

Dear Dr. Malchesky,

We are very proud to be students at such a wonderful school. You have had a huge part in giving us a successful and full-proof education. As students here we have made the most out of this curriculum and we feel as though we have taken advantage of every opportunity provided by you. Though we have many opportunities at Perry, we are still craving more depth in our education here at Perry High School. The opportunity to go to Lakeland Community College or enroll in Learning Through Internships is fantastic, but it is a difficult tool to use for those who do not know what they want to make of themselves in the future. Going to Lakeland can also be extremely difficult for students who cannot drive, still take classes at Perry, or are involved in sports, and many other situations. Incorporating more elective classes would allow students to flourish academically in other subjects as well as develop a greater understanding of where they want their future to go.

Many students about to enter college have no idea what they want to do in the future and have no clue what they want to major in. In fact, a survey conducted by YouthTruth about College and Career Readiness stated that 55% of students do not feel positive about their major, college readiness, and other future choices, while still being in high school. This instability can cause students to fail in their future endeavors. Another article from FOX 8 News says that about 80 percent of students who enroll in college change their major at least once, maybe more. It is not always that easy to change majors and many students will end up staying in that major, even though it is not the right fit for them.

We propose that adding more subject-specific electives for juniors and seniors may help them decide what they want to do with their lives, whether that be continuing education or going into the workforce. The classes here at Perry High School are limited and do not allow us to develop an understanding of what we truly want to do to contribute to society. Classes that are more major-specific such as Engineering Mathematics, Early Childhood Education, Anatomy and Physiology, Integrated Marketing, or Criminology would help the students here at Perry High School develop this understanding. The Journalism and Yearbook classes have steered individuals toward a career in English. Band and Chorale have influenced students to want to major in Performing Arts and Music Education. By taking these classes, it could show whether a student truly loves or truly hates a subject. Perry High School could produce future classes of students that are more likely to stick with what they have chosen to do with their lives.

Citations:

1. Leal, Fermin. "Survey: Most High School Students Feel Unprepared for College, Careers." *EdSource*, EdSource, 3 Aug. 2015, <https://edsource.org/2015/survey-most-high-school-students-feel-unprepared-for-college-careers/83752>.
2. Larsen, Linda. "NCES Report: About 80 Percent of College Students Change Major at Least Once." Local News 8, FOX, 12 Oct. 2018, <https://www.localnews8.com/news/education/nces-report-about-80-percent-of-college-students-change-major-at-least-once/806483499>