



## Tattoos express who we are in a special way

I'm patiently waiting to turn 18 so I can get the tattoos I've been dreaming about for so long. I want the Gemini symbol because it's my zodiac sign, the word "serendipity" because it's my favorite word and I love the meaning of it, and a hummingbird for my grandpa who passed away when I was 6.

A lot of people are against tattoos, my mom being one of them, but I think they're an awesome way to express yourself. She tells me that since she made a promise to her dad that she wouldn't get any that I shouldn't either, but I didn't make the promise, she did! I personally don't want a full sleeve or to be covered; I just want some small, meaningful ones here and there.

Getting a tattoo is a great way to show people what you're about and to keep what's important not

only on your mind but on your skin. If you get a tattoo of something that's special to you, then it's a constant reminder of what is impor-

tant in your life. It should be something that you wouldn't mind still having on your body when you get old. For instance, names of boyfriends or girlfriends aren't good ideas.

The way I think of it is, your body is like a canvas and you can do whatever you want with it. They're also a way for you to show your creative side. Tattoos can be so weird and out of this world, such as a portrait of your cat or a mushroom with a face, but no one really cares. It's your body and you can do what you want with it.

The most random things can make awesome tattoos and that's what I love about them, like take a flower with muscular stems and turn it into a tattoo and it could turn out amazing. They're so unique and different, no two are the same; unless matching of course.

Tattoos are a special way to express that you understand yourself. You know what you want and you get it in your skin.



**Brittany George**

## Fix the unfair funding to schools

Supt. Art Tate has started a chain of events in order to draw attention to a problem that has existed since the 1970s--namely, a state financial aid formula that gives some districts more money per student than others. We applaud his efforts.

In 1971, Iowa changed school funding from local property taxes to a state funding formula based upon pupil enrollment. At the time the Davenport school district had not been levying a very large amount while other wealthier districts, such as Bettendorf and Pleasant Valley were. As a result, the top seven school districts in the state get \$6,541 per student, while our district gets \$6,366 per student, a difference of \$175 per student. Because of this, we have \$3.2 million less this year than if we were getting an equal funding per student.

That's not right. The state legislature needs to fix the law so that it gives the same amount of aid to every student.

Additionally, over the last five years we have had to cut around \$17 million from our budget, and Dr. Tate found that if we were receiving the full \$6,541 per student we would have made just a bit over what we had to cut.

Solutions have been presented to the Iowa legislature by the Department of Education though. The first solution is to bring

all Iowa school districts up to the higher amount by adding \$73 million to school spending which would increase property tax. This idea makes sense and is exactly what Tate has been fighting for.

The second solution though is to bring the higher districts down over three years which would cut \$19 million from school spending and it would cut many district budgets. This isn't really what we need.

The third and final solution is to split the difference by offsetting it with supplemental state aid increases which lowers property taxes. A district at the lowest amount would receive the full \$175 increase, a district in the middle would receive the portion that they're missing, and a district at the top would receive no increase to supplemental state aid, as is normal for districts. Ralph Johanson, president of the Davenport school board, told the Register that the third option is something he could get behind as it would get us the funding we need as well as not increasing property tax and the first two options could reduce funding for other districts, which is not our intent.

The legislature won't act without public support, especially from students in districts who are "worth less" than other students in the state. Write your legislator and tell them to change the law to help schools like ours.

### Do you plan on living on campus while attending college?



"No, because it's cheaper to just live with my friend's parents who live a block from the college I will be attending."  
- Andromeda Springsteen, 10



"Yes, because I want to stay closer to the college and get to know college life."  
- John Peters, 10

### Write a letter to the editor

How do you feel about timely issues concerning the school or the community? We'd like to know. The letter should include your name and grade and it should be 200 words.

Submit your letter to Room 161 or email your letter to [BeakNEyeEditor@gmail.com](mailto:BeakNEyeEditor@gmail.com)