. Campus security officer Eric Sotello stated that there is room for improvement.

"Unfortunately, we've seen more students making a mess than actually helping out. Students are not helping out, whether that's in the cafeteria, hallways or bathrooms... It's alarming because you're at a point where you're able to take care of yourselves, so you should be able to clean up after yourself as well," Sotello said.

Some students have become aware of the garbage around the building and have acknowledged their responsibility to help maintain a clean environment. Senior Gianna Chimino explains how her peers play a role in keeping the school clean.

"I think some students do their part to keep the school clean. Other students don't care; they will

make a mess and walk away because the next time they come back it's clean. They don't see what the people behind the scenes do to clean up the mess," Chimino said.

Supervisor of Building and Grounds Michael Reyes spoke on the custodians' behalf about their perspective of the lunchroom's cleanliness.

"We have less than five minutes to transition from lunch period to lunch period. The only thing we can do is a quick fly-by. We don't have the staff to accommodate cleaning off every table," Reyes said.

The garbage in the lunchroom increases throughout the day. Sotello noted what he encounters after three lunch periods.

"Once the lunches are over, it looks like a hurricane went through the lunchroom. There's garbage on the ground and stains on the table. The custodians have a job to do, but they have the whole school to clean," Sotello said.

Senior Ciara Scott has 6B lunch, which is the last lunch period of the school day. She arrives at her table facing a leftover waste and mess from the previous period's students.

"When you come to the lunch table, the tables have trash on top, and

you're in charge of cleaning it up. It's gross, and I do not want to sit at my table," Scott said.

Reyes noted that if

students prioritized managing their waste, the custodian's workload would decrease.

Reyes also stressed one reason why it is crucial for many individual students to work toward taking care of the school and its cleanliness.

"[Students] spend four years of [their] life here, so it's important for them to respect it as though it is [their] own home," Reyes said.

Construction causes connection problems

By **Jacqueline Barba**,
Managing Editor

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For English teacher Michelle Davis, Wi-Fi connectivity for District 99 devices has also caused problems. Many of her students have struggled to obtain educational tools on their Chromebooks, despite Chromebooks being classified as priority devices for the Wi-Fi.

"I have had issues with the Wi-Fi in the classroom, which can become an issue when we are using Chromebooks and Google Classroom. Sometimes, my students have not been able to access certain documents that we've been working on within a class period because of the Wi-Fi being down," Michelle Davis said.

As stated by Davis, connectivity issues with district devices can be attributed to the construction that took place over the summer.

"We did find some of that coming back to the school year, where wireless access points were not activated because the line was cut, the line was removed, or the wireless access point

itself was not put back in its place," Davis said.

The large-scale changes that construction brought caused a reboot of DGS's technological system, an event that Davis contends can take some time to be fully fixed.

"Any time you have that type of construction and change, it is common to have some lag as the technology is learning, and unfortunately, the only way to do that is to overload the system with information," Davis said.

Davis explained that efforts are being made to help connectivity for the present school year. Part of the master facility plan hopes to increase cellular connectivity for non-district issued devices, and connection to devices outside the building.

"One of the things we have been looking into in conjunction to our master facility plan is increasing our cellular connectivity for cellphones throughout the building. The ability for people to connect to the outside world when they are in our building is very important, so we need to work to figure that out," Davis said.

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