



The PERRY Way

www.perry-lake.org

Fall 2022

Featured Events

NOVEMBER

- 2 Dr. Brooks Gibbs
7:00pm, High School
Media Center
- 10 HS Blood Drive
- 10 3rd & 4th Grade Concert
6:00pm & 7:00pm
Goodwin Theatre
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Break
No School

DECEMBER

- 6 Buccaneers Senior Citizens
Luncheon, 11:30pm
- 13 5th & 6th Grade Winter Concert
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 14 7th & 8th Grade Winter Concert
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 15 HS Winter Concert
7:00pm, Goodwin Theatre
- 21 Half Day for Students
- 12/22 Winter Break, No School
-1/2

JANUARY

- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School
- 19 College Credit Plus
Information Night
6:00pm, Goodwin Theatre

Celebration!

by Dr. Jack Thompson, Superintendent

After a two-year hiatus, the Perry Athletic Hall of Fame committee sponsored a formal induction ceremony in the Goodwin Theatre on September 17th. New inductees for the Class of 2022 are **Abigail Clifford '11, Jeff Hartmann - Coach (1994-2004), Emily Casey Hinton '12, Patrick Murphy '98, Erin O'Donnell '09, and Tony Patrizi '00.** Three Perry teams were also inducted: **1998 Girls 4x800 Relay Team, 2001-2002 Wrestling Team, and 2009 Girls Cross Country Team.** Each was introduced by a person of their choice, followed by accounts of the many wonderful memories and experiences they continue to cherish. It truly was an honor to attend this ceremony, hear the inspirational stories, and see the inductees shed tears of joy as they spoke about the support they received from their loved ones along the way. The genuine gratitude and pride each of the inductees exude as a lifelong Perry Pirate is contagious. This night is a fine example of the slogan, "Once a Pirate, always a Pirate". Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.



Is it Bullying?

We must continue to work on reducing acts of aggression. Bullying, however, is a term that is often misapplied to aggressive behavior that does not meet the definition. Bullying is an **ongoing** and deliberate **misuse of power** in relationships through **repeated** verbal, physical, and/or social behavior that intends to cause physical, social, and/or psychological harm. According to the National Centre Against Bullying, bullying is not:

- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- random acts of aggression or intimidation
- mutual arguments, disagreements, or fights.

Sadly, there are many types of mean and or aggressive behavior. Such acts are not just a school problem but a human nature problem that follows us in every domain of our lives. Regardless of whether acts of aggression meet the definition of bullying, we must take action to reduce all such behavior both in and outside of school. On November 2nd we are doing just that.

We strongly encourage you to be part of our efforts to reduce bullying and aggressive behavior by coming to hear Dr. Brooks Gibbs in the High School Media Center on November 2nd at 7:00 pm. Dr. Gibbs is a social psychologist who for 23 years has been teaching students how to regulate emotions and solve social problems. This includes helping parents to raise their children to be resilient.

If you want your child to:

- Be unfazed by words or insults
- Be able to solve their social problems on their own
- Be content with friends who accept them and not seek the approval of everyone, then this is a presentation you don't want to miss.

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Mission Statement:

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



ALICE Training at Perry High School

School safety is a topic that is constantly on our minds.

Unfortunately, with the numerous tragic events that occur in schools every year, it can provide a level of stress and anxiety for students, parents, and staff members. Safety week is held annually in our district every September where we prepare and review our protocols for different events that might occur. Practicing and reviewing drills help us identify potential gaps in our communication or procedures that enable us to make adjustments and improvements.

During safety week, we held assemblies for grades 6-12, where Officer Pattie, who is a National Presenter for ALICE, presented to our students on response options in the event of an Active Shooter. Officer Pattie is a local police officer who we were fortunate, through a connection with our Perry Village Police Chief, to have presented ALICE to staff in March of 2022 as well. ALICE is an acronym for the following:

- **Alert** – Alert is your first notification of danger. Maintain good situational awareness to overcome normalcy bias and ensure the best response to a critical incident or violent intruder.
- **Lockdown** – Barricade the room.
- **Inform** – Communicate the violent intruder's location and direction in real-time. To do this, pass on real-time information using any means necessary. Examples are video surveillance, 911 calls and PA announcements.
- **Counter** – Not to be confused with fighting, this step involves creating noise, movement, distance and distraction. Its intent is to reduce the shooter's ability to shoot accurately.
- **Evacuate** – Safe and strategic evacuation techniques get people out of harm's way. Understand how your current environment impacts your ability to evacuate and discover the safest ways to do so.

Officer Pattie also explained an OODA Loop:

- **Observation** – 5 senses, circumstances, information, guidance
- **Orient** – What is the space you are in?
- **Decide** – Based on the observation and orientation make a decision
- **Act** – Take action

Students and staff are taught their options and the process for making a decision, while remaining aware of their setting and surroundings at all times. It empowers the students and staff to take action based on the information gathered through observation with the five senses.

Our students were highly attentive and appreciative of the opportunity to learn about potential responses. We were proud of our students for their attentiveness, participation and follow up questions.

As students graduate from high school, this type of training can benefit them in future settings such as a college campus, workplace setting, a movie theater, or a shopping mall.

Moving forward, our goal is to have an Evacuation/Lockdown drill on a monthly basis similar to the frequency of fire drills. The drills allow students and staff to consider a potential situation, observe, orient, decide, and act in a drill situation and then review their response.

We will stay connected and in conversation with students and staff on the appropriate frequency and next steps in our learning to continuously improve our practices and awareness.

While ALICE is training for a response to a tragic situation, we continue to impress upon our students and community the importance of reporting suspicious social media activity or awareness of conversations that create a red flag. The first line of defense is the See Something, Say Something approach.

Reports of suspicious activity can be made not only to administrators, but any staff member, or even anonymously to The Safer Ohio - School Tip Line which can be reached via call or text at 844-723-3764. Thank you for your support in helping keep our students and staff safe.



Officer Pattie presenting ALICE to high school students.

Superintendent *continued from page 1*

After presenting to parents and community members on Wednesday night, Dr. Gibbs will speak to students and staff throughout the day on Thursday. Dr. Gibbs' visit will provide a perfect time to continue these tough conversations at home with your children. As always, we are incredibly grateful for your continued support of the Perry Local Schools. I hope to see all of you on the evening of November 2nd. Go Pirates!

Middle School

Robert Knisely
MS Principal



Perry Middle School's fall semester is off to a great start. As many of you are aware, we welcomed Mrs. Amy Stavar as our new assistant principal. Mrs. Stavar brings a wealth of instructional expertise

into this role and we are excited to see her in action working with both students and teachers this year!

We look forward to connecting students this year with the three Ps in our motto: Pride, Purpose, and Perseverance. We want students to have **pride** in our school and community. We want them to understand the **purpose** of their work, and we want to help them learn to **persevere** through life's challenges.

We have committed this school year to reinvigorating our students and staff with school **pride** and spirit. Coming out of the last few years, we have seen the need for events and activities that generate excitement within our students and give them opportunities to connect and engage the greater school community. We are planning regular school spirit days, pep rallies, and other activities to reignite that spirit.

A 2014 Harris Poll showed that students with higher levels of school spirit perform better academically, are more civically engaged, and are happier in general than their less-spirited peers. The research found that students with higher levels of school spirit also have

higher average Grade Point Averages and are more likely to plan to further their education than students with lower school spirit.

We are also continuing our efforts to increase authentic learning opportunities for all of our students and are committed to helping all students to find **purpose** in their learning. Connecting students to their teachers, peers, and the content in real world situations and activities is one of our primary goals this school year. In addition to the countless opportunities afforded to students for authentic experiences in our exploratory classes and our CAL team, our Core grade level teams are committed to providing these experiences to students in a multidisciplinary framework we are calling SWALE (School Wide Authentic Learning Experiences).

Finally, we believe strongly that in order for our students to be successful in the future, they must be able to work through hard problems and situations. As such, we are committing this year to providing our students with

programming and support that will allow them to grow in their **perseverance**. Using Admiral Perry's slogan from the Battle of Lake Erie "Don't Give up the Ship," we are embarking on a journey of building student resilience, grit, and determination. One of our first events will occur on November 2, when we welcome Dr. Brooks Gibbs to our district to work with our students, staff, and parents.



Elementary School

Jim Chisholm
ES Principal



Welcome, Perry Local School's community, to the 2022-2023 school year. I cannot tell you how thrilled I am to be returning to PES. As a parent and a principal, I can attest that the level

of compassion, rigor, teaching pedagogy, and energy of the PES staff is second to none.

Perry Elementary School has gotten off to a tremendous start, as this school year has brought with it many exciting changes. PES has welcomed the return of the Perry Preschool with two full-time preschool instructors and an incredible support staff. The Perry Preschool is quickly building a program that is reflective of the high standard to which we hold ourselves. Having preschool students in our kindergarten hallway has been a natural fit, and we are so excited for the opportunities this will afford students and families in the near future.

Joy is, and always has been, a major focus at PES and this year is no different. This year has already seen the return of assemblies, field trips and other joyous events,

with many more to come. Also new this year has been the addition of both 1st and 4th grade students to the Perry Ingenuity Institute. A 1st – 4th grade design learning school within a school, the Perry Ingenuity Institute (PII) is focused on making school responsive, personalized, and winnable. PII students learn at a level of where they are at instead of where they are supposed to be. This design allows students to both accelerate or receive remediated intervention at their own pace. You may find a mix of ages within these classrooms depending on the personalized educational pathways of each student. A human-centered design approach, PII is built on a mountain of teacher research along with contributions from national universities.



PII students learn about the pawpaw plant during harvest day.

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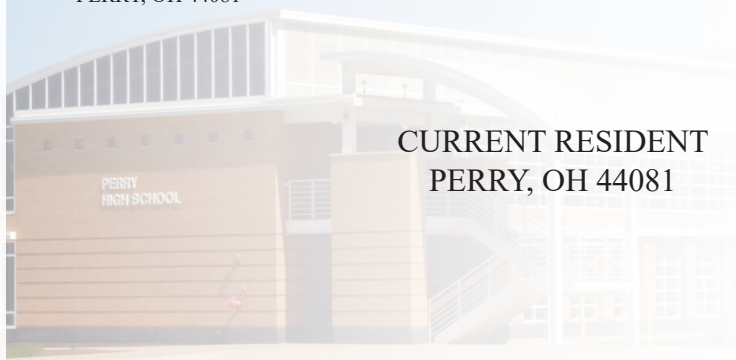
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Elementary School *continued from page 3*

Perry Elementary School also continues to offer grade level structured classrooms with a more traditional feel. These legacy classrooms are the cornerstone of consistent and steadfast education at Perry Elementary School. Self-contained classrooms of like aged peers contain a highly trained teacher who scaffolds and differentiates their instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners. Furthermore, Perry Elementary School has two Cooperative Teaching environments where two teachers share a double sized class of like aged peers in a much larger space. While relatively traditional in nature, the value of the cooperative classrooms is in the teacher's ability to target specific instructional needs to small groups of students while another teacher can direct the larger group.

This level of flexibility affords the teachers unique opportunities for specialized instruction.

Often, we are asked the question, "*What learning environment is right for my child?*" The honest answer is any of them. While each environment offers unique and powerful tools, all our learning environments are specifically designed to move students forward. Most importantly, no matter who your child's teacher is or what environment they're learning in, there is a guaranteed curriculum at PES centered around our district curriculum resources. Power Objectives and the Supporting Indicators that build up to them set the standard for what a grade level student should know and should be able to demonstrate.

PES uses building wide common assessments such as i-Ready, Panorama, DRA, DSA, etc. from which we collect high quality student data. That data is used to inform and drive instructional needs. Instruction at the K-4 grades include the nationally recognized and celebrated Benchmark Phonics, Heggerty Phonological & Phonemic Awareness, Eureka Math, and the Units of Study for Reading and Writing. Regardless of your child's learning environment, these district resources will be used with fidelity to ensure all Perry students learn and grow at a pace that is both comfortable and challenging. Should you ever have questions about our learning environments or the school, please reach out and let me know how I can support you and your young learner.



*The preschool
playground*



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A world apart
from the competition

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