

Test Formula Can Create School Spirit

School spirit, as defined by a fellow student at Webb, is a student's loyalty or patriotism to his school, shown by his participation in activities in which he might have an interest. But is it right to leave it in just these terms? School spirit in sports can be demonstrated in both good and bad ways. School spirit in sports can be defined as a good fight for the ole school, after a game which we lost. It can be defined as booing the referee when we disagree with a decision which he made. It can be defined in many ways which are not meant to help the team or the school, but rather just for "the sake of doing something annoying." Real school spirit is directly meant to be advantageous to the team and the school. Good types of school spirit in sports are yelling more when we are down, not when we are winning. It seems that most students yell more when we get the lead, but when we are losing, they sit quietly, hoping for a break, instead of yelling for one. A simple formula is an excellent example of how to improve our badly needed spirit:

$$WT = SS \times GC$$

$$\text{not } SS = WT \times GC$$

that is, a winning team (WT) is the product of school spirit in sports (SS) and good cheering (GC). It seems that the formula that we use today is: School spirit in sports (SS) is the product of a winning team (WT) and good cheering (GC). A good team is going to play better when they know what you expect from them. If you don't tell them what you expect of them by yelling at the games and by showing them that you really want to win, then the team is not going to play as hard as when they know you are backing them all the way.

—Rodney Rose

Can Attitudes Make Or Break You?

School spirit! School spirit! It has been pounded, grounded, and pumped into everyone's head, but has it done any good? Do you feel the same way about your school today as on the day you started in September? Have your attitudes changed any?

Going to school may not be the greatest and easiest thing in the world, but since when was anything that was profitable, easy? You can make a school a great deal more enjoyable for everyone if you just change your attitudes. I mean your attitudes toward your teachers, your homework, and your school activities. One the subject of teachers, do you have one that you are not particularly fond of? Is this your attitude? "He does not like me and I do not like him or his subject. So there, we have mutual feelings toward each other." How do you ever expect to learn anything from this teacher with this kind of attitude?

Do you have homework problems, not only in mathematics, but in other subjects too? Have you a positive or a negative attitude toward them? Does this sound familiar? "I couldn't do my homework the first time; why should I try a second time? The subject is just too hard." A positive attitude and a little effort can accomplish a great deal. Teachers notice whether a person has a good attitude or not and it does influence their grading.

Your school is made up of the student body and the faculty. The students are the ones who have to make the school activities worthwhile. Find a club you are interested in, qualify, join, and then participate. Be proud to know you have contributed to your school's activities.

Try changing or improving your attitudes. You will be surprised how much difference there will be. There is always room for improvement in all of us.

—Sanne Jones

Honor Code: Honesty Steps Forward

What is your first reaction when an honor code is mentioned? Do you immediately conjure up a mental picture of Air Force Academy scandals and dismissals from college? Or do you imagine an honor code as a useful, constructive feature of school life? Whatever your opinion, stop and think of all the different factors involved in having a school honor code.

First of all, the proposed honor code is considerably milder than those used in colleges and other institutions of higher learning. It only becomes effective when the individual student signs it. Signing is purely voluntary; no pressure of any kind is put on any student about signing the code.

Will this honor code improve student behavior and morale to any great extent? At this time, no one knows. It could be that putting a voluntary honor code into practice at Webb will make a student stop and think twice before doing something wrong. If one such student is helped, the honor code will have been worthwhile.

On the other hand, signing a piece of paper may not stop anyone from doing something he was planning to do anyway. The people who are contemplating doing something wrong are already "hooked". They are not likely to change their ways just because of signing a little slip of paper.

These are some points for and against the honor code. Yet, the code is unique in that it can serve a minority of students rather than a majority. The people who want an honor code should not be forced to give up the idea just because more students feel it is worthless. These anti-honor code people should settle for ignoring the code instead of opposing it. An honor code certainly can't hurt anything! Let it help the ones who want it!

—Kathy Webb

Letters To The Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

William Lloyd Garrison once said: "I do not wish to think, or speak, or write with moderation. . . I will be heard!" I hope I am not quite as radical as Mr. Garrison, but I do want to be heard.

I want to take this space in our *Spectator* to express my deepest and sincerest thanks to a person who has contributed more to J. F. Webb High School than many people realize. Of course, I am speaking of our principal, Mr. E. H. Stallings.

Mr. Stallings has helped our school in more than one way. He has taken a firm stand in trying to help our school have better sportsmanship. Some of you students may say that he has been instructed to do this, but I say to you that he has set a wonderful example by his own actions. This has been true in all cases! He has never expected a student to abide by a rule that he himself would not abide by.

Mr. Stallings always has the best interest of the school at heart. He treats all students as equally and fairly as is humanly possible. True, he deals out punishment, but only when it is deserved. He also praises students when they merit praise. I am confident that he would rather praise than punish.

He wants us students to enjoy our high school years at J. F. Webb, but he never lets us forget our main purpose, to gain an education.

Again, let me say to Mr. Stallings, thank you, and I assure you that the majority of students feel as I do.

To the students, I want to say, let your principal know that you appreciate his efforts by giving him a pat on the back. After all, he deserves it!

—Paula Huff

Senior Spotlight

Popular as well as active, BILL CURRIN is president of FFA, vice-president of the senior class, and a member of the Student Council, football and baseball teams.

Smiling MARGARET CHAPLIN is treasurer of the FTA and a member of the Student Council.

President of the Debating Club and an ardent reader of T. S. Eliot, little BEN WHITE has recently been a big figure around Webb.

JOAN SMITH, an outstanding senior, is business manager of "The Spectator," vice-president of the National Honor Society, and a marshal.

WAYNE WHITE, who is an outstanding student in our school, is a participant in the French Club, "Spectator" staff, and various organizations throughout Webb. He is noted for his art and poetic contributions to the newspaper.

PUN MY WORD

Did you know? Everything in the world is either illegal, immoral or fattening?

HE WAS A WISE OLD CONSTABLE

Country Constable: "Pardon, miss, but swimming is not allowed in this lake."

City Girl: "Why didn't you tell me before I undressed?"

Country Constable: "Well, there ain't no law agin undressin'!"

THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME

Harold: "Do you refuse to kiss me?"

Hazel: "Well, I've never done it before."

Harold: "What! Never been kissed?"

Hazel: "No, never refused!"

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT— The students at Webb have heads as thick as peanut butter.

NOW YOU TELL ONE!

She: "What's this thing, Dear?"

He: "Er—It's a Pawn Ticket!"

She: "Why didn't you get two so we could both go?"

TO THE EDITOR:

It is becoming evident that there is an inherent need for revision concerning the morning "thought for the day" conducted during homeroom period. The good intentions behind these thoughts cannot be questioned, but considerable doubts are raised in my mind concerning the way in which they are conducted.

Homeroom period is the one time during the day in which students have time to converse and socialize. Many students are doing homework also. In my opinion, to break in with a quick, sometimes incoherent, thought for the day at the end of the announcements for bus drivers and chorus meetings this afternoon, serves little purpose.

To prepare and to listen to a supposedly inspirational theme takes time on both sides. Since the message does not seem to be getting through, I feel that this is time wasted on both sides. If many other people share my opinion, and I observe that they do, I think we should consider whether we should have a "thought for the day" during homeroom at all. It would be nice if we could have an open assembly where students could get together and discuss the many facets of life at Webb. Here, a message of this type would have its place.

But now, as the status quo stands, this exchange of thought seems to amount to little.

—Laurie Lyon

TO THE EDITOR:

There are certain students in the school who decree that school spirit is a vital necessity. From their basic standpoint to establish this idea, a whole case has been developed which consists, in my opinion, only of the question—What is wrong with the rest of the students?

The major requirement of school spirit seems to be support of the sports and participation in the other activities. I have heard these students say that you should attend the ball games to support your team; I have heard nothing at all as to whether or not you personally like sports. A person should participate because he personally likes to play that sport; he must accept the support of students who likewise enjoy the sport. There is no obligation to participate, and there is no obligation to support an activity.

School spirit would more correctly be called club spirit. Schools I have visited which have good school spirit have students who are actively engaged in a club or a sport that they enjoy; school spirit, in my opinion, is nothing more than the sum total of these interests in the clubs.

—Ben White

TO THE EDITOR:

There is a wide variation of what school spirit means to different people, but it all boils down to having pride in your school. What does it mean to go out on the court, or go out on the football field, or baseball field and see the stands full? Why, it means a million dollars to each and every one of those players. Just ask them, or better still, come to their games and see how hard they really try to win for you when you care. If you saw this you could not help but have school pride—school spirit!

Although the majority of school spirit is shown through athletics, what about our student council? They do not have meetings to get out of class third period. They meet to represent you. And who are you? Why, of course, you are the entire student body. As a member of the student body, you have the right to ask that your suggestions and opinions be recognized at these meetings. It is their place to carry out your wishes and needs to the best of their ability. It is as simple as mentioning it to one of our student council members. If you have study period when they meet or whenever they may meet, you are welcome to come and see what your representatives are doing for you and how they care about Webb's students.

Last but not least, think about the different clubs throughout the school. More than likely, you have been or are a member of one. Do you take part in their meetings? Do you get a certain satisfaction from doing little things to help? Do you talk with others about your club, and do you have pride when you do? To a certain extent all these things will reveal pride.

Do these things require a lot of trouble and work? I should say not. Your school spirit is an attitude you have toward your school, so it's up to you to do something about it.

If you get ready to criticize something about your school spirit, don't! Instead, get with it, you are the only one who can create what isn't there.

Recently, I have noticed some changes which are for the better. The pep rally, pep band, mounting school spirit, and interest shown during student council meetings prove that we are on the way up to being what we should be and having the right kind of attitude. I don't know about you, but I am certainly proud of this. Let's all join in and finish this year as the best ever. In doing this, don't forget the coming dances and our last year's baseball champions. Remember your school is what you make it!

—Mary Ola Kearney

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