School Spirit: Is It Dying?

Over the last four years at SHS, I have seen our school spirit die. During freshman year, even through COVID, the class of 2021 always succeeded in having spirit and pep. Spirit weeks were filled with everyone dressing up, not just the people who were in the student council or pep club. I always tell myself that the hype is not the same, and this is why I ran for the position of Student Body President. I wanted to make school fun again. Although we've had a rough start (with homecoming being so early in the year), we can make a comeback.

In May of last semester, the student council gathered to discuss this year's homecoming themes. Student council wanted to represent the student body as best as we could, so we decided to do public voting. With our school population being roughly 1,500 students, we only had 210 responses. 210 Students is more than I could have expected, but of course, we still had complaints about the dress-up days. How do we solve this problem?

YOU HAVE TO INVOLVE YOURSELF! Most students are embarrassed to dress up and get out of their comfort zone. Spirit Week is about doing exactly that! The whole point is to stand apart from other schools. We have to show out, show the rest of the schools why we are so great. Regardless, I will receive TikToks and messages from students asking for specific dress-up days. There are certain aspects of dress-up days that we have to keep in mind, like whether they are appropriate or they fit the dress code.

A great example of this is "white lies." This is a theme that I would love to do, and I know that students would participate. There is just one issue with this, and that is that some people will take it too far, writing things that aren't appropriate for school. If we want to have fun, we can, but we need to hold ourselves accountable.

"I think school spirit is decreasing because people don't participate in school activities. Most people don't even know our alma mater or basic cheers at football games, and it is a real issue and needs to be addressed." Abby Wilkerson (senior) says, highlighting issues that we face as a school. To this, I can agree; at football games, only a handful of people know the "Fight Song." This is because people do not involve themselves. Complaining about dress-up days, school spirit, and student sections can only go so far with so many people, and the amount that we have is not enough.

One way our volleyball team has changed these issues is by creating a relationship. Coach Cobb has done a fantastic job at recruiting students to come to their games! The team makes sure to post every game that they have and be loud about it. They offer students free entry into their games, and the last few games have had an actual student section! The volleyball team has even gone as far as to post a TikTok explaining their cheers. You can find this video on TikTok @sweetieismycat (Anna Gunn).

So, Yellow Jackets, can we get loud and proud? Are you willing to go all out for spirit weeks? This all depends on you, your voting, and your participation. Next time we have a pep rally or spirit day, do not be afraid to show out! Remember, you only live once, and if you need more than that for you, you can only make high school memories once!

-Griff Bundy, The Jacket Journal