

### Staff Editorial

Where does responsibility fall?

When a student struggles in school, who is at fault? Is it the responsibility of teachers to monitor their students' progress and keep them on track? Is it on the parents to teach their children to have a strong work ethic? Or should it be up to the students to figure it out for themselves?

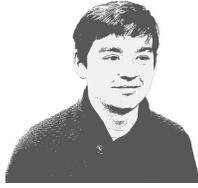
Teachers do have a responsibility to keep track of students and give them one-on-one help, if asked. However, any given teacher has hundreds of students and they simply don't have the time to personally counsel everyone who is struggling. Teachers do what they can to help students, but they can't be expected to do the impossible.

Parental figures play an important role in the development of a student's work ethic. Children should learn how to prioritize their time and work hard. This is imperative for success at school. However, by the time a student is in high school, parents shouldn't be expected to hold their child's hand. Parents are there to provide support and guidance, not to shoulder the entire burden of their child's schoolwork. When parents are forced to constantly remind their child to stay on top of schoolwork, it strains their relationship.

Ultimately, the brunt of the responsibility lies on the student. Only they themselves can do the work. They need to learn to buckle down and prioritize their time. If students don't care about school and don't want to apply themselves, there is only so much parents and teachers can do. Students that are failing classes and jeopardizing their graduation chances cannot blame their teachers and parents. In the end, the choice is theirs.

# Dreamers worry about DACA changes

**OWEN JOHNSON**  
POLITICAL COLUMN



Over 690,000 Americans are at risk of being forcibly ejected from their homes and sent to countries they have never known. They are threatened by a government that is breaking the promise it made to protect them. The leaders of the Republican party, Donald Trump, Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell, have all gone on record claiming they want to protect the Dreamers, but their actions suggest the opposite.

In December of 2017, Democrats and Republicans met to hash out the details of the annual government funding bill. It should have been an open and shut meeting; the only possible point of contention was Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Despite overwhelming support for the extension of DACA by both parties, President Trump and his advisors tanked the bipartisan agreement by demanding funding for the infamous border wall.

To add insult to injury, the leader of this country called impoverished and non-white countries like Haiti a word that cannot be printed in a high school newspaper and reneged on his previous promise to sign whatever bill could pass Congress. This forced the government to shut down for two days while the GOP tried to force Democrats to choose between DACA and the Children's Health Insurance Program, whose funding had been blocked for over 100 days by the Republicans. CHIP, a highly popular program, could have been passed by both houses of Congress in the course of a day with near unanimous support.

As of now, majority leader of the

Senate, Mitch McConnell has promised to hold a vote on DACA before March. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan has made no such promise. The leaders of the GOP have repeatedly abandoned their morals to fall in line with President Trump. From using children's health insurance as a bargaining chip, to nominating an alleged child molester to the Alabama Senate, to passing a trillion-dollar tax cut while cutting welfare, the Party of Family Values has demonstrated unfathomable immorality and disregard for their constituencies. The hostage takeover of DACA is just the most recent example of moral bankruptcy in Washington.

DACA protects Americans brought to this country as children. Many Dreamers do not even speak the language of their birthplaces. Many are college-educated or serve in our armed forces. As a group, they are much less likely to commit crimes than the average American, because being a criminal means being deported, one of their greatest fears. Deporting these people would uproot the lives they have built for themselves. It would send them to countries they have never known, all because they were brought here through no fault of their own as children.

Those who believe deporting these people is wrong, join with the majority of the country. According to a CBS poll, 87 percent of Americans, including 79 percent of Republicans, support DACA. To be perfectly clear; this is not a partisan issue. This is not a debate over illegal border crossings or undocumented felons. This is not "amnesty." These are students, soldiers, parents, husbands and wives who are facing ruination at the hands of a party whose policies are shaped by Donald Trump and his racist ilk.

The Republican party is quickly becoming

the party of white nationalism and dishonesty. Paul Ryan, Mitch McConnell and Donald Trump will go down on the wrong side of history. Moderate Republicans would be smart to get off the sinking ship. If they decide to ride it to the end, fine, but then they shouldn't pretend to care about American values.

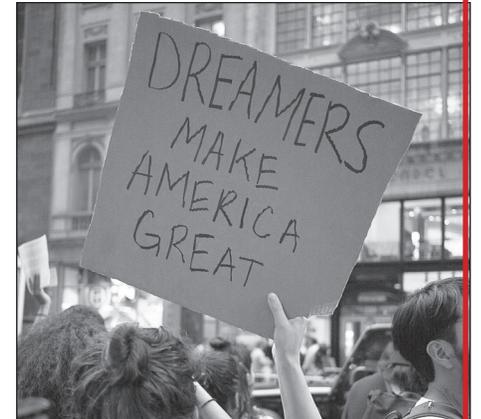


Photo courtesy of Rhododendrite  
At Trump Tower in New York, civilians march in support of Dreamers and DACA.

### Letters to the Editor Policy:

The Heights Herald welcomes and encourages input from readers. Opinions can be emailed to J2CHHS@gmail.com, be dropped off in room 294 or given to a staff member of The Heights Herald. Letters may be edited for length clarity, or appropriateness. Requests to withhold a writer's name will be considered by the editorial board.

### #Enough!

National School Walkouts will take place on March 14 at 10:00 am for 17 minutes to commemorate the 17 students and staff who were killed in Florida

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The Heights Herald is the official newspaper of Columbia Heights High School. The content reflects the student body, the school, the district and the community. The Heights Herald's mission is to provide coverage of news and events with courage, passion and integrity.

### Staff Editorials

Articles are written by an Editor-in-Chief. Content reflects the opinion of the newspaper staff majority. Editorial columns represent the opinions of the individuals who wrote them.

### Memberships:



### Awards:

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