



Zionsville Student Rights Union



19 March 2008

Mr. Chris Willis
Principal, Zionsville Community High School
1000 Mulberry Street
Zionsville, IN 46077

Dear Mr. Willis:

Under your leadership, this school has become a pioneer in the reform and modernization of the general educational paradigm. As I understand it, your vision for the future of ZCHS is one in which students play a more active role in their education, and in which students and faculty work together in a collaborative, positive environment. In the interest of doing our part to achieve this goal of high excellence for ZCHS, over three hundred students including myself have established a new organization: the *Zionsville Student Rights Union (ZSRU)*.

The ZSRU is an independent advocacy organization that stands for the protection of student civil liberties. The concept of student rights is widely misunderstood, and it is the goal of the ZSRU to better inform the student body, administration, and community as a whole. The US Supreme Court Case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* establishes a firm legal precedent for student constitutional rights, stating that students do not leave their rights "at the school house gates". The ZSRU exists to publicize and protect these rights. The ZSRU should not be misconstrued as a rebellious organization with the intent to cause trouble for trouble's sake. In no capacity are we suggesting that you or your administration intend to infringe upon student rights. To the contrary, I trust you will agree that expanded knowledge concerning these principles would be conducive to improving the already stellar educational environment of our school. With that in mind, the ZSRU should be seen as a positive channel through which student concerns and problems can be voiced in an organized, civil manner.

Already, in an online forum available to members, I have seen what I believe to be extremely positive results. Students have been discussing important issues, with disregard for the traditional social lines that would otherwise divide them. I'm overwhelmed with the swift mass support for such an organization by my peers. I am confident that you too will embrace and respect this organization as a positive initiative towards this school's continued excellence. In return for your support, I can pledge, as a leader of this organization, that all proposals/initiatives published under ZSRU letterhead will remain strictly professional. Enclosed is the ZSRU Launch Package, which contains documents that further detail our founding principles and organizational structure, along with our first two initiatives for reform. At your convenience, I would enjoy meeting with you to discuss the ZSRU and its goals. It is my hope that the ZSRU and the administration can work cooperatively to create and maintain a more ideal educational environment.

Sincerely,

Steve Ross
Chairman of the Board
Zionsville Student Rights Union

Contact: steve@zsru.org; (317) 603-0958
www.zsru.org