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What Every Student Deserves

Many adults view students as adolescents and immature. Because of their views of students, students are often thought less of and are less respected. Society deprives students of their rights and privileges. From lack of information, students often don't succeed. Adults sometimes think that students are ignorant and do not know or understand what they are doing, but students know and will not stand for it.

Students deserve rights just like any other human being. Students deserve the right to possess cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices while in school. If there were a major disaster and Santa Monica High was not informed, but parents knew and needed to contact their children, having a cell phone that is not on will not help the situation. We should be able to keep our phones on so that if an emergency were to arise and all the phones in the area went out, we'd have a way of communicate with our families. Learning from your mistakes is a part of growing and if one never has the chance to grow then one will never mature. A part of maturing is following rules and regulations and being punished when you don't. Students also need these necessities for emergencies and as long as you don't have it on in class, there's no problem with having it.

Students also deserve the right to wear any article of clothing they choose to in school. Clothing is a way of expressing one's feelings. For women a hat for example can accessorize with their outfit or it can cover up for a bad hair day, which can be quite embarrassing. Being able to dress however you want is a right and privilege. One is able to dress however they want on the streets, yet, when we come to school, a place of learning and security, we are told what can and can't be worn. This is the land of freedom yet we can't choose our own articles of clothing.

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Every student deserves the right to speak and be heard. Most students feel that their voices are overlooked and not heard. Society asks for opinions and when they are given society ignores them. As a student I feel that society merely asks questions to make it seem as if they care, when they really don't. Or sometimes adults ask questions and are too tired to listen and be patient with us. So if you allow students to speak, out of respect, one could at least listen.

Every student also deserves the right to be informed. Society wants us to excel, but with insufficient information how is one to perform this task? For instance, being a young African American student at Samohi I noticed that not many of my friends knew of DELIANS or having the option of waiving into honors class. This information should be given to all students. In my opinion it is partly the fault of teachers for not reading the bulletin aloud to students. Because of their mistakes we miss out and have to deal with the outcome.

We should have the right to get out of school early just like our neighboring schools. I have noticed that a lot of schools in other districts have at least one day a week they get out early. Most of the time it is either on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. We are the only school I know of that does not have this time off. Students deserve breaks WITHOUT the worry of having to do homework. Students often become upset, depressed, and angry because we have so much work and very little time to accomplish it. Many of us have outside activities such as sports. This is also a challenging time in our lives because we are faced with complications dealing with the opposite sex and just life in general. We need time to be ourselves and think and let out all the pressure. Being under pressure all the time will just have negative results. All we need is a little break every once in a while.

Students deserve the right to be more responsible. We should be able to make honest mistakes and correct ourselves. For example having the right to make
more decisions in school that affect us (the student body) directly. Not being put in certain situations will not allow us to learn and we will be lost when the situation finally comes. We also won’t get the opportunity to learn for ourselves with the help of adults by our sides. We will have to fend for ourselves.

Society has set up programs to help students find employment but they are designed for the less fortunate teens and are very hard to get into. The programs should be accessible for all teens. Those of us who are well off still have needs, yet have no where to go. For example I have wasted my time going to many programs just to be rejected because I live in a complete household. It can get really hard because we are expected to go out into the world with no past history of work and find a job. We have no clue of where to start and can easily be fooled because we have no one to guide us.

Society deprives students of their rights because we are misunderstood. Students are often treated like children and lack information. Students are told to speak, but when they do, no one listens, so tell me is this what every student deserves?