

Dear Mr. Porcello,

Our school is one that is well versed with bringing up successful students and educating them for college. However, in the everchanging times that we live in that is not enough. Perry High School may be taking steps forward in the present, but is still leagues behind the ways of the future. Perry could be doing so much more to prepare students not just for a future at college but also for a wider variety of jobs, the inevitable responsibilities and challenges that life will bring, and the skills needed to be better learners and citizens long after their graduation.

There are some solutions to these problems that are not terribly hard to execute and have been shown to be very successful. One solution that I feel that Perry has already begun to implement is the introduction of new classes, some of which I have personally participated in, such as Astronomy, Anatomy and Physiology, and a favorite of mine, the Flip a House program. This could continue to expand to include other more niche yet intriguing classes to be available at the high school such as geography, more foreign language opportunities or life skills classes that will help students be better prepared for the future.

However another, more expansive solution to the problem is to break down the single minded approach to learning and allow students to learn the way they need to learn at the pace they need to learn it. To allow students to have the best learning experience, the school should explore integration between subjects that would not typically be associated with one another. For example, integrating the arts with the core subjects has been shown to help increase the retention rates of materials that students learn in class. There is also something that Perry has started that can be expanded upon, the use of a more hands on learning approach through classes like Geometry by Design. Classes like these have great potential to help students in all other subjects try and visualize what they are learning or see real world applications while also developing skills that are becoming increasingly valuable in a world that places exaggerated emphasis on a college education and success. This can even be applied to classes with seemingly little connection yet can help a student's understanding skyrocket. For example at the Manchester School of Technology High School students watch an anime film to learn English concepts in different ways for Game Design as to create a compelling video game, you need to craft a compelling story. There are some critics who may wish to stick to our current system, stay in the comfort of normalcy, but to dampen the future lives of children because we weren't willing to take risks and expand our views of thinking, is utterly ludicrous.

There is no denying that Perry High School is trying to take steps to make their system work to help students succeed, but it's not enough in this fast paced world. The Manchester School of Technology has a motto "As fast as you want, as slow as you need" referring to their way of letting students work at their own pace, but I think that it can be applied to Perry as well. That we can go into the future of education like most of the country, as slow as we need, but with Perry's

ability to excel beyond the bare minimum, we can enter what is to come as fast as we can. The addition of new classes that integrate courses that were previously compartmentalized while emphasizing problem based learning will work for the students of today and tomorrow and lead them to greatness and success beyond the halls they were taught in.

Thanks for your consideration.

### **Works Cited**

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