



## Our Towns

### Oak Hill gives new phone system ringing thumps up *School dials into new technology*

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MIER — Voicemail messages used to disappear or show up two days after they were left at Oak Hill United School Corp.'s central office and junior/senior high school.

Those problems are gone, after the school used part of a donation from Central Indiana Ethanol to purchase a new phone system for both buildings.

"We had a very outdated system that was very inefficient," Superintendent Joel Martin said.

Oak Hill originally planned to replace the system in 2008, but didn't have quite enough money. After receiving a large grant from CIE, Oak Hill moved forward in ordering the system from Moorehead Technologies.

The new system's phones are filled with speed-dial buttons, customized for different workers' responsibilities. But, it has more advantages than new buttons, workers said.

"The new system is great because it loops us to the high school," said Judy Buroker, payroll/benefits manager in Oak Hill's central office.

In the past, people who called the central office trying to reach someone at the high school would have to be given a number to dial on their own. The reverse was also true. Now, the two buildings can transfer the caller to the other building.

Norma Sweeten, secretary to the superintendent and business manager, said it took time to adjust to the new system, but she appreciates the benefit of transferring directly to the high school and junior high. She can also press one button to dial the transportation director's cell phone.

Anita Williams, office manager at Oak Hill Junior/Senior High School, called the old and new phone systems "night and day."

"This new system is wonderful," she said.

The old phones would lose voicemail messages, and not all people had access to voicemail boxes, so she took several handwritten notes and sent frequent e-mails to people saying someone had called.

While teachers don't have phones in their classrooms, each teacher has a voicemail box and can receive e-mail notifications when they receive a voicemail. Teachers can listen to those messages from home, school or on their computer.



22 June 2009 -- Office manager Anita Williams uses the new phone system as she answers questions about student transcripts Tuesday at Oak Hill High School. Photo/Jeff Morehead

Williams said she's familiar with the new phone system. She's used it at other jobs.

"I loved it, so I was real excited when I heard we were going to get it," she said.

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