



Preschool Earns Top Quality Rating

The State of Ohio has again awarded Perrysburg Preschool a 5-Star Rating for meeting the quality standards established by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education. Step Up To Quality is a Five-Star Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System created to recognize and promote early learning and development programs that meet quality standards over and above health and safety licensing requirements.

“Perrysburg Schools is honored to have the excellence of our preschool program recognized with the state’s top rating,” stated Kristin VanCuren Koester, Ed.S., Preschool Coordinator, Perrysburg Preschool. “Our dedicated staff understands how critical it is for children to develop their self-confidence, social and emotional skills and a love of learning through engaging, hands-on activities that challenge each child before they reach kindergarten to support them in reaching their greatest potential.”

The District Dashboard is an accountability tool designed to provide residents with a one-stop vehicle to review student performance and fiscal indicators.



PERRYSBURG SCHOOLS
SEMIANNUAL REPORT, FALL 2023

DISTRICT DASHBOARD

Perrysburg Schools Welcomes the *Science of Reading*

The landscape of elementary reading instruction has undergone a remarkable transformation over the years, as researchers have helped educators and policy makers better understand how children learn to read. In the past, traditional approaches often relied heavily on whole-language instruction, emphasizing memorization and sight words. However, the recognition of the *Science of Reading* has ushered in a new era, highlighting the importance of explicit instruction in foundational skills (phonics and phonemic awareness), vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. Perrysburg Schools has embarked on a journey to integrate evidence-based strategies that prioritize the development of strong readers.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine visited Hull Prairie Intermediate School in August to discuss the ReadOhio Initiative, an effort to encourage improved literacy skills at all levels, and to provide an update on the *Science of Reading* implementation in Ohio schools. The *Science of Reading* is a body of research from the fields of developmental psychology, educational psychology, cognitive science and cognitive neuroscience

that explains how individuals best learn to read.

“Since our journey began in 2020, our implementation of the *Science of Reading*, has grown from a four-person steering committee to a team of twelve teacher representatives, a literacy coach and six administrators,” explained Nikki Moscinski, Perrysburg Schools’ Literacy Lead. “Two cohorts of our educators have been introduced to a course (detailing the *Science of Reading*) and we have had three book studies. We are in the process of creating a three to five-year improvement plan for elementary English Language Arts.”

“While much of our initial focus has centered on professional development and phonics instruction, we know that our future will include looking deeper in areas such as knowledge building and vocabulary, writing and integrating text complexity,” shared Brent Swartzmiller, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning. “Our journey with the *Science of Reading* has brought about a deep learning quest that embraces the powerful practices already present in our English Language Arts instructional blocks and is bringing about the addition of powerful programming and practices that will help us continue to improve instruction for our students.”

Thanks to our Reading Team Members who were part of the Governor’s visit to our school district! (L to R) Chelsea Brighton, 2nd Grade Teacher at Ft. Meigs Elementary School; Julia Lark, Reading Specialist; Nikki Moscinski, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) Literacy Lead; Brent Swartzmiller, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning; Michael Evans, Kindergarten Teacher at Frank Elementary School; Sarah Campbell, 3rd Grade Teacher at Toth Elementary School; Rachael Sterling, 1st Grade Teacher at Woodland Elementary School and Joe Sarnes, Assistant Director of Teaching & Learning





DISTRICT DASHBOARD

PERRYSBURG SCHOOLS SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT FALL 2023

perrysburgschools.net



Mission

Ensuring **ALL** Students Achieve Their Greatest Potential

Vision

Where Passion Drives Exemplary Education

Core Values

- We value students as individuals.
- We inspire students to discover their passion.
- We challenge our students and ourselves.
- We provide a safe and inclusive environment.
- We manage resources efficiently.
- We enrich our community.
- We are trailblazers.

The Jacket Way

- Respectful
- Responsible
- Ready

Sign Up For Our Monthly eNewsletter



Board of Education Members

- Mr. Eric Benington - President
- Mr. Ray Pohlman - Vice President
- Mrs. Kelly Ewbank
- Ms. Sue Larimer
- Dr. Lori Reffert

- Superintendent: Thomas L. Hosler**
- Assistant Superintendent: Brook Price**
- Treasurer: Randy Drewyor**
- Assistant Treasurer: Kelli Wells**

Perrysburg Schools

140 East Indiana Avenue
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
419-874-9131

perrysburgschools.net



LOWER COST, HIGHER PERFORMANCE

Perrysburg Schools achieved a Performance Index (PI) score of 102.7 (94%) on the 2023 State Report Card, which is the 35th Best in the State of Ohio out of 607 districts – Top 6% in the State!

Perrysburg Schools' Expenditure Per Pupil in FY '22 was \$1,749.82 BELOW the State Average!

Perrysburg Schools has earned the **Best Communities for Music Education** designation from **The NAMM Foundation every year since 2007.**

According to Niche's 2024 Best Schools, **Perrysburg Schools ranks #17 out of 605 school districts for Best School Districts in Ohio**, which is based upon rigorous analysis of data and reviews.

Perrysburg High School, Perrysburg Junior High School, Hull Prairie Intermediate School and Ft. Meigs Elementary School have earned the Ohio Department of Education's Purple Star designation, which recognizes the schools' **commitment to supporting military-connected students and families.**

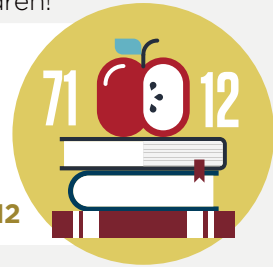


84% of respondents to our annual public opinion survey gave our school district an overall A or B. This is remarkable because 68% of our community members do not have school-aged children!

Perrysburg High School has again been named among the Best High Schools by U.S. News. PHS is ranked #51 in Ohio and #1,442 in the national rankings.

71% of our teachers have at least a Master's Degree.

Average Years of Teaching Experience = **12**



BCSN honored Perrysburg High School with 2023 Student Section of the Year.

PHS named #2,667 in Newsweek's Top 5,000 STEM High Schools.

Combined, PHS's graduating classes were offered over **\$81.3 million in scholarship awards over the last five years, averaging \$16.26 million in scholarship awards per year!**

Over \$7.66 million has been donated to our school district since the establishment of our Development Department in Fall 2013.

Scott Buker Earns Shining Star Award

Congratulations to Scott Buker, who has been named Perrysburg Schools' Spring 2023 Shining Star Award Recipient. He is Principal at Perrysburg Junior High School. The award is presented twice annually to an employee who is nominated by their colleagues as a Shining Star of our school district. A panel representing a cross-section of the school district's employees chooses the award recipient from a pool of nominees.



(L to R) Dr. Lori Reffert, Board of Education Member; Anne Matolyak, PJHS Intervention Specialist; Scott Buker, PJHS Principal; and Jackie Derr, PJHS STEM Teacher

SPRING ATHLETICS RECAP

- **Girls Track** won the NLL Championship, 4x800 Team 7th Place at State Championships (Ava Beeks, Hannah Kersten, Natalie Sanders, Laura Valette) All-Ohio
- **Boys Lacrosse** won the NLL Championship, had 10 All-NLL players and Ethan Johnson was Player of the Year
- **Baseball** had 5 All-NLL players and finished 3rd in the League
- **Boys Tennis** had 2 All-NLL players and finished 5th in the League
- **Girls Lacrosse** won the NLL Championship, had 10 All-NLL players, Megan Gibbs was Player of the Year, Megan Gibbs and Abby Robertson were All-Region
- **Softball** had 7 All-NLL players and finished 3rd in the League
- **Co-Ed Track and Field** had 11 All-NLL Finishes
- **Boys Track** finished 2nd in the NLL
- **Rowing** team earned:
 - Nine 1st place medals
 - Eight 2nd place medals
 - First-ever team points trophy at the Wy-Hi regatta
 - Advanced 5 boats to finals at the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championship



A few updates were inadvertently left out of our spring newsletter. We apologize for the error.



Girls Golf - Girls Golf won the NLL for the third year in a row during the 2022-23 school year and placed 3rd in the district. Sydney Deal qualified to state for the third year in a row, finishing 12th. This picture was taken when Sydney broke the school record with a round of 62 at Thunderbird Hills.

Hockey

- Cody Schneider was Red Division Player of the Year and 1st Team All-Conference
- Mackeane Hanley was 2nd Team
- Jackson Baltzell, Sam Bortz, Caden Seiple, Alex Wilhelm and Sam Yonker were all

named Honorable-Mention

- Sam Yonker set a career record for shutouts
- Cody Schneider set a number of milestones and records

Winning the Gold

Congratulations PHS Junior Mazie Zepeda and Ellie Garst '23 on winning Gold in the Nations Cup Duet category at the 2023 World Twirling Championships held in Liverpool, England! Mazie is the feature twirler for the Marching Yellow Jackets and Ellie has begun her freshman year as the feature twirler with the University of Illinois Marching Illini!



Congratulations to PHS Junior Marcus Blaze for becoming a 2023 U17 World Champion! Marcus recently competed at the U17

World Wrestling Championships in Istanbul, Turkey. During the championships, Marcus went 4-0 and earned a gold medal with a 4-3 win over India. Marcus enters his junior year of high school as a two-time state champion with a record of 107-1. He is currently ranked #1 in the country at 126 pounds!



Marcus Blaze at last year's State Championship

For PHS Athletics schedules, please visit:



High School Athletic Department Ticket Information:

Hometown Fan App



Box Office for Tickets



Thank you, Community, for coming together to celebrate these students and their accomplishments!

Levy History

1990 to present

23 Levies presented to voters with 16 passed and 7 failed

Recent

▶ 2019 Passed operational levy

▶ 2020 Passed permanent improvement (PI) levy

Future

▶ 2023 - Bond issue proposal to address facility needs

▶ 2024 - Operational levy expires (Board will determine replacement, renewal or expiration)

▶ 2025 - Permanent improvement levy expires (Board will determine replacement, renewal or expiration)

Debt Retirement

▶ 2024 - 1.62 effective mills retiring - monthly savings on a \$250,000 home will be \$11.81/month

▶ 2042 - 1.60 voted mills retiring



GROWTH & FACILITY PLANNING UPDATE

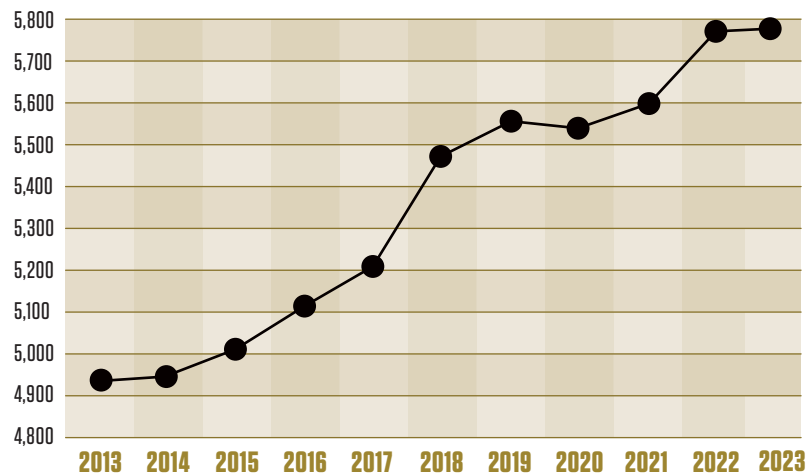
Bond Issue on November 7 Ballot

A community facility planning committee, composed of over 50 community members, presented a unified recommended facility plan to the Board of Education to address student population growth and facility needs in the school district. The Board of Education voted unanimously to place a 5.95 mill bond issue on the November 7, 2023, ballot for the following:

New 800 student elementary	25%	\$35,169,617
High School classroom, cafeteria additions & site work	23%	\$32,502,775
Ft. Meigs, Toth & Woodland - essential infrastructure improvements	19%	\$26,544,544
Ft. Meigs, Toth & Woodland - additions	18%	\$25,163,914
Jr. High - essential infrastructure improvements	11%	\$15,487,586
Steinecker Stadium - safety & restroom updates	2%	\$2,457,946
Transportation - garage addition	1%	\$1,461,500
High School - Boilers/Chillers	1%	\$1,207,973
Total Scope Estimate		\$139,995,855

Since 2013, our school district has grown by 17% or 862 students. To put this in perspective, HPI currently serves 852 students.

Perrysburg Schools September Enrollment



School Year	Student Headcount
2013	4,934
2014	4,947
2015	5,029
2016	5,129
2017	5,213
2018	5,470
2019	5,564
2020	5,539
2021	5,600
2022	5,773
2023	5,796

About those Trailers

The community facilities committee was unanimous in eliminating the use of trailers by 2040. The committee indicated that "safety was a concern" for the students and employees who are using trailers. The school district will need to purchase 40 additional trailers between now and 2040 if facilities are not expanded. In 2040, the facilities committee estimated that 2,700 students will spend a portion of their day in a trailer if facilities are not expanded.

A Savings for Taxpayers

The original ballot language from the November 4, 2014, Hull Prairie Intermediate School bond issue calculated the monthly cost of property taxes for a home valued at \$250,000 with a millage rate of 2.94 mills and would be approximately an increase of \$21.46 per month. In 2022, the monthly cost of property taxes for a home valued at \$250,000 for the 2014 HPI bond issue was a millage rate of 1.5 mills and would be approximately \$10.94 a month. **In nine years, the amount of monthly taxes paid on the 2014 bond issue for a \$250,000 home decreased from 2.94 mills or \$21.46 to 1.5 mills or \$10.94 per month.**



Visit our bond issue information page online, which may be accessed at the following link:

www.perrysburg-schools.net/Facilities2023.aspx

2023-24 Performing Arts Events

Theatre

Fall Play: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, November 3, 4, 5, 2023, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., Nov. 3 & 4 at 7 PM, Nov. 5 at 2 PM, Box office for Senior Citizen Activity Passes: Monday, October 30

Student-Directed Winter One Acts, January 19, 29, 21 & 26, 27, 28, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., Jan. 19, 20, 26 & 27 at 7 PM, Jan. 21 & 28 at 2 PM, No passes for this event

Spring Musical: *Little Shop of Horrors*, April 25, 26, 27 & 28, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., Apr. 25, 26 & 27 at 7 PM, Apr. 28 at 2 PM, Box office for Senior Citizen Activity Passes: Monday, April 22

PJHS Musical: *High School Musical Jr.*, November 16, 18 & 19, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, TBA

Band

PHS Band, PHS Marching Yellow Jackets Concert, October 18, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7:30 PM

PHS Band, Fall Band Concert, November 9, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PHS Band, Winter Band Concert, March 6, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PHS Band, Spring Band Concert, May 8, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PJHS Bands, 8th Grade Night, October 6, PHS Varsity Football Game, 7 PM

PJHS Bands, PJHS Bands Holiday Concert, December 18, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

PJHS Bands, PJHS Pep Band, January 9, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 4:30 PM, JH Boys vs. Donnell

PJHS Bands, PJHS Pep Band, January 16, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 4 PM, JH Girls vs. Washington

PJHS Bands, PJHS Pep Band, January 18, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 4:15 PM, JH Girls vs. Napoleon

PJHS Bands, PJHS Pep Band, January 22, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 4 PM, JH Boys vs. Anthony Wayne

PJHS Bands, PJHS Pep Band, January 25, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 4:30 PM, JH Boys vs. Fremont

PJHS Bands, PJHS Pep Band, January 29, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 4 PM, JH Girls vs. Bowling Green

PJHS Bands, PJHS Pep Band, January 30, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 4 PM, JH Boys vs. Fassett

PJHS Bands, Recital Day, March 14, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

PJHS Bands, Spring Concert, April 25, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7:15 PM

HPI & PJHS Bands, Glow Run Band on the Run 5K Fundraiser, May 4, Levis Commons, 9 PM

PHS & PJHS Bands, Perrysburg Memorial Day Parade, May 27, Details TBA

HPI Band, Concert, December 14, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 5th Grade at 6 PM, 6th Grade at 7:15 PM

HPI Band, Concert, May 14, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 5th Grade at 6 PM, 6th Grade at 7:15 PM

Choir

PHS Choir & Orchestra, Concert with Choir and Select Strings, October 11, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PHS Choir, Dueling Pianos Fundraiser, November 11, Holland Gardens, 6 PM

PHS Choir, Show Choir Holiday Cabaret, December 12, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PHS and PJHS Choir, OMEA Contest Preview Concert featuring PJHS Choirs, March 12, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PHS Choir, Spring Concert & Awards Ceremony, May 6, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PJHS Choir, Fall Concert, October 16, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

PJHS Choir, Winter Concert, December 11, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

PJHS Choir, Evening of Love, February 13, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 6:30 PM

PJHS Choir, Solo & Ensemble Festival, March 19, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 3-6 PM

PJHS Choir, Showcase Concert, May 16, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

HPI Choir, Concert, November 29, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 5th at 6 PM & 6th at 7:15 PM

HPI Choir, Concert, May 15, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 5th at 6 PM & 6th at 7:15 PM

Orchestra

PHS Orchestra, Fall Concert, October 12, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM, Chamber Strings, Classic Strings, Concert Orchestra, Symphony Strings

PHS Orchestra, Winter Symphony Orchestra Concert, November 14, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PHS Orchestra, Select Strings Chamber Ensemble, November 18, Way Public Library, 7 PM

PHS Orchestra, Winter Concert, November 30, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM, Symphony Strings, Select Strings, JH String Ensemble

PHS Orchestra, OMEA Preview Orchestra Concert I, February 6, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM, Symphony Strings, Select Strings, Symphony Orchestra

PHS Orchestra, OMEA Preview Orchestra Concert II, February 7, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM, Chamber Strings, Classic Strings, Concert Orchestra

PHS Orchestra, OMEA State Orchestra Competition, March 1 & 2, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., TBA

PHS Orchestra, Spring Concert, May 9, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM, Symphony Orchestra

PHS Orchestra, Select Strings Chamber Series Concert, May 10, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PHS Orchestra, Strings on Fire Concert, May 14, PHS, 13385 Roachton Rd., 7 PM

PJHS Orchestra, Fall Orchestra Concert, November 2, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

PJHS Orchestra, String Ensemble Side-by-Side Concert, November 30, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

HPI Orchestra, Winter Orchestra Concert, December 7, HPI, 25480 Hull Prairie Rd., 5th Grade - 6 PM, 6th Grade 7:30 PM

PJHS Orchestra, Winter Orchestra Concert, February 21, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

HPI Orchestra, Spring Orchestra Concert, May 13, HPI, 25480 Hull Prairie Rd., 5th Grade - 6 PM, 6th Grade - 7:30 PM

PJHS Orchestra, Spring Orchestra Concert, May 20, PJHS, 550 E. South Boundary, 7 PM

Biennial Crystal Concert at Perrysburg High School

The Perrysburg High School Music Department will present its biennial Crystal Concert at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 6 at 8 p.m. This 70-minute holiday concert features each performing group in the band, choir and orchestra areas—over 600 students total, along with several student chamber ensembles. The concert concludes with all students performing together in a grand finale.

The Crystal Concert will take place at Perrysburg High School (13385 Roachton Road). Ticket sales will begin closer to the event, so please watch for more information on our social media and in the *Perrysburg Messenger Journal*. Tickets will also be sold at the door 30 minutes prior to each concert. Adult tickets are \$10 and Student/Senior Citizen tickets are \$7.



Perrysburg Schools

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Hecox Family Establishes Education Fund



Dorothy Mutcher Hecox

The Perrysburg Schools Foundation has announced that the Hecox Family Fund for Education has been created to provide immediate and meaningful aid to Perrysburg Schools graduates who are facing significant hardships that impact their financial ability to continue their schooling.

“I just feel good inside,” Bob Hecox shared about the experience of starting this fund. “It’s going to the right place for the right reasons. For the average person, it could be a life-changing experience. I was lucky in life. I learned a lot at Perrysburg, it was a

great place to be raised. Education is important. When you get older, you realize that.”

The Hecox Family is grateful for their experiences with Perrysburg Schools, dating back to the 1950s when Dorothy Mutcher Hecox began teaching at Elm St./Toth Elementary School from 1951-1978. Her son, Robert “Bob” Hecox graduated in 1962 and her daughter, Susan Hecox Bay, graduated in 1965.

Because of this connection to the schools and generous desire to provide a life-changing college experience for PHS graduates at The University of Toledo, where Dorothy and Bob both earned degrees, funds have been made available for the Perrysburg Schools Foundation to award Hecox Family Scholarships that may include tuition, room and board, books, supplies, travel or other support to help provide for a full experience for students. The gift of more than \$500,000 will generate, through investment income, roughly the amount needed for a full year of tuition, room and board in perpetuity. The fund will be managed by the Perrysburg Schools Foundation and will be awarded to students who have been identified by Perrysburg Schools staff members and the scholarship committee.

Those who are interested in supporting Perrysburg Schools Foundation, please visit www.perrysburgschoolsfoundation.org, or contact Jeff Abke, Director of Development for Perrysburg Schools/Perrysburg Schools Foundation at 419-874-9131 ext. 2274 or jabke@perrysburgschools.net.

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2024-25

If you have a child who will be 5 by August 1, 2024, please watch for enrollment information in late January to register for kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year!

Now Hiring - Custodial, Transportation & Food Service

Perrysburg Schools takes pride in hiring the very best candidates to work with and for our students. Applicants are asked to register in the school district’s application system to be considered for any position. Please follow the QR Code to view our open positions. Please note that you must also apply to a specific job for us to view your application. Once you have registered in the system and applied for a position, we will contact you if you are chosen for an interview.



www.perrysburgschools.jobs

NO KIDS IN SCHOOL? You Can Still Support Our Yellow Jackets!

One of Perrysburg High School’s initiatives is to aid students in their career exploration and development. Each spring we host a Career Day where 9th and 10th graders explore career paths through breakout sessions facilitated by local professionals from various industries. Students in grade 11 participate in job shadowing experiences for a portion of the day. We also have Mock Interview days at the end of each semester and classroom speakers throughout the year. Want to get involved? Please contact:

Christine Albright, M. Ed; CCSP
*Coordinator for Careers & Community
Service Liaison*
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