

Dear Mr. Porcello,

Imagine this. You are sitting in your very first home, purchased a year ago, after 15 years of schooling. You're just about to fill out your taxes, but wait, no one taught you how. You're sitting under the roof of your new home with no idea how to properly make dinner for the night. You're laying in bed with sheets that have never been washed because no one taught you that your sheets need cleaned at least twice a month. In an ideal world, these are all things that should be taught at home, by a parent. However, that is not the case for everyone. I would like to believe that Perry is very family oriented, but the learning should never stop at home.

Perry Local Schools does an outstanding job at preparing students for the future. Meeting with guidance counselors, Mrs. H from LEAF, or Mrs. Soeder have made our senior year smooth, less stressful and more bearable. Also, using programs like Naviance, have made applying to colleges as easy as ever. Within our last 4 years of high school, relationship building between students and staff has been stronger than ever before. We applaud the staff for continuously strengthening their relationships with the student body.

When a student has the room in their busy schedule to find time for **electives** like Entrepreneurship, Positive You (FCS), Learning Through Internships, and Financial Management, most of the time, they not only get an A, but also they get to learn life skills. These classes are bettering the students after high school and has a direct impact on their life throughout their future. Most of the time, students leave these classes with a set of necessary life skills.

Perry Local Schools needs to make life skills classes, like "Adulthood 101" **mandatory** for all high school students, and consider the class just as important as Trigonometry, Physics, or English. By making this class mandatory for every senior, students are even better prepared for the future. Not to mention the fact that by having this a year long class, it aligns perfectly with our Perry Service Learning Class. By making this class mandatory for every senior, students leave high school with a sense of pride and self sufficiency. By making this class mandatory for every senior, students leave with a better knowledge of their own mental, social, and physical health. Lastly, by making this class mandatory for every senior, Perry Local Schools will not only be sending "high school seniors" into the world, but genuinely wholesome people.

In Karol Marcowicz's article, "Schools Should Go Back to Teaching Teens 'Adulthood 101'", she argues that earlier generations were able to adult better due to teachers taking the time to show them how to do it. She also states, "Social media has made people so withdrawn from others that a recent study had a full 20 percent of millennials reporting that they have no friends at all." (Marcowicz Paragraph 6). She also mentions how people used to take etiquette classes, to teach

table manners and how to answer phones. I believe teaching current generation students these skills is still very important, if not more than earlier generations.

The idea to bring “adulting” classes into the high school curriculum is certainly not a new idea and is even being brought to life in schools all over America, including Texas and Kentucky. Rachel Flehinger, a teacher, has brought this idea to light, in her own unique and brilliant way; an online class. “Rachel Flehinger co-founded the aptly named Adulting School in Portland, Maine. This month, she is launching online classes geared toward millennials who want to learn how to sew on a button, understand modern art or even deal with love.” Flehinger is truly changing the lives of young people, in a way that really makes a difference. However, students should not have to apply to an online school and pay money to get the education that Perry could and should offer.

I know, you are probably thinking, “we already have life skills classes, take them!” However, it is not that easy. For most students, having the option to take college classes and gain credits from them far triumphs the option to take Positive You and gain another elective credit that will just be added to the other 10 overflow credits. However, those college credit classes are teaching how the heart works, not what to do to make it stop hurting when your best friend is mean to you. That college class is teaching you how important it is to own a home, but is not teaching you how to buy a home. That college class is teaching giving you 5 hours of homework every night, but not teaching you how to properly manage your time. Lastly, that college class is teaching you invisible numbers, but not how to deal with your own personal feelings when you feel invisible.

The standard K-12 schooling system goal is to get students ready for adulthood and to be out in the real world. For **everyone** at Perry that means going to college, starting a trade job, or joining an armed force. However, almost no one leaves Perry believing they are an adult, which could cause some issues all throughout their future. According to, *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, “those who practiced more responsible financial behaviors reported having fewer symptoms of depression and higher relationship satisfaction, both of which, in turn, seemed to promote the formation of adult identity.” How can Perry truly promote adult identity by not preparing students for the future adequately?

We know, test scores need to be met, standardized tests need to be taken, and students need to be pushed onto the next grade level. We can assure you that after leaving Perry High School we can recite the Preamble, solve the quadratic equation, write a Precise, and tell you all about the Civil War. We can also assure you that we are college ready. We will have been accepted into (hopefully) our college of choice, and be so nervous for move in date. However, I can not assure you that the student that is not as fortunate to have responsible parents is ready. We can not assure you that the girl in the back of the classroom with a D in the class, yet is sleeping, is

ready. We can not assure you that the boy who has alcoholism running in his family is ready. Lastly, we can not assure you that the students whose parents have never taught them how to live on their own. We ask you to consider adding a class into the Perry Curriculum so you can assure US that we will not crash and fail when we are thrown into the real world after high school.

Works Cited:

<https://adulthoodschool.com/classes/>

[https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2019-07/uoa-csh072219.php](https://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2019-07/uoa-csh072219.php)