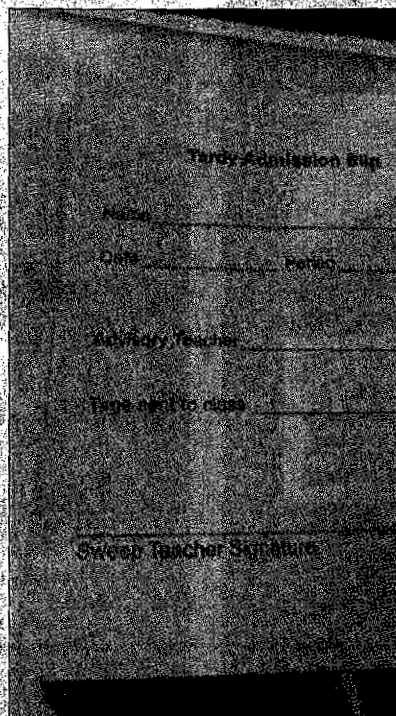


# Student column: Student attendance

*Editor's Note: The Sunnyside Sun shared with Granger High School Stephanie King and her senior writing English Composition class for the University of Washington. Ms. King's students each wrote an article they viewed as being important, but important to them, and sent a survey to the Granger High School student body.*

**Lorton**  
High School

Attendance: One word that describes involvement in every aspect of the country. I participated in a survey conducted by Granger High School's University of Washington English class, 52.4% of students at GHS have missed more than five days of school in the month of October. This tells me that 7 members that roughly 50% of students will miss at least one day a month. Therefore, attendance is a reason to why students fail in their grades. When I asked about student attendance, Mr. Joshua Simmons



Granger High School tardy attendance slip.

stated, "If you are missing one day a month, your chance of failing is about 10% and if you are missing one day a week, that goes up to

38%." This survey is supported by the actual attendance data provided by GHS attendance clerk, Monica Jimenez. Students who attend school every day are eight times more likely to pass all their classes compared to those who miss two or more days of school per month.

Missing school isn't just due to illness. Students at GHS miss school due to lack of childcare for younger siblings, having to work, mental health, and being sick. High school students are expected to help their families; therefore, they cannot say no to their parent(s).

Programs and resources provided by Granger High School for students and families include communication via texts, emails and phone calls and do a communication board with the staff and families. Simmons explained, "If you miss three days, unexcused absences, then you get a letter home and you get a phone call. Once that goes to seven, then you also get home visits. At ten we also do things like a community

engagement board." This continued contact and communication help raise attendance by making parent(s)/guardians more aware of where their students are during the day. Just because a student gets dropped off or rides a bus to the school, doesn't mean they always enter the building.

Students make choices to walk elsewhere, or often times students are responsible for getting themselves up and ready for school because the adults have already left for work.

Jimenez stated, "Letting them know that at the end of the day they are still the parents. Our students sometimes feel that they are adults when the parent leaves." A number of parent(s)/guardians are not aware of their children skipping school, in which case phone calls and house visits help.

*Serrennity Lorton is a Granger High School senior in the English Composition 131 class taught by Ms. Stephanie King for the University of Washington.*

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# Student Column: Racial discrimination in sports

**Amy Torres**  
Granger High School

In a school-wide survey conducted by the UW English class, 25.1% of 393 students at Granger High School have experienced racism while playing sports. This tells the sports community and residents in the lower Yakima Valley that discrimination is happening and not getting the attention it needs. There was recently an issue where racial comments were made towards the Granger's Soccer team. Senior Captain Eveny Lazcano explained "Playing against the Cle Elum warriors, it was brought to my attention that one of the players from Cle Elum was calling my teammates "beaners" and using profanity towards them. One player had said "aren't you guys supposed to be good since your Mexican?" My teammates informed me about this. As a captain I felt responsible for my team, so I decided to let the referee know what was going on. The player got a verbal warning, but nothing else was really done." If these types of stories keep going unreported, they will continue to happen if the community is not aware. Athletic Director for Granger



Amy Torres/Granger High School

Granger High School competition gym, November 30, 2023.

School District, Dave Pearson, was asked if this is a situation that needs more attention. He stated, "I definitely think raising awareness of racial incidents is called for. It is sad to me that many people and, particularly, many communities, condone racist behavior. Just this year I was part of an appeal process regarding a racial incident at Selah High School during a volleyball

game versus Prosser. The Selah students involved were extremely inappropriate and used horrible racist language towards a Prosser student athlete."

Angel Golob, Granger's head volleyball coach, was also asked about these types of incidents. She explained, "This actually happened when I was coaching JV Volleyball in the early 2000s. Some students

from another school were mocking a girl on our team who was Native American. I stopped the game and told the down official what was going on and he addressed the up official. The students were given a warning and if it happened again, they would be thrown out. Long story short, they were quiet the rest of the match." This proves that this type of behavior and discrimination has always been around, and no one does anything to try and educate the community. Parents need to start educating their kids more on this. We cannot let these types of issues continue.

*Amy Torres is a Granger High School senior in the English Composition 131 class taught by Ms. Stephanie King for the University of Washington.*

■ **Editor's Note:** The Sunnyside Sun has partnered with Granger High School teacher Stephanie King and her senior students earning English Composition 131 credits for the University of Washington. Ms. King's students each picked a topic they viewed as being underreported, but important to them, and presented a survey to the Granger High School student body.