

I was a student of Dr. Siebens (class of 1993) and attribute much of my success to the enthusiastic passionate teachers I had at Wilson High. Dr. Siebens was one of those teachers and I wouldn't be where I am today without his participation in my education. It is appalling that bureaucracy is taking the place of common sense. Please reinstate Dr. Siebens to his position at Wilson. Great teachers are hard to come by and he is one of the greatest.

--Tawnya Artiss

The fact that such an excellent teacher could be fired this way means that no teacher (or parent or student) can trust the Rhee administration to reward good teachers. Therefore, the teacher contract renegotiations are a farce! My daughter and my nephews loved Dr. Siebens and loved learning from him.

--Philip Blair

I am a Wilson alum, class of '99. It's ironic that Dr. Siebens could be fired for anything to do with No Child Left Behind. There is no teacher at Wilson more committed to helping students succeed on the standardized tests we have to take!

--Tracy Hadden-Loh

Both of my children, now successful college students, had the honor of studying with Dr. Siebens at Wilson High School. He was the most dedicated and qualified teacher that we experienced in the DC Public School System that our children attended from pre-K to 12th grade. I voted for Adrian Fenty because I thought he would help bring more teachers like Dr. Siebens to the DC school system which is in sore need of qualified teachers. I never imagined that Dr. Siebens would be a casualty of Fenty.

--Elizabeth Barth-Williams

I graduated Wilson in the class of 2000 and took the AP Biology class with Dr. Siebens. He is one of the best teachers I have ever had. I do not say this because he was a nice guy, or took it easy on his students. Instead because he was effective. The overwhelming majority of people in my class learned a lot whether they were into science or not. You are lucky to have someone like him willing to work in your school, and you need to keep people like this in order for the DCPS to have any chance.

--Patrick McCann

Dr. Siebens was by far the best teacher I had in my three years at Wilson (class of '05). His knowledge of Biology and his enthusiasm for teaching are extremely rare and I have yet to come across another professor, even at the undergraduate level, who's passion for teaching is comparable to that of Dr. Siebens. The news that he had been fired seemed simply ludicrous to me. If Dr. Siebens is one who is not fit to teach at Wilson, I cannot think of any current Wilson teacher that is.

--Carl Barth

Dr. Siebens, a uniquely qualified and innovative teacher, taught biology to my two children while they were attending Wilson High. Based on my practically daily contact with their assignments and on my participation at Wilson, as well as on my own experience in public schools, from elementary to graduate, I do not know of a single better teacher anywhere. It is virtually inconceivable that removing him from his position could lead to an improvement in the DC public school system..

--Richard Barth

He was my Anatomy and my Zoology teacher back when I attended Wilson in 2005. He was a brilliant teacher and Wilson has taken a huge loss by letting him go. The students need teachers like him!

--Michael Dean

AP Biology with Dr Siebens was one of the most enriching classes of my high school career. Wilson will not be the same without its "singing biologist"

--Yolanda Carney

It is absolutely shocking that a man with such a wide variety of knowledge, and such a creative and effective way of sharing it with others would be removed from our school system. Students at Wilson HS get the best possible deep science foundation from Dr. Siebens, and there is no person that could ever compare or replace him, especially in how much he teaches, and truly cares about both students and their educations.

--David Amini

Dr. Siebens is a remarkable teacher, he's extremely passionate about his work, he is more than a mentor to any of us, he's a friend. I personally enjoyed my class, AP Biology, when he taught it.

--Jeffrey Lopez

The only reason I signed up to take AP Biology next year is so I could be taught by Dr. Siebens.

--Henry D'Esposito

From everything I have heard for years, Dr. Siebens is not only one of Wilson's best HS teachers, but one of the best in the DC area. My daughter was looking forward to and counting on taking his AP bio class next year. If Mayor Fenty and Chancellor Rhee are truly determined to turn DC schools around and do what is best for the students, they need to re-hire Dr. Siebens immediately.

--Mary Tarnowka

As a matter of fairness, you must explain to Dr. Siebens how he is somehow responsible for the failure of Wilson HS to meet adequate yearly progress under the NCLB law. In the absence of an adequate explanation, this action must be rescinded. The AP exam results of his students are an unimpeachable indicator that the man can teach and that his students learn.

--Myles Mutnick

I am a past student of Woodrow Wilson High School. I am now a senior biology major at Hampton University. Dr. Siebens' teaching methods, especially his labs, allowed me to be a step ahead of a lot of students in my major. Please reinstate him because Wilson needs as many dedicated teachers as it can get. Dr. Siebens really cares about his students and as you can see because of the way he has helped us, we really care about him.

--Rachel Bailey

My son recently graduated from Wilson HS. He was a student of Dr. Siebens. I cannot fathom why and excellent teacher, whose students excelled in the AP biology exam, would be let go. It is exactly the wrong message to send if we want DC families to send their kids to public school.

--David Yudin

Dr. Siebens was an inspirational teacher for my daughter at Wilson. Over dinner, she would often recount what she had learned in his class -- and his innovative techniques for teaching. I was also impressed by his willingness to spend his own time helping the kids prep for tests -- and to talk out ideas. It's a travesty he was fired. He needs to be reinstated.

--Bob Davis

Firing Dr. Siebens would mean firing one of Wilson's top teachers, and one of the few gems that keeps students coming to Wilson. He is an EXCELLENT teacher and Wilson cannot afford to lose him. His loss would be a senseless tragedy for future Wilson students.

--Elizabeth Geglia

I am the mother of three Wilson students. My daughter took AP biology from Dr. Siebens and he was a tremendously dedicated, creative and effective teacher. He is clearly one of the best teachers in the DCPS system and probably one of the best in the nation as well. It would be a tremendous mistake to let him go and would be demoralizing for the whole school.

--Lynn Kamarck

Dr. Siebens is one of, if not the best teacher I had while at Wilson. His classes and teaching methods, while sometimes strange, are fun and very educational. He is known around the country for his songs about biology. I don't understand how one of the truly good teachers at Wilson, and in the DCPS can lose their job.

--Patrick McLain

My two daughters graduated from Wilson in 1989 and 1991, and I was co-president of the PTA in 1990-91, and have remained active with Wilson parents ever since. I spent and still spend much of my time trying to deal with arbitrary, damaging decisions from remote administrators. It breaks my heart for the school to lose such a teacher. They are all too rare. We have lost too many, but there's time to retain this one.

--Mary Levy

I graduated from Wilson in 2002 and had Dr. Siebens for AP Biology the year before. I earned a 4 on my AP exam, and I credit that score completely to Dr. Siebens. My roommates in college my freshman year even used his CD that I had brought with me when they took Biology. He is an amazing teacher and it is a mistake to let him go.

--Molly Young

I can't imagine Wilson without the enthusiast, the encourager, the brainiac, the artist, the chef whom I call Doctor Siebens. Wilson is already falling apart as it is. Don't take away one of the key rocks on which it is standing. Keep Dr. Siebens in the classroom, where he has spent his time not only doing what he whole-heartedly loves, but doing so in a way that his students are inclined to love it too.

--Natalie Plumb

I had Dr. Seibens as a Botany teacher last year as a senior at Wilson. His class proved to be one of the most engaging, enjoyable, and stimulating science classes I had at Wilson since beginning as a freshman. He treated his students fairly and with respect. He is among the most qualified and effective teachers that Wilson High School has.

--Tor Travis

As a parent of a 2003 graduate of Wilson and someone who works for a national association of science teachers, I find it astonishing that, given the pervasive problem of retaining good science teachers (because of retirement, poor working conditions, low pay, etc.), Wilson has chosen to remove a dedicated and successful science teacher (putatively in response to the dictates of a failed and unfunded federal mandate, NCLB).

-Tim Weber

"Does not fit in." has long been used to deny membership to too many qualified people. I am appalled by its usage here. Dr. Siebens is a very caring, dedicated, and effective educator. No matter how abrasive to management, he does indeed "fit in" to any institution dedicated to teaching and nurturing our children.

--Michael Geglia

I was never a student of Dr. Siebens, but I interacted with him on countless occasions during my years at Wilson. I was continually impressed by his dedication to teaching, his students, and the Wilson community. Dedication that was and is matched by very few other members of the Wilson faculty and Administration.

--Alexis Chaney

Dr. Siebens is one of the best teachers I have ever had. I have never liked science very much, and at the beginning of the year I worried that I would struggle to keep up in the class. However, Dr. Siebens made every effort to give us a better understanding of his teaching with multiple supplements. I received a 5 on the AP Exam and an A- in the class, something I could not have done without him. He is one of Wilson's best teachers and in no way deserves to be let go in such an unfair manner.

--Athena Hughes

I am shocked that Dr. Siebens has been fired. He was the only great science teacher I had at Wilson. It is a disgrace to fire such a wonderful teacher. I am currently finishing my last year of medical school and I owe the beginning of my success and my love for biology to him. It is hard to get good teachers to teach in DCPS so why would you get rid of one you already have? It is sad that future Wilson students won't have the opportunity to be one of Dr. Siebens "children."

--Hannah Newborn

Dr. Seibens prepared me for both my college biology classes and life. As a college graduate, and a biology major with the intention of going to medical school, I can definitively say that having an inspirational and engaging AP Biology teacher shaped my choice of major and future career. Removing Dr. Seibens would be detrimental not only to the Wilson community but to the world as a whole as it would limit the potential of bright Wilson students from pursuing a career in science.

--Lucy Witt

Dr. Siebens was my favorite teacher at Wilson High School. He was the reason I decided to go to medical school and become a doctor. He is dedicated and caring, losing him would be a real tragedy for the DC public schools and especially Wilson.

--Anna Wasserstrom

I am a Wilson parent of a 2007 graduate and a rising senior. My older daughter took Dr. Siebens' Anatomy and Physiology class as well as AP Biology. Her experiences in his classes were excellent; she found him to be an extremely effective teacher who was devoted to his students. Since she is not a "science person," it took a lot to maintain her interest in the subject matter. I was hoping for the same experience for my younger daughter, and I truly hope that Dr. Siebens will be retained.

--Theresa DeMaio

All three of my children have attended Wilson and have had their share of unmotivated teachers. Dr. Siebens is not one of these! Any teacher that can be there for 18 years and keep their energy and enthusiasm for the students should be honored, NOT fired. I considered pulling my daughter out of Wilson when I heard the news.

--Phoebe Miles

I have appreciated Dr. Siebens considerable talent and dedication both as a teacher to two of our children and as someone concerned and involved in the citywide issues of engaging our high school students.

--Cathy Reilly

I had Dr. Siebens last year for AP Biology, and he is by far the best science teacher I have ever had throughout my DCPS experience. He obviously loves his job, and is totally committed to helping every single one of his students. I got so much out of his Bio songs and lunch study sessions, and I hope my younger sister has the same opportunity to take his class. I'm not sure I would have done as well on the AP exam without Dr. Siebens.

--Evan Roe

I'm a Wilson alumnus, class of 1998, and student of Dr. Siebens from 1997-98. His teaching and mentoring inspired me to pursue a career in medicine. I'm now entering my 4th year of medical school at Columbia as president of the Class of 2009 and am planning a residency in pediatric emergency medicine.

--Brendan Norwood

Dr. Siebens is a talented and dedicated teacher, and his absence at Wilson would be a huge loss to future students. I graduated from Wilson in '02 and went on to achieve a B.A. in Biology at Carleton College, sparked in part by the interest and knowledge I gained in his class.

--Sarah Gilberg

Parent of two Wilson students. One of which is his student (hoping the second will). She just got 5 on her AP Biology test. The only teacher Anastasia has ever "liked" and she has always been an A student. I have 4 children. Dr. Siebens' back to school meeting with parents is the most productive and interesting meeting I have ever attended in both public and private schools. The only teacher that I hear all the Wilson students talk about in a unanimous positive manner.

--Astrid Trinh

It is unacceptable that DCPS has discharged an effective and highly respected teacher without proving him or taxpayers, parents and students with any substantive basis for its action. Having played a role in the development of the No Child Left Behind legislation, I seriously doubt there is any basis for asserting that law as a rationale for discharging Dr. Siebens. DCPS owes parents and students -- not to mention Dr. Siebens -- a full accounting of the basis for the decision.

--John Lawrence

I am a former DCPS employee (2 years as an attorney in the special education division at the central office), and a DCPS parent of two children for the past ten years. In both roles, I have had first-hand experience with the rarity of truly exceptional educators within the system. One of my daughters is already at Wilson, another enters in August. Please reinstate Dr. Siebens so that both my daughters will have the unprecedented opportunity to learn from him. Thanks very much.

--Catherine Hess

Dr. Siebens is instrumental in the education of Wilson Senior High School students. Not reinstating him for the 2008-2009 school year would be a great mistake. He offers a way of learning that is so unique and effective in a school system that is continually struggling with ways to inspire its students. He is an important asset to the school.

--Sara Curtin

Dr. Siebens was one of my son's best teachers during his 13 years in the DC public school system. He really inspires the students to study and excel. We remember fondly the song our son wrote and recorded with Dr. Siebens that was made into a CD. Teachers like Dr. Siebens make DCPS equal to or better than the private school system. Dr. Siebens also worked to make Wilson the best school possible. What a loss his dismissal is for DCPS and the Wilson community!

--Cathy Wiss

He is the BEST teacher at Wilson.

--Sehee Jeong

Dr. Siebens is one of the finest teachers at Wilson High School. He was never less than fully prepared for every class and expected the same from his students. He is devoted to his students and always made himself available for advice, both academic and personal. He gave up his own time to make sure that his classes got enough instruction to compete on a national level. To remove him from Wilson would be a detriment to both the school and the students yet to attend it.

--Abigail West

I am a rising senior at Wilson SHS. I am a straight A student planning to pursue a degree in environmental engineering. Dr. Siebens is a primary reason I am interested in pursuing a career in the biological sciences. He is the best teacher I have ever had. Please reinstate him!

--Caroline Hackett

I am a recent Wilson alum who graduated in 07. I did not take Dr. Siebens's classes but he reached out to me in the hallway as a friend and mentor. He probably doesn't even know my name. I am one of four kids in my family to graduate and we have two left.

--Naciim Benkreira

Dr. Siebens was the single best teacher I knew at Wilson High School. I can't decide which I appreciate more: his dedication to his craft or his compassion for his students. He is a rare talent.

Letting Dr. Siebens go would be a pitiful mistake on the part of the Wilson community. The school should stand up for its finest educators, among whom Dr. Siebens still stands out.

--Maison Rippeteau

I am an alumna of Wilson as well as a former ESL teacher and department chair there. Art was an amazing teacher for all students. As our number of ELL students grew, he was never reluctant to teach non-speaking English students. In fact he welcomed them and did what he needed to do with his curriculum so that all the students were able to learn.

This is a complete mistake. He began at Wilson with Dr. Bonner, a principal committed to the best teachers. He should not be removed!

--Elizabeth Wendt

Dr. Siebens and I spoke at length during the first semester of my son's AP biology course. Dr Siebens proved to be incredibly sensitive to my son's learning style and brought out the very best in him. My son got a 5 on the AP test.

--Richard Cohen

Funny nice teacher.....He was pressed for our success (quote from Dr. Siebens)

--Travon James

With all the challenges the DC Public School system faces, the fact that we as parents have to spend time on reinstating one of the guiding lights -- is a crime.

--Cindy Morgan-Jaffe

He writes his own songs. Enough said.

--Valerie Mensah-King

I am one of Dr. Siebens' AP Biology students from this past school year. This decision to let him go is one of the WORST decisions that Wilson has ever made. It makes absolutely no sense. Dr. Siebens one of the only teachers that really cares about his students and the things that go on at Wilson. He is also a great teacher, and probably the only one qualified to teach AP Biology. Even the thought of firing him is absurd.

--Jordan King

Dr. Siebens taught both of my children, and they both got AP credit for biology. Besides being a great teacher, he is a wonderful human being. Please reinstate him.

--Jim McCarthy

During the school year of 2004-5, Dr. Siebens was exceptionally kind and encouraging to my AFS high school exchange student from Japan, Ms. Anri Tsushima. I am totally shocked that he was dismissed. There must have been some misunderstanding. A special reward for his dedication would be the right action.

Please reinstate him.

--Kathryn Ray