**NEWS FEATURE**

**AUSTIN GRUMBLES**

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***Austin Grumbles***

***news editor***

Across the district, school security has steadily increased over the past two years. This campaign for student safety began with mandatory IDs and now has evolved into new procedures for entering the school. Principal Lou Lavely said “This push for new and better security has been a part of a district initiative. After the tragic Sandy Hook shooting the district began to evaluate itself wanting to make sure it had state of the art security to protect its students. Since then we have been implementing and retro fitting buildings to make sure we have the best security as possible. The process began almost two years ago at Travelers Rest and was finally completed this year.”

The new procedures also affect the staff and all who enter the building. Everyone must be buzzed into the front office by office personal, sign in, and then buzzed out of the office and into the school. All the doors leading into the guidance hall and attendance are locked full time and require a key to enter. This change has added more responsibilities to our front office staff. “The change has made my job more hectic, but I believe it is worth it though. Our students are safer since we have more control over who enters the building,” clerk Kim Hardesty said.

The new security procedures have caused some issues for students who arrive at the school early in the morning not being let in until 7:45. A common concern among the student body is what will be done for the students during the winter. Freshman Naomi Rousser said “I think it is unfair because if it is pouring rain outside or really cold we cannot get in.” Sophomore Ericka Neal shares similar feelings about the new procedure saying “It makes me angry because in the winter months, it is very cold.”

The new change does not affect students who can drive themselves or parents who drop their children off after 7:45. Most students have adjusted to the change. “I’m fine with it,” said freshman Tyler Russell.

Lavely further explained one part of the 7:45 policy issue. “It has always been in our student handbook that we do not allow students into the building until 7:45, and with the new security finally finished, we are implementing it.”