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ENGL 1013

Date

The Importance of School Spirit

I never thought our football team would lose every game in a season. However, last fall I was proved wrong. I believe this losing season was because there was a lack of school spirit. This lack of school spirit caused low morale for everyone involved, especially the football players. Only the cheerleaders and the band were really supporting our team. The morale of the athletes at school depends on the level of school spirit in the students. The level of morale determines what kind of confidence the players have in themselves to play a game or even to go back to school after a terrible loss. If there is no school spirit, there is low morale. If there is low morale, there is low confidence. There are four levels of school spirit that affect morale.

The lowest level of school spirit can affect a school very negatively. This can be shown in students who are against school spirit. These students often condemn those who show any school spirit. They feel that school spirit is foolish and make anyone else feel foolish for having school spirit. These students take no pride in their school. This behavior lowers the morale of the teams because they have no support, causing the team to perform poorly and not to the best of their ability. This can, in turn, cause schools to lose athletic programs because there is no interest in a losing team.

The second level of school spirit can also have a negative effect. This negative effect is caused by students who are neither for nor against school spirit. They are neutral. These are students who are employed and have no time to support their school or simply do not want to waste any time that could be used for studying. They feel there is no importance in school spirit

and therefore have none. This can be harmful because there is no support for teams. The support of students causes the teams to do well, and without that support, the team feels alone because there is no one in their favor. This lowers the players' morale and confidence.

The next level of school spirit can have both a positive and negative effect on schools. This group of students is known as the occasional supporters. These students will give the teams and other school groups support when the groups are performing well. During good seasons, these fans are always cheering for their team. However, they are nowhere to be found in bad seasons. This kind of conditional support is dependent on the progress of the group being supported. When the team is doing well, they are heavily supported, and morale is boosted. On the other hand, this group of supporters cannot be found when teams are losing and need spirit most. This is a very negative effect and causes low morale as well.

The last category of supporters is made up of supporters who have the highest level of school spirit. They affect the group that they are supporting in a very positive way. These students are behind their team one hundred percent. In good seasons and bad seasons, these people can always be found cheering for their team. This behavior causes morale to be high in the players and supporters and also creates a great sense of pride throughout the school.

There are many factors that contribute to winning or losing a game. There is not a single moment that can cause the fall of a team. In the same way, there is no one team member who wins games. That is why it is called a team. But the team is not made up of just people in uniform; it is everyone involved. Although I may never know the reason for so many losses in our football season last year, I do know that a contributing factor was low morale due to low school spirit. This is why I am convinced that the amount of confidence a team has depends on the amount of support that they have.