

IN MEMORIAM

Perkins Police Chief Vince Donald passed away on the night of Friday, September 23 – the same night as Perkins Local Schools celebrated its Homecoming Parade and Football game. Chief Donald, 48, had been chief of the Perkins Police Department since 2020 and had been a full-time officer with the department since 1996.

He was no stranger to students at Perkins Local Schools. He was a familiar face at many school gatherings, including athletic events and, most recently, the Pirate Way district wide assembly on Friday, September 2.

"Chief Donald was a friend to all students, teachers, and staff at Perkins Schools," said Superintendent Todd Boggs. "His support to our school family was immediate and unwavering. He was always willing to help me regardless of the situation, and he was always here to help the school community and support the greater Perkins community."

Mr. Boggs expressed gratitude and appreciation for all that Chief Donald did.

"He was a friend," Mr. Boggs continued. "We will miss him dearly, but his spirit lives on."

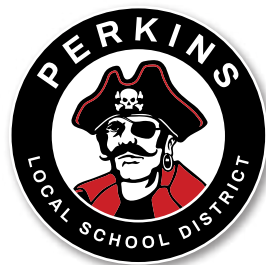
Chief Donald is survived by his longtime girlfriend Amanda Adler and his daughter Jaiden Borzon.

*Thank You
For Your Service*



VINCENT G. DONALD

1974 - 2022



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A NEWSLETTER FROM *your* PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOLS

PRIDE



FALL 2022



*Trust. Own.
Connect.*

PERKINS STUDENTS
LEARN THE PIRATE WAY

*in this
issue*

Pirates Celebrate Sweet Homecoming 2022
Community Ponders School Buildings' Future
Strength Coach Prepares Pirates To Win





PERKINS CULTURE DEFINED

STUDENTS EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE THE PIRATE WAY



All Perkins Local Schools students – grades Kindergarten to 12 – are getting schooled this year in “The Pirate Way,” the district’s culture initiative. One of the first lessons came as part of an historic, district-wide assembly on the morning of Friday, September 2.

That day, all students came together at Firelands Health Stadium at Perkins High School for a kick-off event.

Under sunny skies, the marching band warmed up the crowd with the Perkins fight song, the cheer squad got the students in the spirit, and emcee Travis Crabtree welcomed the nearly 1,800 students.

At the center of the field stood Kyle Hallock, a 2007 PHS grad and current head baseball coach at Bowling Green State University, to deliver the keynote address.

“Wow, take a look around you,” Coach Hallock told the students sitting on the football field’s turf. “This is history. It’s the first time everyone at Perkins School District has been together at one time.”

Coach Hallock has deep connections to Perkins Schools. He attended all four buildings before graduating and heading to Kent State University on a baseball scholarship. His mother, Jennifer Hallock, taught 4th grade at Meadowlawn for 30 years before retiring at the end of last school year.

Coach Hallock’s baseball career took him from Kent State, where he won the Mid-American Conference Player of the Year Award, to playing minor league baseball in the Houston Astros organization. He became a college baseball coach in 2014, and became the head coach for BGSU in 2020.

Surrounded by the Perkins students, Coach Hallock introduced “The Pirate Way.” He talked about his time at Perkins Schools – not only the good times, but also his times of adversity.

“Make the right decisions,” he told the students. “Adversity is temporary.”

Coach Hallock challenged the Pirates on the field, saying “The Pirate Way is not a sometime thing – it’s an all-the-time thing. It’s an everyday thing. It’s a lifestyle that will serve you on the field, off the field, in the community, and in the classroom.”

“The Pirate Way” is based on Focus 3, a mindset employed by college and professional athletes, corporations, and other organizations. The program encourages Perkins students and staff to maintain positive attitudes and respond to adversity by keeping their cool and staying “above the line.”

As the school year continues, teachers, staff, and administrators will share lessons on “The Pirate Way” with students. The lessons will come as classroom instruction, assemblies, and small group exercises, as well as occasional one-on-one, teacher-to-student sessions when the Culture Playbook and terminology like the “R Factor,” “Pressing Pause,” and “E+R=O” will be discussed.

Each building will take a slightly different approach to the lessons.

At Perkins High School, staff will roll out The Pirate Way during different class periods each month (first period in September, second period in October, etc.) so that different teachers will meet with different groups of students and different perspectives on The Pirate Way will be shared.

“The kids will get a different voice instructing each of the lessons,” said social studies teacher Chris Walton.

At Briar Middle School, teachers and staff will set aside regular class time for Pirate Way lessons. In addition, Principal Jeff Thom, assistant Principal Erick Weisenberger, and school Counselor David Zimmerman will host monthly, school-wide “What I Need” (WIN) assemblies to promote The Pirate Way.

At Meadowlawn Intermediate School, teachers and staff have rolled out the Ships and Crews program, when students from different classes and grades meet in small groups to learn about The Pirate Way. The Ships and Crews initiative helps build teamwork and new relationships throughout school.

And, over at Furry Elementary, teachers and staff are sharing grade-appropriate lessons with the district’s youngest Pirates during morning meetings. “We talk every day,” says 1st grade teacher Kelley Sumner. “We just take it to their level and use terms and words they understand.”

And, it seems, students across the district get it. Each building has been giving shout-outs to students for acting “above the line” when they react favorably to a situation or help out another student.



THE PIRATE Way



Pirates Dance, March Through

CANDY LAND

PERKINS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES HOMECOMING 2022

Homecoming 2022 was a sweet affair for the Perkins Local Schools.

The district celebrated the annual tradition during the week of September 19-24 with a "Candy Land" theme, and students in each of the four school buildings enjoyed a variety of Spirit Week activities.

Presiding over the weekend festivities were Homecoming Queen Kylie Swain and King Franklin Whipple.

Kylie, the daughter of Ryan and Janay Swain, is active in PHS's Move2Stand and has been a member of the cross-country team, and works at Cedar Point.

"I was just shocked," said Kylie after being elected to Queen by her classmates. "I appreciate everyone who supported me."

Franklin, the son of Dawn Whipple and Todd Whipple, is a member of the PHS marching band, Drama Club, Model UN, and a member of the soccer and tennis teams.

"It's been fun," Franklin said. "I am quite honored."

Rounding out the Homecoming Court were:

Senior First Attendants: Cameron Kaufman, the daughter of Michael and Sarah Kaufman, and Landon Kim, the son of Joseph and Aimee Kim

Senior Second Attendants: Sophia Carson, the daughter of Kyria Carson, and Jayden Rowe, the son of April Rowe

EHOVE Attendants: Leanna Marianek, the daughter of Sharre Morrey and Christian Marianek, and Cadan Swart, the son of Aimee Marcil and Jared Swart

Junior Attendants: Makenna Garza, the daughter of Nicole Clemons and Jordan Garza, and Adam West, the son of Jessica Gilliam

Sophomore Attendants: Hailey Kubitz, the daughter of Geno and Michelle Kubitz, and Sawyer Smith, the son of Bill and Shannon Smith

Freshmen Attendants: ZiOnna Walker, daughter of Heidi and Jaquan Walker, and Nathan Jones, the son of Kimberly Rosin

The court was named during a coronation ceremony at PHS on Tuesday afternoon. As is tradition, the football team captains presented a hand-painted football to the newly crowned Queen. PHS senior artists Kaydee Streng and Conner Zytkowicz painted this year's Homecoming football with a "Candy Land" flair.

And, with perfect early autumn weather – clear skies and warm temperatures – the Perkins Township and school community came out to celebrate, first, with a parade, and then, with a football game on Friday night.

Hundreds of residents donned their black 'n' white, and lined Columbus Avenue, Marshall Avenue, and South Avenue to view the Homecoming Parade. Our Perkins Police and Fire led the parade with cruisers and fire trucks, and the PHS and Briar Middle School fall sports teams as well as groups of students and staff from each building had floats and marched in the parade.

Our PHS football did not disappoint either. Although the team was down early to the Clyde Fliers, the Pirates prevailed with a 24-13 Homecoming victory after a strong defensive performance.

The celebration concluded with the Homecoming Dance on Saturday, attended by our Perkins High School students.





NEW STRENGTH COACH HAS PIRATES READY TO COMPETE

Fans of Perkins Local School sports teams might have noticed our athletes have a certain swagger on the playing field this year. Sam Wentz has something to do with that.

Coach Wentz joined Perkins this school year as the strength and conditioning coach for all athletic teams for Perkins High School and Briar Middle School. And, to her credit, our Pirates are better prepared not only for games, but also for practice. They're fitter, stronger, and focused.

To enter her weight room, all athletes must commit to her "3-D Rule" – Discipline, Drive, and Detail.

"Those are the three things that will make you a championship level athlete," Coach Wentz says. In the weight room, she takes a well-rounded approach.

"I deal with athletes from Grades 6-12 that have a wide range of experience levels," Coach Wentz says. "Because of that, I place a large emphasis on properly moving their bodies first and foremost."

Beyond strength and conditioning, Coach Wentz also emphasizes nutrition and sports psychology to perform better.

She has introduced a Subway Athlete of the Week to reward hard-working athletes, and encourages positive attitudes all-around.

In September, after a mere two months on the job, Coach Wentz was honored as the Strength Coach of the Month by the National High School Strength Coaches Association.

"Coach Wentz has established a foundation for all our junior high and high school athletes," said Perkins Athletic Director Ted Sturzinger. "She's not only helping them physically, but also emotionally."

While the weight room may not be the most popular place for some athletes, more and more Pirates from all teams are lining up waiting for their reps and sets.

"The kids have bought in," Mr. Sturzinger said. "She knows the kids by name, and she makes time to talk to each of them – She connects with them."

Perkins Schools Forge FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE WEIGHS FUTURE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS



The Perkins Local Schools community is taking a long look at the district's four school buildings as part of a facilities master planning process to identify the best options for the aging structures.

The process has been eye-opening to many community members that have been a part of the Facilities Advisory Committee that first met in July. The youngest of the four buildings is Briar Middle School, built in 1966, while the oldest, Perkins High, has a section that dates back to 1905. And, three of the four buildings have had multiple renovations.

The time for the master planning process is right, said Perkins Local School District Board of Education President Jason Dulaney.

"Our community and our stakeholders want us to do this planning now," Mr. Dulaney said. He points to the Perkins Schools' Strategic Plan, which the Board of Education adopted in January 2020.

The Strategic Plan calls for the district to "provide the best possible facilities in the most fiscally responsible manner; deliver and maintain physical spaces that enhance student learning; and provide a safe learning environment for all students."

Mr. Dulaney also noted that the Facilities Committee includes community members from varied backgrounds: There are business leaders and professionals; architects, engineers, and contractors; and teachers, parents, and grandparents.

"Committee members all have different skill sets and backgrounds to ensure that this evaluation process has transparency and everyone's interests are represented," Mr. Dulaney said.

During meetings, the committee members have toured the four buildings and examined not only tight hallways and classroom spaces, they also have looked at the buildings' boilers and heating systems, taken stock of the building entrances, and observed wiring, windows and security systems.



PERKINS SCHOOLS by the numbers



BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

- **FURRY ELEMENTARY | 1956**
additions in 1963 + 1968
- estimated renovation cost: \$15.4 million
- **MEADOWLAWN | 1960**
addition in 1979
- estimated renovation cost: \$15.6 million
- renovate/replace ratio: 78.7%
- **BRIAR MIDDLE SCHOOL | 1966**
additions in 1976 + 1989
- estimated renovation cost: \$20.4 million
- **PERKINS HIGH SCHOOL | 1905**
additions in 1934, 1950, 1958, 1965 + 1978
- estimated renovation cost: \$48.9 million

The committee also has reviewed enrollment projections and cost analysis for renovating the buildings to modernize them versus the cost of replacing them. The renovation costs (listed above) are based on estimates by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

The monthly meetings have featured spirited discussions over the facility and educational needs and wants of students, teachers, families and administrators for the buildings.

The Facilities Committee meetings have been led by Dan Obrynba, an architect and project executive from the architectural firm of Fanning Howey, which the Board of Education hired earlier this year to spearhead the master planning process.

Mr. Obrynba also has met with the district's teachers and staff as part of an educational visioning process that defines what facilities are needed to create modern and positive learning environments for students.

Throughout the process, Mr. Obrynba and his colleagues have polled committee members and staff, and collected data that will become part of a master plan recommendation that will go to Board of Education members in December. That recommendation will help the Board decide its next steps.

WINNING SIGN AT PERKINS HIGH: THE PHS STADIUM GETS A NEW MONIKER

Firelands Regional Medical Center, the stadium's sponsor, installed a new sign on top of the scoreboard on the west end zone. The bold new two-sided FirelandsHealth sign, which reflects the health system's refreshed branding, lights up and is adorned with a Perkins Pirate flag.

"Firelands Health has been a great partner and very supportive of Perkins athletics," said Perkins Athletics Director Ted Sturzinger.

The health system, based in Sandusky, has a 15-year sponsorship of the stadium that began in 2012.

