



Zionsville Student Rights Union



March 3, 2008

Declaration of Purpose

"In our system, state-operated schools may not be enclaves of totalitarianism. School officials do not possess absolute authority over their students. Students in school as well as out of school are "persons" under our Constitution. They are possessed of fundamental rights which the State must respect."

*-MR. JUSTICE FORTAS, US Supreme Court Majority Opinion
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America guarantees equal civil rights to all citizens without citing a minimum age; and

WHEREAS, the community of Zionsville and its respective school district are public entities and therefore governed by the Constitution as the highest level of law; and

WHEREAS, there has not, prior to the publication of this document, existed in this community an organization with the sole purpose of advocating for student civil liberties:

We, students of Zionsville Community Schools, in the interest of advancing this school's reputation for placing itself on the cutting edge of the educational paradigm, do declare the following affirmations:

- I. That students retain all rights guaranteed by the US Constitution, as applied through the Fourteenth Amendment, and affirmed by the US Supreme Court case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*.
- II. That all rules, regulations, and restrictions imposed upon the student body must be in accordance with these rights, and have legitimate educational or practical justification for enforcement.
- III. That all students are entitled to an educational environment characterized by respectful and professional treatment by school officials.
- IV. That an acceptable school disciplinary system should operate within the parameters set forth by the above-mentioned legal precedents, and should never resort to intimidation, harassment or unjust coercion of any kind towards students, regardless of the situation or intention.
- V. That students retain all protections against unreasonable searches and seizures of person or property as guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment, and that these protections pertain not only to physical property, but also to the contents of students' personal electronic devices.
- VI. That the protection of these principles does require the formation of an organization to advocate in the name of civil equality and protection for all students.

Pursuant to these assertions, we do hereby found the **Zionsville Student Rights Union**, dedicated to the establishment of a greater universal understanding of student civil liberties. Through mutual cooperation between the student and governing bodies of this school and community, it is our goal to solve problems where they arise, in the interest of promoting superior education while protecting our nation's most sacred principles of democracy.

Steve Ross
Chairman of the Board

Taylor Campi
Vice-Chairman
Director of Public Relations

Endorsed and Affirmed By the Board of Directors