



# The Latest Buzz

SPRING 13  
PERRYSBURG SCHOOLS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## Perrysburg Schools Today

If you were to spend time in a Perrysburg School classroom today, you would most likely find it quite different from your classroom experiences. Curriculum choices and the use of technology have changed how teachers instruct and how students learn.

The technology has evolved not only at the high school level, but also in the junior high and elementary schools. State standards continue to change, and that means Perrysburg Schools must adapt and restructure its curriculums.

Following are a few examples of how Perrysburg Schools operate today. Let's begin with a low-tech example...

### What Happened to the Chairs?

Walk into the second grade classes at Toth Elementary School, and you'll immediately notice something different. The second graders have traded their chairs for stability balls through a project funded by a grant from The Perrysburg Schools Foundation. Students were given the option of keeping a traditional chair or using a stability ball. If they chose the ball, they were given strict safety rules to follow.

"The students have quickly adapted, and they welcome the change," says Julie Gedert, one of the Toth second grade teachers. Her counterpart, Sarah Bedee, agrees. "I have two students who have really benefited from using the stability balls, and I look forward to others having similar positive results."



The unconventional stability balls help the children by:

- Strengthening their core, abdominal, leg and back muscles
- Improving posture
- Assisting with sensory processing disorders and Attention Deficit Disorder
- Improving the legibility of handwriting
- Releasing energy, improving focus and alertness
- Engaging the mind

What happens when the second graders move to the third grade? Those details are still being addressed!

### Blended Classroom

Next school year students in the 5th, 8th and 9th grades will be given laptop computers to use both in the classroom and after school for homework. At the end of the school year, they will return their laptops to their teachers.

"We like to think of it as a blended classroom approach, allowing students to use the laptop at home for school work as opposed to having to rely on a desktop computer in the classroom. It also allows for teachers and students to combine computer use with real world applications in the context of the classroom," says Thomas L. Hosler, Perrysburg Schools Superintendent.

Hosler and several other administrators visited six school districts in Ohio, Nebraska and Kentucky that have been distributing laptops to students, to gauge effectiveness and obtain feedback. "The teachers and administrators we spoke with were very positive about the whole process," says Hosler. "We came away feeling it was the right

thing to do for our students."

A Bowling Green State University professor will be evaluating the Perrysburg Schools laptop program. If the results are positive, as expected, the next step would be to distribute laptops to students in grades 5 through 12. A parent information meeting will be held before the end of this school year.

"There were some concerns about students having access to the Internet," says Hosler. "But the students using our laptops are routed through our school's Internet filters to control the sites they view." Hosler says it is becoming more economical to purchase web-based books than the traditional print versions, and the laptops facilitate that trend.

### The Online Presence

At Perrysburg Schools, online learning has been blended into a student's daily curriculum. "Today students can take Psychology, Sociology, Forensic Science, Sports Broadcasting and Astronomy classes online," says Kadee Anstadt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning for Perrysburg Schools. "It's meant to supplement the role of our classroom teachers and the course offerings we provide. Online courses open up a whole new avenue of learning and subject matter for students that they would not have experienced 10 years ago."

Perrysburg Schools contracts with an online schools provider to offer the online programs, and students log in to the site to access the curriculum. "It takes a disciplined student to complete an online course," says Anstadt. "But for those who have the motivation, it offers them the opportunity to tap into subjects of interest to them. In the past we would have lost these students to other online schools."

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## Perrysburg Schools Today

### Changing State Standards

Remember the mandatory OGT (Ohio Graduation Tests) that assessed your proficiencies in reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing prior to high school graduation? Those OGT tests will be replaced beginning in January 2014 with the Common Core State Standards test.

Forty-five states have adopted the Common Core State Standards as the means to "provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy."\*

In 2014, two national testing consortiums will begin testing students in grades 3-8 on their reading and math skills. High school students will be tested in English, Algebra, Geometry, Physical Science, American History and Government. All tests will be done online, so students must be proficient at using a computer in order to take the tests.



### A Different World

Teachers today must keep students interested and challenged, knowing those students are accustomed to using the latest in technology outside of the classroom. "Consider all of the technologies that we adults use at work and at home," says Superintendent Hosler. "Most of us couldn't function very well without our smart phones and tablets. Why not capitalize on that technology in the classroom when our students are already using it at home? The world is rapidly evolving, and we have to keep up if we want to challenge our kids in a relevant and meaningful way."

\*Common Core State Standards Initiative,  
[www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

## School Levy Pa



A Perrysburg School operating levy on the approved by voters, which replaced an exp 20% of the district's funding. Citizens for campaign committee, chaired by parent L this levy effort. Hundreds of volunteers s and evenings to knock on doors, place ya their neighbors about why they support t  
*Thank you voters and volunteers!*

## Around the District



*"Old Town Pump" by Ralph Kleeberger ('46 graduate of PHS)*

## Kleeberger Dedication Ceremony

This past fall, a dedication ceremony was held for benches that had been installed at the "Old Town Pump" sculpture near the Perrysburg Board of Education office in downtown Perrysburg. One of the benches was donated by "Friends of the Kleeberger Family," and the second one was donated by "All Thumbs Garden Club." The sculpture, dedicated on October 10, 2009 to "The Children of Perrysburg – Past, Present and Future," was created and donated by the late Ralph Kleeberger ('46 graduate of PHS). The sculptor was a lifelong resident of Perrysburg and a well-loved educator. It features a young boy and girl at the town pump. Mr. Kleeberger graduated from Perrysburg High School in 1946 and began sculpting when he retired in 1986 from Northwood Schools, where he spent over 30 years as a business teacher and guidance counselor.



The November ballot was approving levy representing Perryssburg Schools' levy Donna Lowery, supported pent time on weekends rd signs and converse with he schools.



*In the fall, the members of the House of Representatives of the 129th General Assembly of Ohio honored the PHS Girls Soccer Team on winning the 2012 Division I State Championship.*

## Athletics

### Girls Are State Soccer Champs

The PHS girls varsity soccer team went undefeated (23-0) this season and finished as Division I State Soccer Champions! It was only the third state championship for a Perryssburg High School varsity team. Congratulations Lady Jackets!

### Leyland's Step Up

PHS alumnus Jim Leyland ('62) and his family have continually supported the efforts of Perryssburg Schools and the entire Perryssburg community. The Leyland family provided a very generous donation to fund a portion of the new baseball field on the high school campus, which was named "The Jim Leyland Family Field." They were honored at an invitation-only dedication ceremony held at the high school in December. Burke Badenhop, a 2001 graduate of Perryssburg High School and currently a pitcher for the Milwaukee Brewers, has also provided valuable resources to this project. Since 2004, the Perryssburg Athletic Boosters have committed time, talent and valuable financial resources to prepare the property for the construction of this facility.



2012  
PERRYSSBURG  
VARSITY GIRLS  
SOCCER

STATE  
CHAMPS

23-0-0  
108 GF:5GA

### Coach Hall Honored

Dave Hall, Head Baseball Coach, Assistant Athletic Director and Social Studies Teacher at Perryssburg High School, was inducted in January to the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association (OHSBCA) Hall of Fame.



## O-I Visits Frank Elementary

JA in a Day! is a special Junior Achievement program that facilitates the partnership between a business and a school by providing a team of volunteers to cover the entire JA curriculum with all students in the school in a single day. A team of trained volunteers from O-I facilitated a program at Frank Elementary School in December to educate and inspire students about free enterprise, business and economics. JA in a Day! also provided an excellent team building exercise, bringing O-I employees together for a worthwhile community cause.



## Chinese Administrators Tour Jr. High

A group of nine administrators from Lanzhao Number 35 Middle School in China toured Perryssburg Junior High in January. Pictured with the group of administrators is Danielle Horner of the American Cultural Exchange Service, which sponsored the visit, and Bill Hilt, 7th grade social studies teacher at Perryssburg Junior High and Director of the Perryssburg Global Initiative.

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Alumni,

**"If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow."** -John Dewey

Cynthia Davidson, co-director of the annual MacArthur Foundation Digital Media and Learning Competition, estimates that 65% of today's elementary students will be working at a job that has not been created yet. As educators, we're learning to shift our focus to skills instead of specific careers, and to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit.

The way we think, organize and relate to each other has transformed - even just in the past few years. Our current students are digital natives, and technology is changing the way we learn. We can detect a difference in this area even between an elementary student and a high school student.

Our profession is changing dramatically. We ask ourselves regularly, "Will the form of learning we are instilling in students be useful to them?" We know we cannot continue to teach students like we did in 1910. Students today are definitely not like they were in 1910 either.

We must be focused on innovation. We live in an exciting time in education, and we must embrace all that is available to us to serve our students. In the face of criticism of the traditional public school model, competition from charter as well as private schools, how schools are funded and the move towards performance-based pay, we must continue to look into the future and not be afraid to run towards it. Adopting new technology and increasing collaboration are important methods to help us face these challenges. Crowd-sourcing, flexible learning times and online courses are just a few examples.

Perrysburg Schools was among the first in the area to begin a "bring your own electronic device" policy last year. Before that, we were also trailblazers in our social media policy for staff members. We are now moving in the direction of 1:1, a model where each student will eventually be assigned a tablet or laptop.

We are so proud of everything our alumni have achieved. We strive to ensure the next generation of Yellow Jackets is also able to achieve their greatest potential and continue to make you proud.

**Thomas L. Hosler**  
Superintendent, Perrysburg Schools

*Go Jackets!*

## THE ARTS PHS Theatre

This year, the PHS Theatre Department proudly presented a fall musical, the *Little Shop of Horrors*, and The Winter One Acts, which included three one-act plays: *13 Ways To Screw Up Your College Interview* by Ian McWethy, *Lockdown* by Douglas Craven and *God* by Woody Allen. This spring the Theatre Department will present the musical *Footloose*.



## Ohio Music Education Association

In January, 22 PHS orchestra students were accepted to participate in The OMEA District One Honors Orchestra. Students performed *Rackoczy March* by List, *Andante Festivo* by Sibelius, *Suite for Strings* by Rutter, and *Cook It Hot or Get Out of The Kitchen* by Patterson.



Three of the students went on to participate in The OMEA All-State Orchestra in February in Columbus. Pictured left to right are: Sarah Smith (senior) cello, Henry Yang (sophomore) violin and Rebekah Meyers (senior) viola. The three were selected from hundreds of students throughout the state for this honor.

They performed *Ruslan and Ludmila Overture* by Glinka, *Night On Bald Mountain* by Mussorgsky and *The Firebird Suite* by Stravinsky.

Three PHS students participated in The OMEA District I Honors Choir at the Stranahan Theater in January. From left to right: Angel Overholt, Allie Stuckey and Raegen Vickers.





## Academics HONORS

The Perrysburg School District was placed on the College Board's 3rd Annual AP® District Honor Roll. Perrysburg is one of 539 school districts across 44 of the 50 states in the U.S. and Canada to receive the award for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement® courses while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. The Ohio Department of Education also rated Perrysburg Schools "Excellent with Distinction."

## PJH MATHCOUNTS Places First

The Junior High MATHCOUNTS team finished first at the Toledo Area MATHCOUNTS competition at The University of Toledo. Teams from all over Northwest Ohio competed. Two members of the team finished first and second in the individual scores.

## Woodland Elementary Career Day

Thanks to parents and community members who visited Woodland Elementary on November 16 to share over 30 different careers with the students. including: police officers, detectives, doctors, nurses, technical directors, information technologist, TV Producer, paramedics, bioenvironmental engineers, directors of education and outreach, and the Mayor of Perrysburg.

## Kevin English Named BCSN Teacher of the Month



PHS Science Teacher Kevin English was named the Buckeye CableSystem BCSN January Teacher of the Month. He is eligible to receive the BCSN Teacher of the Year award, which will be announced in May. English teaches Biology, Advanced Placement Biology and serves as the co-chair of the PHS Science Department. He is the Student Council advisor and has also served as the Pride Club advisor as well as the track coach and girls' basketball coach. In his 18 years at PHS, English has raised thousands of dollars for charities. In 2009, he was named the Northwest Ohio Environmental Educator of the year for his work to create a native wetlands eco-system on the PHS campus.

## Students Complete Literacy Project

Students in Perrysburg Schools' 4th and 5th grade EXCELS classes completed a service learning project called *Read to Me: Conveying the Importance of Literacy Through Service Learning*. The students raised money to purchase picture books for new mothers. The books were donated to the Toledo Hospital maternity ward, where they were given to new mothers. Students also wrote personal narratives about reading with their parents when they were young children. Thanks to the Perrysburg Schools Foundation for providing a mini-grant for this project.





**Board Offices**  
140 East Indiana Avenue  
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

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# PHS Alumni Information



Follow Us ...  
On Facebook

[www.perrysburgschools.net](http://www.perrysburgschools.net)

## Seeking Oldest Living Alumni

We are seeking to find our oldest living alumnus, but we need your help to find that person. If you believe you, a friend, or a loved one may be the oldest living alumnus of Perrysburg High School, please provide the following information to Rachel Johnson, Coordinator of Institutional Advancement, whose contact information is listed below.

**Information needed:** Name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, year of graduation from PHS. Thank you!

## Reunions

Planning a PHS reunion? Please contact:  
Rachel Johnson, Coordinator of Institutional Advancement  
419-874-9131, Ext. 2156  
[rjohnson@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:rjohnson@perrysburgschools.net)

**PHS Class of 1948: 65-year Reunion**  
*Sept. 20-21, 2013*

**PHS Classes of 1977-78-79 Reunion**

**Aug. 9 (Fri.)** – Kick-off Party (Cash Bar)  
7-10 p.m. Arnie's at Levis,  
25818 Dixie Hwy., Perrysburg

**Aug. 10 (Sat.)** – Early Bird Golf Scramble  
7:30 a.m. shotgun start, 9-holes  
Heather Downs Country Club, 3910  
Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo



*The Class of '72 tours the schools.*



*The Class of '59 gathered to visit their old school.*

**RSVP for golf outing:** Chuck Hamrick,  
[chamrick.cdh@gmail.com](mailto:chamrick.cdh@gmail.com), or 419-392-7990

**Main Event – Hog Roast, Live Band,  
"Beverage Barn", and more**

Zulch Family Farm (Jamie Armbruster's  
House), 16372 Weston Rd., Weston

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour

6:30 p.m. – Dinner

7:00 p.m. – Entertainment

\$25/person before July 1

\$30/person July 2- Aug. 1

\$35 at the door

**Aug. 11 (Sun.)** – Farewell Brunch (*on your own*)

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Holiday Inn French Quarter, 10630

Fremont Pike, Perrysburg

Noon – 2:00 p.m., Private Tour of the

Spafford House, Perrysburg

**Make checks payable to PHS Class of 1978 &  
mail to:**

Becky Zuchowski Kuhr

PHS Class of 1978

230 W. Eighth St.

Perrysburg, OH 43551

Questions? [MacLehrer@hotmail.com](mailto:MacLehrer@hotmail.com), or  
419-357-4004

**PHS Class of 1983: 30-year Reunion**

**Pre-reunion gathering Aug. 2 at  
Arnie's in Perrysburg and Aug. 3  
at Holiday Inn Express**

■ More information coming soon!

■ [facebook.com/phsclassof83?fref=ts](https://facebook.com/phsclassof83?fref=ts)

**PHS Class of 1993: 20-year Reunion**

**Saturday, August 31, 2013**

**6-11 p.m.**

**Belmont Country Club**

**Tickets on sale now:**

[phsclassof93reunion.eventbrite.com](http://phsclassof93reunion.eventbrite.com)

**Questions?** [Phsclass93.reunion@gmail.com](mailto:Phsclass93.reunion@gmail.com)

[Facebook.com/groups/phsclass93.reunion](https://facebook.com/groups/phsclass93.reunion)

### Board of Education

Gretchen Downs, *President*

Valerie Hovland, *Vice President*

Barry VanHoozen

Dr. Walter Edinger

Mark Schoenlein ('77)

### Administration - 419-874-9131

Thomas L. Hosler, *Superintendent*, Ext. 2103

Matt Feasel, *Treasurer/CFO*, Ext. 2107

Ray Pohlman, *Athletic Director*, 419-874-3181, Ext. 5194

### Principals

High School – Dr. Michael Short

Junior High – Dale Wiltse

Fort Meigs Elementary – Scott Best

Frank Elementary – Brent Swartzmiller

Toth Elementary – Dr. Beth Christoff

Woodland Elementary – Bill McFarland

**For Address Updates,  
Click on Alumni at**

**[www.perrysburgschools.net](http://www.perrysburgschools.net)  
or Call 419-874-9131.**