Importance of Our Student Bill of Rights

    Like any other bill of rights, our student bill of rights is important because it strives to prevent the abuse of power. In our case, we identify the authority as the administration at schools. We wrote our rights in defense against the administration using their power to enforce unfair rules and restrictions upon us, the students. We wanted to emphasize that school is about the students. Rules should be made for the best interest of the students’ education and self-fulfillment, not for benefit of the authority.

    Students attend school for the education. This is why student learning should be the focal point for all members participating in the system. It is important for the administration to use restricted powers given to them to keep order and conduct where students can acquire the most out of their educational experience. This does not mean that the administration may use their powers to restrict the students. This is one of the reasons why our bill of rights is important. We want to protect the students from an exploitation of power by the administration. This goes with homework and tests. Homework and tests are supposed to be tools to help the education of a student. These devices are not to be used out of punishment towards the students.

    No student, under any circumstance or condition, should be humiliated by the administration. No student should be degraded by the administration. No student should be treated unequally by the administration. Dignity is important for students in an academic setting. It is the job of the administration to treat each student with respect and equally among the other students. No student should be singled out as either inferior or superior than his/her peers. This is yet another reason why our students bill of rights is important. It serves to protect the dignity and self-respect of the students. This is important for the well-being of the students and can be important in their education.

    The administration, with their restricted powers, is responsible for the well-being and education of the students. If, in any way, a member of the administration does not fulfill this duty, action must be taken. In our bill of rights, we state that, as students, we should have the right to impeach and, if a situation is bad enough, remove a member of the administration if we find that he/she is not intruding on the well-being and education of the students. This is yet another way our bill of rights would protect the students and their main goal of education.

    In today’s education system, how much a student learns is supposed to be reflected in his/her grades. The emphasis put on the grading scale makes it appear as if grades determine a student’s success in not only school but in life. Grades are known to be altered, but are more commonly associated with grade inflation. But grade inflation is not the only way grades are affected. The grading scale that schools use can be biased and unfair where students’ academic careers are negatively impacted because of a mark on a transcript. This grading scale needs to be amended. Grades should not be reflecting solely the “smarts” of a student, but they should largely reflect the efforts and hard work a student puts in towards their education. Our student bill of rights aims to change this grading system where it is more fair and universal across all schools.

    As students in the current education system, we do not choose what we are taught in schools. We do get to choose the classes we take, (obviously some are required) but beyond that the curriculum that is taught is not in our power. Although we recognize that there becomes a point in which certain curriculum is necessary, there is a time where students should have more control over what they learn. After all, it is the student's’ educations. In our student bill of rights, the ability to choose what a student wants to learn should be left up to the student. The student is the one putting in the time and effort to learn. The student should not be learning something false or something they have no interest in learning (again, to an extent). We the students should be given a choice to give advice to the administrator, of how our education system should be change. When we give this advice, we should not be put down but our advice should be taken seriously and into consideration. Like we said in the beginning, our bill of rights strive to prevent the abuse of power and all we ask for is that the power that is being abuse, should be shared by the administration  and the students.

We the students ask for these rights…

1. The right to choose (without punishment) if we want to do HW or take a test.
2. The right to learn what you want, not what the state gives (General classes included).
3. The right to take breaks, More than the 30 min we get for lunch.
4. The right to ignore or follow dress code.
5. The right to Impeach staff members.
6. The right to bring the college back to college forum.
7. The right to a better lunch.
8. The rights to longer vacation.(Winter, Summer, Spring, Fall)
9. The right to have a different grading system.
10. The rights to no school fine(Tardy tickets, lunch, books)

We need these rights because this is what we as students deserve. We are told to perform to the best of our abilities but how can we do that when we don’t have the tools that we need that will make us perform better. Having the rights tools leads to a hard work ethics towards tests and school works. It’s time to change the cycle of school routine.