

1 of my friends wanted to take Spanish to fulfill his foreign language requirement, but had to take
2 French because Spanish was full. Many students make up the classes they couldn't enroll in during
3 their normal track by going to intersession during their vacations or by going to Saturday School
4 during their free time.

5 7. In my science classes, we have to do all of our projects in groups because there are not
6 enough materials or lab spaces for people to work on projects individually or even with a partner.

7 8. In the integrative science class that I am just starting this year, we have to buy our
8 own calculators because the school does not provide them for us. We are required to buy a calculator
9 because it is impossible to do some of the projects without one. The school should at least provide
10 us with a calculator to do our work; it is a hassle for us to spend the money to buy a calculator on
11 our own.

12 9. We don't have enough counselors. Huntington Park High is a multi-track school with
13 three tracks. Each track has more than a thousand students, and only two counselors work per track.
14 Counselors are supposed to give us advice about the classes we need to take based on our specific
15 needs and goals, but it is impossible for counselors to give us that individual attention when they
16 have to advise so many other students as well. Often, I have had to miss class time waiting for a
17 counselor to advise me because they are so busy.

18 10. The multi-track, year-round system makes it hard for some students to participate in
19 extracurricular activities. On the traditional calendar, students can participate in extra-curricular
20 activities during their school year, but in a multi-track school, some activities take place while
21 students are off-track. I have friends in the band and on athletic teams who must give up their free
22 time and come back to school early in the morning when they are off-track in order to participate in
23 these activities.

24 11. There could be a safety hazard in the 300s building. At one point, the building wasn't
25 safe because there was no fire exit. Since then, the school has opened up the back stairs, which
26 might help with the fire problem. But even now, I believe that a gate is blocking the door in the back
27 so it still might be hard to get out if there is an emergency.

28 12. Our bathrooms have been extremely unsanitary at Huntington Park for too long. The

1 floors have been covered with dirt and water; the toilets often have been clogged, covered with urine
2 and have “number two” on them or floating inside. For at least three years, in one bathroom, only
3 one of three water faucets works; in another, one urinal is usually overflowing. We rarely have soap
4 or paper towels to wash and dry our hands, so we often can’t clean our hands before eating. During
5 the 2000-2001 school year, the students held a rally to protest these disgusting conditions. This year
6 more students called the district to complain and so things have gotten a little better.

7 13. I try not to use the bathrooms at school because they are so unclean and unsanitary. Many
8 times, I have to hold my “number two” because the toilets are so dirty or are clogged. I know a lot
9 of other students do the same. Having to hold it makes you feel physically bad and often makes it
10 hard to concentrate on school.

11 14. Many of the bathrooms are locked. Huntington Park High has about six bathrooms—
12 two in the main building, which is the 200s building, two in the 300s building, and one in the gym
13 and in P.E. The two bathrooms in the 300s building are usually closed, and one of the two
14 bathrooms in the main building is usually locked.

15 15. Our drinking water fountains are dirty and about half of them don’t work. I don’t drink
16 the water because the fountains are so dirty. In July of last year, the drinking fountain problem was
17 so bad that the school provided a gallon of water to each classroom so the students would have water
18 to drink. I don’t know how that the one-gallon of water was supposed to last for all those students.
19 Some teachers had to buy water on their own just so students could drink it.

20 16. Rats are a problem at Huntington Park. I have never seen a rat, but my friends have seen
21 them and teachers complain about the problem. One of my science teachers complained about rats
22 eating through a science project. Most classes even have plates with sticky stuff in them to catch the
23 rats; one time in my science class my foot got stuck in the stuff that is supposed to catch the rats.

24 17. There are roaches in the bathrooms and inside of the school grounds.

25 18. The classrooms by the gym are dirty and dusty. When students come in from the field,
26 they track dust over the floors that doesn’t get cleaned up. I often see teachers trying to sweep up the
27 dust but those classes generally stay dirty.


28 19. The cleanliness and sanitation problems at Huntington Park need to be fixed. The

1 problems distract us from learning. Also, if students are forced to look at dirty classrooms or use
2 unclean bathrooms, it creates an atmosphere that makes it seem like the school has a negative
3 attitude toward us, and that can affect our motivation.

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5 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United States
6 that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 8 ^{November 2001} day of ~~July, 2000~~ in Huntington Park,
7 California.

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Geyman Hernandez

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