

Promoting Equality

Something I find not valued everywhere is the promotion of equality and freedom from discrimination, which is deserved everywhere. Sadly, I have seen multiple instances that have lacked this principle. The voices of our diverse community are almost never listened to, their worth lessening with time, and lack of understanding. Students are constantly discriminating against others, and treating them as less than, instead of equals.

One of my personal experiences in Goshen has made me realize how terribly people can treat others. I witnessed a group of kids harassing another student because he was different, and I know he shouldn't have been treated like that. He was a heavier kid and may have seemed "weird" to others. That doesn't mean he deserves that sort of language and treatment used toward him. He was simply just walking to class, and he was getting yelled at for virtually no reason at all. They shouted names and slurs at him, not leaving him alone. They even followed him and didn't give him a break. I knew one of the students and asked her what gave her the right to insult someone, and all she told me was: "Well, I'm one too, so it's okay."

Calling yourself may be one thing, but calling others that is another. Even if someone is different from you does not give you the right to discriminate against others, we are all completely different individuals. We can not be copy and pasted from one to another because even then we will still have our differences.

The lack of equality is ever so present in schools, homes, and public spaces. Difference tries to make us targets, yet we are always told that our differences make us unique, and special. Yet, in Goshen, many of our differences are celebrated all around. Not just by those who care for us, but by a huge chunk of the community. Even though other students or maybe even coworkers don't treat us as equals does not mean we should treat them the same way, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't care or get upset about what they are doing or telling us. Our city can evolve to be more inclusive, or just treat people better in general. We as people can evolve to treat people equally, learn to support each other, lack judgment, and finally escape discrimination.