

Formal Written Correspondence to the Board

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Help Make Our Program Work

* Comments

Dear LVJUSD School Board,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the current policy that restricts students from having a period outside of the standard 8-period schedule. This limitation has severe consequences for various arts programs, particularly at Livermore High School where the performing arts have long been of pride and a testament of our commitment to cultivating well-rounded and creative individuals. We appreciate you hearing our concerns and trying to come up with a solution. Unfortunately, the solution that was presented to us, does not address all of our concerns. There is an issue regarding some students not getting the credits that they deserve if they are not enrolled in the course. When some students are not able to enroll in this 7th period course, they lose the opportunity to earn the credits that the enrolled students received despite doing the same work. Furthermore students are not going to have access to different course materials and assignments that come along with this course. These assignments and materials are a crucial part of putting together a successful production.

We want to reiterate that we appreciate and understand that you are working towards a solution. We want to emphasize how important it is to hear all that we have to say. Putting together a production is a very rigorous and intricate process. It requires a balance between different directors, choreographers, actors, and crew members to come together as one and create a final cohesive performance. This goes to show that having a course associated with the program and having everyone enrolled in said course is necessary for the coordination of the project.

In the Superintendent's email it was stated that "Students who choose not to take Drama as a class, will still have the ability to participate in Theatre Productions as an extracurricular activity." The problem with this is that it is not a choice. Students will be missing out on the option to choose to do this course. This brings up problems with Casting and all of the "What if's" that comes with theatrical productions. For Winter shows, it will be too late for students to decide to enroll in a 7th period Theatre class, as that takes place part way through the semester. This ends up tying back to the issue of students not having access to the credits associated with this course.

The current policy is detrimental to our development and the district's reputation as a champion for the arts. We implore you to reconsider this decision and work with students, parents, and educators to make a 0 or 9th period course happen. We have had our productions outside of the school years for 39 years, this should not have to end now.

Thank you for listening,

Ethan Sadkowski, Greta Fick-Furlotte, Annabella Piazza, Emily Couch, Pehnina-Shanelle Faataualofa, Ezra Raskin, Keylan Orr-Ellis, L Xu