

Schools should say the Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance because so many have died for our country, for our freedom, even today!

By Ashley Ball and Christine Fairchild

Last summer, the KTOM disk jockey on 'The Jimshow' asked, "Does your school say the Pledge of Allegiance?" I sat there and pondered the question.

Then I realized, our school does not say it. I then informed the disk jockey through Facebook.

He was furious. He believes schools should say the Pledge of Allegiance because it is symbolic of our country's struggle for freedom.

In fact, when people say the Pledge, they are honoring the United States and all the men and women who have died for us and have given us the freedom that many of us take for granted and at times including myself.

So, I have made it my goal for none of us to forget what our fore fathers who want "justice for all." History teacher Roger O'Sullivan said he has been teaching here since 1983 and the Pledge of Allegiance has never been said in classes.

History of The Pledge at NC

I also asked science teacher Charles Goodspeed who was one of the first teachers hired here in 1978. He said when the school first opened, it was up to individual teachers to recite the pledge. Teachers were asked if they wanted a flag in their classroom and if they wanted to recite the Pledge and some teachers said yes, and some said no because it takes up too much class time.

During my 8th grade year I remember reciting The Pledge, but my freshman year The Pledge wasn't recited. I figured we didn't recite it because NMCHS didn't have enough time for it.

Principal's thoughts

As a senior, now I'm finding out we do have enough time for The Pledge. It's just as our principal Terri Gill said, "I don't want it to be another thing the principal said they have to do, I want the students to want to recite it."

The students opinions

Some students are all for it, while others say it doesn't matter.

Only a small percent said they did not want to do it, which is fine. But in a recent poll done by *The Talon* most students agreed that this is America and we should say The Pledge to remind us of the people who have fallen for our country including the people from 9/11.

It is our goal as seniors to have the Pledge of Allegiance recited everyday during the morning announcements. I understand some students have a problem reciting the phrase, 'under God' which is fine, but please stand up and still show respect to the men and women who have fought and lost their lives for us.

Other students said, "I don't want to recite the pledge because it takes away from my education." That's good that they care about their education, we respect that. But how much time is wasted talking rather than working? A lot, so we still believe it's important to take a few minutes to show some respect.

Shop students speak

We interviewed the auto shop students and asked what their feelings are about the Pledge? The students replied and said "It's amazing and it's America!" We also asked them how often they think the Pledge should be recited? The students responded: "Every day, with your hand over your heart with hats off and standing up."

When we surveyed senior Niko Minami he answered it doesn't matter if the pledge

is said. We asked him why and he said, "It's a personal opinion, and it depends on how much you love this country." We also asked him how often do you think the Pledge should be recited? Niko said, "It should be recited every day or not at all."

Jim from KTOM speaks

Then we contacted Jim Pearson, the morning show host of 'The Jimshow' on 92.7 KTOM. We asked him why he thinks The Pledge should be said in schools.

He said, "Multiple reasons. First off, American Patriotism is being pushed out of our schools in various and subtle ways. The Pledge of Allegiance is a reminder that we live in the greatest country in the world - not perfect, but still the best."

"In the past 20 years or so, as the Pledge has been banned in schools, more and more cultures have taken a more aggressive stand to use their country's flag in place of the American Flag."

"There are numerous instances where another countries flag were placed over the American Flag (which is illegal by the way) and is an insult to our sovereignty. There is nothing wrong with displaying a foreign flag here, but ours takes precedence over all others in our country, just like ours would be subordinate in theirs."

The Pledge unites us

"This is directly linked to the Pledge being removed from our schools. To bolster this, American pride and accomplishments, both good and bad, are NOT being taught. Instead we learn about other cultures and know very little about American traditions and history accurately."

"The Pledge is a daily reminder that we will fight, bleed and die for what America believes in most - freedom. The Freedom to stand and recite the Pledge. Or the Freedom to sit down during the Pledge - it should be your choice. The opportunity to be reminded daily that this is the greatest country on Earth and salute the Flag should be afforded to all."

"Lastly, and more importantly, many men and women, possibly some of your relatives have died and shed blood for that flag. To honor it, is to honor the men who fought to and are fighting to keep us free. In all, to not honor The American Flag, is to not honor our country."

When students think of the Pledge of Allegiance they should be thinking about all the freedom that they have in this country. Students should think about the people that have risked their lives fighting and the ones who have lost their lives for this country.

Everyone should be proud to be an American, we are very lucky to live in the United States because for example women here at age 16 can get their drivers' licenses while women in other countries don't have the freedom to drive.

We need to be grateful

Even though the United States is going through a hard time with the economy, the citizens of the United States need to keep united because divided we fall. Being grateful to live in this country unites us. We should be grateful to be living in this country because we have freedoms here that most countries don't have. It is shocking to think that in North Korea it is illegal for them to listen to music from South Korea, watch South Korean videotapes, and even receive Southern broadcasts.

I think citizens in this wonderful country of ours sometimes forget all the rights and freedoms that we have here. Everyone should be proud to be an American!



I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States Of America and to the Republic for which it stands: one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

Sophomore Taylor Blaha and on the right is senior Niko Minami they show their patriotism.