

Ten Updates for High School Students

(Courtesy of Bill Gates)

1. Life is not fair. Get used to it. We are getting a bit tired of hearing you say “It’s not fair!” Did you know that the average teenager uses that phrase about 86 times a day?
2. The real world won’t care as much about your precious self-esteem as your school does. This may come as a shock to you when you get out there.
3. We’re sorry to have to tell you this, but you won’t make \$80,000 a year right out of high school, and you won’t be a vice president and you probably won’t have a company car. You may even get to wear a uniform that doesn’t have a designer label.
4. If you think that your teacher is tough, wait until you get a boss.
5. Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping. They called it “opportunity.”
6. It is not your parents fault if you mess up. You’re responsible. This is the flip side of “It’s my life” and “You’re not my boss.”
7. Before you were born your parents were not boring. They got that way paying your bills and listening to you.
8. Life after high school is not divided into semesters. You don’t get summers off. You don’t even get a spring break. You may have to work Christmas day. You are expected to show up at work every day for at least eight hours, and you don’t get to start your life over every six or nine weeks.
9. Smoking does not make you look cool and mature. Watch an 11 year-old with a cigarette hanging out of his mouth. This is exactly how you look to anyone over the age of 20.
10. Your high school may be “outcome based,” but life isn’t. In some schools you are given as many times as you want to get the answer right. Standards are set low enough so everyone can meet them. This, of course, bears not the slightest resemblance to anything you will encounter in real life—as you will soon find out.

Good Luck.

By the way, the harder you work, the luckier you get.