

A Look at Both Sides

I asked a series of questions to three students and three teachers. The questions deal with issues on policies of the school, courses, and how students and teachers feel about the school in general. These are some of their responses.

By Rebecca Scott

Student Responses

1. Do you feel the locking up of the doors during school hours is beneficial? Why or why not?

Student: Yes and no; I feel that it is beneficial because it keeps people out who don't belong at the high school. Then, on the other hand, I feel that it is not because what would happen in an emergency situation. — Chris Geraghty, grade 11

2. What is the one thing you like most about Sycamore. Why?

Student: I like to be able to choose the classes I take because I feel it's helping in completing requirements to get into the college of your choice. — Marcee Whitworth, grade 9

3. What do you like least about Sycamore High School, and how would you go about changing it?

Student: What I like least about Sycamore are the changes in the school that I've seen happen. I've seen the administration take away morning announcements, remove music from the halls in between classes, give the teachers standard pink hall passes for their students, and many others. But, as all things eventually change, I suppose these things had to as well. I feel there is nothing I can do but follow these new changes/rules. — Stacey Walters, grade 10

4. Do you think that vocational education is a worthwhile choice for students? Why or why not?

Student: I think college is one of the most important moves you can make. Vocational schools can be good training, but a good college is more important. If decided to go to a vocational school, then that person should still go to college. — Paige Sattler, grade 12

5. Do you feel college prep courses can benefit in getting into a better college? If yes, in what ways?

Student: I feel that you'd have a better chance at getting into college if you take college prep courses. Also, if you play in a sport and receive a scholarship, then this will be a definite to get into a major college and you will be successful at whatever you want to be in your future. — Steve Rieger, grade 9

Teacher Responses

1. Do you feel the locking up of the doors during school hours is beneficial? Why or why not?

Teacher: Most staff do not prefer the idea of being "locked in" behind school doors. Due to security reasons, of having "unlimited" guests wandering through the corridors which could cause a possible security risk for students, doors have to be secured. This does not produce a dangerous situation as school doors have push bars that will automatically open any locked door from the inside, permitting any needed emergency quick exit from the building. — Mr. Rudisell

2. What is the one thing you like most about Sycamore? Why?

Teacher: The best thing about Sycamore is the variety of activities for students to get involved with. — Mr. Lothrop

3. What do you like least about Sycamore High School, and how would you go about changing it?

Teacher: Open class rooms, which cause too much noise. Keep putting up walls! — Mr. Blackburn

4. Do you think that vocational education is a worthwhile choice for students? Why or why not?

Teacher: Vocational education is good for those students who realize that they are not academically oriented, but are motivated enough to learn to a skill. I feel that vocational education is used all too often as a dumping ground. I would like to see students who waste time in class learn to do something productive in their lives. If this means a vocational education, then I strongly support it! — Miss Hulburt

5. Do you feel college prep courses can benefit in getting into a better college? If yes, in what ways?

Teacher: Harder courses in high school are good preparation for college work. If the course is comprehensive and thorough then the students who do well in them should be better prepared for standardized tests. — Mrs. Copfer

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