



The PERRY

www.perry-lake.org

Way

Featured Events

MARCH

- 8-10 HS Musical
Goodwin Theatre
- 15 Staff Development Day
No School
- 25-4/1 Spring Break
No School

APRIL

- 8 Solar Eclipse
Calamity Day - No School
- 18 HS & MS Jazz Band/
Buccaneers Concert
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 27 Community Green Day
9:00am

MAY

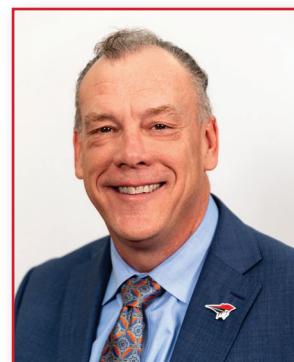
- 2 4th Grade Concert
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 10 Seniors' Last Day
- 19 Commencement
2:30pm, HS Gymnasium
- 20-22 6th Grade Camp
- 24 Last Day of School
Early Dismissal

Mission Statement:

“Inspire all students to achieve personal excellence, pursue world-class standards and be self-directed, lifelong learners.”

I continue to be incredibly proud of the remarkable performances that I get to see year in and year out as Perry’s superintendent. The world-class opportunities and hometown pride are shining as brightly as ever.

Our students excel at high levels, showcasing not only their academic prowess but also their commitment to personal growth and community involvement. It is heartening to witness their achievements in various areas. Here are a few of the special moments so far this year:



Dr. Jack Thompson, Supt.



The District Spelling Bee went an incredible 26 rounds as our best spellers in grades 4-8 squared off demonstrating their unbelievable skills. In thrilling fashion, our 7th grade Spelling Bee Champion Alex Searson, moved on to the county contest, where he represented Perry well by tying for 5th place!

Our Football Team ran the table for an undefeated season and became state champions for the first time in our storied 101-year football history. The community rose up in grand fashion, providing incredible support.

Boosters provided charter buses for our students so they could ride in style. Hundreds of people lined the streets back home as our students were greeted with a police and fire escort into town which included fireworks. Friday, the students were given the day off so they could participate in the parade of champions and celebrate with the team as they were given proclamations for their accomplishment.

Our staff remain relentless in providing cutting-edge learning experiences. We continue to increase the number of industry credentials and certifications our students can attain. We are in the process of constructing a welding lab that will allow students to learn welding without leaving our campus next year, gaining additional career ready skills. The wonderful part of this innovative improvement is that a majority of the cost is being paid for with grant monies.

A dozen of our staff members have immersed themselves in a scholarly study project to better understand how artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the way we educate students and what its future impact will be on our profession.

Perry Elementary celebrated the visit of Mary Kohl and Todd Brainard at a Perseverance Assembly. In 2023, PII Teacher, Mrs. Kohl was in a serious car accident, and Mr. Brainard, husband of PES Intervention Specialist Teacher Summer Brainard, was thrown from a horse. Each spent many months recovering from very serious injuries, forcing them to learn how to walk again. Mrs. Kohl and Mr. Brainard shared their individual journeys of perseverance with the students and staff and offered insight into keeping a never-give-up attitude in a moving presentation.

Student artists continue to show their talents on stage and by displaying their artwork throughout the halls. Come see for yourself during the week of the District Art Show, April 22-26, 2024, or at any of the student musical performances throughout the year.

Also, many community service efforts help bring an awareness to limited resources and the benefits of helping those in need. One shining example of this is the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recaffeinate” program run by our students from our Perry Service Learning Program. This

High School



Todd Porcello
HS Principal

Every January, the planning for the next school year begins, which brings about excitement and an opportunity to review and add to our course offerings at Perry High School. A part of this process is reviewing student results from YouScience which provides aptitude and career discovery to connect students with in-demand careers. These results help drive future programming.

The state of Ohio has been active in providing grant opportunities to expand our offerings for students and our district actively seeks the financial support to help bring dreams to reality, increasing opportunities for students to build skill and obtain certification in the areas of in-demand careers. One example is our Home Renovation Course, where students rehabilitate a house and learn about the different trades connected with the renovation project.

As we prepare for the 2024-25 school year, we are excited about two additional opportunities that will launch.

- The Welding Certification Courses
- The Perry Technology Hub



THE WELDING CERTIFICATION COURSES

Through the Ohio IWIP (Innovative Workforce Incentive Program) grant awarded to the district and a partnership with Lake Erie College, the Eastern Lake County Welding Hub at Perry Schools is registering students effective the 2024-25 school year. Welding is an in-demand career in advanced manufacturing that requires knowledge and specific skills to fabricate metals. Students in this field learn industry-standard techniques such as stick, MIG, TIG, and flux-cored arc welding, as well as oxyfuel cutting, and braze welding. Some may go on to learn additional techniques if they choose to specialize in any number of areas such as motorsports welding.

Those interested in advancing their skills and improving their credentials have the additional option of earning an Associate of Technical Studies degree in Welding and Fabrication Technology for in-demand jobs. Interested students may need to meet a 2.0 grade point average for CCP (College Credit Plus) requirements.

THE PERRY TECHNOLOGY HUB

The new Perry Technology Hub is an exciting opportunity for high school students to immerse themselves in the ever-evolving world of Information Technology. Throughout this engaging program, students can explore diverse career pathways in the following areas:

- Microsoft Office
- IT Support
- Network Specialist
- Cyber Security
- Data Specialist
- Software and Web Development

From day one, students can dive into entry-level certifications and coursework tailored to their unique interests, unlocking the door to a world of possibilities.

In addition to the exploration of industry recognized credentials, students will gain hands-on experience developing web pages and applying their programming knowledge to real-world scenarios. Our dedicated teacher will collaborate closely with local businesses and industry professionals, ensuring students receive valuable insights and guidance for making informed decisions about their futures.

At the Perry Technology Hub, we believe in providing not just education but a pathway to success, empowering students to thrive in the dynamic field of information technology. The Perry Technology Hub will provide an exciting journey where innovation meets education, and the possibilities are limitless.

We are excited about the future of our students and look forward to providing the support to answer questions and guide students in a direction that matches their strengths and interests.

Middle School



Robert Knisely
MS Principal

Reflecting upon the first half of the school year, our students and athletes at Perry Middle School have been able to showcase their talents on the fields, courts, and in the classrooms. The fall season culminated in CVC runner-up trophies for our

7th grade volleyball, 8th grade volleyball, and 8th grade boys soccer. Our girls soccer

team finished undefeated and brought home the CVC championship.

Both football teams finished competitive seasons with our 8th grade finishing 6-1 and 7th grade 5-4. Boys/girls cross country competed hard throughout the fall and numerous runners broke personal records during the season.



School spirit was also in high gear! Our cheerleaders led our student sections with pep and energy. During the varsity playoff run the student sections were packed with a large following of enthusiastic students riding the spirit buses to cheer on our team.

Beyond competitions, students brought joy and touched lives. Their musical talents filled the halls with holiday cheer during our captivating band and choir concerts in December. Student empathy and compassion shone through in their community

service projects, like the Perry Center food drive, collecting hundreds of pounds of food for our local food pantry and the Sub Zero Mission collection, gathering warm clothing, socks, blankets, gloves, and hats for the homeless. These acts of kindness and generosity made a real difference in the lives of others!



The second semester has been a true testament to the well-roundedness and dedication of our students. We are incredibly proud of their academic achievements, athletic prowess, artistic talents, and commitment to service.

Our middle school students will continue their journey of deeper learning through connected-authentic experiences. Key concepts will come alive through school-wide initiatives that immerse students in real-world applications, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration.

Recognizing individual needs, our dedicated faculty implements differentiated instruction informed by iReady data in math and reading. This ensures personalized support and challenges, maximizing each student's potential. Additionally, we cultivate collaborative learning environments, nurturing communication skills and a sense of shared responsibility as students tackle exciting projects and engage in vibrant discussions.

This semester promises to be a catalyst for growth, igniting curiosity and empowering your child to become a confident, resourceful learner. Expect to witness their engagement soar as they connect classroom knowledge to the world around them, leaving footprints of meaningful understanding. Prepare to be inspired by their journey and witness the transformative power of connected-authentic learning.

Superintendent *continued from page 1*

success is a testament to the hard work and determination of our students, the support of their families, and the dedication of our exceptional educators.

As we celebrate these achievements, I want to take a moment to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the safety and security of our students, staff, and community. In Perry, ensuring a safe learning environment remains our top priority. We have robust safety measures and protocols in place to create a secure space for everyone within our schools.

Our District works closely with law enforcement, emergency responders, and other community partners to continually enhance our safety procedures. Having two Student Resource Officers on campus daily is an incredible benefit to our District. We conduct regular drills to prepare for various scenarios, and our staff undergoes training

to respond effectively to any potential challenges. Most recently, staff members attended CPR and AED training. Additionally, we encourage open communication and collaboration with parents and community members to ensure that everyone is informed and involved in maintaining a safe environment for our students.

It is our collective responsibility to nurture an environment where our students can thrive academically and feel secure in their surroundings. As we celebrate their accomplishments, let us also reiterate our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in making Perry Schools a place where excellence and safety go hand in hand.

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Elementary School



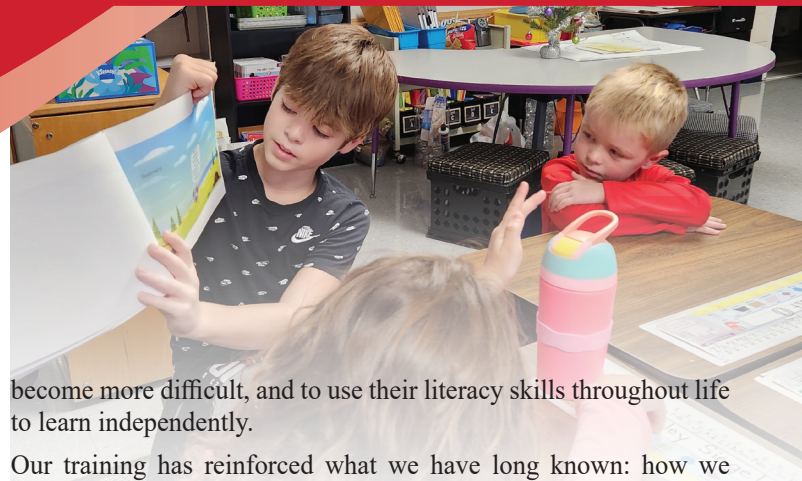
Amy Stavar
ES Principal

Long before I became principal in August 2023, Perry Elementary School had set out on a quest to determine - based on classroom experience,

knowledge of Perry students, and extensive research - how to better teach our students to learn to read and read to learn. Indeed, even long before Ohio required teachers to be trained in dyslexia research and the science of reading, our teachers engaged in reflection about what Perry students need and in research on methods and resources to better educate our district's youngest students.

This year at PES, we have intensified our literacy journey, continuing the learning that every teacher did while taking the state of Ohio's Introduction to Dyslexia Course. We have clarified our research-based vision for good literacy instruction. Currently, we are investigating the best methods, resources, assessment tools, and intervention processes to allow us to use the research to help all students develop stronger reading skills so that they not only can read to learn but also learn to love to read.

In our first August meeting, we began to explore how the learning that our teachers have done through their most recent training aligns with what they know about students in Perry. PES teachers believe that literacy is a fundamental life skill that opens doors to new experiences and opportunities. We contend that reading and its partner, writing, are essential to learning because they allow us to interact with and explore ideas and the world at our own pace. Our teachers believe that all students can learn to read and that it is our job to teach them in a way that allows them to develop literacy skills, to learn to enjoy reading and writing, to persevere when texts



become more difficult, and to use their literacy skills throughout life to learn independently.

Our training has reinforced what we have long known: how we teach reading matters. Our teachers have learned a great deal about the science of reading, and now we are examining how our reading practices at Perry align with the science of reading and how we can improve. Leading us through this process and providing continuity for our staff, our district Literacy Coach, Christy Patriarca, has led discussions about our dyslexia training, provided additional research, worked with teams to refine teaching methods, and developed interventions to help students with their reading journeys. Teachers meet weekly, often daily, in grade-level teams to share resources and discuss what methods are working. They read with students one-on-one and assess their progress. They meet with students in small groups to provide needed interventions. They look for ways to challenge successful readers and share research about how to support those who are struggling with all levels of literacy.

This is not new work for our teachers. It was through these processes that, over the last two years, our literacy team adopted resources to align our K-3 program after they had identified a need for more systematic phonemic awareness and phonics instruction. Even though it is not new, it is important work, and we are committed to the continued study of scientific research and best practices so that we can provide Perry students with a solid literacy foundation and a love of reading on which they can build the rest of their educational lives.