

## **No favorites, same worth, just opportunities.**

In schools, favoritism is a problem not just in classes, but in activities and sports as well. Students who are faced with the idea that no matter what they do, someone who is favored will benefit more. This can lead to students not finding the incentive to try hard, also lowering students confidence and finding it harder for them to be motivated. In school, teachers and coaches often favor students, not because they have earned the recognition and have outshone the other students, but based on name, wealth, or popularity.

No one student should be valued over another. Some students could care less if a student gets favored even when they have not put in the effort, or are not better than others, just because they want to get through school. Favoritism hinders students not only in the present but also in the future, and not only the non-favored students but also the favored students.

Favoritism is seen and is a problem in many schools. Not all students are born with a "known" last name, wealth, the same skin color, or intelligence. All of these factors and more can contribute to how students are treated and seen. Teachers favoring students due to any of these factors has an impact on students wanting to learn and decreasing effort that could be there if they knew it would have made a difference. Favoritism is seen in sports; students who show up to every practice, and put in 100 percent, are not played during games. Academically, students who need more help or need to be taught a different way are overlooked.

Favoritism is ugly; however, it is the world we live in. I don't believe it is always what the teachers or coaches choose, but what they feel they have to do to be accepted in their own work environment. With that, favoritism is not okay. A lot of favoritism comes from teachers and coaches not wanting the repercussions of "change," even if it is for the better, or the creation of equality. Putting the students who come to every practice, who don't make excuses, and who put in the effort for the sport in every game, not just the last minute as an example. Teachers can call out the kids they "just don't care for", the students who need to be taught a different way, the ones who put in time and effort but never get recognized, or the ones that have a different than "normal" home life. These students are constantly overlooked not because they aren't smart enough, or don't try hard enough, but because they don't "fit" into the factors coaches and teachers want them to.

Favoritism is not exhibited by all coaches or all teachers. However, it is a problem, and it is an obvious problem. This needs to be fixed because it is constantly affecting our students. Changing favoritism has to start with everyone who oversees the administration. Everyone involved has to acknowledge that it is real and that it happens everywhere every day. "If you see something, say something" is what we are taught. But with favoritism, even the adults don't want to deal with the repercussions of this. As to why, even if it is seen and noticed, no one says anything. Teachers, coaches, and students also need to all acknowledge this and communicate and realize change is good and winning or recognition is not everything.