

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Strike Not Only About Retro Pay; But Working Conditions As Well, Teachers Say

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ST. THOMAS -- In a statement issued by Governor Kenneth Mapp late Tuesday, the territory's leader said he was at a loss in understanding why teachers had taken to the streets in Charlotte Amalie in protest, when his administration has been working closely with teachers to ensure that their wages are increased.

"On what basis or reason is the A.F.T. disrupting the school instruction process by abandoning their students and demonstrating on the public streets? While I want to understand the protest of the teachers, I am at a loss as I publicly announced months ago that I will increase teachers' salaries," Mr. Mapp [said](#).

But the educators' frustrations go beyond just pay raises; they are also vexed by the working conditions at the territory's public schools.

For months teachers have been reaching out to The Consortium, sharing images and lamenting what they refer to as "deplorable working conditions" that they bear everyday. During these conversations, teachers are usually focused on the lack of tools needed to teach, which oftentimes forces them to spend their own money -- already insufficient -- to pay for utensils and other indelible items needed to educate the territory's children.

They hardly mention their salary, although having not received a wage increase in seven years tops their list of grievances as well. And it's the main reason why teachers have been leaving the public education system in the U.S.V.I and [moving to the U.S. mainland](#) for better pay.

On April 12, a teacher sent The Consortium 18 pictures of a classroom at the St. Croix Educational Complex. "Issues with windows, doors, computers, filthy a/c ducts, electrical outlets, electrical cords (under students' feet, fire hazard), broken PVC pipes used to run Internet cables, and computer monitors not working," this person, whom The Consortium has chosen not to reveal, wrote. See pictures below. Also below, a video shot this afternoon showing at least eight Central High School teachers, inspired by their St. Thomas-St. John counterparts, staging a small strike outside the school, leaving an estimated 200 students unattended. The teachers spoke of depressing working conditions and stagnant wages.

avoid it?
writing a reference and how do you source a website using
password and what are some do's
media and privacy?
ers. (short essay)
week.

CLASS

The found
RESPECT
teachers.

1. Attend class on-time
prepared with all required
materials. You are responsible for
your own learning.

2. During class, you are to
be respectful to everyone.
No talking, drinking, or sleeping in class.

3. You are to be respectful to
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mpc

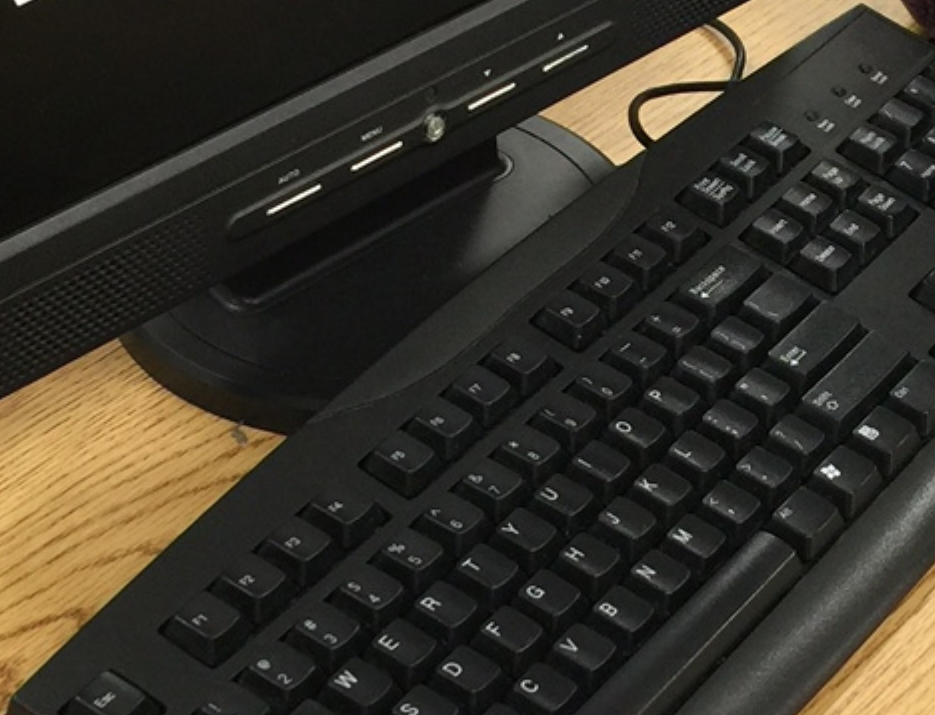
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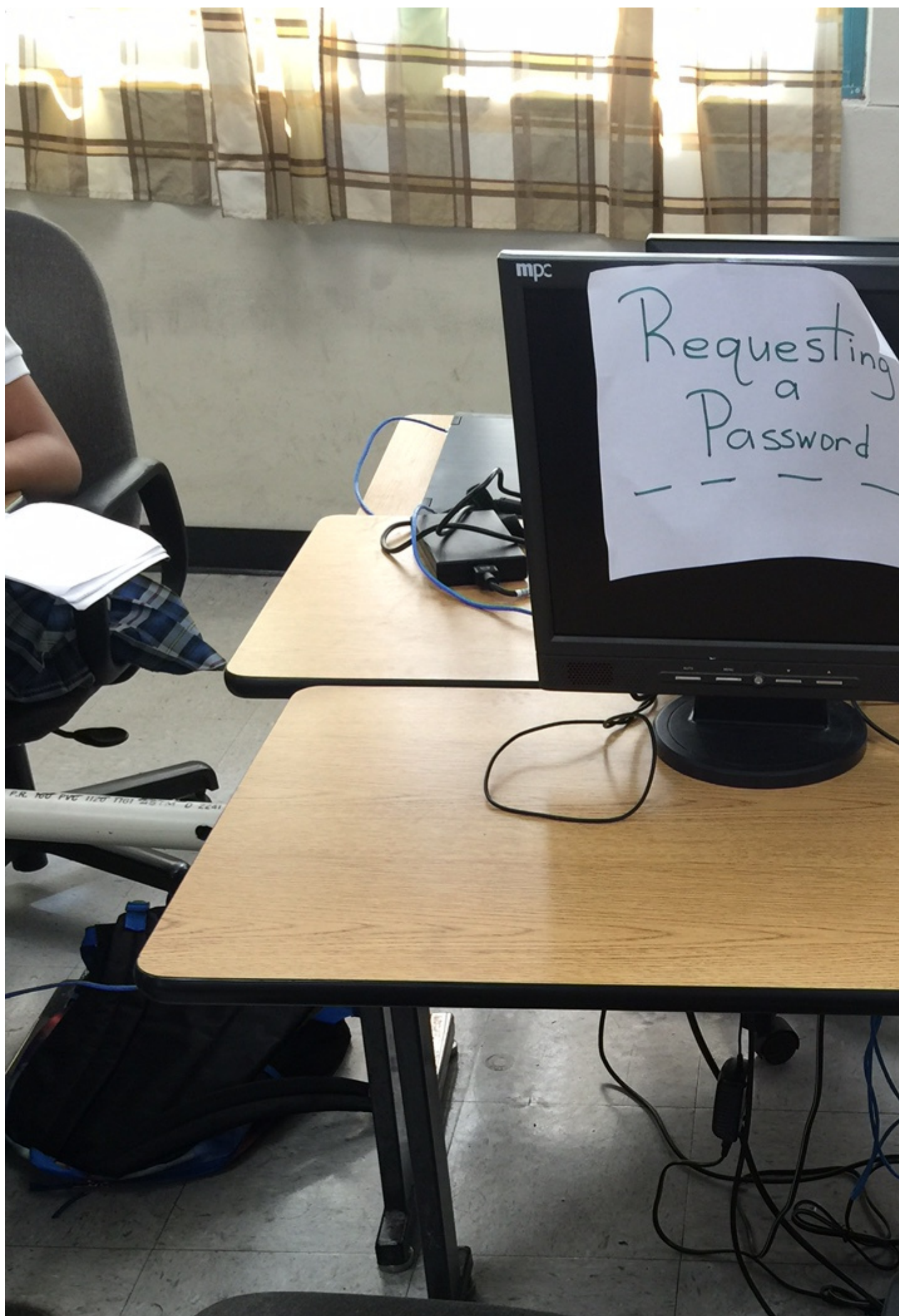
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Our bullying and
best to fight against it.

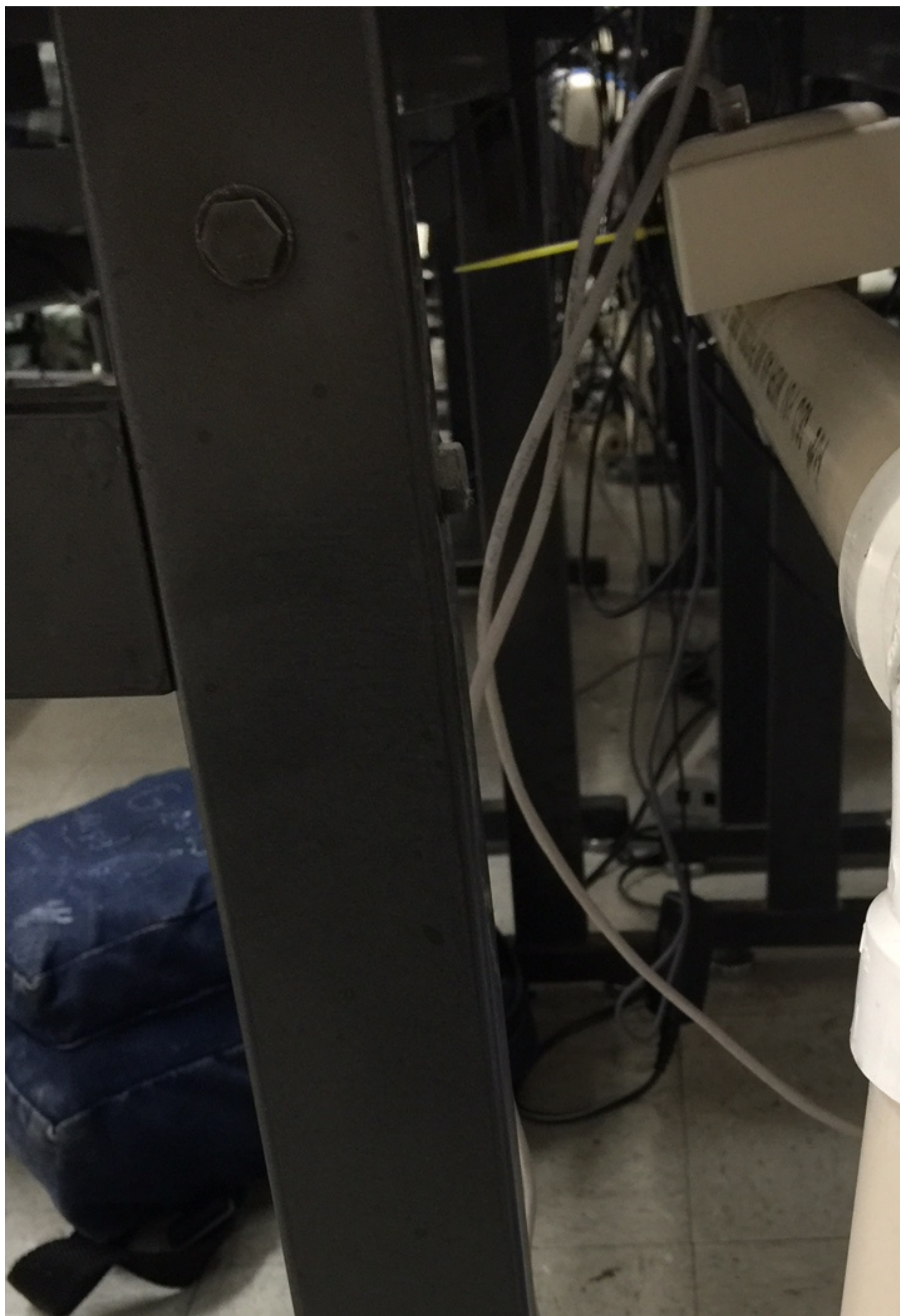
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Monitor
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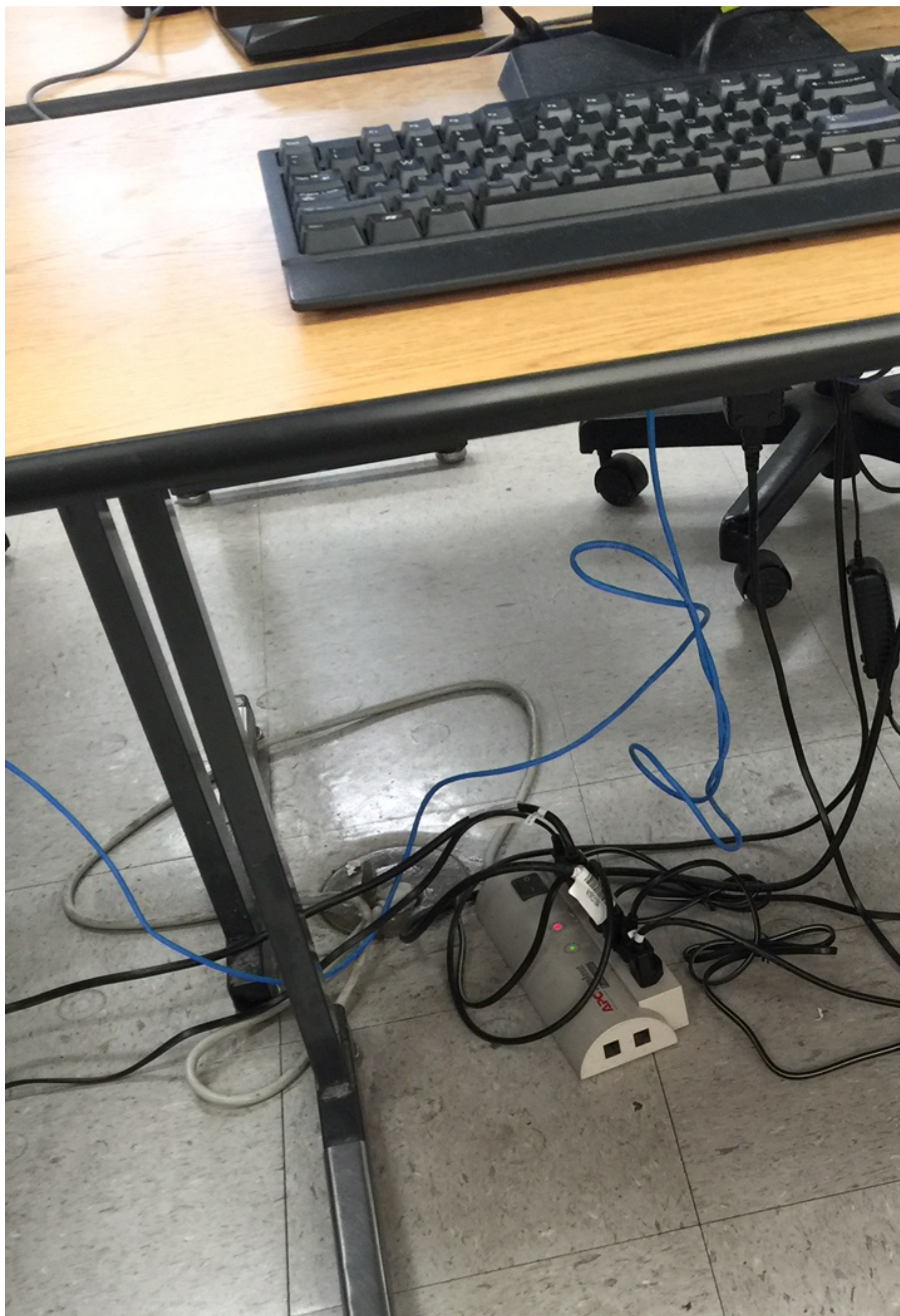


Requesting
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Monitor
Power Button
Bad



CLASSROOM RULES

Foundation for all my rules is
RESPECT. Respect yourself,
teachers, and fellow classmates.

Be on-time daily in the proper uniform and come
with required materials. (You interrupt instructions
and miss important instructions when you're
late. Three unexcused absences will be referred
to the counselor and your parents/guardian will be
notified.)

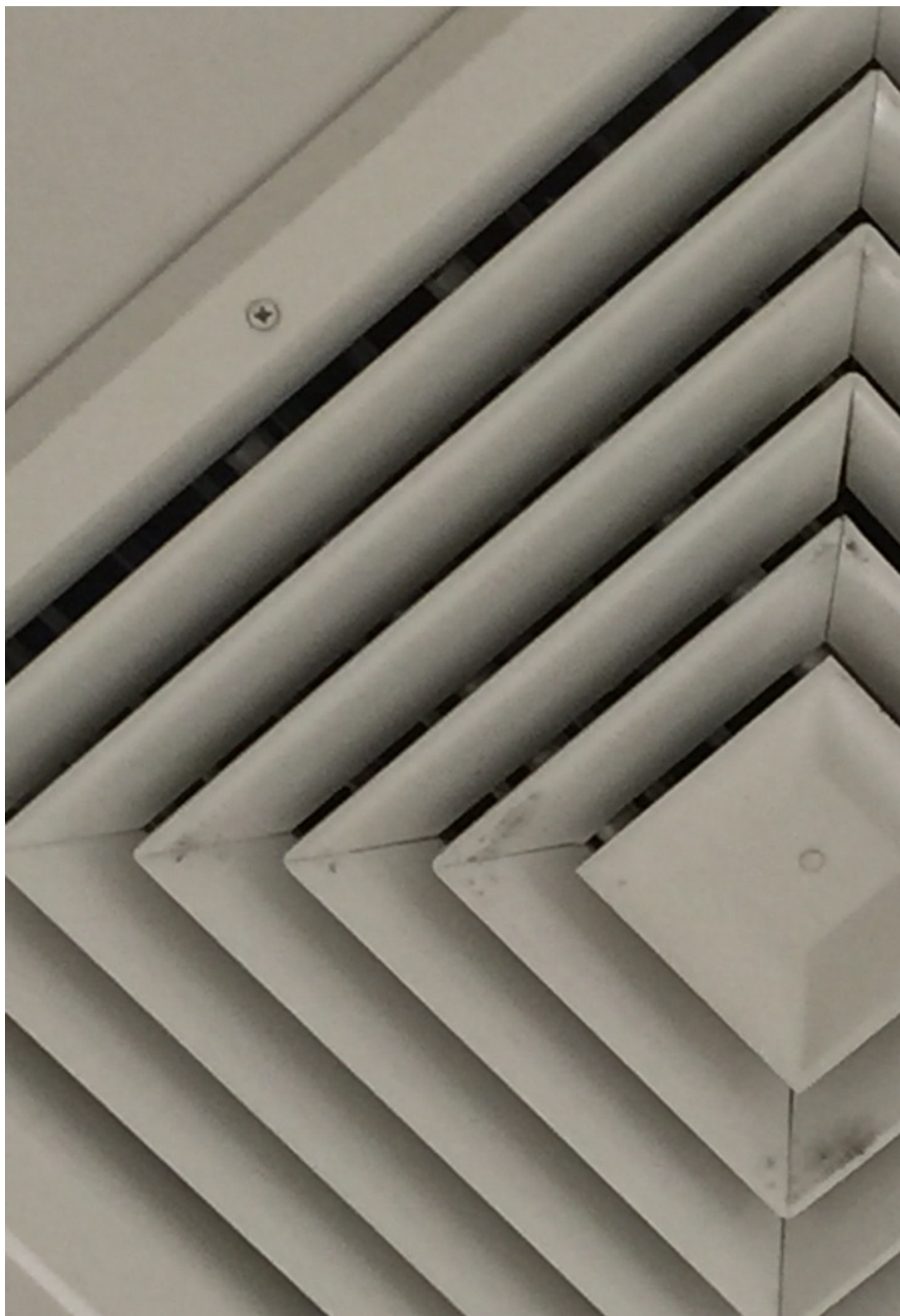
Listen during instructions and wait your turn to speak.
(Be quietly and wait patiently to be called upon).

Be nice to everyone and use your words to express
yourself. (Yelling, cursing, bullying, hitting,
threats, and mishandling of equipment will not be
tolerated.)

No eating, drinking, and chewing gum in the
classroom. (Make sure you eat and drink between classes,
before and after school. Food and
beverage equipment and encourage ants and
other pests. You will not be allowed to leave the
room or pick-up anything to drink or eat.)

No using cell phones during instructions, unless
explicit permission to do so for a class assignment.
No using cell phones in the classroom without my
explicit permission. (I will be the end of the class
period by me until the end of the class
period.)











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THANK YOU!
DOOR
USE THE OTHER
PLEASE







[View the original embedded media](#)

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