

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

# the perry way

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SPRING 2018

## LET US ALL RALLY IN PERRY

by Dr. Jack Thompson, Superintendent

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Warm and heartfelt greetings to all of you. As you know, we have been keeping a close watch on the recent stories coming out about the uncertain future of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant.

It was with enthusiastic anticipation that I prepared to summarize a wonderful rally Perry Schools, hosted on Saturday, February 17th, in support of keeping the Perry Nuclear Power Plant open. While this is pertinent information, I have struggled to stay focused on this topic, because I cannot clear my mind of the recent school shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School and thoughts of the untimely death of an Akron teen injured by a gun at school.

Because of this, I am compelled to change the subject of this article. We are all at a loss to understand why these horrific events

continue to happen at an ever increasing rate. School safety is always at the forefront of our thinking. Nevertheless, when senseless acts of violence like what occurred in Florida takes place, it triggers new levels of apprehension and fear. This causes us to grapple even harder with thoughts of what else we can do to protect our students. Truth be told, we can never do enough.

While we have taken numerous steps to ensure that our school remains a safe place to learn and grow, we will always strive to do more. Even with all of our continued efforts, the fact remains we cannot 100% guarantee the safety of those which we hold most precious; our students.

I am so grateful for our Safety Committee, comprised of first responders, board members, administrators, safety forces, and other stakeholders. This group meets regularly to review

current safety protocols, help plan and schedule training, and look for opportunities to improve. Below are just a few of the measures we have in place:

- The number of full time resource officers on campus has been increased.

- A school social worker has been hired and mental health services have been increased.

- In addition to the regular drill schedule, we expanded to include a week of continuous training to prepare for a variety of evacuation and lockdown levels.

- Inside and outside surveillance has been installed throughout the entire district.

- Blue lights have been installed on the outside of all buildings that flash during lockdowns to inform those outside the building.

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# WHAT ABOUT STANDARDS-BASED LEARNING?

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

Thank you to all parents, students, and teachers who have helped shape our vision for sound assessment and grading practices at Perry during the 2017-18 school year. The parent coffees this year, the student focus group lunches, the professional development days, and monthly teacher team meetings have been focused on the work of sound assessment and grading practices. For the past six years, teachers have worked hard to communicate clear learning objectives, so students may self-assess and see what objectives they have learned and what objectives need more practice. Our district mission is to empower students to be self-directed learners; this includes that students monitor their work, reflect, and get better each day. Years of preparation in these areas have led us to a point in which we are able to communicate a more detailed gradebook to you - our parents and students.

## WHY standards-based learning?

- We believe all students can learn; people learn in different ways and at different rates.
- Most learning weaknesses occur as a result of uncorrected learning (objectives that never were learned).
- With clear expectations and plenty of practice and feedback, students can achieve more and become self-directed learners.

WHAT do we want to improve at Perry?	Tell me more...
Clarity on student learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students understand what objectives they are to learn and what proficient work looks like.</li> <li>• Tasks/tests are organized by objectives, so students can monitor 'How am I doing?'</li> <li>• Gradebooks will communicate what learning objectives have been learned (proficient).</li> <li>• Grades are no longer the average of all student work. Grades are determined by how well students perform in each learning objective; the performance on each objective is averaged to determine the grade.</li> </ul>
Responsive to student needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenty of practice and feedback; practice is no/ low penalty on the grade (confidence builds).</li> <li>• Work in 2018-19 to ensure the needs of advanced students are met - learners who are already proficient on objectives early in the unit instruction.</li> </ul>

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To our future Kindergarten Parent/Guardians:  
Perry Elementary School is holding Kindergarten Registration now, through Friday, March 23rd,

for all children who will be 5 years of age before September 30, 2018.

**All registrations must be completed online at: [www.perry-lake.org](http://www.perry-lake.org).**

Steps to register:

- Log onto [www.perry-lake.org](http://www.perry-lake.org).
  - Registration/Withdrawal link located on the left side menu.
  - 2018-2019 Kindergarten Registration link located on the right side menu.
- Computers are available at Perry Public Library and during Visitor's Week at Perry Elementary School,

the week of March 19-23, 2018 from 9:00-11:00 am, or by scheduling an appointment with Ann Aucelli at 440-259-9200 ext. 9216.

In order to secure the correct amount of learning materials and allow you the opportunity to take advantage of our Staples Back to School Supply Kits, it is imperative your child's registration is received by Friday, March 23, 2018.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Perry Board Office at (440)259-9200.



## 2018 PERRY DISTRICT SPELLING BEE



*2018 Perry District Spelling Bee advisors, Mrs. Amy Dasinger (left) and Mrs. Tami Roberts, join seventh grader, Lukas Rosipko, the 2018 Perry District Champion.*

Perry Local Schools is pleased to announce the District Spelling Bee Champion for 2018. Perry Middle School seventh grader, Lukas Rosipko has claimed this year's title. Lukas won the competition by correctly spelling words such as cattle, intersect, tonic, infraction, vegetation, dexterity, chimpanzee, and finally, commendable.

During the month of December, Perry students in grades 4-8 took part in grade level spelling bees. Three finalists from each grade level participated in the annual Perry District Spelling Bee held on January 25th. They were fourth graders, Marisa Cireddu, Josh

Skunda, and Mallory Martucci, fifth graders, Lilly Pealer, Eddie Cooney, and Ella McMurtrie, sixth graders, Dominic Gambill, Calli Thompson, and Grace Mechenbeier, seventh graders, Emma Pietrzak, Lukas Rosipko, and Calvin Peters, and eighth graders, Brandon Blackburn, Hannah Pitsenbarger, and Connor Zgrebnak.

All contestants were excellent spellers and are to be congratulated.

Congratulations to 5th grader, Ella McMurtrie and 8th grader, Connor Zgrebnak, who tied for second place, as well as, 7th grader, Calvin Peters who placed third.

## WHAT ABOUT STANDARDS-BASED LEARNING? ...continued from page 2

What will we see change and improve next year?

- More organized gradebooks. You will be able to see how your students are doing on each objective taught to date.

- In grades K-4, student achievement on each objective is communicated. No letter grades.

- In grades 5-12, student achievement on each objective is communicated to include letter grades. An added benefit is that daily progress on objectives are updated in real-time. The in-progress grade will update nightly.

- The high school transcript remains unchanged - the same as it

has been for years. Letter grades and GPA (grade point average) are still communicated.

- Progress on course objectives reflect the more recent learning. This means no/low penalty on work that is practice and completed earlier in the term, when it was not yet learned. Student confidence builds.

- Students receive specific feedback on clear objectives. Students own their goals and monitor their progress.

- Assessments (tests) are organized by objectives. Students can more easily see what objectives are strengths and learned compared to what objective is not yet learned.

**As a result of this work, students become self-directed learners and able to answer three questions:**

1. What am I to learn? (clear learning targets)

2. Where am I now? (uses rubric and feedback to move learning forward)

3. Where to next? How have I grown? (goal set/ownership/perseverance)

Build understanding - Learn more! Visit our district's Academics webpage on standards-based learning at:

<http://www.perry-lake.org/StandardsBasedLearningGrading.aspx>. Our next Parent Coffee is for elementary parents on March 9th, at 8:30 AM at Manchester West.

## LET US ALL RALLY IN PERRY ...continued from page 1

- The entire staff completed active shooter training.

- Supplemental door locking devices have been installed in school buildings.

- A mobile Crisis Manager app has been created for employees.

- Access control at all main entrances with cameras and buzz-in system is in place.

- Identification badges are worn by all adults in the building.

In addition to the points above, there are a number of other protocols and procedures that are not made public to ensure maximum effectiveness. While what we have done and will continue to do helps to

improve the safety of our schools, the best chance at preventing acts of violence from happening in our great community lies within each of us. Now, more than ever, we need to pay attention. All of us need to be on the lookout for signs that someone or something is not quite right. When we see, hear, or sense something is wrong, we need to report it. Whether on social media, at events, in school, or overhearing a conversation, we must take action by reporting what was noticed to someone who can investigate the matter. In addition, information can be reported anonymously to the SAFE SCHOOLS HELP

by Dr. Jack Thompson, Superintendent  
HOTLINE at 1-800-418-6423, extension 359, or by texting 66746 and typing "TIPS". We can no longer let it go or say to ourselves "it's not my problem."

So, while I intended to write about an outstanding rally, where an estimated 300 people attended in support of keeping the Perry Nuclear Plant open, instead I wrote about a different rally: one where all of us rally together to do whatever it takes to ensure that our schools remain a safe place to learn and grow. Thank you for supporting Perry Schools. We will provide an update on the Perry Nuclear Power Plant this spring.

## LEAF “SINGING IN THE RAIN” UMBRELLA PROJECT



Area high school art students are competing for scholarships, once again, in the annual Lake Educational Assistance Foundation's (LEAF) "Singing in the Rain Umbrella Project". LEAF partnered with Great Lakes Mall, Lake Erie College, and area high school art classes to display more than 120 unique works of art. Students in Lake and Geauga high school art classes chose a design theme to make their concepts become a reality on a white canvas umbrella. This year's theme choices were: *What Makes Me Happy*, *Music Tells My Story*, and *Community*.

Displaying their works this year, are Perry High School Art Club members, Makenna Berdysz, Bailey Charlton, Rebecca Davanaugh, Autumn Graham, Katie Gyure, Lacey Hamrick, Leyla Hobbs, Hannah Kovach, Morgan Mackey, Elizabeth Martin, Robyn McLain, Lynn Nguyen, Amanda Schultz, Brenna Shaffer, Paige Stevenson, and Faith Ziamba.

Perry High School art teacher, Deb Suba noted that the purpose of the Umbrella Project is to give upper level students a project-based and sometimes problem-based



project to expand their educational experience in the fine arts. Nine of Perry's thirteen entries made the Top 50 and will go on to the scholarship round. Two of these finished in the Top 10.

Judges will score the entries and identify the top three teams that will be the recipients of scholarships. The umbrellas will hang from the Mall rafters from February through April, and will be auctioned off to benefit LEAF programs at LEAF's annual Umbrella Auction and Raffle at the Great Lakes Mall on April 26, 2018, at 5:00 pm, when scholarship winners will be announced.

## PERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL RECEIVES THE 2017 MOMENTUM AWARD



Perry recently welcomed Ohio State Board of Education member and District 7 Representative, Ms. Sarah Fowler as she presented Perry Middle School with the 2017 Momentum Award. Ms. Fowler toured classrooms and spoke with students on January 30th.

The Momentum Award is awarded annually by the State Board of Education and recognizes schools for exceeding expectations in student growth for the year. Schools

must earn straight A's on all Value-Added measures on the Ohio School Report Card.

A Value-Added model measures how much progress a group of students has made relative to the expectation of progress. A group could be all the students in a particular district, a school or classroom, a specific subject, or individual grade or year. The expectation of progress is based on how the individual students performed on average compared to other students just like them across the state.

In addition, the school or district must have at least two Value-Added subgroups of students, which would include gifted, lowest 20% in achievement, and students with disabilities. Perry Middle School is among eight Lake County schools to receive the prestigious award.

Ms. Fowler represents portions of Lake and Summit Counties, along

with all of Ashtabula, Trumbull, Geauga, and Portage Counties. She is a homeschool graduate and has taught hands-on skills to small classes of adults and children in the United States and Mexico. Residing on a small farm with her family in Northeast Ohio, she currently works in her parents' business doing graphic design, sales and marketing, and bookkeeping.





## PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE

by Todd Porcello, PHS Principal

Our goal at Perry High School is for 100% of our graduates to be college, career or military ready, as they graduate and venture off to the next stage of life. Fortunately, there are plenty of programs and experiences available for our students during their time at Perry High School. We encourage students and families to explore these opportunities and make decisions based on the strengths and interests of each individual student. Understand that there are many options, and sometimes the best solution is to sit down, one-on-one with a guidance counselor or administrator to map out a plan for success.

Students with aspirations of attending and graduating from college should highly consider enrolling in Advanced Placement (AP) courses or courses through the College Credit Plus (CCP) program. These courses and programs both provide students with an opportunity to experience a college curriculum, and potentially earn credit that could transfer to the college or university attended in the future.

Students who want to follow a career path can consider Auburn Career Center, which has over twenty specialty areas, where students can earn a certification in their area of interest. These programs not only provide the certification potential, but also allow a student to work in a hands-on setting and collaborate with students throughout Lake



and Geauga counties. In addition, we offer an Entrepreneurship class, where students work to create a product or service which is then pitched to local business owners.

Students who are considering the military path can connect with recruiters and take the ASVAB test here on the Perry campus. We have an excellent working relationship with the Lake County recruiters for those who are interested.

Also offered, is Learning Through Internships, an authentic course in which students spend two days a week in class and three days out at an internship site. The interaction with adults in this setting helps a student develop in the areas of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

Outside of the school day, we offer many extracurriculars to help with career exploration and the development of essential life skills. Three of these programs include Mock Trial, Robotics and Academic Decathlon. All three programs have experienced recent

success as students collaborate, solve problems and then ultimately compete. Perry students also can work for the school in the area of Information Technology (IT) or for our communications department through the live streaming of the many evening events throughout the school year. Once again, we are putting students in authentic learning environments with the goal of developing those essential life skills and providing them with experiences that help shape a student and his or her future.

All students, regardless of the future pathway, should consider strengths and interest, and select courses that help them explore these areas and build upon their strengths to see the connections to future potential careers.

Current numbers suggest that 90% of today's jobs require a specific skill set, which is up from 40% fifty years ago. High schools have adjusted to provide more specific training and college preparatory work, as the cost of post secondary education continues to increase frequently. It is essential that as a school, we continue to adjust and adapt to the needs of our students, and we will continue to strive to provide the best preparation possible for them.

To learn more and explore what might be best for your son or daughter, please contact a guidance counselor or administrator to discuss further and to create a personalized plan for success.

### PIRATE POWER PACK PROGRAM (*Full Tummies, Full Hearts!*)



*The Pirate Power Pack program provides a weekend supply of nutritious food for Perry Elementary School children, commonly from low-income families, to replace the school meals that children miss during their weekend or extended breaks from school. Each weekend food bag contains enough food for two breakfasts, two lunches, three dinners, and one snack.*

*Though the program is intended to help those children whose families find it difficult to have enough food for the entire month, all children are eligible for this program. Families will be able to opt-in and opt-out of the program.*

*The program is run by volunteers from The Perry Center and Perry Service Learning program, who gather donations, pack food bags weekly, and complete the day-to-day tasks that keep the program running.*

*Bags were donated by Xpress Printing. Additional financial support was provided by a grant from GenerationOn. For more information, please contact the program administrators, Mark Soeder and Allison Trentanelli, at 440-259-9200 x9708, or visit the PSL website: [www.perryservicelearning.weebly.com](http://www.perryservicelearning.weebly.com).*

## OMEA ALL-STATE CHILDREN'S CHORUS



There was excitement in the choir room when they learned that eight Perry Middle School students had been accepted to perform with the 2018 All-State Children's Chorus in Columbus, Ohio, on February 8th.

Fifth graders, Allison Camper, Victoria Collins, Spencer Kilpatrick, Aria Lombardo, Ella McMurtrie, Jillian Roberts, Madelyn Rupert, and Hannah Whittaker were chosen to make the trip.

Students from all around the state auditioned in fourth grade by submitting recordings of themselves singing verses of selected songs, to be eligible to participate in the event this year, while in fifth grade. A total of 126 students made up this year's chorus.

Seven of the eight Perry students were able to commit to three regional rehearsals, which were required to be eligible to perform at the Ohio Music

Education Association's (OMEA) annual Professional Development Conference. Selected choristers rehearsed at Hawken School in Gates Mills on Saturdays prior to the event, and participated in a full group rehearsal and final concert with a guest conductor at the conference.



"Our students did a wonderful job representing our school," said Perry Elementary School music teacher, Amanda McMurtrie. "They worked very hard to learn six advanced musical selections. The final concert was amazing! I was very proud of our students and glad that they had this opportunity!"

Auditions are open to all public, private, and home-schooled students in grades 4 and 5, whose teachers are members of OMEA. Home-schooled students are also eligible, with a parent or private teacher being a member of OMEA. The 2018 OMEA Conference was held February 8-10 in Columbus, Ohio, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. With an average of nearly 3,000 registered music educators and total attendance of approximately 9,000, this event ranks as one of the largest state conferences in the nation!

Learn more about the Ohio Music Education Association at: [www.omea-ohio.org](http://www.omea-ohio.org).

## 2018 PERRY JUST RUN PROGRAM

This year's Perry Just Run® Program will begin on Sunday, April 8. Pre-registration runs from February 10 through March 10, and will be done online this year. The program is open to any Lake County students ages 6-18. Participants in the program will be training at their own unique pace to participate in the 2017 Just Run® 5K, which will take place at the end of May. Practices and training will promote healthy eating, positive lifestyle choices, family participation, goal setting, and taking pride in accomplishment.

Individually, the children will set personal goals and learn about the importance of dedication, decision-making, and perseverance. Participants will progress at their own speed (pun-intended) in a safe, non-competitive environment, and most important, they will learn life-long, positive habits while having FUN!

As in past years, practices will be held on Sundays from 5:30-6:30, so that they do not conflict with other spring sport/extra-curricular commitments. Parent volunteers are able to participate/train



alongside their children at practices. There is NO COST for this program. Information and registration links are available at [perryjustrun.weebly.com](http://perryjustrun.weebly.com).



## 2018 FUTURE CITY COMPETITION



Each year, Perry Middle School STEM teacher, Blanche Davidson energizes her 8th grade students with the prospect of sharing their creative thoughts about what a future city might look like. The annual *Future City* competition is the place to do just that.

*Future City* engages more than 40,000 middle school students throughout the United States and abroad in a program designed to increase students' motivation

and excitement about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

*Future City* starts with a question—how can we make the world a better place? To answer it, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future, that showcase their solution to a citywide sustainability issue. Past topics include stormwater management, urban agriculture, and green energy.

The 2017-2018 theme is *The Age-Friendly City*. Teams were asked to identify an age-related challenge that exists in today's urban environments and engineer two innovative solutions that allow their future city's senior citizens to be as active and independent as they want to be.

Participants were required to create a virtual city design (using *SimCity*), a 1,500-word city essay, a scale model, a project plan, and give a presentation to judges at Regional Competitions in January.

Four Perry Middle School teams competed internally for the chance to be the one that would go to the regional contest in Columbus. The winning team included 8th graders, Jacob Brass, Ethan Hicks, Max Mascarenhas, and Erin McGregor.

With their design, entitled, *Senioremparadisi*, the team placed first in the categories of *Best Use of Water Resource Engineering*, *Best Land Surveying Practices*, *Best Use of Transportation*, and *Best Essay*, along with a second place in *Best Architectural Model*.

## PERRY AREA JOINT RECREATION

### PERRY YOUTH BASKETBALL

We would like to thank all of those that volunteered to coach teams during our 2017-2018 season! Sarah Selan, Tim French, Greg Petrucci, Todd Porcello, Mark Steverding, Coni Steverding, Bear Rupert, Tyler Wilkinson, Landon Albrecht, Darin Avery, Rich Crum, Dusty Crofoot, Joe Matson, Jason Scardino, Bill Eppich, Andy Meikle, Ken Rhineberger, Doreen Rhineberger, Art Zentgraf, Jason Ziga, Solomon Mosby, Greg Mechenbier, Meghan Blaha, Doug Robinson, Jesse Lydic, Josh Siegel, Tim Flenner, TJ Rockwell, Gene Winter.

We would like to thank all the members of the Perry Middle School 8th Grade girls' basketball team for volunteering with our 2018 Lady Pirates Basketball Program.  
(Program is intended for girls in kindergarten and 1st grade).

### UPCOMING SPRING/SUMMER PROGRAMS

Registration forms are available at [www.perryrec.com](http://www.perryrec.com).

- Perry Youth Volleyball, girls grades 4-6 - Registration deadline: 2/26/2018
- Bump/Set/Spike, girls grades 2-3 - Registration deadline: 2/26/2018
- Perry Youth Baseball, ages 7-14 - Registration deadline: 3/19/2018
- Perry Youth Softball, ages 7-14 - Registration deadline: 3/30/2018
- Little Sluggers (T-ball), ages 4-6 - Registration deadline: 4/28/2018

### 2018 SUMMER REC PROGRAM

Program expected to run Monday-Friday; June 4th – August 3rd  
SUMMER REC is a half day, day camp for boys and girls ages 5+. Campers will have an action-packed day starting from the moment they are dropped off. The day consists of activities planned in small groups, where they will explore weekly themes through outdoor play, arts, crafts, science, sports, swimming and special weekly activities, while giving them new experiences they will remember for summers to come.

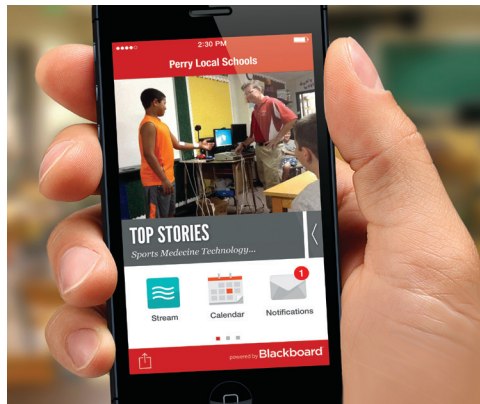
Our low, camper-to-counselor ratio ensures an impactful experience for every child we serve.

David F. Sarosy, Perry Area Joint Recreation. Email: [recreation@perry-lake.org](mailto:recreation@perry-lake.org)

## 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 our new 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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