

## Take it from a Bedford student, the school bond proposal is sorely needed

I am a seventh-grade student at Bedford Junior High School, and I would like to voice my opinion on Bedford Schools' bond proposal on the May ballot.

Most people who oppose the idea of the bond, such as Howard Swan, do not like the plan due to the fact that it is expensive. Yet, the people who disagree with the bond refuse to see why improvements such as air conditioning, bigger lockers, wider hallways, new rooftops and new buses are needed.

I know from personal experience at both the junior high and Jackman Road Elementary School that air conditioning is needed. It has been proven that student concentration decreases after a classroom reaches 77-78 degrees Fahrenheit. The second floor of the junior high reaches well above those degrees on most days in May and June.

Mr. Swan had mentioned in his article that he believes the bond proposal will not help the students of Bedford, but it does if the schools

### Letters are welcome

Letters on matters of public interest are welcome. Full name, address and telephone number are required. Letters are limited to 400 words and may be edited. The e-mail address is letters@monroenews.com.

get air conditioning. According to research, students taking standardized tests, such as the MEAP and the ACT, perform significantly better in classrooms that are properly ventilated.

The next major issues are the size of our lockers, the width of our hallways and the conditions of our buses.

Our hallways are not wide enough for 1,150 students to travel through between classes. Students are shoulder to shoulder as they make their way down the hall.

Our lockers are about 1½ feet

wide and 2 feet deep, and they have to hold our backpacks, books, binders, notebooks and lunches. The locks are old and frequently jam, making students late to class.

Our buses are in horrible shape. The seats are torn and only repaired with duct tape. Graffiti covers the seats. Whenever it rains, water leaks through the fire escape onto the seats or the head of an unfortunate student. Sadly, the graffiti is not just narrowed down to seats on the bus, it also is on most of the desks and tables in the classrooms, which are about 45 years old.

That is why the new Bedford bond proposal should be passed. Most of the schools in Bedford are 50 years old, maybe older. We students need better, safer schools. If the board of education could decide, it already would have the proposal in motion, but the citizens of Bedford must decide. Make sure to vote "yes" May 6.

**Lauren Goforth  
Temperance**