

PERKINS HIGH SCHOOL

BEST AMONG LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS: U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Perkins High School has been ranked the best public high school in Erie County and among the top 25 percent of public high schools across Ohio by U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine cited PHS's 99 percent graduation rate, its 82 percent science proficiency rate, and its 78 percent reading proficiency rate for the ranking.

In the annual high school listings, U.S. News ranked PHS at 167th among 750 public schools in Ohio and 4,316th among 17,843 public schools nationwide.

"I am extremely proud to receive this ranking," said Perkins Schools Superintendent Todd Boggs. "This is a reflection of the great work of the Perkins High School administration, faculty and staff, parents/guardians, and students."

PHS currently has an enrollment of 578 students in Grades 9-12. The staff at PHS currently includes 44 teachers and eight paraprofessionals.

The U.S. News ranking also noted PHS's 19:1 student-to-teacher ratio.

"Our teachers and staff have made great strides, not only to ensure high graduation rates, but also providing opportunities for students to excel in all areas," said Principal Jeff Harbal. "We want students to have the best of academics, arts, and athletics."

Mr. Harbal added that PHS continues to offer students AP and college credit classes with opportunities to explore future careers through its Academy Experience program.

For the local, state, and nationwide rankings, U.S. News focused on six factors:

- College readiness
- Reading and math proficiency
- Reading and math performance
- Underserved student performance
- College curriculum breadth
- Graduation rates

PERKINS SCHOOLS by the numbers

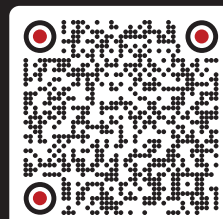
Class of 2022 

GRADUATION FACTS

- 151 | graduating seniors
- \$1.5 million | scholarships

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

- 55% | going to four-year college
- 20% | going to two-year college
- 2% | going in the military
- 23% | entering the workforce



View the PHS Ranking + Data Here



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PRIDE

A NEWSLETTER FROM *your* PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOLS



SPRING 2022



*in this
issue*

Class of '22 Graduates From PHS

PHS Best Among Local High Schools

5 Pirate Veterans Retire



WHERE CREATIVITY THRIVES

Perkins High School senior **Andie Owens** has left her mark on Perkins. After moving here from Alabama last summer, Andie has flourished as a young artist. Her paintings have been hung in the PHS front office and hallways, and she even painted the football gifted to the 2021 Homecoming Queen.

"Getting to make art and being recognized for it, makes me feel good," Andie says. "It's just cool to see ideas I have in my head come to life."

Andie is one of many young artists across Perkins Schools. Artists of all ages, grades, and skill levels thrive in Perkins Schools' five art rooms. Art is a key part of the curriculum from kindergarten through high school. All students in grades K-5 take art, and it is a popular elective for Briar Middle School and Perkins High School students.

Art is an important element to a well-rounded education, says Briar Principal Jeff Thom, who taught art at Meadowlawn Intermediate and Briar before becoming an administrator. "Academic courses don't always inspire individual creativity; art classes provide that balance for many students. There are a lot of kids whose main reason to come to school each day is the expression and creativity that art classes and other specials provide."

At Furry Elementary, teacher Shari Mau-St. Clair introduces the youngest Perkins Pirates to art. Some of these youngsters are just picking up pencils and pens, and developing their motor skills. In her art classes, students are introduced to art, from cave drawings to modern works.

"We're learning how to see," Mrs. Mau-St. Clair says. "We're looking around and noticing details. I want them to have fun and relax, so they can be creative."

One of her students, **Logan Yontz**, a second-grader, carries a notebook wherever he goes. "If I see something cool, I draw it," Logan says.

At Meadowlawn, fifth-grader **Kimber Blaisedell** says she sees art as a way to share her imagination with classmates, teachers, and her family. "Art is in everything when you think about it," she says.

Meanwhile, fourth-grader **Aliyah Hartley** is all about bright colors and has been drawing since she was a 2-year-old. One of her recent masterpieces was selected to hang in Principal Jeremy Hiser's office. Aliyah's philosophy on art is simple: "It inspires people."

When students reach Meadowlawn, they begin to focus on composition and organization in their artwork, says art teacher Justy Boggs. Students also are encouraged to experiment with their artwork and use it as an extension of their personalities.



IDEAS COME TO LIFE IN PERKINS ART ROOMS

By the time art students get to Briar, art classes focus more on the elements and principles of art, says Briar art teacher Jen Printy-Venerucci. She also works social-emotional learning into art lessons.

"Most of all, we talk about the process of art," Mrs. Printy-Venerucci says. "We have art students at all levels here, and we focus on the experience of making art. There is a lot of self-expression here at Briar, and art teaches students an appreciation of each other."

Art, says 8th grader **Asher Raab**, is an emotional outlet. "I like doing art when I'm happy or when I'm stressed or even angry." And, he does not like to explain his paintings and drawings; rather, he says, "I want people to figure it out."

The art room at Briar itself is a bit of a who's who in art at Perkins Schools. Over the past decade, 8th-grade artists have had the option to paint a block on the four cinder block walls before they move on to PHS.

It's at PHS where some of the best young artists and their work truly come to life. Among the promising artists are freshman **Aedon Gibson** and junior **Aubriella Villarreal**.

Aedon fell in love with art as a youngster and has progressively grown as an artist. This year he has grown as an artist under the tutelage of PHS art teacher Donna Hensley, he says. Mrs. Hensley's critiques of his sketches have pushed him to grow.

"I just enjoy art," says Aedon, whose uncle, mother, and father have been artists. "It runs in my blood. It's my thing."

Meantime, Aubriella has found a comfortable home in teacher Mike Beuglass' ceramics classes. "Art is my way of expressing my emotions and imagination," she says. "I have a place in this school where I can spend time and enjoy it."

At PHS, students have a variety of art classes to choose from, including honors and AP classes, and classes focused on 2-dimensional painting and drawing and 3-dimensional ceramics and sculpture.

"Students can make art out of anything," Mr. Beuglass said. "You just have to get students and get them to love art."



FIND MORE

ARTWORKS

throughout this issue

ART IS AN EMOTIONAL OUTLET.

- ASHER RAAB | grade 8

IT INSPIRES PEOPLE.

- ALIYAH HARTLEY | grade 4

ART IS IN EVERYTHING WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.

- KIMBER BLAISEDELL | grade 5



GRADUATION 2022



PERKINS HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS ITS 62ND COMMENCEMENT

Perkins High School celebrated its 62nd Commencement on a warm, sunny Sunday, June 5, 2022, in Firelands Health Stadium. For the Class of 2022, 151 Pirates walked across the stadium to become PHS alumni.

And, like the 61 graduating classes that came before, this group of seniors featured scores of hardworking, passionate, intelligent, and creative young adults. Several graduates donned the cords of honors they earned and the medals they won at athletic and academic competitions.

As diplomas were distributed, a few families and friends hooted and hollered as their grads received their sheepskins. (And, who would have known that graduating senior **Billy Smith** could do a black flip while wearing a graduation gown – and only drop his cap and none of the many wrestling medals around his neck?)

Senior Class President **Angie Leckrone** led her classmates into the stadium and onto the field for the ceremony. She opened the ceremony by leading the Pledge of Allegiance – something special for this young woman, who as a 7-year-old came to the United States from Guangzhou, China. In February, as an 18-year-old, Angie pledged her allegiance to the United States as an American citizen in a naturalization ceremony.

In her graduation speech, Angie revisited the chapters of their young lives as Perkins students.

"Throughout each new chapter of our lives we have dealt with change, and we have overcome, adapted, and succeeded," Angie said. "Now as we turn the page on a new chapter of our lives – adulthood – we are presented with a fresh set of new, blank pages, ready to be filled with the adventures that each one of you choose to explore. It is up to you to choose which path to take and which life to lead, and I wish you all the best of luck."

More than half of the class will continue their education at four-year colleges and universities, and together they garnered more than \$1.5 million in scholarships. Some will pursue careers in medicine, engineering, technology, education, and the law, while others will enter the skilled trades.

Another member of the class, **Tim Wensink**, was chosen among his fellow PHS Honors Scholars to speak on behalf of the Class of 2022. In his address, Tim reminded his classmates that regardless of the plans they have for the future, the last few years have taught them "that plans can change – a whole lot."

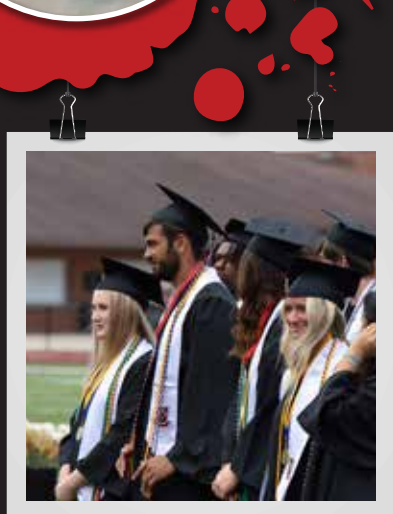
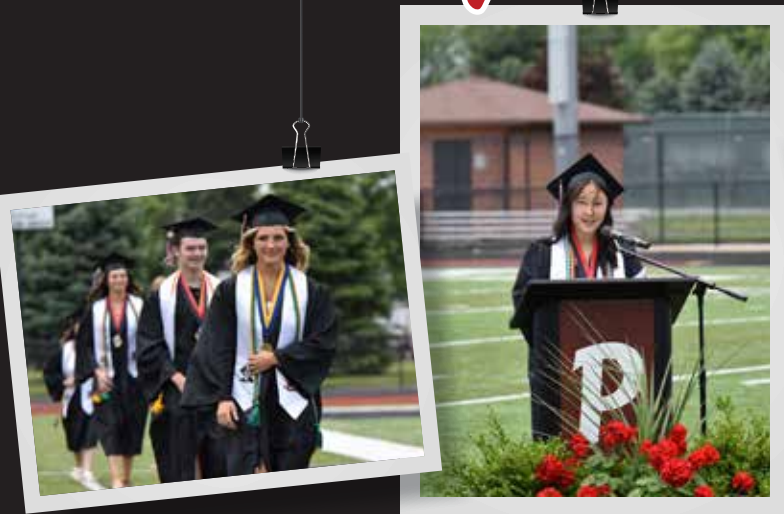
"I am inspired by the people that surround me here and the fact that even when we have faced uncertainty, we have never backed down," Tim said. "I want everyone to look at themselves and realize all they've done in the past four years of high school and 17-plus years of life, and know that we are far from done."

Board of Education President Jason Dulaney, whose son Wyatt is a member of the Class 2022, shared some worldly advice with the graduates: Live within your means. Study hard. And, finally and not least important, "just have fun."

Perkins Schools Superintendent Todd Boggs commended the graduates on their achievements, persistence, and dedication to Perkins High.

"Your accomplishments have been numerous in every facet of this educational journey," Mr. Boggs said. "Stellar performances in academics, co-curricular activities, and athletics have made us proud ... Go out and be great, as you have been here. Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate."

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



Fond Farewell **VETERAN PIRATES**

TOGETHER, THESE FIVE STAFF MEMBERS HAD 120 YEARS EXPERIENCE AT PERKINS SCHOOLS

A three-decade-long era at Meadowlawn Intermediate School came to an end this school year: The 4th Grade teaching duo of Pam Castello and Jennifer Hallock has retired.

Ms. Castello, who taught for 28 years, and Mrs. Hallock, who taught for 30 years, spent their entire teaching careers in 4th Grade at Meadowlawn. Shortly after Ms. Castello started teaching, she and Mrs. Hallock developed a partnership that lasted their entire careers.

"We started working across the hall from each other," Ms. Castello said. "And, a grand friendship began."

Mrs. Hallock noted that although they had students for 184 days each year, those relationships extended well beyond 4th Grade and through the lives of their students. She especially cherished when a child of one of their previous students walked into their classrooms for 4th Grade.

"It's not just the relationships with the children, but the relationships that we made with the families that were so important," Mrs. Hallock said.

"Working in a profession that you love has been very rewarding for us," Ms. Castello said. "Having the opportunity to do it every day with your best friend has been a unique and remarkable gift."

The women's friendship will now continue into retirement, they said. Both have grandchildren, and they expect to devote much of their time with the youngsters.

Meantime, Meadowlawn Principal Jeremy Hiser says Ms. Castello and Mrs. Hallock – and the camaraderie between themselves and their colleagues – will be missed.

At Briar Middle School, another classroom veteran, paraprofessional Patti Shupp has retired after 27 years. After first working for North Point Educational Service Center, Mrs. Shupp came to Perkins Schools in 2000.

But do not expect her to stay away. She plans to continue to work with Perkins students as a substitute. "I can't let it go right away," Mrs. Shupp said. "I've been around too long to just quit."

Once her husband retires, they plan to travel.

In the cafeteria at Perkins High School, Patty Oeder has been serving lunches for 25 years (and, previously, for a year at Meadowlawn's cafeteria.) "It's time to retire," Mrs. Oeder said. "I will miss the people."

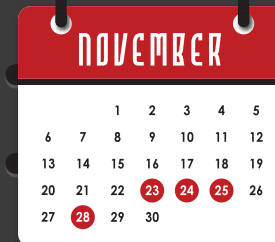
She will now have time to spend knitting, crocheting, and reading – and, of course, traveling. "Maybe I'll start cooking more at home."

And, the familiar face to many Perkins students on Bus No. 13 – Keith Salinski – has retired, as well. Mr. Salinski had been a bus driver for Perkins for 10 years and a substitute bus driver for six years before that.

He logged more than 15,000 miles shuttling students of all grades levels to and from school each morning and afternoon – and for athletics and field trips. Now, he said, it's time to focus on his grandchildren.

Congratulations to all our retirees!

Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate.



PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S **2022-2023** **CALENDAR**

FIRST QUARTER | AUG. 24 - OCT. 21

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.....Wednesday, August 24
 LABOR DAY (no school).....Monday, September 5
 HOMECOMING GAME.....Friday, September 23
 NO SCHOOL.....Friday, October 7

SECOND QUARTER | OCT. 24 - DEC. 21

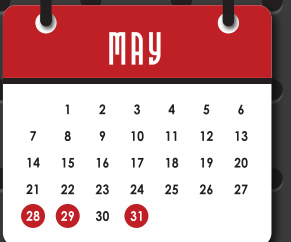
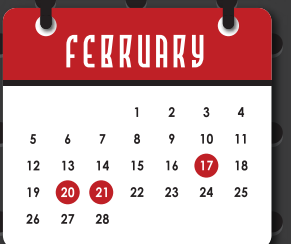
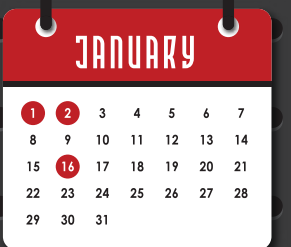
STAFF DAY (no school).....Wednesday, November 23
 THANKSGIVING (no school).....Thursday, November 24
 NO SCHOOL.....Friday, November 25
 STAFF PROFESSIONAL DAY (no school).....Monday, Nov. 28
 WINTER BREAK (no school).....Thursday, Dec. 22 - Monday, Jan. 2

THIRD QUARTER | JAN. 3 - MAR. 17

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (no school).....Monday, Jan. 16
 STAFF DAY (no school).....Friday, February 17
 PRESIDENT'S DAY (no school).....Monday, February 20
 STAFF PROFESSIONAL DAY (no school).....Tuesday, February 21

FOURTH QUARTER | MAR. 20 - MAY 31

SPRING BREAK (no school).....Friday, April 7 - Sunday, April 16
 GRADUATION.....Sunday, May 28
 MEMORIAL DAY (no school).....Monday, May 29
 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.....Wednesday, May 31



Have a safe & fun summer!

