



# The PERRY

www.perry-lake.org

Way

## Featured Events

### OCTOBER

- 8 Grade 8  
Washington DC Trip
- 11 NEOEA Day, No School
- 19 HS Fall Play Opens  
2:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 30 Marching Band Concert  
7:00pm, Alumni Stadium

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Show Choir Festival  
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 7 MS Fall Book Fair &  
Community Night  
5:30 - 7:00pm
- 14 3rd Grade Music Program  
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 27 Thanksgiving Vacation  
Begins

### DECEMBER

- 3 Buccaneer Senior  
Citizen Luncheon  
11:30am, Band Room/  
Goodwin Theatre
- 5 2nd Grade, Music Program  
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 8 Cookies with Santa  
2:00 - 4:00pm  
Manchester West
- 23 Winter Vacation Begins



## When Standardized Test Scores Don't Reflect the Student

by Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky, Assistant Superintendent

Perry's work with other innovative districts in Ohio on performance assessment and helping students develop a portfolio of their learning has been heard by the Ohio Department of Education. How do we know? New

graduation requirements were rolled out prior to this school year and, yes, the opportunity for students to showcase their work in math, English, technology, and communication in lieu of so many state tests is honored!

We realize standardized test scores do not always reflect the student's achievement, strengths, and talent. Might we be better off asking students what they want to achieve, building goals to achieve it, exploring all kinds of examples of that goal, and then showing them how to achieve it at school? Students show us they are motivated by goals - not scores. So we are on a path at Perry to help students uncover their interests and understand how to make school work toward these goals. Then we work to carve out courses, student opportunities, and career exploration options for students to nurture those plans and further goal setting. To begin, we ask students:

- *What makes you happy/brings you joy?*
- *What do you do well?*
- *What does the world need of you OR How will you use this in the world?*

This year students have access to the following enhanced opportunities for strengths discovery or career exploration:

- (1) A Career Exploration coordinator at PMS/PHS to advance more staff in leading goal setting conversations and connections for students
- (2) A New Entrepreneurial Leadership offering at PMS in collaboration with STEM
- (3) Additional time daily at PMS at the Connect period for strength discovery and career exploration in areas of interest
- (4) Grade 8 PHS transition meetings (held in February) with video introduction to workforce demands and financially smart pathways to careers
- (5) A Learning Hub with a variety of exploratory teachers available to students at a similar time to coordinate real-world problem solving with career exploration

### Achievement

For all the attention on state testing, at times there seems to be little curiosity about how tests may not predict a student's future success. This month, as Ohio State Report Cards for each school district have been released, we are reminded of how successful

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### Mission Statement:

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

# High School



Todd Porcello  
HS Principal

**E**ach school year is a new journey and an opportunity to grow for our teachers, staff members, students and administration. As we pursue greatness, the power of relationships truly is so vital in all that we do. We want every student to have adults

and friends they can rely on for support in their journey to be prepared for life after Perry High School.

Continuously, we examine and reflect on our course offerings and the supports in place to meet students on their journey and provide the best possible experiences. We are excited about a new course offering and a new support in place to guide students in their journey of selecting a possible future career.

As you may have heard, our district has received two federal grants which will help support a “House Flipping” course. This endeavor is a world class learning opportunity for students where, under the direction of Mr. Ryan Zusy, they will go through the process of renovating and updating a home to sell within Perry. Through this experience we are able to improve our community, build career skills in our students, and help them establish soft skills that will be important in their future endeavors.

In addition to this course, we have also established support for all students in receiving guidance as well as experiencing and exploring future career opportunities, which has



House Flipping 101

also been made possible through grant money. Our Director of Engagement and Post Secondary Pathways, Mrs. Rita Soeder, is working closely with our teachers and students in the classroom setting and in small group settings to talk about future options and multiple pathways to get there. Often times this topic can bring about stress and anxiety for students and parents. Mrs. Soeder is here to help and a personalized career mentoring session appointment can be made at [www.phsinternships.weebly.com](http://www.phsinternships.weebly.com).

Overall, we want our students to be champions of their future. There are many options and possibilities in today’s current environment. As a school staff, we will continue to explore how we can improve our offerings and do our best to serve every student.

# Middle School



Robert Knisely  
MS Principal

**T**he start of this school year has been awesome. As a principal, I never thought that my role would entail supervising students during a “recess”. In planning activity time for our students we recognize the need

for them to be free from the constraints of “school” and allow them to be kids. I have found myself enjoying my time with them and looking forward to it daily.

I have been pleasantly surprised to see students from every grade engaging in play and activity so far this year. Students are climbing on the exercise equipment, running, jumping, and genuinely enjoying themselves. Not only are kids being kids, I see them drawing, walking, and talking to each other.

Research has shown that school-aged children, even into high school, benefit from the ability to take a break from the rigors of academics and engage in play and socialization. Older students

need time for relaxation and play. “Middle school kids need to have unwinding and reflecting time just as adults do,” according to Education



Recess!

World. “They can and do discuss stuff that went on in class too!”

Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students enjoy recess as part of their extended lunch period. The students have separate lunch periods, according to grade level, followed by a 20-minute break for recess. Recess takes place in the gym or outside, and is dependent on the weather. Students may run, play volleyball, soccer, football, or relax and chat -- whatever. Students may also see teachers, use the library and computers, do make-up work, attend study sessions, and enjoy “lunch bunch” groups with the guidance counselor.

Our staff discovered that there are several reasons that students need recess:

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# Perry Elementary School Sets Sail!

# Elementary School

Arianna Neading  
ES Principal



Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! This year, our theme is all about 'Setting Sail at Perry Elementary School.' We are hopeful that our students come to school each day ready to set sail on a happy, fun, learning adventure. We are excited to continue the great work we have started with R-Factor (E + R = O) and Culture Playbook. We will reiterate the concepts learned from lessons last year and continue to build skill on strengthening the beliefs of our playbook. This will support the re-teaching of these concepts to those who were exposed to it last year, as well as introduce the learning to our new students. We will have a different focus each quarter which will include the following:



*First Day of School*

- **Quarter 1**  
Setting Sail in Tranquil Waters: Establishing the routines to ensure tranquil waters - Dismissal, arrival, recess, halls, etc.
- **Quarter 2**  
Setting Sail Together: Stronger Together
- **Quarter 3**  
Setting Sail - Grab the Wheel: Personal Responsibility - You are always in control. If you do not control your sails, the wind and the water will take over.
- **Quarter 4**  
Setting Sail - The Voyage Continues: Adjust Your Sail - Pursuit of Greatness

We are also excited to share that we have a new school guidance counselor, Mrs. Gall, who previously taught 4th grade at PES. Her role this year is to support the social/emotional growth of our students, and be a school/home connector for our families. She will be spending time going into classrooms and teaching lessons to support positive behavior, as well as taking time to meet with students individually to support their needs. We are so happy to have her in this new role, as she has already made a huge impact on our school thus far. Mrs. Gall is looking forward to supporting our students, community, and staff this school year! Should you need to contact her please do so at [GallK@Perry-Lake.org](mailto:GallK@Perry-Lake.org) or 440-259-9600 x9602.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the amazing events coming up this Fall and Winter! Did you miss some halftime shows at the football games this year? Then catch up by going to the Marching Band Concert at Alumni Stadium on October 30th at 7:00pm.

On November 2nd, come and see some of the best student performers in the area as Perry hosts the annual Show Choir Festival in the Goodwin Theatre starting at 7:00pm featuring seven local show choirs!

If the Show Choir Festival and Marching Band Concert leave you wanting more, our Winter Concerts begin with the 5th & 6th Grade Concert on December 10th, followed by the 7th & 8th grade on December 11th, and the high school on December 12th. All concerts begin at 7:00pm.

There's also still plenty of time to catch a home football, volleyball or soccer game. To find your favorite Pirate teams' schedule, go to [perrypirates.org](http://perrypirates.org)



*The Perry Buccaneers Show Choir*

## DISTRICT BOARD OFFICE

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL: POSTMASTER PLEASE DELIVER BY OCTOBER 8TH.

## When Standardized Test Scores Don't Reflect the Student – continued from page 1

students are at taking standardized tests in math, reading/writing, social studies and science. While the teaching at Perry earned our district “A” ratings on the Ohio State Report Card in the areas of **student growth, graduation rate, and closing performance gaps for at-risk groups of students**, we continue on a pathway of continued learning toward our vision: Students leave Perry *inspired, engaged, resilient, and ready for life!*

Our work for Perry students and our commitment to our community is far bigger than test scores. The focused work on positive culture and deeper learning is aimed at developing talent - talent to inquire and critically think through content, talent to have empathy, serve and solve problems, talent as powerful and inclusive communicators as well as positive influencers, and talent to develop personal strengths and tools for social-emotional health and well-being. What we are committed to at Perry is what student success looks like within the regional workforce and what success looks like to serve and solve within one's community. The Ohio School Report Card gives us a data point for discussion at Perry, but test

scores are certainly not our complete story, nor do they reflect the vision for the Perry student experience.



*The 7th & 8th Grade Career Ties Mentoring Program*

## Middle School – continued from page 2

- Middle school kids are learning to socialize as adolescents. They need to try out various roles, and school is a safe environment.
- They need to control their unstructured time to use it well.
- They are growing at different rates and are at various levels of development physically, mentally, and emotionally. They need to be able to try out their skills and their muscles and use their energy.

The assistant principal and I are responsible for supervising recess and it is fun to have the children relate to us as administrators in an informal setting. It's amazing what I can find out about a student during recess time. I can connect with students I wouldn't ordinarily see. A great deal of teaching goes on during this time, and I learn too!

We would love to have interested parents volunteer to help us supervise during this time. If you are interested, please let us know. We can be contacted at:

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