

Improvement needed

Editorial

Established in the middle school in 2008 and adopted in the high school in 2009, David City Public Schools introduced the Homework Academy to students in an effort to get more students to complete homework on time. This program has great potential, but without stricter enforcement and consequences, Homework Academy has not met its ultimate purpose and needs improvements.

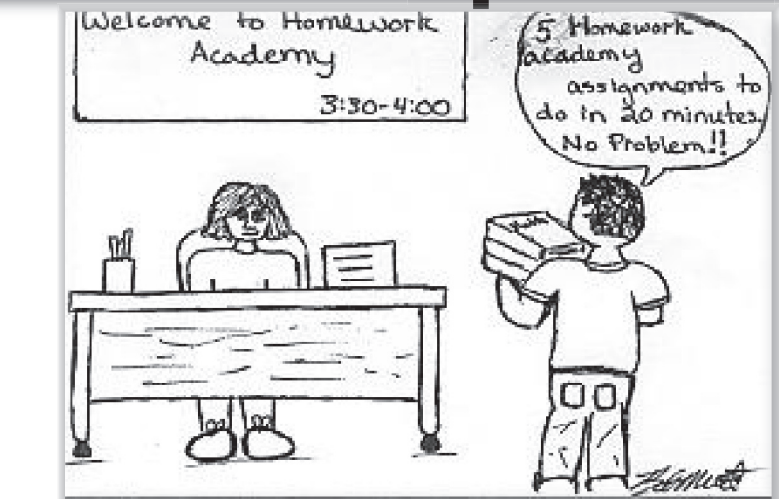
If a student doesn't get his or her homework done for the day assigned, they are given a Homework Academy slip and must come in after school the next day to complete the assignment. Students must stay and work until 4 p.m. and if they don't complete the work they are supposed to continue to go to Homework Academy.

The teachers surveyed felt there were many flaws in the present system. Some teachers felt as if the rules are strict enough, but there wasn't enough communication between themselves and the Homework Academy supervisor. For instance, many times the teachers have no clue if that student had shown up to work on the assignment or not. The original rules stated that if a student skips a Homework Academy, the consequences result in a 45 minute detention, yet this does not seem to happen consistently.

Many solutions could help make the system better. First, students

should have to serve the Homework Academy the day it is issued. Also, if a student has multiple Homework Academy slips, they should be moved to the ticket system. Extending the time students stay for Homework Academy would also help because giving students only 20 minutes is not enough time to complete most assignments. Overall, the best solution to the problem would be to have stricter enforcement on the detention if a student skips.

Although the Homework Academy



system has potential to keep students from not completing homework, the lack of enforcement continues to work against its success.

This 'Alice' leaves you wondering

by Emma Mattingly

REVIEW

Take a weird, fascinating, classic Disney cartoon and then add a little Tim Burton directing to the mix and what do you get? The most wicked version of *Alice in Wonderland* to hit the movie screen in a long time.

While I, being a fan of Tim Burton, expected more out of the film, I can't deny the creativity and detail put into the film. Almost the entire movie was green screen effects, which at some points was a little overdone; however, the believability throughout the movie was undeniable.

This version of *Alice in Wonderland* could be considered more as a sequel to the story since Alice, now a young adult, returns to Wonderland, actually called Underland, and has to get reacquainted with old friends in order to take on the Jabberwocky to defeat the Red Queen.

The most impressive aspect of this movie came from the acting. While some of the movie was shot under normal circumstances, all of Wonderland uses green screen effects and CGI (Computer-generated imagery) characters. The actors obviously spent most of their time acting alone during filming, but you couldn't tell in the final presentation.

The most extraordinary acting came from loyal Burton film actor Johnny Depp, who played the Mad Hatter. The

variety of emotions that came from this one character proved to be yet another impressive performance.

As far as theatrics go, the main character, Alice, played by Mia Wasikowska, seemed to lack a variety of emotions, tending to be confused and saddened and the plot line seemed to drag. She was definitely not the ladylike Alice from Disney's 1955 cartoon version of Lewis Carroll's story.

This new *Alice in Wonderland* is a creative twist on the story, but it would be better to wait for the movie to come out on DVD than to spend money and gas seeing it in the theatres.

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As We See It

Do you consider Homework Academy to be a "punishment"? Why or why not?

"Not really, it's like a study hall, only more under control."

Aubrie Brown, freshman



"No, it's just more time to finish your homework."

Tylor Cemper, sophomore



"No. You show up for ten minutes, get your stuff done, and BAM! problem solved."

Ashton Rountree, junior



"No, it is a time to catch up on what homework you don't have done."

Denise Schaeffer, Homework Academy supervisor



Information compiled and photos by Emma Mattingly