

Antioch High School's Student Grievances 2016-2017

Good morning everyone. Thank you for joining us this morning as we express our concerns involving our school. **As a reminder, we ask that everyone remain respectful and orderly during this time. At the conclusion of the protest, please return to class. Do not leave campus, as that diminishes the effectiveness of our movement. We are here to make our voices heard in a powerful way. That can only be done in an orderly fashion.** We have decided to hold this protest for a number of reasons. The environment of Antioch has significantly changed over the past few months. Our administration has taken what was once a place of educational conduct and turned it into a place of despair. Today, we hope to make our voices heard and get our school back. This is our school; this is our voice!

Dr. Wiley, these are the concerns of your students. These are the problems that we demand be resolved. We demand change and resolution here at Antioch. We will not rest until our demands are met.

The discontent among students against our administration began last October with their refusal to let eligible students participate in taking the PSAT, ruining their chances of any National Merit Scholar Scholarships. We were told that it was a district policy when in reality, it was not. We feel that they didn't believe anyone would qualify, and therefore no one would be allowed to take it. Our education should not be controlled by an administration that does not believe in their student body.

Students have also been informed this year that our school is no longer working with the Fee Waivers our parents must fill out at the beginning of the school year. This is especially devastating to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate students who rely on those waivers to take their end of course college credit exams. Many families here in Antioch simply cannot afford to pay for their child to take these tests. Why should our educational future be compromised due to our lack of income or financial situations? There are many other options for finding money working various programs, but instead, our administration chooses to make us pay it completely ourselves or don't take the test.

In November, Antioch's administration really cracked down on the dress code policy. While we understand the purpose behind it to an extent, we believe that we have the right to an education regardless of what we are wearing. It's understandable that there must be certain restrictions, but limiting us to four colors is ridiculous. This is a generation that believes in expressing themselves, and our administration is oppressing that while at the same time compromising our education based on a pair of pants that simply looks like it contains denim. Another issue in this is that if we are said to be out of dress code, whether true or not, we are remanded to the auditorium for In School Suspension. Here students sit and do nothing. They are not given any work and miss on valuable lessons to help them in the future. Some students that transfer from non-SSA schools or cannot afford new clothes are deprived from a valuable education for clothing.

For the past few years, Antioch has really worked to grow extra-curricular activities. That all changed when Dr. Wiley and her administration took over. We have seen the fragmentation of numerous clubs and extracurricular activities due to the lack of fundraising. This was caused by administrations denial to multiple fundraising proposals. The students have worked to maintain their activities, but we have have continually be denied. We are no longer able to raise money for many of our extra curricular activities, therefore the clubs either no longer exist or are rapidly dwindling. One club, DECA, is globally recognized. Students in this club worked diligently in order to go compete on the State and hopefully national level. Antioch is the only school in the district denied of participating in the DECA competition. This is unacceptable!

Senior week has long been a tradition here at Antioch. This year, it was removed from the agenda also due to lack of fundraising and other reasons that have yet to be specified. It's almost as if our administration just doesn't care. Again, this is something completely uncalled for. Seniors have spent their entire lives working up to graduation. They deserve the same opportunities afforded to previous graduating classes. We have done nothing to them, so why must they do this to us?

We are given six minutes in between classes here at Antioch to use the restroom and make it on time to our next class. Not only do we have a ridiculously strict tardy policy, we also lack adequate restroom facilities. They've removed paper towels from our grasp, and can't seem to keep the restrooms decent. We understand that the students must help keep up the facilities, but it's

hard to flush a toilet or clean anything without any water pressure. There have been days that there is no water at all, but nothing has been done to fix it.

Many of you all have seen the pictures of our cafeteria food circulating over the past few weeks. There has been multiple reports of moldy or undercooked meals being served. Both this and the restroom ordeal pose a major health hazard to every student, yet they are not being taken seriously.

We students are also aware of staff members here at Antioch being treated unfairly as well. We have had multiple teachers quit, leaving vacancies in crucial academic classes that have yet to be filled. Substitutes are few and far between, and both have been treated so badly that they leave and never look back. This is another example of our education being compromised due to our administration's lack of adequacy.

Our director of schools, Dr. Joseph, along with Dr. Wiley and her administration, have ruined our school. They have tried to ignore our voices for far too long. They fail to respond to our concerns in a timely manner as well as involve students in the decision making policies of our school. Students have been punished unfairly, as have staff members.

We hope that this protest opens the eyes of the community to what is really taking place here at Antioch. We students are fed up with it. Our goal is to take back our school and education. We have been quiet for too long. It's our time to rise up. It's time to show them what bears can do!. Let it be known that the student body here will not rest until we see change...THIS IS OUR SCHOOL AND OUR VOICE