

Exploring new ways to help students excel

by senior Lauren Kahler

Study hall. It is a great concept when students use that time to work on homework. But a lot of the kids in my study hall don't do much that is actually productive.

I see them playing games on their phones and computers, chatting about the previous day's drama, watching pointless YouTube videos about duck calls or cats... you get the picture. Can you imagine if the students, who are choosing to waste their time, were to have the choice to help other kids learn?

Our school should consider introducing a student assistance center, where students can help other students with their studies.

This would be supervised by a teacher, of course, to ensure that responsible tutoring and learning is being completed. This center could be in any of the three or more classrooms that are not being used on a daily basis throughout the high school.

If I had the opportunity to visit a student assistance center throughout my high school career, I think my schooling would have been more productive.

I would have loved the chance to receive help in math and science with students who I both trusted and could relate to. I also would have been happy to help my peers who were struggling in English or Journalism.

Another way that my high school time would have been improved, is if there was a scheduled period in the day where any student could go to any teacher and ask questions, get feedback, retake tests or get help. This would be similar to what education calls a Response to Intervention (RTI), which is, according to RTI Action

Network, "a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs."

The website goes on to describe RTI as, "high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom."

An RTI period could influence students to ask more questions outside of class, which could lead to their comfort of asking questions in class. In the long term, students could potentially be more engaged in class because they know they'll have more opportunities to understand the concept.

There is so much wasted time and potential for greatness in our students. If a program, like either of the above, were to be established in the district, students could be succeeding at an even faster rate than they are currently.

If students have the opportunity to work on their skills outside of the classroom, on their own terms, they would most

likely feel more confident in the classroom.

They would feel encouraged to participate more in class- expressing their ideas in discussions, reading out loud and contributing on group projects. Student tutors would learn as well, as teaching a topic requires a deep understanding of it. It would be a win/win for everyone.

I believe that all students could benefit in a student assistance center and RTI period. HHS should provide its students with more chances to learn and understand their classes, and the material and concepts covered in them. Instead of watching a video about duck calls or cats.

86% of students polled said that they would benefit from having a period during the day to talk to teachers.

Quips & Quandaries
with sophomore Caleb McCullough

A fine line: The battle between privacy and security

A terrorist's iPhone sits on a table surrounded by FBI agents and their high-tech hacking devices. But try as they might, the FBI just can't crack it. So they ask Apple to make a back door access to the iPhone. Apple refuses, claiming that technology is too dangerous. The FBI comes back with a court order. Apple fights back. Thus begins a national debate: Where does the reach of government security end and privacy begin?

This is an issue that never leaves the American political table. It gets brought up so often, from the PATRIOT Act of 2001 to Edward Snowden and the NSA scandal in 2012.

At its simplest, the role of government is to secure its citizens' property and to stop them from killing each other. The government is there, in theory, to keep us safe. But when national safety and personal liberty clash, what do we value more?

In the early days of this country, the answer was obvious. Our founding fathers valued freedom above

anything else. But as time goes by, we are no longer feeling the scar of tyranny, and it seems only sensible that whatever we can do to protect our safety

from those who intend us harm, we should do. But where does it stop? Are there some methods of security that are too dangerous to implement? In short, yes. We need to carefully watch the line between shining utopia and oppressive nightmare.

So the question remains: How much control should the leaders of our nation have? Should they do everything in their power to keep us safe, or should they preserve our privacy and liberty, even at the cost of human lives?

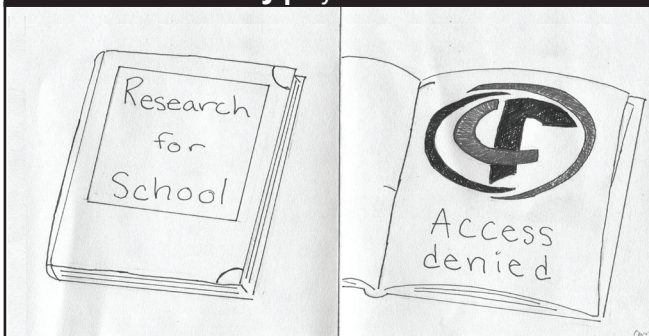
There is no perfect answer, and I'm not claiming to have one. We like to flock to the constitution, but the constitution is old. It's been amended before, and it isn't perfect. Humans aren't perfect. Politics aren't perfect. The world is big, messy, scary, and always changing. And what seems insane now may be the norm a hundred years from now.

But in every crisis, we need to hold on to the core American ideals. We were founded on a belief in natural, personal freedoms. The spirit of the revolution flows in all of us, and there's something that seems inherently wrong about infringing on that.

"Wherever the power that is put in any hands for the government of the people... is applied to other ends... there it presently becomes tyranny."

- philosopher John Locke

Little Sketchy | by senior Carmen Finn



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