

Dear Mr.Porcello,

We are reflecting on the years that we have spent at Perry, what stands out the most is how as a class we have learned important lessons while improving our community. Which have made us stronger and more independent. Some things we are doing well at Perry is that we have more opportunities to take classes that provide more of a hands on learning approach, while making our community better. Such as Positive you which makes meals for the homeless (Project Hope), Environmental Science, Alpha, Flip a house and Perry Service Learning.

Although these are providing great experiences for students like us, we could make them stronger and more impactful. By adding volunteerism and more experiential learning to the classrooms. By doing this, more students will start to feel like they are the solution to the problems that we are handed. And begin to feel the need to speak out against the problems that the community faces. In a study written by Jennifer Bentley she speaks strongly about why kids should volunteer and what benefits it has. Bentley says that it will also begin to connect students to others, building a thoughtful and caring group. Volunteering has also been proven to build self-esteem and increase mental health and overall well being.

Now you may ask what the school could do better to help all kids experience the pleasure of volunteering. Throughout the 12 school years I can only remember one year being active and involved in a service learning program and making a difference. I propose that there be an optional or even required experiential learning class or a volunteer based class available throughout every school year. Starting as early as elementary school. These classes could range anywhere from science classes doing more beach cleanups to a class such as P.S.L where the class is centered around service learning.

Although Perry has done a good job meeting the needs of almost anything and everything a student would want to do. I believe the one part that could be improved upon would be the amount of community outreach that is done. Thank you.

Bentley, Jennifer. "15 Unexpected Benefits of Volunteering." Kids Helping Kids, Kids Helping Kids, 28 Dec. 2017, [kidshelpingkidsct.org/2017/12/28/15-unexpected-benefits-volunteering/](http://kidshelpingkidsct.org/2017/12/28/15-unexpected-benefits-volunteering/).