

9E - EDITORIAL WRITING (24 points possible)

Write a 200-word editorial on the controversy outlined in the story below. It will run in the next edition of *The Liberty Bell*, your school paper.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to your editorial. Students may use their own dictionary, thesaurus, stylebook, or personal hand-held devices.

Students are dealing with increased class sizes and lack of electives after 2 teachers and all electives in English and social studies have been eliminated at Spirit High School.

Quaker City School District took measures to tighten its belt when state legislatures cut funding to all public schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

All study halls have been eliminated so students have been given the opportunity for work release, and they may participate in Dual Enrollment at the local branch campus of State University.

Freshman Zoey Jordan said, "This is so hard because we cannot go on work release or to college campus to take classes because you have to be 16 to get a work permit, and you have to be a junior to enroll in college classes. I am really bored because we don't have as many art classes or English electives as other students used to have."

Senior Mark Jamison said, "We have an A/B block schedule so you have to take four classes each day. I got a work release to go to work at Ace Hardware after second period at 11:00. I only need three more classes to graduate so it was a good fit for me. Now, I can earn money for college and take four classes in the morning periods. My brother is a freshman and hates that there are not many electives. Still, for me, it's great."

Junior Ella Johnson was able to add creative writing and psychology to her schedule for fall semester as a dual enrollment student at the local branch campus of State University. "This has really helped me because I can take two college courses first semester and two second semester. I will also take four courses next year at State. I will take two summer courses after I graduate so I will be a sophomore when I enroll in the fall of 2018. It will get me through college quicker and into the workplace sooner."

School Info

Name: Spirit High School

Location: Quaker City, PA

Enrollment: 1,800 (9-12)

Principal: Dr. Betty Bloom

Colors: Blue and Silver

Mascot: Groundhogs

Newspaper: The Liberty Bell

To help ease the lack of electives at the high school, the school district and State University worked to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University providing lower tuition courses and some online courses at a lower rate for students at Spirit High.

"This is a win-win situation for us," said Quaker City superintendent Carla Sandberg regarding the MOU. "The school board was very supportive of this partnership, and it will benefit our students as they have an opportunity to gain college credits at a reduced rate. The university has some great classes students can take which we do not offer like criminal justice and sports management."

"Several of our furloughed teachers are now adjuncts at the local branch campus so our students will still be taking classes from some of their former high school teachers," Sandberg said.

School Board president Jennifer Stetson views the MOU as a step into the 21st century. The Board approved the MOU with an 8-1 vote, with Mark Geraci voting no.

Geraci acknowledges that he likes that students can take college classes, but is "not happy that we are offering online classes. Students are already living in an anti-social world, and taking classes online isolates them even more," Geraci said.

Guidance counselor Andrew Maines who works with students who take dual enrollment and online courses believes this is a trend that is coming to many high schools. "We were behind other school districts in the area who are already offering dual enrollment and online options for junior and senior students. We can now offer these because of the MOU in our regular scheduling process," Maines said.