

A Blog Posting by Audreyanna Leatualii

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www.middlecollegehighpoint.edublogs.org

So, Seattle Public Schools wants to shut down my school. We are High Point Middle College school for Social Justice and Community Engagement.

I love my school. Here are a few reasons why:

1) We learn about social justice by discussing current events such as Mike Brown, Police Brutality, Trail of Tears, Dark and Green politics. We read Howard Zinn's A People of The United States (good read if you're into social issues/ African American studies and want to read something that isn't biased in favor of white people)

2) We learn about different cultures. I am Hawaiian/Samoan/Polynesian. My English teacher is Native American (I *think* she's Cherokee. I know she's Apache) We learned about Native American history, not the whole Mayflower thing. We learned about Native American Sterilization, Native American Boarding Schools, Reservation Laws, and the Iroquois Constitution.

3) We work in the community garden to teach us about sustainability, we have a rain garden, bee garden, porous concrete, and ALL of the food we grow gets donated to the local West Seattle Food Bank (it's literally a block away from us, we harvest all Summer).

4) They don't believe in censoring/changing/conforming us. We're allowed to fully express ourselves. My classmate Jackson is a graffiti artist, and for his art book he filled it with graffiti art. Instead of my teacher saying "This isn't real art" she said "I can feel the movement in this piece" and "I love the contrast of colors". Isaiah thinks he isn't good at art, he drew stick figures. Our teacher said "Your line work is amazing" and "I like your symbolism". He eventually started trying new things and playing around with his art more until he was drawing in 3D and doing abstract art. When I asked him why he changed his style he said "It's because no one really ever liked anything I did, Boo encouraged me to try instead of shutting me down."

5) We're LGBTQ+ friendly!!!!!! Like, frick yeah.

I could literally go on, but i feel as though if you're still reading this you're kinda tired of me. But I am so passionate about my school. Out of the 6 schools I have attended Middle College has been the best. I love the teachers who make us feel at home because they know that it's important for us to have a stable environment and not everyone has that at home. They understand that we have troubles outside of school. They know that some of us are providers for our family and can't come to school every day. Like I said, I love my school. I would not be here without Middle College. There have been so many times that I have transferred into different schools. Please help me spread awareness. Middle College teachers make school feel like a family. I feel like I'm finally home. Please don't take this away from the community.

TL;DR: My school is amazing, LGBTQIA+ friendly, art friendly, progressive, one on one, green, we donate food from our garden, we learn about bees, and we're culturally diverse. Seattle Public Schools does not like that and is trying to shut us down.

