

Schooling The Seniors

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Perry Service Learning is a class offered to seniors at Perry High School. The class does a variety of different activities as well as lots of volunteering with different programs. PSL have four main units they cover and five or more sub-units that they make sure to hit before the school year ends.

The first unit taught in PSL is Service Learning 101, which teaches about confidentiality and talks about the experiences students will face in the class. Poverty and Homelessness is one unit that they teach and it gives students the opportunity to see the causes of poverty, while attempting to help end poverty and homelessness. The Philanthropy unit is where the class is given a grant and with the money they invest in nonprofits serving the people of Lake County. In the Philanthropy unit students learn to make decisions, notice community needs and research organizations that are working to help those in need. The Addiction and Recovery units regard people with drug addictions, different kinds of drugs, and how it affects people's lives and even people in our community. There are also five or more sub-units that are touched on: education reform, meaning and purpose, the power of relationships, inclusive communities, human trafficking, and more.

PSL has an advisory board that meets monthly and they give feedback and suggestions. Mrs. Trentanelli, one teacher from the PSL class, states, "Our units are a direct result of student feedback. The PSL Advisory Board closely examines the units we plan on teaching and provides feedback." Sometimes the board will suggest that a new unit should be taught or suggest a unit that is important and may need to be added. The advisory board has suggested the addiction and

recovery and the human trafficking units, which have been added. The board has also recently suggested that a unit be taught on gun safety and PSL plans to teach about that topic by the end of the school year.

PSL students get lots of opportunities to volunteer for different causes that also relate to the topics being taught in class. Students are required a minimum of two hours of volunteer work per week. Mr. Soeder, the other teacher from the PSL class, states, “Volunteer opportunities give students the opportunity to see how the topics we discuss in the classroom affect real people in the community.” He also says that volunteering helps with a good class discussion.

PSL is a great class to take in high school because lots of students enjoy it and it gives them lots of great opportunities to work within their community and help people in need.