

Dear Mr. Porcello,

Our school is very successful when it comes to athletics and academics. We are fortunate for this success, but as seniors at Perry High School we recognize a cultural issue within the school. These last four years our school stands out in the poor school spirit students display. Our school spirit lacks the strength and pride that nearby schools have, despite the fact that these schools have been less successful than Perry.

Perry tried to promote school spirit with the Red Army, which was working, but it seems that the Army has slowly deteriorated. There was success with the spirit bus and the spirit rock but more must be done. Although our school is very high achieving in many areas, school spirit seems to be a downfall and we think there should be some actions taken to make sure Perry High School will have the best school spirit around.

Here is our proposed issue and some actions we think Perry High School can try to implement in the next few years to boost school spirit. The problem is simple, that Perry lacks fun school events or traditions like pep rallies, students vs. faculty games, and student competitions. Perry only has one pep rally each year, this being the annual homecoming rally. Madison, on the other hand, had at least 3 pep rallies already this year as evidenced by student's social media posts as the students are shouting with school pride. Perry also lacks a Homecoming King which is something most schools around here have, like Riverside and Orange, which produces positive student competition. Other schools have a signature late day where normal start times are pushed back later. For example, Madison has late days on every Tuesday with the start time at 9:00 am and Mentor has late days on Wednesdays at 8:30 am. This gives their school a special difference than being the same as all other schools and gives the students something to brag about. Most schools host a football vs. girls volleyball team game which could give a fun twist to school spirit. Many school's student councils take a huge role in the school's decisions creating more student participation. Whereas, every year our leading student council members talk about how they have little to no responsibility or voice in anything. Also important to school spirit is traditions. Traditions give students something to stand for and take pride in. Chardon High School has their "Hilltopper pickaxe" and Madison has their saying "212." These schools take great honor in these traditions. Being Perry students, we can't say we have a certain important school tradition or saying, but what we do have is a rock. There's so many other activities that other schools participate in that Perry does not. Other schools do senior painting parking spots, school movie nights, yearbook cover competitions, school cookouts, have an actual mascot at all the games, and there are many more creative ideas. All of these activities are great for school spirit and can even bring in some money for school fundraisers.

There's no hiding that Perry High School lacks school spirit. You can go to a sporting event and you notice the small student section and the only people making any noise are the parents. You can ask any students at Perry High, how they feel their school spirit is, most would answer with a negative response (check our twitter poll most voters are Perry high school

students). When we looked at other schools with noticeably good school spirit we saw that they do many things differently than Perry High School. Our conclusion came down to the many fun school activities we have mentioned that the school of Perry has not participated in years, or frankly ever. We believe Perry needs to add more school events and traditions, like the other schools mentioned do. This would create a better overall feeling of school spirit and create a fun environment and keep the same high achieving accomplishment of Perry High School.

#### WORKS CITED:

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"Quick Links." Home - Madison Local Schools, <https://www.madison-lake.k12.oh.us/>.