

Teacher opinions: professional vs. personal

Where do teachers and students draw the line when sharing opinions?

By Ximena Alaniz

In my U.S. history class, I found myself having to explain and defend the Dreamers, children whose immigrant parents came to the United States without citizenship rights.

I wanted other students to understand Dreamers' challenges and why they deserve to stay in the United States. I explained to them that the economy would be hurt if the Dreamers were deported from the country.

Meanwhile, my teacher **Joe Cunningham** asked me my opinions but refrained from stating his own.

By law, teachers are prohibited to give political opinions, according to **Neil Linville**, president of the Perry Education Association, which is the union representing teacher rights.

Linville pointed to the "Vote Yes" pins that advocated passing the 2015

referendum that freed up more taxpayer funding for schools. Perry faculty and staff were prohibited from wearing the pins on school property.

"Freedom of speech works with personal lives, not professional lives," Linville said.

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- Neil Linville

The controversial debate regarding creationism vs. evolution is a topic sensitive to school environment. Biology teacher, **James Doninger** is required to teach evolution according to Indiana's

state biology teaching standards.

Before teaching evolution, Doninger makes sure students understand it will be taught through a scientific view. Doninger's opinion is "the state expects you to understand the scientific view, but you don't have to believe it."

Doninger also taught evolution at a Catholic academy before beginning his career at PM. Doninger noted, "most major religions believe in evolution."

We all have a class that we're comfortable in where we either have friends or just a teacher we get along with and are comfortable talking to.

Teachers such as Cunningham tell students to find at least one adult in the school to trust. But, sometimes being too comfortable with a teacher leads to an overly friendly classroom environment or argumentative conversations between students and teachers.

Under the Environment section of the Teacher Handbook it states "Teacher-student interactions demonstrate caring and respect for one another." Any incident that does not follow this state-

ment can lead to the head administrator taking action toward the situation and staff member involved.

"Any time someone is inappropriate or unprofessional they are subject to whatever discipline their employer deems necessary"

- Lucas Klipsch

Richard Swengel is an English teacher who is well known for voicing his opinion to his students. Swengel's outspoken opinions have been taken in

a negative way by Junior **Grace Dale**. According to Dale, Swengel pushes his political views to his students in a rhetorical way.

"He is openly republican and states that he does not think climate change is real which makes students question their own opinions," said Dale.

According to the teacher handbook, there are various stages of consequences that occur when a teacher misbehaves towards an individual during school hours but overall the principal of the school is who makes the final decision on that individual's consequences.

"Any time someone is inappropriate or unprofessional they are subject to whatever discipline their employer deems necessary" said assistant principal and dean, **Lucas Klipsch**.

It has articles that provide information on the level of professionalism a teacher should maintain in a classroom setting and also ways that a teacher should direct themselves towards others in a school setting.

The Perry Education Association has set up a website allows public to review the teacher handbook and contract, can visit the website at: <http://www.perryea.org/contract.htm>.

the CROZ NEST

Adam Crozier interviews Percussion Director **Javi Ramirez**, 2013 PMHS graduate and composer for the upcoming winter drumline show **Full Circle**.

Do you consider yourself Puerto Rican?

I consider myself prideful of where I came from.

Even though I was born here, a lot of my family was born there. Every time I visit there it's like a second home.

How has the recent hurricane affected your family in Puerto Rico?

Actually my dad is in Puerto Rico right now taking care of my family.

There is no power, no phone lines yet. We can't really speak to my family unless they have a cell phone or service. Lack of businesses has prevented my family-everyone, really, the lack of materials they need to live.

Transportation is a big thing too. No streetlights.

It's so pitch black people don't drive at night.

You've described Full Circle as 'unique.' What exactly do you mean by that?

There will be more kind of a color guard approach to the indoor show, a lot fancier. In the past we've had shows with a message and trying to inspire people. This year, although we have the same message, it's for a broader audience. And I want to convey that through meditation.

Has meditation helped you in coping with the destruction in Puerto Rico?

Part of the inspiration of the show is finding peace in my personal life. I guess you could say I've found peace for everything in my life.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

 **Can Queen**
@PGbadyu

Good morning my whole AP
lang class judged me for eating
mac n cheese as breakfast

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