

Dear Mr. Porcello,

Perry High School has been a wonderful place to spend our high school years. It prepares us for the future and empowers critical thinking abilities through helpful teachers and strong academic courses. We have also had the opportunity to spend our entire high school athletic career with great groups of teammates. Our sports teams are successful and our academics prepare us for the future. However, our school spirit, outside of football, is thoroughly lacking.

School spirit is an issue that Perry has attempted to address previously. School spirit is important because it sets the tone for numerous aspects of the school and its students. The Red Army was established to strengthen school spirit. However, even prior to the pandemic, the Red Army seemingly withered away after an initially strong showing. The Red Army was a well-thought idea, but we need to get down to the root cause of what went wrong and hopefully improve it for the future. We need to come together to form an idea that can fortify many of the great qualities of the Red Army.

Some may argue that putting so much money and time into sports is baseless. Amanda Ripley of the Atlantic found that the United States spends more money per high-school athlete than per high-school math student. However, if we can increase our school spirit, we may be able to drive up the fundraising achievements because people will be willing to donate to Perry High School. Alumni could look back on the school spirit exposed during their tenures and be proud to donate their money towards athletic causes. Still, is the sizable exploitation of time and resources worth it? We believe so. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, high school students with school spirit tend to perform better academically and are generally more happy than their less-spirited peers. Additionally, Perry has a great history through its athletic programs. Considering this, we believe Perry should continue their efforts of upgrading the relevance of pride throughout the school. In order to do this, we believe it must be through the refinement of the Red Army.

In order to improve the Red Army, we need to get the word out that our athletes here need support. Instead of having a principal explain this at pep rallies, it would likely be more persuasive to students if they had been told by other students. If students representing each sport could come into each classroom and talk about why they need support, it could touch students deep down and encourage them to come out and support their peers. Also, teachers could be encouraged to explain the importance of assisting their students in athletic events. We need to find a way to have conversations about supporting one another for the sake of school pride. It would boost the morale of the school to a level we have not seen in quite a while. If we can build some incitement of going to sporting events next season, we can enhance the spirit of Perry and build the Red Army back together.

Sincerely,
PSL Students

Works Cited

Ripley, Amanda. "The Case Against High-School Sports." *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 19 Feb. 2014, www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/10/the-case-against-high-school-sports/309447/.

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