

Where's the Real Spirit?

The Wahawk student section has so much pride in our entire school, right? While yes, this statement is true, we also have to take into account the fact that the student section shows out for basketball, volleyball and we can't forget football, but what happened to showing pride for all parts of our school?

When you think about it, our school has so much more than sports alone. We have an amazing and dedicated band, choir, orchestra, debate team and theater department, so why doesn't the student body show to all their performances and competitions?

If we think about it, these are the last few East V West games we might have if the new school idea gets approved. Where is the spirit there? What happened to always showing your pride in our school and having your voices heard in ways other than student section chants at late football games? If this voting does pass, the schools will be combined into one, which means these are the last moments we have to show the younger generations that it's okay to cheer for things other than sports. Our spirit is amazing, but only when we can get everyone to participate. Homecoming week this year was the most uninvolved I have ever seen our school.

Walking through the hallways, I would only see a few students dressed up showing their excitement for the homecoming dance. My freshman year everyone was all about it, so what happened? Was the idea of dressing up becoming socially unacceptable?

Did it suddenly become "uncool" to show your pride in other ways than just cheering at football games? Student pride is the one thing that keeps school united. We cheer for the friends and peers we have in this building, but not all of them.

Take the marching band for example. The band shows up to home games, playing their hearts out on the field while the student section, the one that shows so much pride for our school, talks amongst themselves, ignoring the dedication the people on the field have, or when they play while the football team runs out and gets cheered for, loud and proud. The color guard who works restlessly to perfect their choreography for the show no one watches, the JROTC who train and train to present the colors perfectly every single game. Consider the choir, those who sing

the national anthem at the football games, the alma mater at rallies and assemblies. Why don't we cheer for them?

This exact reasoning can be applied to many of the things West High offers that do not get the recognition it deserves. When did it become that way? When did high school become a place to only root for those that are playing games to boost the reputation of the school, when we have other departments the reputation of West stands upon as well. This school has been molded by us and our dedication to making it a better place day by day.

So, how can you change things? Start by showing up and supporting the things you normally might not go and support. Show up to a concert or theater production, pay attention to the marching band, maybe even cheer for them.

Show your school spirit in more ways than cheering at football games. Incorporate all aspects of West High into your high school experience. You may be a part of the last Waterloo West Wahawk Student Section. Be loud and proud of everything this school has to offer.

That's School Spirit

School Spirit, are two words combined into a phrase that creates endless definitions and interpretations. Interviews with some school community members help them grasp what the phrase means and how it differs from other's views on the subject of school spirit.

Examples of school spirit can be seen through student section leaders, supporting school-based events, and being involved with the school's community. There are other ways that school spirit can be shown within our school, by being a part of the debate team, JROTC, band, volleyball, National Honors Society, chess club, Spanish club, or even by being a part of Wahawk Insider.

The importance of school spirit is extremely high as it allows for students, staff, and the community to be involved. "I think it's super important. It makes school fun, like last Friday having the band and the color guard in the hallway," Mieke states.

Wertz shows his concern for getting more students involved. "The biggest question for me is, how do I get more people to come to these games and show that we care for our athletes and want to be there and support them?," he asks. School spirit affects everyone and is highly important as there are concerns about how else will we show that we care about our school spirit, and if we will be able to carry on our school legacy.

When reflecting on his own experience and participation in the student section, Wertz says "but then again, I show up to make memories, and just have a good time.

Everybody benefits from it."

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