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Spring Valley

Student Declaration of Independence

Under times of necessity, such as this right this moment, men and women of all ages in this country owe it to themselves to be self-conscious of anything that should uprightly be theirs that has been abused or taken away, including their rights and well-being, and they deserve the respect of their oppressors to at the very least be listened to and reasoned with; otherwise, further, more forceful action would be equitable.

The high school students of Spring Valley Middle-High School are under the scrutiny and even somewhat tyranny of the administration of this institution, being denied of our calls to change, denied common rights that were endowed to us all by our creator or deities of any faith and commended by our faiths to protect, and denied the power to govern ourselves. It is the right and the duty for the Spring Valley students to alter or abolish this abuse, as stated by the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America.

1. First of all, we propose that the high school students of Spring Valley should have the right of an open campus lunchtime. Being able to take a physical break from school would give us a morale boost and better focus for our afternoon classes. In return, all students must follow driving laws. Only people with licenses will be able to drive, and probationary restrictions will be followed. Also, we the students must be in class and ready to go for sixth hour. It is no one’s responsibility but ours to make sure we are back on time. We feel that we should be given this right and accept all consequences in return for abusing said right. If the school is concerned about the students’ safety when driving, and if they are willing to offer a bus, we could have a shuttle bus that brings students to and from Subway so that everyone can make it there safely, without walking in the cold.
2. Second, we propose that we as a whole should be given the right to salt and pepper at lunch. If we can go out and buy a whole package of table salt at the store as teenagers, why should we be denied it at school with our butter and ketchup? We are old enough to make good decisions about what we are eating. It is not the responsibility of the school to restrict our eating habits; it is the responsibility of the school to give us the opportunity of an education. In return for salt and pepper, we students would accept the very minor cost of purchasing these seasonings to be added to our lunch payments.
3. Going along with our lunch, we propose to be given a choice of what is offered as entrees. One thing that drives everyone crazy here at Spring Valley is when the top three entrees are offered one day, and the three least favorite entrees are offered the next. On the first day, the choice is tough because it is hard to choose between our favorites. On the next day, the choice is even more difficult because nothing looks good to eat. We believe that the student body should take a survey, ranking all of our lunch meals. Our lunch ladies could then make a schedule of the meals offered that would stagger our good options. Let’s say there are twenty total entrees that are offered. On one day, we could have the number one favorite and the number twenty favorite offered. According to our survey, most of our students would choose, and be very happy with, the former of the options. On the next day, we could have the number two favorite and the number nineteen favorite offered, and so on. This way, we would always have at least one option for the students to eat that is mutually agreed upon as a favorite. Along with that, we are very confident in the fact that this would increase the amount of money made for the school. It is very common for everyone here to take “doubles” on days when they really like what is for lunch. If we always have something that we like for lunch, more people will be likely to take an extra entree and spend more money to the school. If we are given this right to choose our favorite lunches, a student-led organization such as the student council would be responsible for creating an easy-to-answer survey that would be sent to the entire student body.
4. On a different note, we propose that physical education classes should not be mandatory for student athletes of Spring Valley Middle-High School. This takes away from being enrolled in more relevant classes for future careers and for colleges. Student athletes spend a lot of time in athletics outside of the school day doing physical activity, and yes, more physical activity there than in most of our required physical education classes. In return for this right, we student athletes would be willing to log our physical activity in our co-curriculars after school to prove that we meet the minimum requirement for physical fitness.
5. We the students propose that black should be considered an official school color in our student handbook. In our logo, there is more black than white, not to mention an actual cardinal which contains no white at all. An actual cardinal even has more yellow on it than the color white. Yet we cannot have more black than just for “accents” on our uniforms. We are not saying that we would like all-black jerseys for football, basketball, baseball, etc. Rather, we are saying that black should be an option to use more throughout the uniforms. For example, we do not want to change our football jerseys from red to black. However, we want to change our helmets from white to black. Again looking at the official logo of our school district, there is more area covered in black than white. Therefore, we should be able to have more black than white on our uniforms if the players and coaches all agree to it. If losing the amount of red on our jerseys is such an issue, we will agree to only replace some of the white to black, not some of the red to black. We would like our school colors to be red, black, and white, just like our school logo.
6. We propose that the green-level students at Spring Valley High School should be able to leave school during WIN time. Many students have jobs that they could be working at, chores to be doing, or homework that could just be done at home at this time. We are proposing this because most green-level students currently travel to the commons to talk, or we travel to the gymnasium to shoot baskets or play volleyball. Little work is actually being done, even though the choice is up to ourselves to decide whether we do homework, talk, or play in the gym. If students could leave, we would be given this same choice, except the additional options of working at a job and just going home to relax. Again, this choice would only be given to green-level students. These are the students who work hard for the entire school day to keep their grades up, and already have eighth hour to choose whether they want to do homework or not.
7. Additionally, we propose that students in Wisconsin should be able to drop out at age sixteen again. By this age, many kids have already decided what career they would like to enter into. Also, some students are already not on track to graduate by this age, and don’t have any motivation to change that. This often results in students here at school who do not work hard in school, and have bad attitudes toward teachers and other students. We students feel that kids should be able to legally drop out of school at sixteen so that they can be a positive contribution to society, instead of a nuisance to their peers and elders at school. Not everyone wants to go to college after high school, and nobody has to. It is our own decision how we want to spend the rest of our lives. In order to drop out, students would need to have parental consent showing that their parents support the decision.
8. Lastly, we propose that students should be able to eat snacks during class. These snacks of course would have to be some sort of food that is not easily made into a mess, otherwise they wouldn’t be allowed. Snacks that would be allowed would include things like pretzels, nuts, crackers, and candy. We feel that this would increase productivity from the students, due to the brutal hunger that faces so many of us throughout the morning. The morale across the high school would dramatically increase if we could all eat during our classes. We would be responsible to clean up any food that is spilled in a classroom.

The students here at Spring Valley Middle-High School humbly ask that our proclamation be perused and acknowledged. With respect, we firmly believe in our ability to defend our rights, with both negotiations and misconstrued physical force as our allies, along with our clean conscience, our strong and loyal families, our heavenly creator, and our great dignity.

We, the unified students of Spring Valley Middle-High School, unanimously declare our freedom from any oppressors and tyrannic actions that have been so unkindly spread upon the school. We should hope and expect that there will be an ample effort for a settlement by our oppressors, and a consensus made between all of our hard working students and this administration. We stress that an agreement between everyone here at Spring Valley Middle-High School will boost happiness and morale from students, teachers, and management alike.

Signed **x** *Herbie Hancock\_*