

Carpooling Causes Students to Wonder

Carpooling: The Obvious Answer

By Avanti Puri
ap.scarlette@gmail.com

First of all, I would like to point out that I realize how big of a hypocrite I am for writing this article. My family owns three SUVs. I myself do not carpool to school. I have to take my sister to Happy Hollow in the morning, I need a way to get to my Purdue class, it would be too crowded, etc, the list goes on...

So then why, you might ask, am I writing this article? The truth is, its hard for me come up with a viable answer for that, given my position. But I do know that not everyone who drives to school each day has a full car. Forget carpooling, some siblings don't even drive to school together. A friend recently told me she saw her neighbor pull into the school parking lot and five seconds later, his dad was there dropping off his younger brother. I can understand the hassle of waiting on siblings (I do it every day), but I don't think it's too much to ask to wait five seconds.

Each time I'm on the road, it seems there

are more and more SUVs and trucks and fewer cars, and I can't help but wonder if it's really necessary for all these people to be driving these big cars everywhere. How often are all seven of the seats of a large SUV full? How often do suburban car owners drive their cars off road? It's as if we're staring in the eyes of global warming and saying "What now, global warming?"

Not only is carpooling environmentally sound, it just makes sense. Think of how long you spend waiting in traffic every time you commute to the school, compared to how long it would take you otherwise. How much money would you save on gas? Another big plus, the headache

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that is the parking situation would be greatly reduced.

The fact is, carpooling with a neighbor or two really wouldn't

be that difficult for most of us. In fact, a majority of West Side students live in the same neighborhood... three guesses which one. One might argue that everyone has different sports and activities and that it would be difficult to coordinate schedules.



Students getting dropped off during early morning rush hour. Photo by Melanie Gunaratna.

However, many people (no names!) who are involved in the same after school activities live mere houses away from each other.

In the end, the benefits of carpooling far outweigh the inconveniences. Who can argue against more money in their pocket, less hassle in their lives, and in the big picture, a more sustainable environment?

By Julia Ribeiro
jr.scarlette@gmail.com

Independence is something that we all crave. And when it is jeopardized, none of us are willing to do anything to compensate for it. Being able to depend on ourselves to get to and from school,

per, but in reality it has gaping holes of impracticality. "You have to leave your house very early," points out junior Laura Trice, then adding that her entire morning routine would get pushed back, causing her to have to get up earlier just so she

And then comes the concern that the driver might sometimes be late possibly causing you to be late to school. Similarly there is a problem in getting home. "Everyone has different activities after school," points out senior Lauren Horn-er, so getting home

to work, and to practice is quite liberating from the thresholds of our parents' general control of our lives. Once we were able to drive we were no longer dependent on our parents to take us everywhere. And no one wants to go back to those times. Therefore carpooling is not a conventional idea; like communism, it only works on pa-

could save a few extra bucks on gas and then in effect a smaller hole in the ozone.

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would be an issue. Carpooling has too many possible downsides to be effective. In all practicality it is simply too difficult.