

Tardy policy causes more class absences

Sitting in SAL the puzzled student stares blankly at his geometry homework. Not able to teach himself yesterday's lesson, he struggles to complete his work. Tempted by his computer monitor, he sets down his pencil and logs on.

The tardy policy at FC is getting out of hand. Students who miss class or being tardy are being punished by missing more class. This results in students having more trouble in class because they miss lessons by sitting in SAL.

The policy clearly states after three tardies a student will receive one detention. Four tardies will result in two detentions. The fifth tardy is a day in SAL and more serious consequences can follow, such as suspensions or expulsion and driving privileges for upperclassman revoked. It does not seem like it would add up, but in a school where detentions are handed out like candy, it does.

SAL was always a place where the students who did bad things went. These days, most students prefer SAL over detention. Student services liaison Becky Clifton is also concerned with the tardy policy. Clifton said there needs to be a way to make SAL less attractive. Students go into SAL with the mindset

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that it is a way of skipping class. Most of the time they are allowed to use computers, which sends the wrong message.

Not only is that sending the wrong message but why would the punishment be just as useless as the reason they are in there? Taking students out of class to put them in SAL is not fair to some other students. It is hard to teach yourself.

There are other alternatives to punishing students for tardies. Instead of detention on the third tardy, a student should be given a demerit.

What is a demerit, you may ask? Well, according to Clifton, they are marks held against a student on their permanent record. After eight demerits, a letter is sent home to the student's parents, after 10 a detention is given, and after 16 SAL is given or possibly suspension or expulsion.

We believe by giving out demerits for tardies instead of detentions, there will be a decrease in the number of students in the detention rooms after school and in SAL. Therefore, more students will be in class participating as they should be.

"We're going to look at it again and see what we can do," said Clifton.

How do you feel about the tardy policy?



[MADISON KAISER FRESHMAN]

"You should only be tardy if you are like two minutes late to class."



[JESSE ORTEGA SENIOR]

"They might as well give you a detention if you are late, it's a pretty fair rule."



[KAYLA ASHLEY SOPHOMORE]

"They should be more lenient about it."



[LEWIE STEVENS TEACHER]

"There are fewer tardies, the ones that are end up with the appropriate punishment."



[RANDY HEIN TEACHER]

"I think its fair and a stiff enough punishment."