

Dear Reinstate Dr. Siebens Listserv Subscriber,

As we continue to investigate the travesty of the removal of Dr. Siebens from his classroom at Wilson — removal without due process under the absurd but convenient cover of a No Child Left Behind restructuring by individuals who chose to advance their petty adult agendas over the suffering of Wilson's biology students — we need to be mindful that our mission is all about students and learning. And we need to be mindful that there remains a simple solution: Dr. Siebens is ready to return and teach Wilson students about the marvels of biology. That's all he wants to do. Easy, right?

Chancellor Rhee, who can make anything happen in DCPS, says she is powerless to restore this one-of-a-kind teacher. Why is she unable to do so? Because she is either unwilling to show leadership or to admit a mistake, as so many have observed. And so Chancellor Rhee protects those who, while recognizing that Dr. Siebens is an inspired teacher, were unable to resist the chance to move him out when no one was looking. Shame on you for what you have done to hurt students and learning at Wilson.

But what about Dr. Siebens' students who learned from him, what have they done?

For one thing, they have been signing the Petition to Reinstate Dr. Art at <http://gopetition.com/petitions/reinstate-dr-art-siebens.html> to show their support for someone who has made a difference in their lives. Just consider the following comments from the among the latest handful of the nearly 600 signors of the petition:

*Michael Haynie* (#592) wrote: "**Dr. Siebens is an incredibly inspirational teacher who cares deeply about the welfare of all of his students -- both the top achievers and those who are struggling and need extra attention. He is exactly the type of teacher that the DC Public School system needs more than ever right now.**"

*Marka Fenske* (#591) wrote: "**Dr. Siebens was an amazing teacher. As a biology teacher, I tell my students about him all the time and use his CDs with my classes. He obviously influenced my whole life and not just the year I was his student. It is a great disservice to students to remove him from their lives.**"

*Di xiong Lee* (#587) wrote: "**I love Dr. Siebens, best teacher I ever had and I want other Wilson students to experience the wonderful teaching he has to offer.**"

*Sesen Gidey* (#586) wrote: "**How many students wish they had a teacher that is not only passionate about the subject he/she teaches, but makes it his/her duty to have their students enjoy the subject as well? Dr. Siebens is extremely qualified, creative, entertaining, and most importantly a wonderful instructor. Students deserve to be taught by a teacher who WANTS to be in school teaching his students, and makes sure to let them know that he loves being their instructor.**"

Or as *Lauren Ballard* (#431), daughter of Mary Froning, the Wilson LSRT Chair during Dr. Siebens' removal, wrote when she signed the petition: "**Dr. Siebens needs to be brought back because he is an amazing teacher. One of the BEST!**"

Great teaching is about great teachers, kind of a no-brainer even in these uncertain times in DCPS. Even Chancellor Rhee says she believes this. Please ask her and the administration why Wilson students won't have Dr. Siebens teaching them anymore and see if they can justify their actions or inactions to you. After all they work for you, your vote and your tax dollar.

Who really thinks that removing Dr. Siebens is best for Wilson students?

Best,

Paul

Paul Mahon

Wilson Parent of Maddie ('07) and Hanna ('09)

Maddie had Anatomy & Physiology with Dr. Siebens

Hanna had AP Biology with Dr. Siebens

Please visit our website <http://www.reinstatedrart.com> to learn more about our cause and to access resources in support of the students' petition which can be seen at:

<http://gopetition.com/petitions/reinstate-dr-art-siebens.html>