



## Full STEAM Ahead

In the world of education, there is a national push to emphasize STEM academic programs - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. In Perrysburg Schools, the focus isn't just on STEM, but on STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, **Arts** and Math. Why is it important to offer students access to visual and performing arts programs? And why has Perrysburg Schools been known for excellence in the visual and performing arts?

Kadee Anstadt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning for Perrysburg Schools, says educational research has continually proven students who participate in the arts and tap into their creative side ultimately perform better at math and science. "That's a message that parents have received, and it's one of the reasons we have so much parental support for our art programs," says Anstadt. "The arts are generally among the first cuts when faced with cost pressures, but we have been able to continue to offer visual and performing arts programs thanks to voter



*PHS students at the Toledo Museum of Art*

support. Many of these voters do not have students in our school system, but they understand that this is the backbone of a destination district."

Perrysburg students take art classes through the 6th grade, and in 7th and 8th grade they can choose art classes as electives. Recently, more than 150 Perrysburg 6th through 8th grade students participated in the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*. At the high school level, more than 500 students perform as musicians in band, orchestra or choir. Nearly 300 high school students participated in the fall musical and the

"Our art programs are very diverse, and they include programs such as Art History, a Film Critique class, Photography, Painting, as well as Ceramics and Sculpturing."

*- Kadee Anstadt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning*

*PJH cast for the musical Bye Bye Birdie*



Winter One Acts, and that number includes those who will participate in the spring musical. "Our art programs are very diverse, and they include programs such as Art History, a Film Critique class, Photography, Painting, as well as Ceramics and Sculpturing," says Anstadt.

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## Full STEAM Ahead



## The Experimental Classroom

If you walk into the Junior High School Library you will notice a space that has been designated a model classroom with a variety of classroom furniture styles. For example, home-like benches sit at the back of the room. High-top tables and chairs reside in another section, along with a non-traditional workstation that replaces the typical teacher's desk. Traditional student desks have been replaced by chairs with arm rests that can be raised or lowered to serve as a student workstation or to hold a tablet or laptop. Each student desk has wheels that permit maximum room arrangement and flexibility. This experimental classroom serves as a testing ground for the furniture that will be purchased for the new 5th/6th grade school.

"Teachers and students in the experimental classroom are providing us with valuable feedback on the furniture they are using," says Scott Best, current Principal at Ft. Meigs Elementary School and the Principal of the future intermediate school. "We're holding classes in the four major content areas of Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts," says Best. "The goal is to

make sure the furniture works in all four disciplines."

Best says the current furniture used in the Junior High School was purchased in 1967, and the furniture at Ft. Meigs Elementary School was purchased in 1992. "As you can see, we use classroom furniture for many years. We want to make sure that what we purchase for the new building will be a good fit for the students, while at the same time we want to protect the taxpayers' money and make sure it will last a long time."

So far students have given a thumbs up to the different work surface heights as well as the flexibility to move desks around. They've also provided input on things they don't like. "The students don't like the size of the desk arm on their chairs," says Best. "They want one that is larger. We also discovered that the gray color of the furniture shows marks and is more difficult to clean. These are things we would only find out by using the furniture, so the experimental classroom has been a great testing lab for us. It is helping us to make sure we get it right with the furniture purchase for the new school."



The emphasis on the arts is evident with the design of the new intermediate school. The school will have two large art rooms that include a state-of-the-art kiln, small stage in the cafeteria for performances during lunch and a prominent place for students to display their artwork.

This past November, Perrysburg voters approved a 1.9-mill, five-year permanent improvement levy renewal. A portion of the funds collected will be used to make renovations to the house side of the Junior High School auditorium, such as replacing the flooring and seats. In the high school a new sound board and lighting will be installed. In addition to public funding for the arts, Perrysburg Schools also welcomes private funding from alumni and businesses. "We have many alumni who have a strong interest in the arts since their days at Perrysburg Schools," says Anstadt. "We welcome their support of our visual and performing arts programs." For more information on how to support the arts in Perrysburg, contact Jeff Abke '96, Development Director, at 419-874-9131, Ext. 2274 or [jabke@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:jabke@perrysburgschools.net).

## PHS Honors Band



# A Twist on Senior English

Teachers are taking a new and exciting approach to teaching senior English classes at PHS. Something so different their students feel empowered. What's the twist? English 411 no longer focuses solely on British Literature, and now focuses on student choice. Not only do students select the books they want to read, but also the genres in which to write.

"It's no surprise to educators that research has proven reading falls off in high school," says Kadee Anstadt, Perrysburg Schools Executive Director of Teaching & Learning. "Reading is not always of high interest to high school students, especially seniors, who participate in many other activities. Many of them just become bored with what is offered. This lack of reading becomes a real issue if they attend college where they suddenly have much to read."

The idea for the new approach to teaching English 411 was spawned in the summer of 2014 when Deb Drew, PHS English Teacher and Department Chair, and Caitlin Evans, PHS English Teacher, attended a workshop in Maine with well-known literary experts Robert Probst and Kylee Beers. The workshop's mission was to show how students in the English classroom could be empowered through the choice of books that they read. Drew and Evans returned from the workshop energized and were given approval to proceed. They spent many hours researching, reading and learning all they could to make the course the best it could be.

There are several differences between the traditional senior English course and the reading/writing workshop approach. Evans, who has taught 411 as a workshop this year, says that unlike the traditional course where all students read the same literature every day, English 411 now allows students to choose the literature they want to read. This year, some of the most read books have been *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Paper Towns*, written by young adult literature author John Green. Other popular books are non-fiction works by Malcolm Gladwell, including *Outliers* and *The Tipping Point*. War stories including *Unbroken* and *Lone Survivor* have also caught the attention of students.

"This has been the most rewarding teaching experience I have had," says Evans, "and that is simply due to the motivation and interest that I see in the students. Students come into my room



Caitlin Evans' Senior English Class

talking about what they read the night before, and they're not only talking with me but with one another. They are recommending books to their peers, they're finding literature that interests them, they're developing a reading habit that they will take with them to college and into their lives beyond the walls of this school."

"My classroom instruction is also different from the traditional whole-class instruction model," says Evans. "My students set goals to read 10-15 works of literature throughout the academic year. The goals are based on their reading skills and my course expectations." Evans guides students to choose literature that will meet their goals. Classroom instruction takes the form of mini-lessons on the craft of writing conferencing with students individually and in small groups and creating a classroom community that is built upon the power of reading and writing. Students connect the techniques and skills learned in the classroom to the books they have chosen, and they use these skills in their own writing. "In this type of course, teaching and learning is truly student-centered," says Evans. "But one thing that does not differ from the traditional senior English course are the standards. Students in English 411 will graduate with the same skills they would have if they took a more traditional college prep course."

The English 411 workshop has been empowering for students this year. But in order to sustain long-term success, Evans, Drew and colleague Joy Wagener each need a classroom library of more than 500 books. If you are an alumnus who loves reading, you can contribute toward building the libraries. You could sponsor a shelf of books or a specific section based on genre that piques your interest. To contribute, contact Jeff Abke '96, Director of Development, Perrysburg Schools at 419-874-9131, ext. 2274 or email at [jabke@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:jabke@perrysburgschools.net).

## Jacket Hub 2.0!

The Jacket Hub app makes it easier for you to stay connected with fellow alumni! Just search "Perrysburg Jacket Hub" in your App Store, iTunes® or Google® Play and download for your iPhone® or Android® device. Whether you're looking for a new job, a long-lost friend or just trying to catch up on community news, this is your go-to app!



Here's what you can do with the app...

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*Perrysburg 2015 Girls' Soccer Team*

# Sports Update



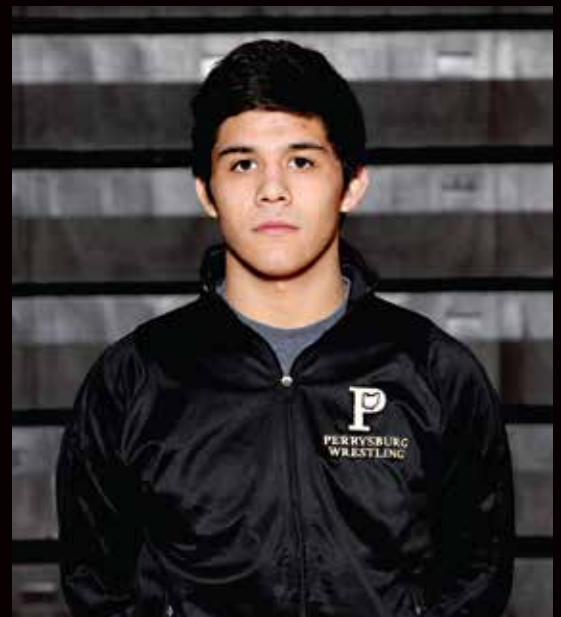
*Perrysburg 2015 Girls' Cross Country*



*Perrysburg 2015 Football*

- Football – Overall record 13-1, 7-0 in the NLL; NLL Champions with a 10-0 regular season record. Reached State Final 4. Defeated North Ridgeville in Regional Round 1; defeated Avon in Regional Semi-Finals; defeated Cleveland Glenville to become Regional Champions. Chaz Westfall voted 1st Team All State & Division 2 Player of the Year.
- Girls' Soccer – 18-1-1 overall record. Won Regional Semi-Finals; served as District Champions; 1st in the NLL. Josie Fowler voted 1st Team All State; Bri Boyd 2nd Team All State. Margaret Bernard & Jorge Diaz voted All District Coaches of the Year.
- Boys' Soccer – Team made it to the District Semi-Finals; served as Sectional Champions; finished 2nd in the NLL with an overall 9-6-2 record.
- Girls' Cross Country – Team finished 12th in the state; Regional, District & NLL Champions.
- Boys' Cross Country – Team finished 6th in the NLL; 4th in the District; 14th in the Region.
- Girls' Tennis – Team finished 15-5 with a 7-0 NLL record and 1st place NLL finish. Won all 5 positions in NLL Tournament the last two years. Erica Fastnacht & Gemma Smith voted All State Honorable Mention.
- Volleyball – Finished as District Runner-Up; defeated Springfield in District Semi-Finals and Fremont Ross in Sectionals. Finished 3rd in the NLL with a 14-11 overall record; 9-5 NLL record.
- Girls' Golf – Team finished 2nd in the NLL; overall record 7-4; NLL record 4-4.
- Boys' Golf – Team finished 3rd in the NLL; overall record 8-3; NLL record 5-2.

## Mario Guillen Wins 126 lb. State Wrestling Championship





# New School Breaks the Mold

In August 2017, Perrysburg Schools plans to open a new intermediate school to relieve overcrowding at the elementary and junior high schools. If you think this new facility will be similar to your old elementary school, be prepared for a design that breaks the mold.

The new school will have the potential to serve 1,000 students in grades 5 and 6. It will be the first two-story elementary school in Perrysburg, roughly the size of the new Costco in Perrysburg. Groundbreaking is set for this spring on 18 acres at the corner of Hull Prairie and Roachton Roads.

“What makes this facility different is the unique, but careful planning that went into the overall goals of the design,” says Scott Best, current Principal of Perrysburg’s Ft. Meigs Elementary School and the Principal of the future intermediate school. “The 5/6 Instructional Committee was comprised of community members as well as Perrysburg School staff, administrators and School Board Members. The overall philosophic approach was to create a school that would support collaboration among students and teachers, offer flexibility in classroom setup and provide the community with a sustainable facility featuring a timeless design.”

The 5/6 Instructional Committee set forth nine Guiding Principles for the design of the new building:

1. Focus on the arts by creating facilities that support instruction and performance. This includes creating classrooms that allow students to explore, areas where they will perform and places where students will display their creative accomplishments.
2. Create “Learning Streets” to encourage impromptu learning. “The academic wing will be shaped like a ‘W,’” says Best. “This will make the



school seem smaller so students feel like they are with 200 students instead of over 800.” “Learning Streets” that turn nooks and crannies into potential learning areas will replace the long hallways of the past. All classrooms will have ample natural light.

3. Focus on a timeless design that reinforces sustainability. “We want to be good stewards of the environment by implementing a green design, which will serve our students as a living laboratory,” says Best. Alternative energy sources are being considered to reduce operational expenses and create opportunities for partnerships with local businesses.

4. Reinforce a sense of community for students and staff by creating areas for socialization, interaction and group activities. This includes the dining area, gymnasium and playground. Common spaces will have plenty of daylight, color and interest.

5. Develop a professional space for faculty and staff that encourages collaboration. “The staff lounge will be much more open than traditional lounges, with lots of glass, so students can witness how teachers work together,” says Best.

6. Design the building so it promotes positive outreach to the community. The academic area will be locked after hours so Perrysburg athletic teams and extracurricular groups as well as community groups can use the gym and other common areas.

7, 8 & 9. Organize the school into smaller

learning communities with flexible learning spaces and moveable furniture. Academic areas will be flexible in layout so they can be re-arranged to facilitate team teaching and project-based learning.

“One interesting design feature is that students will be able to write on the majority of the walls,” says Best, “meaning that three-quarters of the building serves as a learning lab.” Flexible scheduling will be used with a good deal of collaboration among teachers. However, students will have the same four core teachers for two consecutive years in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. The goal is to provide a level of stability given that the students will move from their first elementary school to the new intermediate school and then to the Junior High School.

Earlier in his career, Best served as Principal of a 5/6 school in Delaware, Ohio. “I learned a good deal from that experience, both from the standpoint of what works and what does not work,” says Best. “That experience will be invaluable to me and our staff in our new school.”

It’s an exciting time for Perrysburg Schools, a destination school district that continues to grow. “We’re taking what Perrysburg residents value in their schools, and we’re creating a facility in which the community will have a great deal of pride,” says Best.

For more information about the intermediate school, visit [perrysburgschools.net](http://perrysburgschools.net).





*Perrysburg  
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# Alumni News

## 2016 Perrysburg High School Reunions

Here is the list of reunions that are coming up this year:

**Class of 2006 - 10th Reunion - JULY 16, 2016!**

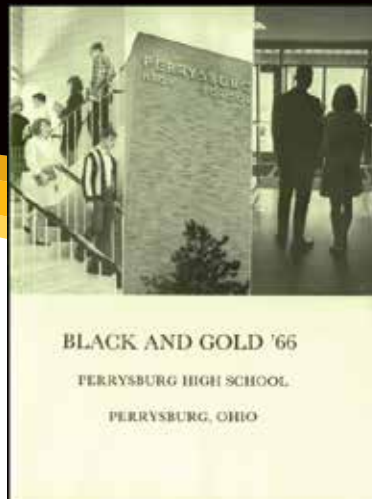
**Class of 1996 - 20th Reunion - JULY 23, 2016!**

**Class of 1981 - 35th Reunion - JULY 9, 2016!**

**Class of 1976 - 40th Reunion - JULY 30, 2016!**

**Class of 1966 - 50th Reunion - TBA**

Update your contact information to receive details as they become available by clicking on Alumni @ [www.perrysburgschools.net](http://www.perrysburgschools.net). You may also provide information about other planned reunions by contacting: Jeff Abke '96, Director of Development, [jabke@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:jabke@perrysburgschools.net) or 419-874-9131, ext. 2274.



## Need Reunion Help?

Are you looking for details on how to register for an already scheduled PHS reunion? Perhaps you need help planning one? We can assist you with press releases, door prizes, tours, providing classmate contact information and more!

Please contact:

**Jeff Abke '96, Director of Development**  
419-874-9131, ext. 2274  
[jabke@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:jabke@perrysburgschools.net)

Or visit:

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