

# A Closet Filled With CONFIDENCE

## PHS SENIOR MAKES IT HER MISSION TO HELP GIRLS DRESS FOR SUCCESS



Tucked in a hallway behind the Perkins High School main office is a gold mine for young women seeking to up their fashion game. It's called the Confidence Closet and is hard to miss with its bright pink decorated door.

The Confidence Closet has racks of trendy dresses, outfits, and accouterments fitting for any hip young woman. And, they've all been donated and are free to anyone.

Step inside and enter the world of PHS senior Marianna Bollini, who created the Closet as part of her Clothing For Confidence enterprise to help young women dress for success.

"If you have a cute outfit on, you're naturally going to feel better about yourself," Marianna explains. "You're going to go about your day differently, stand a little bit taller, and feel better about yourself. I want to give every girl the opportunity to feel good in the clothes they wear."

Since the Closet opened last school year, more than 40 girls have shopped there and found outfits, says Perkins Schools social worker Sarah Bowerman. She originally went to Marianna to create a "pop-up" thrift shop to distribute clothing donations Perkins High School had received.

"After talking with Marianna, it exploded," Mrs. Bowerman says. "It went from a one-time thing to what if we took over a room at the high school and created a closet."

Marianna took the space that had been an office, decorated it, and turned it into an inviting space for girls to visit.

And, it certainly has grown beyond PHS. In addition to her sense of fashion and confidence, Marianna also is a social media maven. She reaches thousands of followers daily via her @Clothes4Confidence Instagram and TikTok accounts. Her social media followers also have become donors of clothes for the Closet.

In her social media posts, she calls for donations and offers her fashion advice on what's cute.

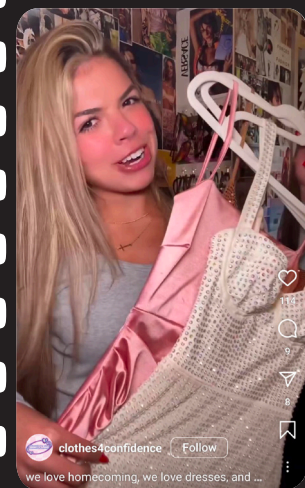
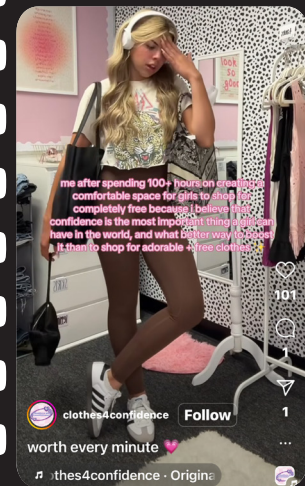
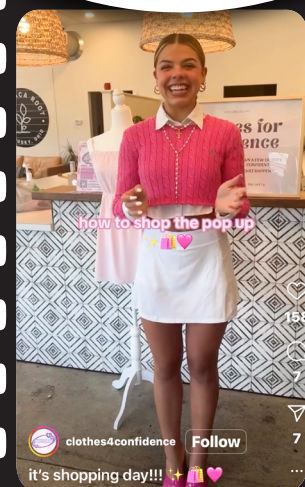
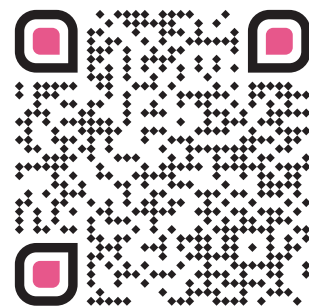
"Ever since I can remember I've been in love with fashion and putting outfits together," Marianna says. "I took my passion for fashion and a belief that confidence is the most important thing a girl can have, and put them together."

With flyers posted around the high school, girls can click on a QR code, and reserve a time to visit the closet. Girls can pick out whatever they want and take it – for free. And, the only limit is what's in the Closet – it's all for the taking.

After graduation, Marianna plans to study at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. Meantime, she says, the Confidence Closet will continue, in some fashion.

"I'm sure we could find a girl that has some ambition," Marianna says. "That would be amazing. I've learned so much about running a business."

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# Perkins Schools Get 4 STARS

## PHS, MEADOWLAWN ALSO GARNERED HIGH RATINGS ON ANNUAL REPORT CARD

For the second straight year, Perkins Local School District received good grades from the state of Ohio. The Ohio Department of Education awarded Perkins Schools four stars on its annual report card, indicating that the district **exceeds state standards**.

Perkins High School and Meadowlawn Intermediate Schools also fared well on this year's report cards. PHS received a 4.5-star rating and Meadowlawn a 4-star rating on the 5-star scale. Meanwhile, Furry Elementary School and Briar Middle School each received 3-star ratings, meaning the two schools met state standards.

The Ohio Department of Education released the reports for public schools across the state in September. The report cards provide families and communities a sense of the quality of their schools. While the state bases much of the report card grades on state testing data, the state also pulls in broader components, such as graduation, attendance, and early literacy rates.

The Perkins Schools administration presented the report card to the Board of Education during its Wednesday, October 9 meeting.

"We are pleased with this report card," said Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Rena McClellan. "We are doing the work – and it shows."

For the Early Literacy component, Perkins Schools saw an increase to a 3-star ranking from a 2-star in the 2022-2023 school year, reflecting the efforts teachers and staff are investing in our youngest Pirates. Meanwhile, Mrs. McClellan noted that for the second straight year, the district's Graduation Rate was a perfect five stars.

"For parents and students, graduation is the end goal and we're getting it done," Mrs. McClellan said.

PHS Principal Jeff Harbal is happy with the grades on this year's report card. The district and PHS received 5-star ratings for the district's 97 percent graduation rate. PHS also received 4-star ratings in the Achievement, Progress, and Gap Closing categories.

PERKINS SCHOOLS  
by the numbers

Report Card A+

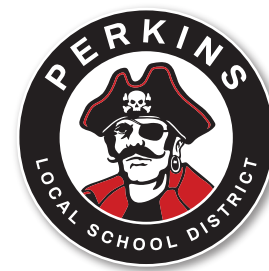
- 97% | GRADUATION RATE
- 79.3% | PERFORMANCE INDEX  
measures the test results of every student
- 68.2% | EARLY LITERACY  
the effectiveness of reading and literacy supports provided in grades K to 3rd
- 94.6% | STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE  
all grades
- 17 | AVERAGE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
among all teachers
- 1,850 | NUMBER OF STUDENTS

The Achievement score is based purely on state test scores, Progress is based on students' performances over the past three years, and Gap Closing considers the performance of students in various racial, social, and economic groups, and students with disabilities.

"We are proud of our performance index rating, which makes up our achievement component," Mr. Harbal said. "This is the third straight year that Perkins High School has seen improvements in this score. This reflects our teacher's intentional work in analyzing data in their specific content area to help students maximize their learning potential and score."

At Meadowlawn, the state awarded 4-star rankings for Progress and Gap Closing, and 3-star rankings for Achievement and Early Literacy. Meadowlawn Principal Jeremy Hiser noted that teachers and staff are committed to meeting the individual needs of every student to ensure their growth and success.

"I couldn't be more proud of the hard work our staff and students put in each day," Mr. Hiser said. "While we're not where we want to be yet, our focus is to get better every day."



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# PRIDE

A NEWSLETTER FROM *your* PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOLS

## Together Again

### MS. HALLOCK'S CLASS FOLLOWS HER TO 1ST GRADE



in this issue

Pirates Have 'Luau' Homecoming

Perkins Rally For The Pirate Way

Confidence Closet Sets Young Women Up For Success

Perkins Schools Get High Marks On State Report Card







# A 'LOOPING' LESSON

## KINDERGARTEN CLASS MOVES INTO 1ST GRADE – TOGETHER

After six years, Brooke Hallock has graduated from kindergarten to 1st grade. Not that that is strange for a teacher—what's odd is that she took her kindergarten class with her into 1st grade.

It's called "looping."

In this case, Ms. Hallock's kindergarten class from the 2023-2024 school year has moved to the 1st Grade with her. Students are normally shuffled among the classes from year to year with the idea that they will be with different classmates.

Aside from a different classroom, the only difference is that she has two additional students who have been welcomed into her class.

"They fit right in," Ms. Hallock said. "Everyone came into the first day of school and were so comfortable. We're a family. Everyone gets along and they're great kids from great families. I'm so fortunate to get them a second year."

The opportunity for Ms. Hallock to move grades came late last school year when it became apparent that Furry Elementary needed to reduce the number of kindergarten classes and add an extra 1st-grade class. Principal Eric Kaman posed the idea to Ms. Hallock, and she welcomed it.

"I was nervous at first," said Ms. Hallock of the transition to 1st grade. "I told the kids, 'Just like you, I'm new to 1st grade.'" But, jitters aside, she expects the school year to be exciting and very interesting. And, at least one parent, Tiffany Frisch, likes the idea that her son, Tanner, has the same teacher and same classmates to start the year.

"It made the start of the school year much easier for us," Mrs. Frisch said. "He knew who was in his class, his teacher, and what to expect. The class as a whole seems to have benefited so much."

From an administrative perspective, Mr. Kaman will be watching how the students in her class perform compared to other 1st-grade classes. He and other administrators will pay attention to reading and literacy data.

"This is a nice sample," Mr. Kaman said. "We want to see the growth that takes place and compare it to typical expected growth within a school year."

And, now that she's well into the 1st quarter of the school year, Ms. Hallock says the results look positive. She credits not only the kids in her class and their families but also her colleagues teaching in the other 1st-grade classes.

"It's been good," Ms. Hallock said. "Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful."

HOCO

NIGHT AT THE

2024

LUAAU

Perkins Celebrates Festive Homecoming Despite Rain

Perhaps we Pirates tempted fate with a "Night At The Luau" theme for this year's Perkins High School Homecoming 2024. Or maybe, just had not expected such windy and rainy conditions on this special night.

The hearty Perkins Pirates, regardless, rose above the inclement weather for a memorable evening on Friday, September 27. Although the weather forced the district to cancel the Homecoming parade, the foul weather did hold off to allow for the pregame festivities.

Perkins High School senior Vivian Venerucci was crowned Homecoming Queen for 2024, and Weston Sturzinger as Homecoming King. They and the rest of the Homecoming Court were introduced ahead of the game.

Senior Camryn VanVlerah was the First Attendant and Timothy Bools II was the First Escort, and Jacqueline Crawford was Second Attendant and Braylon Collier was the Second Escort.

Emma Beatty was the Junior Attendant and Quentin Binette was the Junior Escort. Zoe Tomasula was the Sophomore Attendant and Tucker Deering was the Sophomore Escort. Lauren Bucher was the Freshman Attendant and Blake Harbal was the Freshman Escort.

Lillie Thom was the EHOVE Attendant and Dylan Grant was the EHOVE Escort.

Later that night, the Perkins Pirates varsity football team held off a formidable opponent in the Clyde Flyers, winning 28-7 in the Homecoming matchup despite driving rain and blustery conditions.

Queen Vivian Venerucci and Weston Sturzinger presided over the traditional Homecoming Dance in the PHS Gymnasium on Saturday, September 28.

Ahead of the game and dance, students, teachers, and staff in grades kindergarten to 12 celebrated Homecoming with Spirit Week, with Luau-themed days and dressing as their favorite teachers and in their Perkins Pirates clothing.



# Perkins Schools Host PIRATE WAY RALLY

## STUDENTS AND STAFF COME TOGETHER IN PHS STADIUM TO CELEBRATE PERKINS CULTURE

With a simple command, "Captain's Coming," Perkins Local Schools students stood at attention. And then, "At Ease," and the students' salutes were relaxed.

Welcome to the 2024 Pirate Way Rally on Friday, September 20.

The salutes were not an exercise in formality or teaching kids to be good sailors. Rather, they were a bonding experience and part of a gigantic game of "Ships 'n' Sailors" with all 1,700 Perkins Local Schools students, teachers, and staff on their feet in Firelands Health Stadium.

The game, led by Perkins High School seniors Caden McClellan and Jaden Lyons, resembled "Simon Says" and was a highlight at the third annual Pirate Way Rally. Participants in the game followed simple commands, like "five sailors pointing north" or "three sailors rowing," and then scurried into groups. While there were no winners or losers, students had fun quickly grabbing onto each other and organizing their small groups.

The district-wide rally, held each September, has become a focal point for Perkins Schools' Pirate Way culture initiative that encourages students and staff to take responsibility for their actions, make good choices, and have a positive mindset.

A committee of PHS students designed the agenda for the rally. For this year's event, juniors Autumn Yontz and Eli Sanchez served as emcees, welcoming everyone to the PHS stadium. Together, Eli and Autumn spoke about the Pirate Way and what it means to Trust, Own, and Connect as Perkins students.

And, as a rally on a beautiful, sunny day, there was a pep rally feel to this gathering. The PHS marching band warmed up the crowd with the "Fight Song" and other Perkins Pirates classics while our PHS cheer squad had everyone dancing to "Do It," "Pirates Are Red Hot," and other familiar cheers.

While students led the rally, one adult – our new Perkins Local Schools Superintendent Dr. Lonny Rivera – did address the crowd. He reminded students and staff that we are all family at Perkins Schools and we support each other in good times and bad.

"Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, this is a place where you belong," Dr. Rivera said. "Things will get tough in life. That's what happens. We have bad events that happen, and we have each other to lean on."

The rally concluded with lunch served from the stadium concession stands and enjoyed on Tank Field just outside the stadium gates.

