

A Student's Declaration of Independence

When in the path of human events it becomes vital for students to dissolve the scholarly bands which have cornered them, a discussion of the issues is requested with the leaders of the school to decide how and when to implement these changes and bring new life to both the students and the school. We hold that all students are created equal and are endowed the rights to assert themselves when injustices are being executed amongst them.

- 1) We declare that every school should have an open campus lunch. Each lunch period would be 45 minutes long to allow for travel time. Only students with a driver's license would be allowed to travel off campus for lunch. Additionally, students would be required to have a written note by a parent/guardian allowing them to eat off campus. To not exclude students that don't meet the above requirements, any student is allowed to eat outside as long as they stay on school property. Eating off campus lunch is a privilege and any student who abuses said privilege is subject to punishment per the teacher and/or administrator's discretion.
- 2) We declare that students should be allowed to eat during their classes. Many students are still growing and as a result get hungry in between meals. Many students would agree that it is extremely difficult to pay attention when they are hungry. A full course meal would not be permitted, but a small snack that is not obnoxious or messy would be allowed. Students would be expected to clean up any mess and throw away any wrapper that is a result of them eating in class. Similar to eating off campus, eating in the classroom would be a privilege that could be taken away at the discretion of the teacher.
- 3) We declare that school hours are to start at 9:30 AM and go until 4:30. Studies have shown that growing teenage brains are naturally wired to go to sleep and wake up later than the average person. Although sports would finish later, it would have virtually no effect on student's sleeping schedule as students typically stay up late. Students would be more refreshed when they arrive at school. We would be adding sleep for students, what is wrong with that?
- 4) We declare that W.I.N. time, or any study hall for that matter, not be required. Out of the students that study hard and complete their homework, many of them do their homework at home and choose for it to be that way. Students with a 3.0 G.P.A. or higher would be able to take another class and be more productive with their time. Students with a 2.9 G.P.A. or lower would be required to have a designated study time everyday until they are able to get their G.P.A. up.
- 5) We declare that semester exams be given over the course of one week. Semester exams are currently given over the course of two days. Even if students study in the days

leading up to the exams, they are still under a lot of pressure to study each subject every night. By giving exams over the course of a week, students would only have to study for one or two tests each night, which would be a lot more manageable and a lot less stressful.

- 6) We declare that each subject be given a specific day of the week to assign homework. Many students feel overwhelmed with having homework from five or six different classes each night and for kids involved in extracurriculars or work, it is often just too much. By giving each subject a certain day that they can assign homework, kids are able to “give their all” to extracurriculars and school-work at the same time. An example of this would be allowing math homework on Mondays, english homework on Tuesdays, science homework on Wednesdays, social studies homework on Thursdays, and any other subjects on Friday.
- 7) We declare that physical education classes not be a requirement to graduate. Physical education classes are about twenty-five minutes long when attendance, changing/showering, and explaining the activity are taken into account. Childhood obesity is not a huge problem at our school and physical education classes do not actually combat childhood obesity. As stated, these classes are about twenty-five minutes long and students who are obese are only going to lose weight if they are motivated to do so. Forcing them into an often uncomfortable and extremely competitive environment will do nothing but make the problem worse. Additionally, some students are just uninterested in sports and there is nothing wrong with that. Forcing students into a class when they could be taking something more worth their time is wrong. High school can be a hostile environment, especially in physical education classes and putting students in a situation where harassment is often the result of a mistake is also wrong.
- 8) We declare that students should be allowed to do homework during class. Of course, if the teacher is lecturing students would be expected to listen, but if it is work-time students should be able to choose what they do with their time. If a student wants to get their math done by the end of the day so they do not have to worry about it at home, then they should be permitted to do so. However, students would still be expected to complete all assignments assigned to them. Many students would prefer to get their math or science done at school and do their english at home since math and science involve heavy textbooks and english often involves a computer that many students already have at home.

Thus, we the students of the United States of America, declare that these modifications be discussed and implemented as soon as possible to change our school systems and renovate them to a point where they are capable of pushing students to their utmost potential. As the people affected most by the decisions of school boards, students should be allowed to have their voice

heard. We pledge our lives to this cause, as our education is what will make us into well-rounded adults ready to run the great country we call the United States of America.