



Voice of the Mean Moose

Alamosan

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Alamosa High School 805 Craft Drive Alamosa, CO 81101

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Bad Behavior Around the US Influences Alamosa



Hayden Shawcroft
—Co-Head Editor—

Many teachers get a lot of grief. Students hand out a lot of unnecessary distress to teachers. Some students think they may be cool or think they are funny, but many teachers feel the students this year are extra disrespectful.

In the first quarter, many students participated in a TikTok trend where they steal random items from the school. This was called the “devious licks challenge”. Many students were suspended from the middle school and some were in trouble at the high school as well.

The teachers seem to believe part of the reason for all the misbehaving is due to COVID. With students having less structure and an easier school year, kids began to slack off and became comfortable with the lack of structure. Maybe this is why, maybe not, but teachers have all agreed this year is a bit different.

Many teachers at the Middle School expressed their thoughts about the behavior issues. Many of the teachers mentioned COVID to be the reason

for the students being disruptive. The teachers mentioned students being loud, not able to sit still, being rude to the teachers and their classmates, and using bad language.

One thing the middle school pointed out was the cell phone use. Students have been on their phones more than usual this year and teachers are asking why. Regardless, they had to do something to stop it.

Ortega Middle School made it a point to stop the phone use leading by example. Teachers and other staff were not allowed on their phones during class time to show the students the right way. Most teachers said this actually helped the students stay off their phones.

At the high school, the main struggle this year is grades. Alamosa High School reported a record number of failing grades to date and many are trying to change that. With the new Student Tutoring Center, high merit students are getting paid to help their classmates in classes they are struggling in. Hopefully this will help students get the help they need to get back on their feet and more engaged in

the classroom. This group is led by Sarah Ramirez, History and Government teacher at the high school.

Many think the issue starts at home. Teachers and other adults feel the start of the problem is the lack of support. They feel many students are acting up because they are not getting the support they need to be successful at home.

In a few interviews with teachers around the district, the following questions were asked: “If and how have students been disrespectful to you? What can we do to fix this problem?”

In an interview with an anonymous teacher at Ortega Middle School, this teacher stated, “The behavior this school year has been out of character at OMS. I believe it has to do with being quarantined for weeks at a time with little socialization. It is almost like they come back to school not knowing how to behave. Some have little supervision at home due to parents at work. They come back to school not knowing how to socialize and this leads to an increase in fights this year. We have done many things that have seemed to help

a bit. One thing that has helped is our counseling department has helped for people struggling with coping in the drama. We are implementing many strategies to help with these problems like Capturing Kids Hearts. Hopefully we can empower our students with the tools they need to function successfully in society.”

Clearly, this issue is a district wide issue and maybe a nationwide issue. Smart Classroom Management stated, “Since returning to in-person learning, respect has taken a nosedive. Students are just different. We all see it. We all know it. The question is, what to do about it?”

At the Elementary level, second grade reading interventionist, Andrea Malouff stated: “When my students are disrespectful, they may not realize their actions, so I redirect them by providing positive feedback and opportunities to problem solvers in a safe learning environment.” This can be the most crucial point to teach behavior as they can learn from the jump.

From a high school student's perspective, Junior, Michael Madril says, “I feel students are more disrespectful

because underclassmen get more immature as the years go on. I believe COVID is not the excuse for the problem, rather maturity levels get worse every year. With regards to this problem, we can fix this by being more stern in the classroom and not allowing free passes, let kids fail if they want to act this way.”

Granted, most students are not the issue. A high majority of students have good behavior, good grades, and make it throughout the day just fine. The problem is the low majority of students that have these issues. The low majority is higher than normal this year making teachers feel that much more stressed.

This also makes the kids behaving seem that much more obedient by just doing what they are supposed to do. Staying out of trouble and out of the disciplinary office can go a long way. Many teachers are asking for our help as students to influence others to stay off their phones, do our work, and just be respectful. We need to come together to fix this issue and be more obedient in the classroom. Teachers struggle enough as it is, we need to make their lives easier.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Break
Dec. 18-Jan.2

Wrestling
Dec. 17-18 @ Reno, NV

Boys Basketball
Dec. 17 Vs. Crested Butte
Dec. 18 Vs. Gunnison

Girls Basketball
Dec. 17 Vs. Westminster
Dec. 18 Vs. Summit

