

Dear Mr. Porcello,

Being the principal of Perry High School, we are aware that you are very familiar with the scheduling and class times. Our current school day, which includes ninety minutes for each class, plus a twenty minute ICE block and a thirty minute lunch, provides us with a lot of time to learn. During these class times, students are sitting in a classroom learning about a specific subject for a long period of time to ask questions, get work done, and learn more material.

Although there are good things like learning more material faster and getting more work done in class that comes from having an hour and a half long classes, there are downsides to it as well. Sitting in the long classes, students tend to get bored and their attention span shortens. While longer class times allow students more opportunities and time to ask for clarification, it is not enough to justify a good reason for such long class periods. In the state of Ohio, the minimum classroom seating hours is 1,001 hours per year according to the Ohio Department of Education. In Perry the seating time is approximately 1,035 hours which means we are over the minimum hours by about 34 hours. If Perry were to shorten the class time to about an hour, we would still meet the minimum but have more efficient learning. According to an article written by Regine Labossiere for *Los Angeles Time* called, "Longer Classes Give Students a Chance to Focus," many reasons are given as to why long block classes are better. For example, students take fewer classes for longer periods of time to give them a chance to learn more material and focus on fewer subjects. Even though this may be true, the article also has interviewed some students that are in block classes and their words are not satisfying. The students go on about how they cannot focus for such long time spans, sometimes the teachers struggle to fill the entire class period and they just sit and do nothing, and also how class periods are not nearly as long in college. In college the typical amount of time a student is in class is 55 minutes per class. This is an entire 35 minutes less than high school classes. This goes to show that having long class periods does not benefit the students in the present, nor the future. With shorter classes and more free time outside of class, students will be provided with more time to talk to teacher one-on-one to get more in-depth help to better understand material if needed.

Along with having long class periods comes getting bored. When we were in 4th grade the school gave us iPods to help us learn and everyone would get excited when we got to use them. The iPod made the learning like a game which really helps kids learn. Regular lessons and worksheets get extremely boring and kids do not want to do them. Integrating more game like lessons will get the kids more involved. With game like activities in the classroom, students will have a chance to better understand the material being taught. With shorter class periods and more

game like/hands on learning, students will be able to comprehend and remember the material better, giving them a better chance to become smarter in a healthy, non-stressing, way.

Sincerely,

Works Cited

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/Finance-Related-Data/Guidance-on-Schedule-Change-from-Days-to-Hours/Minimum-Hours-and-What-Hours-Count>

<https://latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-2004-feb-25-me-class25-story.html>