



The PERRY Way

www.perry-lake.org

Featured Events

MARCH

- 13 HS Winter Sports Awards
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 15 5th & 6th Grade
Family Fun Night
7:00 - 9:00pm
Manchester West
- 20 NHS Inductions
6:30pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 25 Spring Break Begins

APRIL

- 5 7th & 8th Grade
Spring Dance
7:00 - 9:00pm
Manchester West
- 24 6th Grade Camp
Parent Meeting
7:00pm, MS Cafeteria
- 25 Buccs & Jazz Band Concert
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 30 HS Academic Awards
8:00am, HS Cafeteria &
Goodwin Theatre

MAY

- 14 ES Young Author Day
- 19 Commencement
2:30pm, HS Gymnasium
- 24 Kindergarten Graduation
2:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 30 Last Day of Classes
MS Field Day

Mission Statement:

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



Working For Our Future

By

Dr. Jack Thompson
Superintendent

Lew Galante
Chief Financial Officer



We continue to monitor and advocate for the issues impacting the future of our school district's financial stability. Now that Governor DeWine has taken office, our focus turns to gaining legislative support to include language in the upcoming budget bill that would ensure our school district remains financially solvent for years to come. Below are the talking points we are using to convey our position to those in Columbus who will have a say in Perry's financial future.

Current Conditions

Our school district is experiencing a devastating reduction in funding through no fault of our own—a **reduction unprecedented in the history of Ohio school district funding!** How did it happen? Our district is a casualty of the national energy policy debate relative to how energy producing assets are valued in the marketplace. The Perry Nuclear Power Plant, owned by First Energy (the largest taxpayer in our district), was allowed to devalue their tangible power generation assets from **\$162 million to \$77 million** by the Ohio Department of Taxation over the past two years. This resulted in an annual loss of over \$4.8 million of local tax collections. (To date, the state has been able to replace over \$2.3 million of these losses.) Additionally, the reappraisal and the reduction of the real property value of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant has resulted in an increase to the effective outside millage rate for commercial properties in the Perry community of over 24%.

Helping Ourselves

Over the past two years the school district has reduced staffing in every area: Administration, Teachers, Transportation, Maintenance, Food Services, Custodial, and Student Support Personnel. In addition to the personnel reductions, the district has reduced budget purchases in each of these areas. These personnel and budgetary reductions total over **\$1.2 million**. Furthermore, due to the deregulation phase out and the valuation reductions over time, the district has reduced its overall general fund budget (adjusted for inflation) by over **10%** in the past **10 years**. The Lake County Financing District, which provides over **\$900,000** annually, will be up for a renewal next year, but we have to do more. These revenue reductions cannot be overcome by budget cuts and local levies.

Our Solution

Ohio currently has many school districts across the state being reimbursed from an older tax collected at the local level through Tangible Property. These reimbursements for schools have become known as Tangible Personal Property (TPP), which are currently

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High School



Todd Porcello
HS Principal

As we started the new year, we began planning for the 2019-20 school year and continued to encourage our students to review their progress on their current four-year plan and make adjustments as needed.

February is our typical month to begin the registration process for the next school year. We held a registration evening, a CCP informational session and two other evenings were set aside for Transition Meetings (current 8th graders) and Planning Your Future Meetings (current grades 9-11). We strive for every graduate to prepare to be Enrolled, Employed, Enlisted or an Entrepreneur. Our course offerings and programs are designed to provide multiple opportunities to prepare students for whatever path they select.

As we seek continuous improvement for our students, we analyze what evening events are held and how to personalize career guidance for our students. While deciding on a future career might seem overwhelming, please know we are here to help and are open to meeting 1 on 1 with a student and family at any time.

We continue to run courses that have our students engaging with the community in our Perry Service Learning (PSL) course

and our Learning Through Internships course. Both opportunities mix traditional classroom learning with experiences in our community, providing an authentic learning environment. The growth exhibited by our students in these classes is always impressive.

One new potential course for the 19-20 school year is a House Flipping course. We hope to secure grant funds to provide this opportunity where students can work in a hands-on setting and experience the many stages of flipping a house. Overall, we continue to examine what opportunities we currently provide and improve the experience to best prepare our students for their future. Please do not hesitate to contact a guidance counselor or a principal to learn more about opportunities at PHS or to receive a personalized session to plan for the future.



Intern Hannah Wren teaching Elementary Music

Middle School



Robert Knisely
MS Principal

Perry Middle School was once again awarded the Momentum Award by the Ohio Department of Education for 2018. The award recognizes schools that exceed expectations for student growth for

the year. When people mention the award they often ask "what is it?" While the short answer relates to state test scores and student growth - the real answer is much harder to summarize.

Our school has undergone a transition over the last few years. Some of these changes are noticeable, others are not. As a school we committed to an 18-month study of middle school best practices. We looked at both educational research as well as what other schools were doing. The result of this work has been a shift in what we do and how we do it. Middle school aged children are different, and consequently middle schools have to function differently than counterparts in elementary and high school.

We have changed (and continue to change) our schedule and the options available to our students based on our research. Our Momentum is the result of providing students with the learning they need, when they need it. It is the reason why our exploratory courses are nine weeks in 5th grade and semester or year-long in the other grades. Momentum is the reason why we provide opportunities to learn, and relearn if necessary, through our academic labs, life skills, and ICE. It is our Outdoor Learning Garden, Invention Convention, Share your Genius, Career Ties, and Robotics. Momentum is the reason why our teachers look at student data and create learning plans specific to the students and their needs.

Momentum has been the result of a great deal of hard work by the students and staff of our school. It is also the result of preparation of our students by the teachers at Perry Elementary School and the options afforded by our partnership with Perry High School. Momentum is Perry!



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

Elementary School

Arianna Neading
ES Principal



This year, our school has been focusing on building culture! Students have been learning all about the R-Factor, Event+Response=Outcome, to help us stay on path to find our treasure and not sink our ship! Each week, students learn disciplines that will help them stay on path when dealing with certain events. Our District has a culture playbook that describes what we believe, how we behave, and the outcomes for which we strive. Last quarter we learned about our first belief: We believe in the **Power of Relationships**. When we work together, we are **Stronger Together!** This quarter we are learning about our next belief: We believe in **Personal Responsibility**. When we take personal responsibility, we are **Prepared for Life!** When we own our responses, we can count on each other and ourselves to do the right thing!

Another focus at Perry Elementary is to build reading engagement and utilize read-alouds to deepen our students' critical thinking skills to support how they respond to their

reading. Research has proven that reading aloud to children is the most effective strategy for growing successful readers and writers. Reading to children builds and reinforces many foundational skills, introduces new vocabulary, provides a model of fluent reading, and helps children to view reading as an experience to enjoy. To support this work at home, choose high quality literature that is interesting to your child. As you read, make sure to talk with your child about the reading.

While we continue to work on our goals this school year, it is also time to start thinking about our upcoming school year and 2019-2020 Kindergarten Registration. Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will conclude Friday March, 22nd, for all students who will be 5 years of age before September 30, 2019. **All registrations must be completed online and are not complete until all information, including the supporting documentation, has been received.** Please contact Ann Aucelli by email (AucelliA@perry-lake.org) or phone (440-259-9200) at the Board Office with any questions. Registration during this designated time is extremely important as we are making staffing decisions for the 2019-2020 school year. We also need to be sure we secure the correct amount of learning materials and also allow you to take advantage of ordering the Staples Back to School Supply Kit. **It is imperative your child's registration be completed by Friday, March 22, 2019.**



Mrs. Heather Tromba reads aloud to her 2nd Grade Class

Mark Your Calendars!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the multitude of events happening this Spring. Last year's high school musical, *Beauty & the Beast*, did not disappoint and this year promises the same excitement with their production of Disney's *High School Musical*. Performances are on April 12th & 13th at 7:00pm and on April 14th at 2:00pm.

A brand new event being added this year is Global Village Day. Global Village Day celebrates diversity by encouraging discovery, engagement, and expression of our unique backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and voices. Join us on May 11th at Perry High School for this event that celebrates diversity in our region through performances, speakers, food, and storytelling. There will be interactive spaces where you can share your own stories of ancestry and heritage. By strengthening our relationships to one another, we strengthen our community and build a better world for our children. For more information, or to volunteer your services, please contact Caryl Church at ChurchC@Perry-Lake.org



Patrick Hurley as Gaston and Makenna Berdysz as Lefou in last year's production of "Beauty & the Beast".

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Working For Our Future – continued from page 1

being phased-out by Senate Bill 208. A few budget cycles back, the state combined the nuclear power plant deregulation reductions with the phase-out of the Tangible Personal Property reductions.

Out of nearly 100 school districts still receiving this reimbursement statewide, only 2 school districts (Perry School District and Benton-Carroll-Salem School District in Northwest Ohio) are receiving reimbursements from a public utility reimbursement.

During the electric utilities deregulation process in 2001, nuclear plants had taxes assessed at 88% of the value of electric generation equipment on site. This was reduced to 25% during deregulation and our two school districts lost millions of dollars overnight. When passed, the state of Ohio agreed to reimburse us through the proceeds from the Kilowatt Hour Tax to help keep our school districts operational and held harmless. Unfortunately, changes have since been made to phase out these funds, which have put our school district on course to lose over **\$400,000** each year until the year 2030. Our District cannot sustain such losses.

The General Assembly must take action to freeze the phase out of the dollars lost through deregulation for the two school districts that have a nuclear power plant within its borders. We are simply asking for our reimbursement levels to return to the Fiscal Year 2017 amounts. **This amendment was actually passed in both the Ohio House and Ohio Senate during the 2015 budget**, but was vetoed by Governor Kasich. School districts with Nuclear Power Plants do not have the capability to grow property valuations to offset severe revenue losses.

In addition to the freeze above, the district is seeking an adjustment and reauthorization to ORC 3317.029. Originally conceived last year, this reauthorization provided relief

from public utility tangible valuation losses that were not covered in ORC 3317.028. The current language provides relief for a district that suffers a tangible public utility valuation decrease from **2016 to 2017 of 50%**. While Perry Local suffered significant losses (**30%+ losses in 2017 and 2018**), the district did not meet the 50% threshold in either year. However, when combining the two years we would easily meet the 50% threshold. An adjustment in the language that states “**from**

2016 to 2017 or 2018” would cover the Perry Local Schools in the ORC 3317.029.

Conclusion

We feel that a freeze of Public Utility TPP and the adjustment of 3317.029 is necessary to stabilize our finances as the possible closure and possible further de-valuation of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant continues to be in the offing.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contact your legislative representatives and let them know how critical it is to carry these solutions to Columbus and do whatever it takes to get them passed into law.

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