When you walk in, you see trash spread across the tables and pieces of food littering the ground. Moreover, the bathrooms have an overpowering stench that is almost unbearable. You may be thinking I just described the inside of a dirty fast food joint, but in reality, what I am depicting is our very own school cafeteria. What once was a clean and sanitary place to enjoy lunches is quickly transformed every afternoon into a breeding ground of filth and dirt because of students sheer lack of consideration. But if this dilemma is not resolved soon, our multi-million dollar cafeteria will begin to resemble a garbage dump more so than a high-tech dining hall.

Trash in a cafeteria may seem like a minute problem that doesn’t hurt anyone, but nothing could be farther from the truth. This is a problem that affects everyone, faculty and students alike. Our dedicated cafeteria employees that already work extremely hard to clean up each day after school, are tied up with the additional workload they are given from students not cleaning up after themselves.

Students leaving their mess in the cafeteria makes the staff’s job much more difficult then it needs to be. In fact, building supervisor Jamie Curran stated that the food service and janitorial staffs each have to work four hours each day after school cleaning up the cafeteria. Curran went on to state that this work time could be cut in half if the students would actually throw away their trash.

The issue with the cafeteria goes much deeper than just a big mess. With the surplus of work given to the cafeteria workers and custodians, it requires them to work an additional amount of hours to clean up. And where does this money come from to pay for the extra work being done? It comes from right out of our pockets. Curran talked about how the superfluous work done by the faculty is paid for through raising the prices of our lunches.

However this predicament isn’t just limited to the actual cafeteria, there are also significant difficulties with maintaining the bathrooms. Everywhere you look you can see graffiti, toilet paper, and sometimes even whole lunches in and around the toilets. This makes them disgusting and almost intolerable to use. It seems incredible that in two short years our new bathrooms are already in almost as bad of shape as the old bathrooms with 30 years of usage. This treatment is despicable and needs to be corrected before the bathrooms become hazardous to the health of the student body.

 In order to properly address the concerns, the staff needs the help of the student body to clean up after themselves. It takes less than a minute to pick up your tray and put it in the garbage. But besides that, as students we should have respect for the school. It is basically our second home. We are here 5 days a week for 7 hours a day and we should treat it with the same reverence and care that we would if we were within the confines of our favorite eateries. So ask yourself this next time you leave your trash lying around: “I wouldn’t do this in my home or my favorite restaurant, so why am I doing it at my school?” It comes down to valuing our school and not letting our multi-million dollar cafeteria turn into cesspool of grime. Whenever you see one of those little white trays laying on a table with garbage on it, don’t just ignore it and let it sit there and stench up the place. Do the right thing and pick it up and throw it away. If even just a few people started doing that once a day, you’d be surprised at how far it would go. Together we can revive the cafeteria to its original splendor, one tray at a time.