

in during the summer, despite proper food storage.

“Every quarter we do a deep clean,” Campbell-Wilson said. “The students also clean every time they cook. I think we all know there is a mice problem in the building.”

Oriental cockroach activity was also found in the school. According to the report, some were trapped through a sticky trap near drains, which can provide easy entry from outside. The mice can cause a bacterial disease called Leptospirosis that is brought on by touching or smelling the mice’s urine trails, the report stated.

According to the report, “Leptospirosis can lead to kidney damage, meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord), liver failure, respiratory distress, and even death.”

The trails of urine are invisible to the naked eye and require a black light to see. The mice are attracted to food and water sources, which is why Pope said teachers and students need to close any of their food in airtight containers. Some classrooms listed in the report were said to have significant mice activity because there was incorrectly sealed food.

One of Pope’s main concerns with the rodent infestation is that it is leading to other problems our school faces.

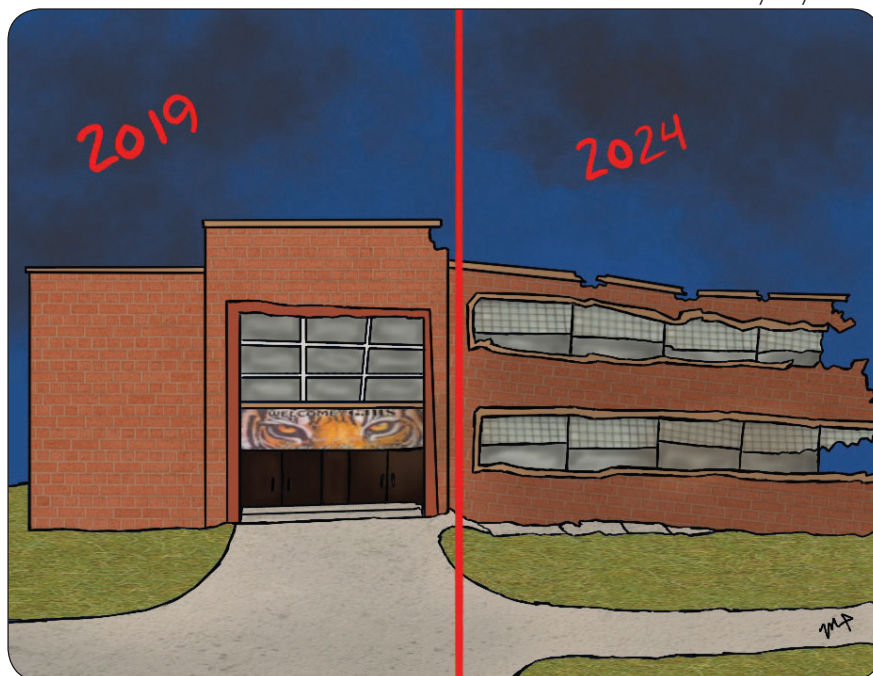
“It’s frustrating because the problem is easy fixed, and it’s been pretty directed. So when you say ‘oh well there might be a dead mouse behind this wall’ I’m like, ‘well I hope not because if we have to crack that wall open there’s asbestos that we now have to deal with,’” Pope said.

There are many rumors circulating amongst teachers and students about the presence of asbestos in GJHS, but teachers and students do not know which are pure rumors and which are the truth. Pope confirmed there is asbestos on campus.

“Asbestos is only a problem when you disturb it and it becomes airborne. When the fibers are inhaled it then becomes an harmful health risk,” Pope said.

There are two types of asbestos, friable and non-friable. Friable asbestos is something you can hold and crumble in your hand, but non-friable cannot be broken with pressure. Pope confirmed that all of the friable asbestos has been taken out and does not prove an immediate danger to any person. However, having this material in our school keeps the school from making any major renovations. The non friable asbestos that cannot be reached lies under floor tiles and within walls.

Director of maintenance, Eric Nilsen, said this year so far there have been 647 work orders for maintenance at GJHS. “In general, it would be more cost effective to replace the school than fix everything that is worn out or failing. Buildings and building systems have a ‘life span’, and many parts of GJHS are at or near the end of the systems life,” Nilsen said.



Graphic illustration by Mason Toth

FAST FACTS

How much
longer can
GJHS
survive?

“The structural systems of the existing GJHS facility are compromised.”

“The GJHS exterior wall systems appear to be failing.”

“GJHS has a projected remaining life expectancy of 0-5 years.”

“GJHS has been operating for over 63 years”