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Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky,
Assistant Superintendent

Our story this year at Perry is one of resilience and dedication. It's a time of rapid growth for remote learning, engaging, and connecting with students on personal levels to reach their hearts and their minds. Remote instruction has transformed our teaching practices and transformed our teaching staff into modern day superheroes! Additionally, parents

and students have risen to the challenges of this complex year.

Whether you have a student learning on campus, learning at home, or learning away at a college campus, instruction today certainly places great opportunities for students to develop our district mission as self-directed learners. We must ALL pursue greatness in this complex time. Our children need us.

Pursuing greatness as a community takes work by all.

For parents...

- Understand and access your student's Google classroom. Check progress in Infinite Campus. Remember that a child's grade each term is cumulative and grades are reflective of whether students have learned the subject objectives (taught to date) at a proficient level.
- Show students how to contact the teacher right away with any questions or concerns.
- Be sure children have space for study, good sleep habits, and nutrition. Make sure the home WiFi has strong connection.
- Seek community resources, if needed. Call Guidance - we can help you find those resources.

For students...

- Attend class daily unless you are sick.
- Remote learners participate daily (with cameras on) so teachers can monitor learning. If you have a reason to not have the camera on, share that need with your teacher.
- Ask questions about what you do not yet understand. Use email or the chat box on Zoom.

- Older students schedule extra time with the teacher (e.g., office hours, flex time, tutoring).
- Get involved in a club or activity to create "balance" and surround yourself with positive people.

For teachers...

- Get to know each child for who they are and what inspires them. Respond to that information and build unforgettable connections.
- Build student engagement by using polls throughout the lesson to check for understanding. Then use break out groups so small groups receive the reteaching needed and are in smaller settings to talk and use the language of the content taught.
- Take time to reset, find joy, and take care of your wellbeing.

For administration and support staff...

- Frequently ask: What can I do to help you? What do I need to know but maybe don't know?
- Understand we all need a balance of work, joy, and sense of community support.
- Help share effective practices with others. Build community.

It's indeed a year of resilience and dedication. Together, let's each do our part to pursue greatness for Perry students.



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SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR PERRY COMMUNITY
& SCHOLASTIC EVENTS



The PERRY Way

www.perry-lake.org

Featured Events

NOVEMBER

- 5 MS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 12:00 - 7:00pm
- 7 & 8 HS Fall Play, 2:00pm & 7:00pm
- 25 - 27 Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 23 Winter Break Begins

JANUARY

- 4 Staff Development Day, No School
- 12 End of Grading Term
- 18 MLK Day, No School
- 21 College Credit Plus Info Night, 6:00pm, Location TBD

FEBRUARY

- 15 Presidents' Day, No School

Mission Statement:

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

Living in the Moment 2020



Dr. Jack Thompson
Superintendent

As I write this article, it is October 6, 2020. As you read this article, it is likely sometime in early November. I can't help but wonder what will have changed in the short time between me writing and you reading this. And so, such is life during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. I hope November finds us continuing to see fewer new coronavirus cases each day and real discussions about the distribution of a safe vaccine that will put this experience behind us once and for all. I hope that school continues to be in full swing with the excitement of winter extracurricular activities being underway. I hope that all of us have begun to plan and anticipate a Thanksgiving holiday where we feel comfortable gathering with relatives, immediate family, and friends to express our love, gratitude, and blessings for the opportunity to spend quality time together. We will learn, become better, and grow so much from the challenges these times have brought us. I hope most of all, we come to better appreciate and never take for granted each and every moment we have been given.

Perry Schools will emerge from 2020 and enter into 2021 better than ever, poised to continue pursuing greatness from a relentless approach to serving our students at the highest level possible. Out of necessity, our teaching staff has adopted new approaches to instruction and implemented learning tools never seen before at Perry. The result is an improved capacity to stay connected with students; whether on campus or remotely through the use of new technological resources. The remarkable growth has not been limited to our teaching staff, as our classified personnel has also developed new and improved cleaning, safer ways to provide meals, and more efficient transportation procedures. Of course, this hasn't been easy and has come at a significant cost both financially and emotionally. I am confident that I am not alone when I say this has been the toughest and most stressful school year of my career. While the work continues, one thing is for sure, we would not be where we are today without the unwavering support we have received from the community. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we worked through unique challenges.

I trust you have found Perry School's COVID-19 website, including the weekly dashboard, helpful in providing the most up to date information permissible. Nothing contributes more to improvement than high quality feedback. By now, we probably have concluded focus group sessions with community members, students, staff, and administration in an effort to capture information regarding our COVID-19 response efforts. This action was requested by Andy Roberts, Board of Education President, and facilitated by Board Members Tippi Foley and Nicole Trefzger as part of the COVID-19 Task Force. We also have collected feedback from community surveys coming out of our Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Betty Jo Malchesky's office to gain information concerning our Responsible ReStart plan. We look forward to utilizing all that we have learned from this feedback to improve our services to students and the community.

Finally, while much has changed, our work to maintain a voice with legislators in Columbus has not. As I write this, actions to repeal HB6 by way of SB346 have stalled and will not resume until after the election. This is good news for Perry Schools as we continue to advocate that our district be held harmless if and when HB6 is repealed by way of a replacement bill. We have continued to speak legislators such as Senators Eklund, Dolan, and Wilson who have assured us that we will not be forgotten. So regardless of the results of the election, you can be sure we are continuing our lobbying efforts for Perry Schools.

In closing, you can be confident that we strive to do all we can to keep our schools and community a safe place to live, learn, and grow. All the best to you. Go Pirates!

High School

Todd Porcello
HS Principal



As we approach the end of the first grading term, I would like to express my gratitude to the entire Perry community, staff, and students for the effort and cooperation that it has taken to return to school.

With the restart of school, I was inspired by our students as they took part in different learning activities or extracurricular activities. Some highlights from the first two months include:

- PSL students cleaning a local river while canoeing along the river banks or working in the Giving Garden.
- Science students launching rockets into the Perry skyline.
- The marching band returning to the field for practice during the 6th block time and then performing at halftime of football games.
- Science experiments and labs taking place in the woods on our property.
- Students preparing for the Fall Play.
- A Student Advisory Council working with teachers to organize a debate watch party for students to engage in educational discourse and how to be positive, active citizens in a democracy.
- Students utilizing Zoom or Google Meet for tutoring sessions or classroom activities.
- Leaders from Student Council working through different ideas to try to make Homecoming festivities and court recognition possible in difficult times.
- The Buccaneers preparing for an upcoming performance season with the uncertainty of exactly what that will look like.
- Choir students spread out throughout the Goodwin Theatre practicing and learning.
- Students in a Family Consumer Science class completing labs and learning the art and science of cooking.



- Student-athletes competing in their sport and experiencing the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.
- The return to our Flip-A-House courses and the progress that has been made.
- Families being able to watch our numerous activities via our student produced Live Stream productions.

The option of attending school on campus has been vitally important for many of our students and it has taken great cooperation from all stakeholders involved. Our students have exceeded our expectations with following safety procedures and doing their part to ensure we can continue with school and extracurricular activities. Teachers and staff have adjusted and adapted to this different learning environment and continue to provide excellent services for our students.

My hope is that we can remain focused on the daily safety precautions to ensure we can continue on this path. When I see the marching band playing, the fall play cast practicing, or an athletic team competing, I have a great deal of gratitude for the opportunity that our students have to grow as people and learners in this new environment.

It will continue to take a quality effort from all involved to maintain these opportunities, but I remain confident that the Perry Community will rise to the occasion. Our goal of 100% of our graduates being prepared for employment in a career, enrollment in college, or enlisted in the military remains the same. We will continue to promote safety, the power of relationships, the personalization of learning, and strive to inspire students to be champions of their future.

Together, we can help our students reach their full potential in both the classroom and in extracurriculars. High School is a major part of one's life experience and I thank you for doing your part to make this possible!

Middle School *Continued from page 3*

great opportunity to get some extra help outside of the school day. Also, don't hesitate to contact the classroom teacher if you have any questions, want to find ways for your student to improve in their classes, or schedule a time to meet on November 5th at Parent/Teacher Conferences. This is the first full grading period coming back from distance learning in March and we will work tirelessly to keep our students on track!

Finally, I'd like to give a shout-out to all of our students, staff, and parents for their examples of adjusting & adapting to our current settings. Whether students are learning remotely or on-campus, everyone has been doing their part to keep this "ship" moving forward.



We made it through October! The weather outside is slowly changing and it is refreshing to feel the fall cool air outside! During lunch/recess duty when I talk with students, many of them are feeling extremely settled-in and more confident each day. Although this year looks a little different for all of our Pirates, I am so impressed with their resiliency each day. Our students have adapted to wearing masks, following new procedures, utilizing their technology problem-solving skills at home, and so much more.

We were able to complete our first round of MAP testing early this month, and even had school pictures for both on-campus and remote learners. Fall sports teams are wrapping up their seasons and our athletic department is preparing for a return to winter sports.



Middle School

Robert Knisely
MS Principal



The first grading period ended October 23rd. Even though the grade book rolls throughout the school year, it is an important check-point to see where students are currently and is used for athletic eligibility purposes in 7th and 8th grade. Please continue to check your parent portal in Infinite Campus to monitor your student's progress.

We will be starting evening Zoom tutoring hours this month. You can find the tutors under "Student Resources" on our district website. Several teachers are available covering a broad range of subject areas and grade levels to provide remote tutoring after school hours. A direct referral is not necessary. Students may check the teachers calendar availability on the website and schedule an appointment if they see an opening. You will note that Mr. Hruska is also available to provide enrichment opportunities for students looking for assistance in their instrument progression. We ask that families do not book appointments with teachers more than two weeks prior to the appointment date. We are hopeful that many of our students will take advantage of this

Continued on page 2

What an incredible start it has been to the 2020-2021 school year. We want to thank our students, staff, and community members for their continuous support as we launched our ReStart together. The start of this school year was unlike any other, as we anxiously awaited the arrival of our students on that first day of school. It is hard to express in words the excitement we all felt when we welcomed our students into our doors and remotely on that first day. We spent countless hours preparing for that very moment, and the emotion it brought to us all was something that will never be forgotten.

While we made many changes to support the new guidelines, we did our best to keep as much normalcy as possible for our students and enhance the way we teach each day. Our teachers have been more creative than ever to keep the excitement alive within our kids and give them the fun and exciting learning experiences they deserve.

One of the things I have cherished since our return is the use of our outdoor spaces. Each day you will see our students learning outside of the classroom. They are in the courtyards studying the trees and flowers and planting in the gardens. They are cozying up under a tree with a good book, reading independently, and enjoying their leveled texts. They are sitting in their outdoor chairs and cushions, enjoying stories being read aloud to them by their teacher, and participating in whole group



Elementary School

Arianna Neading
ES Principal



discussions. It is a magnificent sight to see, and we are so thankful for the experiences this amazing campus has given us.

Each day we continue to learn new things and try out new ways of teaching so our students will be given the best experiences possible. We have so appreciated the support of our community as we make changes to create a better environment for everyone, as well as the feedback provided to enhance our teaching and learning.

Stay tuned for a week of fun during our virtual Family Fun Night in November as our Theme Team will be sending communication out in the future about the exciting activities students can participate in with their families and community.

