

INSIDE  
What you'll find  
in this edition...

# the perry way

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FALL 2018

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## SCHOOL LEVY? NOT YET!

by Dr. Jack Thompson, Superintendent

Thank you to the entire Perry Community for all your help to ensure the 2018-2019 school year got off to a great start. As tough as it is bringing our students back in the middle of August, this start date allows the first semester to close by winter break and helps us get a jump on learning for all of the mandated tests our students must complete in May.

Last year, with the announcement that the Perry Nuclear Power Plant (PNPP) filed for bankruptcy and may close, questions arose about the financial condition of our schools and when an operating levy would be put on the ballot. It is true we have seen significant losses in tax revenue (\$2.3 million) from the devaluation of the PNPP and expect additional reductions this fiscal year. The good news is, we were able to recover from the

losses last year through the State Funding Formula. The bad news is, we will likely see another significant reduction in local tax revenue this year. While the possibility exists for additional state relief from these losses, the Ohio Department of Education has made it clear that any relief we may receive won't be enough to cover the reductions.

Fortunately, we have long been preparing for a time when our revenue would not be able to meet the cost to operate. Under the Board of Education's direction, we have continued to make cost reductions as opportunities have presented themselves. As a result, we should be very close to balancing our budget for the 2018-2019 school year despite the expected losses. Thankfully, due again to the fine work by the BOE and leadership over the past years, there is a healthy cash balance

to supplement the budget for a period of time once we do enter into a spending deficit. What does this all mean? Well, for at least the next few years, we do not plan to ask our community to approve a new levy for more operating revenue.

Obviously, the PNPP remaining open would be significant in keeping our schools financially stable. We anxiously await the election of a new governor, who hopefully will support efforts to keep our nuclear power plant in full operation. Renewed efforts to do just that have already begun in Columbus and across Ohio. The Ohio Clean Energy Jobs Alliance (OCEJA) was formally launched on October 10, 2018. Comprised of local governments, school districts, businesses, labor groups, nonprofits, and

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# ENDING GRADING TERM 1

by Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment



The end of grading term 1 is approaching on October 17. If you have an athlete, eligibility reports will be reviewed on October 24. Throughout the first grading term you are able to see in Infinite Campus how your student is progressing on each learning standard (power objective) taught to date.

Why grade by standards? Three reasons: clarity, accuracy, and responsiveness to meet student needs/growth. When students, staff, and parents have clarity on which learning objectives are "Proficient" and which are not yet, there is a more informed discussion at home and school on how to support students. We can ask: In what objective can we get better? Then focus

time and energy in clear areas of need.

Speaking of reporting practices, in late September 2018 the Ohio Department of Education provided expanded guidance on weighted credit for College Career Plus (CCP) courses typically taken at the high school. This expands options for students in the following two ways:

What college courses align to subject areas for weighting purposes?

If a school weights an advanced standing (IB, AP) or honors course, then the school must also weight a CCP course in the same subject area. A subject area is a broad categorization of courses. The following subject areas are based on primary high school graduation requirements:

- English/Language Arts: Any college course in literature, composition, journalism, speech, communication

- Math and Science: Any college courses

- Social Studies: Any college course in social science, humanities, psychology, western civilization, political science, history, government, philosophy

With this new guidance, will we go back and correct the weighting of previous years' grades?

Yes, the high school will correct the weighting for all current students and for all years since the 2015-2016 school year when College Credit Plus went into effect.

In closing this Perry Way article, thank you for the students you send us each day. Perry Local Schools is a premier place to learn, work, and grow. We look forward to continually improving for students each day.



This season, the Perry Center is coordinating the Holiday Program for our Perry Community.

If you find yourself in a difficult position this year, please go to The

Perry Center on Tuesdays, from 9:00 am to noon, or Fridays, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The Center is located at 4261 Manchester Road at the Re-Education Center. The phone number is 259-3332.

You must become a Perry Center client to receive any assistance for the holidays. Please bring the following information with you:

- A picture ID
- Income verification for all household members (pay stub, unemployment, Food Stamp Award letter, SSI, SS, Disability, Child Support letters)

- Proof of residency, such as utility bill

- Have a general knowledge of your expenses

Please do not delay in contacting the Perry Center if you need assistance for the holidays.

This assistance is coordinated with other community agencies to avoid duplication of services.

If you are interested in donating items or adopting a family, please contact the Perry Center at 259-3332.



## PERRY RECEIVES GRANT TO CREATE LEARNING CENTERS



The Perry Local School District has recently been awarded a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program. This federal grant is providing a total of \$3 million to be shared by Perry Elementary, Middle School, and High School. Each school will receive \$200,000 per year, over the next five years. This grant was designed to create community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities for children.

The program will assist students in meeting state and local standards in core academic subjects, to offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs, and to offer literacy and other resources to the families of participating children.

Program coordinators work with at-risk students in specific classes throughout the day, and after school to help them with their homework and studying. Through the grant, trips are planned to give students opportunities that they do not get at home. Recent high school activities included packing Pirate Power Pack

lunches with the Perry Service Learning program, conducting a job interview and resume class, and attending the Hispanic College Fair at a neighboring high school.

PACE is getting its Science Olympiad Team geared up to use critical and innovative thinking skills to design and build a trebuchet for a pumpkin chucking contest.

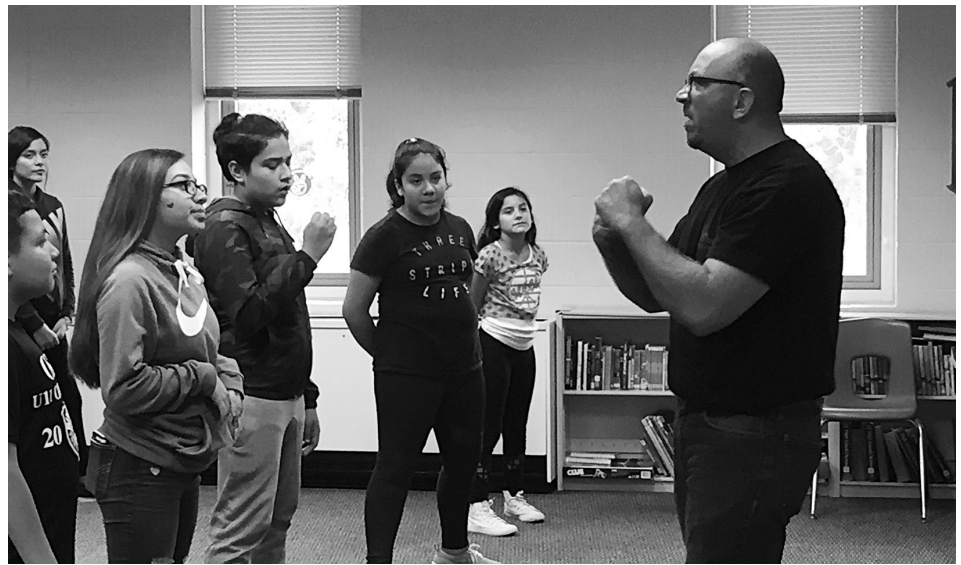
In the middle school, students participate in a well-structured Kempo class designed to teach discipline and respect, as well as keep them fit and focused.

In the elementary, REACH has a weekly rotation of beneficial classes including Community Service, in which the students are learning the value of helping others, writing letters and sending cards of compassion and sympathy to the victims affected by the recent natural disasters.

Students have also helped design their classroom to make the space



more comfortable. They brought in a couch to study on and even more seating, so that more people can be in the room at once. Walls have been painted with inspirational quotes and uplifting images. In the short amount of time since the program has been implemented, managers have seen students' grades improving and self-confidence growing.



## SCHOOL LEVY? NOT YET! ...continued from page 1

others, the OCEJA is an alliance of organizations and individuals who support efforts to find a solution to keep the Perry and Davis-Besse nuclear plants operational. OCEJA's diverse members will demonstrate to policy makers at the state level, that there is a broad coalition that supports the jobs, economic activity, and clean, reliable energy that is produced by these nuclear

plants. Perry Local Schools has become a Partner of the Ohio Clean Energy Jobs Alliance and will do whatever we can to support this cause. Please go to [www.protectohiocleanenergyjobs.org](http://www.protectohiocleanenergyjobs.org), to follow along with these efforts on social media, and sign up for email alerts as the work to keep the Perry and Davis-Besse nuclear plants continues.

by Dr. Jack Thompson, Superintendent

In an effort to keep all our stakeholders apprised of current District issues, we are offering short video presentations that can be found on the Superintendent's page of our District website. The first video in the series touches on our current financial status. It can be found at [www.perry-lake.org/SuperintendentsSpotlight.aspx](http://www.perry-lake.org/SuperintendentsSpotlight.aspx).

Go Pirates!



## PERRY HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL BEACH CLEANUP

The PHS Environmental Science class recently conducted its annual cleanup of an area beach. This year, the group collected more than 40 pounds of debris from the beach at Lake Erie Bluffs. The class learns about the impact on our lakes and streams by man-made pollution and makes an effort to play its part in addressing this problem. Lake Erie Bluffs protects a significant amount of wetland, meadow, and mostly undeveloped lakefront habitat that is home to a variety of rare plants and wildlife, particularly a large number of bald eagles, regularly seen at the park.

Over the years, the Perry High School Environmental Science class has developed a close relationship with our area waterways, especially the Grand River. Under the direction of Perry's Environmental Science teacher, Mr. Bill Crow, the class participates each year in the Ohio Stream Quality Monitoring (SQM) Project as volunteers. Working with staff from the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, they compile biological and water



quality data to determine the health of the river.

One of their recent projects, Trout in the Classroom, took them to the river's edge with a supply of fingerling Rainbow Trout that they raised in their classroom. This program was made possible through a STEM grant from FirstEnergy Corporation. The grant monies were

used to purchase equipment for the project. Students set up an aquarium and raised trout from eggs supplied by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Perry's Environmental Science class is an upper level (junior/senior) science class. Students investigate current environmental issues by using scientific reasoning, analysis, and real-world applications.

## PERRY SCHOOLS RECEIVES STATE AID



*Accepting a ceremonial check for state aid from State Representative Ron Young (center) are Perry School's Chief Financial Officer Lewis Galante (left) and Superintendent Dr. Jack Thompson.*

State Representative Ron Young recently visited Perry to present the Perry Local School District with a ceremonial check in the amount of \$2,268,013. The check represents

additional dollars that the District received from state aid through the School Foundation program as a result of the devaluation of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

"We will continue to fight here and in Columbus to protect the interests of our District's children," said Perry School's Chief Financial Officer Lewis Galante. "Representative Young has continued to work tirelessly with us as we continue to lose funds from valuations of our school district, as well as losses due to deregulation. This aid shows that legislators are beginning to understand that school districts which are dependent on public utilities need additional support."

Ohio Revised Code provides for a recalculation of a district's foundation when they suffer the loss of public utility tangible property that represents more than 10% of the entire District valuation. In these cases, districts are eligible to receive the amount they were previously denied due to caps under the current state formula.



## SUCCESS AT PHS: BY THE NUMBERS

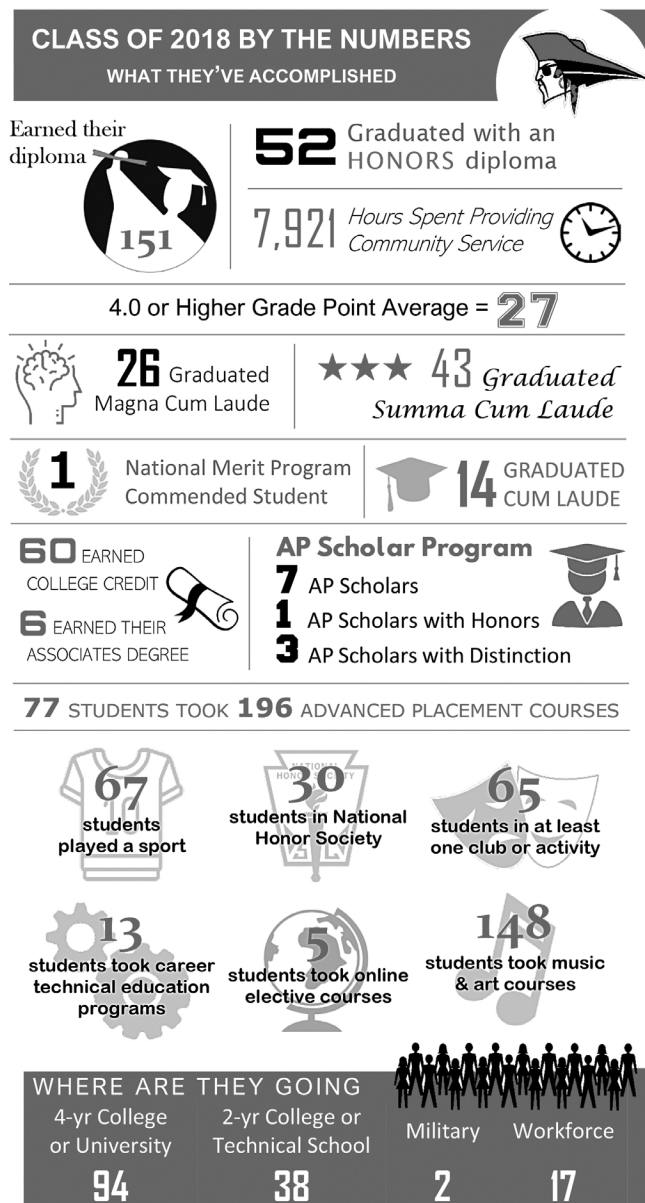
by Todd Porcello, PHS Principal

At Perry High School we strive to provide many opportunities for students to develop and explore to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. Our goal is for 100% of our graduates to be enrolled, employed or enlisted upon graduation. This is the time of the year when we receive data to examine our progress and reflect on what adjustments might be needed to remain beneficial for our students. As the future workplace for our students continues to evolve, we must remain current with our opportunities and practices. Below are some interesting numbers that caught my attention this fall.

Class of 2018 numbers (151 graduates):

- 60 students earned at least 3 college credit hours while in high school, ranking 129 out of 608 in the state.
- 6 students earned their associates degree while in high school.
- 13 students completed career technical education programs.
- 39 students scored a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam, ranking 26th out of 608 in the state.
- 96 students attempted an AP course, ranking 22nd out of 608 in the state.
- 3 Robotics Teams qualified for the VEX World Tournament.
- 7,921 Community service hours were provided to our community.
- 87% are attending a 2 or 4 year college/university.
- 11% are entering the workforce.
- 2% have entered the military.

We will continue to provide world class learning opportunities for our staff to continue to inspire students and provide quality experiences both inside and outside the classroom. The teaching staff has set a growth area and is collaborating with colleagues on providing the best feedback possible to help students grow in all settings. Our



### Colleges and Universities

The University of Akron  
The University of Arizona  
Ashland University  
Baldwin Wallace University  
Bowling Green State University  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
Cedarville University  
University of Cincinnati  
Cleveland Institute of Art  
Cleveland State University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Fashion Institute of Technology  
Gannon University  
Kent State University  
Kent State University, Ashtabula  
Lake Erie College  
Lakeland Community College  
Lee University  
Northern Michigan University  
Notre Dame College of Ohio  
Otterbein University  
Pellissippi State Technical Community College  
Pennsylvania State University Erie, The Behrend College  
University of Pittsburgh  
Point Park University  
Saginaw Valley State University  
The Ohio State University  
University of Toledo  
University of Mount Union  
Wheeling Jesuit University  
Wittenberg University  
Youngstown State University

students should explore their passions and strengths and learn more about who they are during their high school years.

We hope these experiences will prepare them for future success and help them feel valued as members of our society as adults. We are here to help

set up a plan during high school and beyond. High school can go by fast and we want our students to maximize their time. Do not hesitate to reach out for a 1 on 1 planning meeting to collaborate on establishing a path that is beneficial.

## PHS MUSIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL FRUIT & CHEESECAKE FUNDRAISER!



*The High School Band, 8th Grade Band, and Buccaneers are again selling fresh fruit and cheesecake now through November 8th. We hope you will consider supporting our music program with a purchase!*

*Students are actively raising money for the Disney trip next spring. Each student gets credit for their individual sale.*

*Order online and view price list at:  
[www.freshfruitorder.org/PerryHSBand](http://www.freshfruitorder.org/PerryHSBand).*

*Individual students can also be credited for the sale if you order online. Please give the student a heads up that you ordered from them!*



## HOMECOMING COURT 2018



*Congratulations to the members of Perry High School's 2018 Homecoming Court: (left to right) Gabriella Todd, Hailey Vitolo, Juilia DiBease, Queen Angela Vicini, Melissa Leiden, and Anna Sorine.*

## BUCKEYE BOYS & GIRLS STATE



*Perry High School seniors attending Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State this summer are (left to right) Landen Mayher, Tyler Johnson, Olivia Kline, Juilia DiBease, Mandi Schueren, and Luke Knisely.*

The American Legion Auxiliary, Perry High School, Perry AMVETS Post 1971, and the Perry Historical Society cooperate each year to sponsor students to attend Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State.

The week-long programs are a hands-on experience in the operation of the democratic form of government, the organization of political parties, and the relationship of one to the other in shaping state and local governments.

Buckeye Boys State was held at Miami University, June 10-17, 2018. Buckeye Girls State took place at Mount Union College, June 10-16, 2018.

American Legion Auxiliary Units, assisted by high school principals and guidance counselors, evaluate potential leadership qualities of young men and women to be interviewed for selection as Delegates or Alternates.



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The programs were designed to educate Ohio's young men and women in the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of good citizenship. They also provide the experience of living in a college environment; the learning of leadership and management skills to serve them in any career path they choose combined with teaching about how Ohio government operates and functions.



## LEARNING THROUGH INTERNSHIPS



Did you know that juniors and seniors at Perry High School have the opportunity to experience an internship prior to graduation? The Learning Through Internships course is a semester-long work-based learning opportunity in which students are matched with a business partner in a field that aligns with the student's

stated interests. Right now, Perry High School juniors and seniors are interning with Component Repair Technologies, R. W. Sidley, Inc., Loved By You Photography, Signature Health, Lake Health Sports Medicine, and many more local businesses, who value these shared experiences with our young people. Soft skills training takes place for



all students prior to beginning the experience in order to focus on professionalism in the workplace skills. Don't let high school pass you by without considering the opportunity to be an intern before you even graduate!

## PERRY RECEIVES ODE 'STRIVING READERS' FUNDING

The Perry School District is proud to announce that a consortium of area schools will share more than \$500,000 to improve students' language and literacy skills. Led by Perry's Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky, the consortium includes Lake Erie College – School of Education, Riverside Local Schools, Fairport Harbor Exempted Schools, and Perry Local Schools.

"When we build literacy, we build bridges to unlimited outcomes for a student's future," explained Malchesky. "This opportunity for Lake County engages our middle and high school teachers, and pre-service college students in high quality training in explicit content literacy instruction. The opportunity also pushes us forward in personalizing learning through community partnerships to meet the student interests and career paths, as well as meet the social/emotional/wellness needs of our future workforce."



Last fall, Ohio was awarded a \$35 million Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Approximately 95 percent of the \$35 million award is distributed directly to local schools or early childhood providers to improve literacy outcomes for children from birth through grade 12 and focuses on serving the greatest numbers of students living in poverty, students with disabilities, English learners and

students identified as having reading difficulties.

The Department awarded grants following a competitive peer review process. It received 110 individual and consortium applications, representing 208 entities requesting more than \$92 million.

The grant builds on Ohio's commitment to ensuring that all students have the reading and language skills needed to succeed in education and life. The Department recently worked with Ohio educators and educational leaders to develop Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement, as well as to update and refine Ohio's English Language Arts learning standards. In addition, the Third Grade Reading Guarantee aims to ensure that all students are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. Schools then diagnose reading issues, create individualized Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plans, and provide intensive reading interventions.





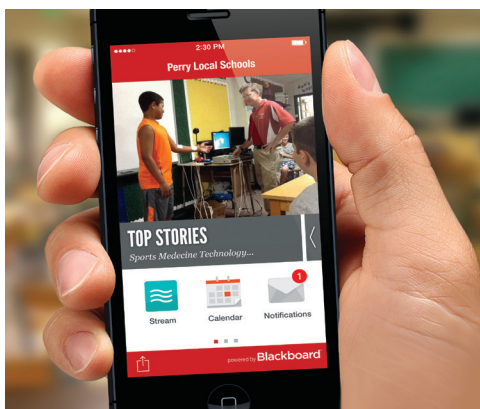
Give us a call for all your fundraising events!

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## DOWNLOAD PERRY SCHOOLS MOBILE APP TODAY!

If you haven't done so already, you can get the latest news and information from Perry Local School District on your smartphone and mobile devices with our mobile communications app. Perry has expanded its communications outreach with a mobile app that is available in the online App Store and Google Play for free.

The mobile app offers a constantly updated feed of District news and events with photos and links to the District's website. The app can also be customized by the user by selecting the schools



they are most interested in for news and updates. Join the many other app users who receive periodic push notifications to get breaking news and updates about school closures,

calendar changes, and even sports updates.

"We know that students are more successful in school when parents are engaged in their learning and school activities," said Dr. Jack Thompson, Perry Schools' superintendent. "With this mobile app, parents and community members can stay connected with our schools like never before, and with the activities our students are engaged in everyday."

Download this free mobile app to your smartphone from the App Store or Google Play, by searching "Perry Local School District".

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