

Athletics vs. the Arts

By: Chloe Lohr

We all think that high school sports are very important and get a lot of attention, but does everyone think that high school musicians and artists are just as important? In some cases it may seem like athletes in high school get more recognition compared to artists and musicians. Some students in the past have said things and felt as if they don't get enough attention from the school based on the different activities they do and different accomplishments they have.

It seems that athletes sometimes get more college signings with schools and much more attention in that way. On average there are about ten college signings total in a year. Most of the time you hear about them and you can celebrate them by attending this special event. But we don't normally get signings for artists or musicians who do art, band, choir, Buccaneers, etc. Most of the time you don't hear much about a student that has gotten accepted to an art institute or even dance institute because they only get announced while they walk across the stage at commencement. One of our Band directors, Mr. Miller, added that he thinks, "Athletes get more recognition due to the fact that sports are more readily available on a daily basis."

This may not be on purpose. The school isn't trying to ignore artists, they just might not want as much attention. According to Perry High School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Holderman, "I do know students in the past who have been accepted into prestigious art institutes are happy with this honor being announced as they walk across the stage." So it might not be the school's fault why they don't get as much recognition, because these students are just happy being announced during graduation.

Not only artists and musicians have felt that student athletes getting more attention was a problem. In the past, even AP scholars felt that they didn't get recognized as much compared to the athletes. It was also brought to the school's attention that signs were made for the football players and placed outside of the school right as you pull into school. Some parents and students have felt that the school gives a lot of attention to athletes and not so much to other students with great achievements. So now there are signs for the AP scholars each year.

This is a matter that our students can change. If a student has any concerns about recognition and giving attention to a certain group of students at school they can talk to administration. Mrs. Holderman says, "I do believe we want to recognize our students in any way we can." The principal of our school would be willing to listen to any student or students who feel like something isn't right. It is important to celebrate all of our students and their talents that they have to offer at Perry High School. Mr. Miller added that in order for this to be something that can be changed in the future, "Individuals need to be educated on the benefits of art and music on the mind and body." When people are more knowledgeable about the topic and the skills of artists and musicians they will have a better perspective and be celebrated and recognized more.

The administration staff does what they can to make it seem fair to everyone and wants as many students to be recognized as possible. Artists and musicians are not the only ones who feel like they don't get as much attention compared to athletes. But if we continue to push for all students to be recognized for their special talents and achievements our school will be a better place where everyone will feel as if they have made a difference.