

Respect students’ situations

by Trey Wright, J1 reporter

Students at HHS faced a dilemma at the start of the second semester. They missed a day or more of school, checked their grades, and saw that the assignments they missed that day were marked as zeros. Considering how few grades were in or how weighted some assignments were in classes, one missed assignment could drop a student’s grade big time.

According to the school handbook: "Students with excused absences have two days (not class periods) after returning to their class to make up their assignments." But some teachers don’t follow this rule. They might say they put the assignments in as a zero to get the students’ attention and get them to make up the work as soon as possible- which makes sense given that some students will put off making up the work as long as possible.

While it might make sense and can be effective it is not exactly fair to the student. Most people don’t choose when they are sick or when they have an appointment they need to go to. Students are then punished for this absence in some cases with a bad grade in the class. Sometimes the student could be punished in his or her sport as well for this grade.

Early in the semester at a boys basketball practice a good number of players had to run for bad grades. In some cases it was out of the student athletes control. During this time of year especially when sickness has seemed to go around the school at a fairly high rate, if students are sick on a test day for example, their grade could drop a large amount. Putting in a grade without giving the student the two days to make it up is unfair to the student and their grade.

The solution to this problem might be the teacher contacting the students, personally, telling them how important it is for them to make up the assignment or test. Teachers could ask the students to come in during AEP. It comes down to the teacher and student communicating and finding a solution that works for both. This is a problem that can and should be avoided.

Later start time for school

by Alyssa McCammon, J1 reporter

School needs to start later in the morning.

Students wake up around six in the morning to get ready for school. Waking up that early in the morning means they lose sleep and can’t focus on learning. All they focus on is leaving school and going home to sleep. There is no point for the teachers to stand up and start to teach if half the class isn’t focusing on the lesson.

It’s even worse for students with morning practices. Morning practices start at six or seven in the morning. After they have woken up early and had to practice these students have to stay awake all day at school and try to focus on their classes. When students are extremely tired it's hard to focus on anything; students need more sleep than they get.

If school started later, students might have better attendance. Parents could schedule the appointments for a student before school. Most openings for appointments are during school, so the students miss out on the teachers lessons. Students can easily get the missed assignment from the teacher, but might not understand it as well.

If school started later teachers would have time before school to meet with each other. They would also have time to meet with students. They would have time to help kids with extra work that they didn’t understand or work with special needs or gifted students. This would give them more time to assist students.

School should start at 9 or 10 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. If the schools start time was later, student learning would improve.



“I would want to find a dragon,” freshman Ana Lemon said.



“A giant pot of Skittles at the end of the rainbow,” sophomore Kortnee VanDonge said.



“I want to find a pot of gold,” junior Willie Bowman said.



“I would want to find 10 trillion dollars,” senior Carson Meerpohl said.

by Gabbi Katz, asst. editorial editor and Lauryn Moore, asst. editorial editor

High school is necessary

by Blake Harris, editor

Times change and so do rules, however, the suggestion made by a writer in the *New York Times* that high school should be abolished is beside the point. High school is needed in every teen’s upbringing, for it establishes not only academic skills but also life lessons. High school helps end entitlement, expands students’ problem-solving skills, and gives students a chance to figure out what they want to do after graduation.

High school is the time in many youth’s lives, that they realize that they are not the most important people in the world. If entitled teenagers were to enter college, not many would pass the first semester. All high school students go through times where they may not feel important to anyone or as if they’re not protected from the frightening parts of high school. In a painting by Norman Rockwell pictured in the book *Conversations in American Literature* Ruby Bridges, an African-American student in the 1950s, is shown being escorted by several U.S. Marshals. The fear of the unknown as the little girl enters her first day of a white school enters the eye of the viewer. The editors state: “This work raises many questions, such as whether the Marshals are protecting Ruby or boxing her in.” While no one today can begin to understand what Bridges would have felt, it’s easy to remember a time at school in which we felt anxious. In high school, students learn to cope with that anxiety. Young teenagers are not prepared emotionally for college; high school is a period that allows teens to mature emotionally and physically.

In addition to providing emotional support, high schools all around the country prepare students to enter many different fields, whether that is college, the work force or the military. Providing students with the necessary problem solving skills is a vital part of a high school education. David Kirp says in “The Secret to Fixing Bad Schools” “To succeed, students must become thinkers not just test takers.” If not for high schools, students would not be prepared for the many different pathways of life. High school teaches students skills they need to be successful. Everyone can study and pass a test, but not everyone can problem solve. This is an issue across the country. Students who plan to further their education must work to improve their problem solving skills before entering college.

Over the four years while in high school, all students change. Developing from a 14 year-old freshman to an 18 year-old senior getting ready to graduate is a vast transformation. While finding yourself sounds cliché, high school really is the perfect time to do just that. Discovering who you are, who and what you care about, and what you want to do after high school are all realizations students face. High school has given me the opportunity to work in a health care facility to further my knowledge about possibly pursuing a health care career. Without high school I would have been much less informed, thus not having any sort of idea what I want to study in college.

While students currently enrolled in high school may notice only the major flaws, after graduation many would love to turn right back around. I can’t wait to see what college has in store and while, yes, I tend to wish my short four years of high school away, I couldn’t imagine beginning college at such a young age. High school teaches students to understand others and themselves a little better, to increase their problem solving skills, and to reach an insight into a possible career choice.

In the long run, without high school, students would be lost.

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