L.A.H.S Needs an Adequate Learning Environment

On Thursday, February 21, students from our Education and Power class visited some students at Los Angeles High School. The purpose of this trip was to observe and analyze the differences between their school and our school, Santa Monica High School. The following week the L.A.H.S students visited us at Samohi. What I learned from this experience is that although SAMO is not the best school, L.A.H.S does not have the adequate learning environment that all students deserve.

According to number three of "An Educational Bill of Rights for California's Students", every student should have access to a "suitable learning environment and school classrooms, buildings, and facilities that enable learning and health." One of these requirements is that bathrooms be maintained in decent, safe and sanitary conditions. These necessities of course are not being met. While on our trip, I got a chance to visit the bathrooms. They were filthy and unhealthy. They had writing all over the place. The seats were dirty and they did not have real toilet paper; just little squares of paper. They also didn't have soap. The conditions in these bathrooms are unhealthy and unsafe. They also affect the student's mood throughout the school day. Knowing that the bathrooms are not clean, they will not go to the bathroom. They will wait until the end of the school day when they go home. Throughout the day they will only think about going to the restroom and not be able to concentrate in school. Another thing that will detract from their focus in school is lack of food. Another requirement for number three is adequate lunch periods. This requirement is not being met. The L.A.H.S students have only thirty minutes for lunch. Being that the lunch period is too short, many times students do not eat. It is a fact that people need food in their systems for their brains to work.
properly. At Samohi, the restrooms are not perfect, but good enough to be used. We get lunch periods that are 45 minutes long and also have nutritious food. In this way Samohi students might succeed more in school than students from Los Angeles High Schools.

Students at L.A.H.S also do not have a safe or supportive school environment, which is number six of the Educational Bill of Rights for California's Students. Some of these requirements are to keep students safe and away from harassment. These requirements are also not being met. The students don't receive harassment from students as much as they do from security. The security guards have random searches of random students. Once in a while they'll go into a classroom and check a student's belongings for no apparent reason. Also, some students told us that the security guards "flirt" with the girls. This of course will make the students uncomfortable during school. They will not be able to focus and will feel discouraged from attending school. The school and learning environment at Los Angeles High School is not appropriate. "School," including facilities and security, discourages the students from getting an education. Although Samohi is not a perfect school, it is safe and clean enough for students to attend.