

The PERRY

www.perry-lake.org

Way

Featured Events

NOVEMBER

- 6-7 HS Fall Play, 2:00 & 7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 10 HS Fall Sports Awards, 7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 24 Thanksgiving Break Begins

DECEMBER

- 7 Buccaneer Senior Citizen Luncheon, 11:30am, Band Room/Goodwin Theatre
- 14 5th & 6th Grade Winter Concert, 7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 15 7th & 8th Grade Winter Concert, 7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 16 HS Winter Concert, 7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 23 Winter Vacation Begins

JANUARY

- 17 Martin Luther King Day, No School
- 20 College Credit Plus Parent Meeting, 6:00pm, Goodwin Theatre

FEBRUARY

- 21 Presidents' Day, No School

Mission Statement:

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

Marching On in 2021

by Dr. Jack Thompson, Superintendent



I hope you were able to catch a performance from our marching band this fall. If not, I encourage you to go to our archives and check out their show. As we continue to pursue greatness and get better every day, Perry's outstanding marching band is serving as our guiding light in leading us out of this pandemic. We have committed to do whatever it takes to resume the cherished activities we so dearly missed in 2020. So, like our band, we vow to *march on* taking what we have learned to ensure we become better versions of ourselves today than we were yesterday. The first mark of our return is the beautiful calendar we were once again able to send to all the homes in our community. Thanks to our Communications Director, Allen Kellogg, for his work putting the 2021-2022 calendar together. Following our theme of *Marching On*, you will see highlights about our band featured each month. WOO!



Innovative work at each of our buildings is again a point of emphasis in 2021.

- PES launched the Perry Ingenuity Institute where students build their math and language arts skills in a self-paced, small group environment. Students then engage in interest-based design learning projects that allow them to apply their learning. The goal is for this program to expand across the K-4 grade levels.
- A group of PMS teachers has emerged themselves in study to build an academy focused on Connected & Authentic Learning (C.A.L.). It will create a pathway for students that provides them an opportunity to fully connect with their learning through authentic content experiences, collaboration with teacher & peers, and engagement with the greater community. Teachers will continue to work and study throughout this school year and intend to fully launch this program in the fall of 2022.
- PHS has been working to provide non-traditional pathways for students that better connect them to the community and provide relevance and meaning. Along with the ever-evolving career exploration opportunities, PHS is currently working to provide pre-apprenticeship programs that will further connect students to potential careers.

continued on page 4

High School

Todd Porcello
HS Principal



As students advance in their development and learn more about their strengths, interests and who they are, providing personalized learning opportunities remains essential.

At Perry High School, in addition to somewhat traditional high school courses, we are fortunate to offer additional experiences including Perry Service Learning (PSL), Learning Through Internships, The Pirate Project (Home Renovation Course), College Credit Plus (CCP) courses, and opportunities at Auburn Career Center.

One similarity in all the courses or programs offered above is the component of students interacting with community members, college professors, or experts within a field. These connections allow our students to further explore who they are, how they can give back, and what their future may hold. This time of exploration and personalization often sets the foundation for one's future.

Ultimately, students are able to develop skills such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creative problem solving. These 4C's often are the essential skills needed in the majority of careers our students may select.

What Is Next For Perry High?

We are currently exploring Pre-Apprenticeship Programs for our students. With the help of grant funds, a team of staff members have attended conferences on making this possible for our students and community. The State of Ohio has committed to closing the employment gap that many businesses are currently facing. Perry Schools remains on the forefront of the development in collaboration with other schools throughout the state.

The long-term impact for our students and local businesses is twofold:

- Students can develop the necessary skills to be employable.
- Employers play a role in developing students and bridging the employment gap that currently exists in the market.

We look forward to our next level of work as this will provide another opportunity for students to explore, connect, and build skill.

Elementary School

Arianna Neading
ES Principal



It has been an amazing start to the 2021-2022 school year at Perry Elementary School. We are so happy to have all of our students back on campus learning together! This year

we continue to set goals to support our instruction and climate at school, but have been very excited to launch our new school within a school, The Perry Ingenuity Institute. The Perry Ingenuity Institute is a K-4 STEM and design school within Perry Elementary. This year we have begun with a small group of 2nd and 3rd grade students.

Students in The Perry Ingenuity Institute, PII, build skill in Language Arts and Math at their own pace utilizing small group instruction and technology. Students use these skills to complete design opportunities while solving science and social studies problems that are authentic and highly motivating. Mrs. Loveland and Mrs. Kohl, our 2nd and 3rd grade teachers for the school this year, have used this kind of learning to motivate and teach students since 2010. The Perry Ingenuity Institute will provide an opportunity for students to learn in this way

from K-4th grade once all grades are added to PII.

How is the Perry Ingenuity Institute different? When we set out to design a different kind of school we had 3 driving questions:

1. How can students move at their own pace building language arts and math skills through active learning?
2. How can students be involved in highly motivated learning that makes school a place of joy where they can become the best version of themselves?
3. How can students build relationships with each other and teachers over time?

The Perry Ingenuity Institute was designed with these questions in mind. Students spend part of their day working in small groups with teachers or individually on language arts and math skills at their own grade level. Learning time is active and engaging. Students then use another part of their day working all together on highly motivating 'Ingenuity Investigations' that apply their skills. The institute is designed so students stay through 4th grade with their peers and teachers. For the 2022-2023 school year, additional teachers and students will join. Our goal is that over the next few years, a child who begins in kindergarten would stay through 4th grade learning with K-4 students and a group of 5-7 teachers.

We look forward to the continued growth of this institute!



Who is CAL?

Discussion around Perry Middle School these days center on the questions of “who is Cal or where is Cal?” Many of our teachers have heard of this mysterious person but don’t seem to know who or where (like Waldo made famous in the late 80’s) he is. The teachers that do know Cal, know that Cal is not a person at all! Cal actually stands for C.A.L. and is short for Connected & Authentic Learning. CAL also represents a team of highly committed teachers who are working this year to research, study, plan, and eventually implement Connected & Authentic Learning strategies in their classrooms in order to provide opportunities for students to truly take ownership of their learning.

We are looking to build pathways for students that connect the innovative learner to the school, community, and the world around them. Fact is, our students today have more information available to them at any given moment than we had in the entirety of our school careers. Students are able to consume information from the multitude of websites and apps that are now at their fingertips. Sites and apps like YouTube, Twitter, Wikipedia, and even Google provide information to students that can range

from simple to deep and complex. Acknowledging that students have access to the information from sources other than the teacher is the first step in creating the Connected Classroom. Teachers move from being the source of information to the guide and coach for the students’ learning.

In addition, our team members are building their own personal skills (and learning) around the creation of a classroom environment that both promotes student independence and connects them to content, peers, and authentic experiences.

Our **core principles** include the following:

1. Make learners the focus. This involves helping students become lifelong learners and develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the 21st century.
2. Help students make the connection between their own interests and their academic studies and also connect with inspiring mentors and peers to improve student engagement. Learning is continuous. Continuous learning involves linking learning to school, home, and the community so it can happen in any setting.
3. Help learners become makers and producers by teaching them to experiment, create, produce, and design.

So where is “CAL?” We are currently in the study phase for this work. Our team of teachers will be working to embed some of these strategies as early as November/December. Our goal is to be able to fully launch our work with our team in the 2022-23 school year and provide students with an educational experience that fully connects them to their learning.

Assistant Superintendent

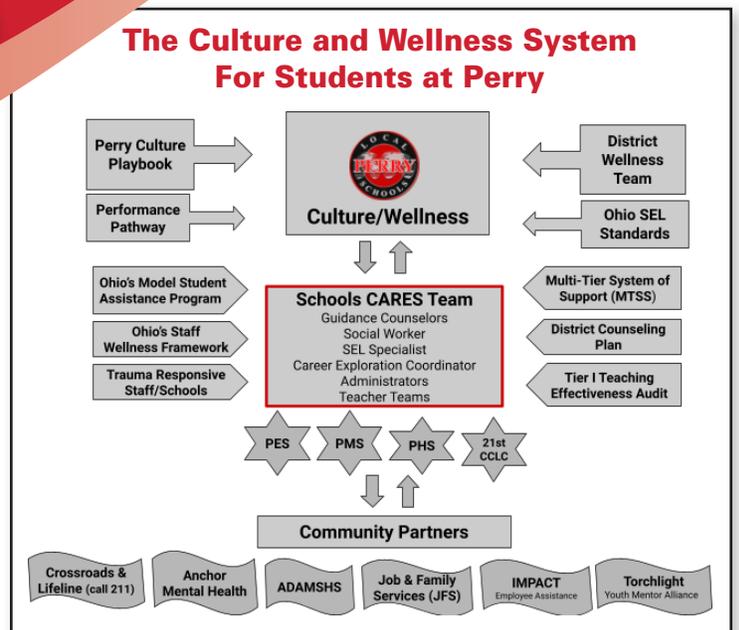


Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky
Assistant Superintendent

The Power of Positivity and Connection in Challenging Times

While attending a fall Perry parent meeting, I became re-inspired by the power of positivity and people connecting in challenging times. Raising children and designing opportunities for students are challenging, yet there are no people more inspired to do great work for Perry students than the community who *live* and *work* here. I was reminded we are at our best when we gather, talk openly, bring ideas, listen and respect each other even through topics of difference. I was reminded how important it is to gather as community and serve the needs of Perry students and families in the very best

The Culture and Wellness System For Students at Perry



ways a community can - TOGETHER.

In speaking to a local Ohio State Representative, I was also reminded, “It’s likely unreasonable to think that schools and

DISTRICT BOARD OFFICE

4325 Manchester Road, Perry, OH 44081
440-259-9200

DR. JACK THOMPSON, Superintendent
440-259-9200, EXT. 9299

LEW GALANTE, Chief Financial Officer
440-259-9200, EXT. 9221

DR. BETTY JO MALCHESKY, Asst. Superintendent
440-259-9200, EXT. 9202

TODD PORCELLO, HS Principal
440-259-9300, EXT. 9399

ROBERT KNISELY, MS Principal
440-259-9500, EXT. 9599

ARIANNA NEADING, ES Principal
440-259-9600, EXT. 9699



4325 MANCHESTER ROAD
PERRY, OH 44081

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MENTOR, OH

PERMIT NO. 235

CURRENT RESIDENT
PERRY, OH 44081

Superintendent *continued from page 1*

Enhancing student learning cannot be maximized without providing additional resources for a safe and updated environment for students. Thanks to the work of Mr. Jim Smith, Director of Maintenance & Grounds, Mrs. Darci Murphy Leskovec, Director of Information Technology, and local safety officers, we have applied for multiple grants to help alleviate the cost of updating our district's technology infrastructure and surveillance system. Mrs. Murphy Leskovec has also traversed through the meticulous process of getting approved for E-Rate (*a program which provides funds to schools and libraries for their telecommunications and internet services, as well as internal connections equipment and basic maintenance costs*) to reduce the costs of updating our phone system, which is no longer supported and is approaching end of life. In addition, we have been looking at options to improve our capacity to keep track of students when they enter and exit the high school using the latest technology.

We always want to hear from you, our stakeholders, who are critical to continuous improvement by providing us feedback in areas on which we need to focus. Throughout the year, it is our hope that we hear from you either through surveys, community meetings, committees, or by a personal email or phone call to discuss your experiences with our schools. We know there are areas where we can improve, and we remain committed to engage in this work for as long as it takes. While we may disagree and debate the best pathways to success, we genuinely believe that everyone wants the same outcome: To provide the best services to our students and community as we possibly can.

Thank you for your continued support and contributions to this cause. May the future bring you increased happiness and growth. Go Pirates!

Assistant Superintendent *continued from page 3*

communities will not interact on topics of different opinions. All students deserve representation and support."

Having a network and leaning on your network during trying times strengthens one's ability to endure and effectively work through issues. Research from the field of positive psychology shows that when we learn positive and effective responses to life issues, we are more engaged, creative, motivated, energetic, resilient, and productive. Happiness researcher, Shawn Achor, calls this "the happiness advantage," because our brains perform better when positive than when negative, neutral, or stressed (see *University of Utah Executive Education's "Growing in Uncertain Times" four-part series*).

How can you be more positive and resilient during challenging times?

Strategies taught for mental health wellness - tips for students and adults - are available through teaching and intervention at Perry. Teaching ourselves self-regulation strategies, positive communication, and where to seek support at school and home is important well before academics can be learned for some students. We are grateful to have a deep guidance and wellness system at Perry to serve students. As a community, let's be aware of our resources and utilize them to support students and families.



Print & Mail
Promotion
Wearables
Signage

Service@XPressPrinting.com 440-951-8848