

Student ID Crisis

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During the 2022-2023 school year, “new” changes have been implemented. Many people believe that these “new” changes are due to the arrival of Dr. Blanton, the current principal of Gaffney High School. However, these rules and policies have been at Gaffney High for many, many years. Taking a look at previous years, we did have school ID’s, and we were told to wear them. Despite being told to wear them, students didn’t wear them, and continued not to with zero correction as to actually follow the rules from teachers and peers. “It probably makes me look like a bad guy” says Blanton “but truthfully, those are the rules and the rules have been in place, they just were left to go to a certain degree, or maybe just not an emphasis placed on that.” What a lot of people may not realize, is Dr. Blanton is not the one who makes the rules. The district

office and school board are ultimately who make the choices for the rules that get put into schools. It is simply Dr. Blanton’s job to enforce them. The way Mr. Billy Asis, the Gaffney High School band director explained it to me, was that as a high-school if we’re supposed to be doing certain things, we need to make sure we’re doing them. Not so much that whether you agree with it or disagree with it, it should be; this is what the district office said to do, this is what we are supposed to do. At Gaffney High school we may not have been following all the rules and procedures we were supposed to, we can’t get mad about it because they weren’t being enforced last year. We need to make sure everyone follows the exact same rules across the district. Asis is coming from a teachers point of view where he has to enforce what he is told to, agree or disagree, it is not up to him. Just

as how school ID’s are a rule teachers and students have to follow. “If you have a rule, it needs to be enforced consistently. If you cannot enforce a rule, it shouldn’t be on the books at all.” Says Landon Miller, The chorus teacher at Gaffney High.

We’ve heard plenty of the student and parent opinions on school ID’s in classroom debates, Facebook groups such as the Gaffney Chatter Box, and in our own homes at the kitchen table. I wonder though, what do teachers think about school ID’s? Maybe they think differently from us or the same as us due to differences in our positions and mindsets. I asked Mr. Miller, Mr. Asis, and Dr. Blanton himself; What are your personal opinions on school ID’s? Mr. Miller replied with “I think they’re a great thing for several reasons. We need to know who is in the building. We need to be able to look at

you, know who you are, and know you belong here. As a teacher, I’ve been in multiple situations where I’ve found students in the halls, obviously skipping class. When I ask them who they are and where they should be, they give me a fake name, lie to my face about where they’re headed, and keep walking. I have no way of looking them up in our discipline software without their names.” Miller later explained that these rules are not made for the kids who are well-behaved, they are written for the ones who refuse to be respectful of the school rules. The kids who do what they are supposed to do anyways now have to deal with stuff like IDs and hall passes because of their peers. Asis likewise related to the struggles not having IDs brings with names and how difficult it is to discipline students breaking the rules. He besides the issue of problematic students, made a valid point I would

like to highlight. If a kid were to get hurt, were to get sick or be incapacitated and we don’t know who the student is, we now have an ID that we can use to identify the student to help get information to the office. Moving on to Dr. Blanton, he said “I think given the times we live in that it is kind of a necessary thing. In a lot of workplaces people have to wear ID’s, my best friend works at Freightliner, and he wears an ID just like how I’m wearing one here today.” A valid point he has made by saying that ID’s are a very common thing in the real world in every adult’s daily life. Every time you drive, you need to have your drivers license on you. Most places you have to have a card to clock into work, even a name tag while working. All of these are sources of identification just the same as ID’s.

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College in the Palmetto State



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South Carolina allows students to soar as they shape them for utter success in the diverse, outstanding colleges and universities available. From Charleston to Columbia, anyone can take the path to their own education and set the foundation for their future.

The Palmetto State has offers that will suit and accommodate every student’s needs, wants, and interests. There’s a wide variety offered in South Carolina, as you can attend research universities to colleges based around the liberal arts. Ranked number one for the best colleges and universities here in South Carolina, Clemson University is well deserving of the title. The prestigious and captivating atmosphere paired with outstanding athletics, educational resources, and research makes this South Carolinian University absolutely shine. Professors at Clemson University are driven by one common goal: having their students grow and succeed. The school takes pride and effort not only in this drive but creating a comfortable, family-like environment. Referred to as “The Tigers”, students at Clemson feel empowered, confident, and connected – a reoccurring theme in education you can only get in South Carolina.

Clemson University also offers a program called ClemsonLIFE. You can find more information about the

ClemsonLIFE program on their website, in which they state: “The ClemsonLIFE™ program at Clemson University offers a collegiate experience that prepares young men and women with intellectual disabilities for competitive employment and independent living through a combination of academic coursework and career exploration. The ClemsonLIFE™ program at Clemson University offers a collegiate experience that prepares young men and women with intellectual disabilities for competitive employment and independent living through a combination of academic coursework and career exploration.”

In Greenville, South Carolina, you can discover Furman University: an introspective powerhouse of a liberal arts school. The opportunities that can be found within the university are accompanied by the school’s outright excellence. With their inclusive setting, stunning campus, rankings, and guiding their students to be the best versions of themselves and understand their passion and power: Furman University has 27 academic departments. With the description given on the school’s website, “Each of Furman University’s academic departments – along with its offices and services – is dedicated to nurturing an environment of intellectual curiosity and diversity that fosters the critical thinking, communi-

cation and problem-solving skills students will carry with them into their post-college lives.”

Everyone is deserving of an education and pursuing their dreams and South Carolina is determined to help. For those South Carolinians who face obstacles that interfere with their ambitions, the scholarships provided in South Carolina are impactful and beneficial in numerous ways. South Carolina also recognizes those who are academically gifted by way of programs, scholarships, etc. Scholarships offered in South Carolina include, but are not limited to, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, LIFE Scholarship, Lottery Tuition Assistance Program, SC Hope Scholarship, and the US Senate Youth Program Scholarship. Scholarships are immensely helpful and significant.

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program is one in which students that present brilliance in their achievements and academics can be awarded and nominated by the SC Commission of Higher Education. “The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program is a merit-based program established to recognize the most academically talented high school seniors in South Carolina and to encourage them to attend college in the state. Its intent is to retain talented minority students who might otherwise pursue studies outside the state.”

Residents of South Carolina will find choosing to stay and study in-state is very beneficial. There are many financial perks that present themselves to South Carolinians within this decision. With the scholarships briefly mentioned, South Carolina also offers grants what is known as the ‘Future Scholar 529 Plan.’ This plan can be opened by anyone, regardless of if they live in South Carolina or not, but people who do will receive tax benefits if done. The Future Scholar 529 Plan allows people to open a tax-free college savings account for a child. Whether that child chooses to further their education in-state or out, the savings from this plan can be applied to whichever university they decide to attend. And, if said child decides college isn’t the best fit for them, there are still other ways the Future Scholar 529 Plan can be used. This includes different approaches for investment, flexibility of their funds, and if necessary – transferring the funds to a separate beneficiary. “UoSC [University of South Carolina] offers a wide range of scholarships for both residents of South Carolina and nonresidents that can make your education even more affordable.”

At the University of South Carolina, they have a unique and special program known as the ‘Gamecock Guarantee.’ On the school’s website, they state: “The Gamecock Guarantee is a need-based finan-

cial and academic support program to expand access to the university. Our goal is to make a University of South Carolina degree more attainable for academically talented first-generation students from South Carolina families.”

Scholarships, grants, programs, exquisite academics: all of this and more is shown in schools in South Carolina. The atmosphere and student life of every university and college here is unmatched. Coming in at number one for the title of ‘Colleges with the Best Student Life in South Carolina’ is none other than the University of South Carolina. From scenery to aspirations coming to fruition in a comfortable, energetic environment, University of South Carolina is a home away from home. Though, this isn’t the only home to be found in the Palmetto State for the next generation of leaders. Whether it be College of Charleston, where the history is intertwined with beautiful scenery and superb education, or found in Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina – where passion is enriched in the school; driven by providing their students a place where they can flourish with the help of an extraordinary staff and education. There is a place for everyone in South Carolina.