



Eight Perkins Local Schools educators, with a combined tenure of more than 200 years in classrooms and schools, as well as the district's transportation mechanic, retired at the end of this 2023-2024 school year.

The group includes Todd Boggs, who has been Superintendent since the start of the 2018 school year. His retirement becomes effective July 31. Dr. Lonny Rivera has been hired as the next superintendent.

During his time at Perkins Local Schools, Mr. Boggs has worked diligently to bring together the school community and fostered collaborative relationships with our neighbors, the local business community, and Perkins Township leaders. It was also under Mr. Boggs that the district adopted the "Pirate Way," a cultural initiative that encourages individuals to take responsibility for their actions and behavior.

Mr. Boggs was previously a Superintendent in East Canton, Ohio, and a school principal, assistant, and teacher at schools in the Columbus area in a career dating back to 1989 when he started as a 4th grade teacher.

Also retiring this year are:

LISA BEEBE: a 5th-grade intervention specialist at Meadowlawn, has been with Perkins Schools since the 2014-2015 school year

DONNA HENSLEY: an art teacher at Perkins High School, has been with Perkins Schools since the 1998-1999 school year

DARREN MAJOY: a science teacher at Perkins High School, has been with Perkins Schools since the 2002-2003 school year

SUSAN RULONG: a 3rd-grade teacher at Meadowlawn Intermediate School, has been with Perkins Schools since the 1991-1992 school year

STACY WILLIAMS: a 7th-grade teacher at Briar Middle School, has been with Perkins Schools since the 1991-1992 school year

ALICE JAMES: a counselor at Meadowlawn Intermediate School, has been with Perkins Local Schools since the 1992-1993 school year

Nothing But THE BEST

DISTRICT BIDS FAREWELL TO TEACHERS, STAFF, SUPERINTENDENT

KRISTINE DINOVO: a 4th-grade teacher at Meadowlawn Intermediate School, has been with Perkins Local Schools since the 1993-1994 school year.

Bus mechanic **RICK BAUMAN**, who has kept the Perkins school buses and maintenance vehicles rolling smoothly since May 2008, will retire at the end of August.

"The Board of Education is grateful for all of our amazing staff at Perkins," said Board President Eric Lapata. "In particular, we want to recognize those who are retiring this year. Their steadfast commitment has left a lasting impression on our district. We wish them nothing but the best as they embark on the next chapter of their life."

Dear Pirate Family,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Superintendent for Perkins Local Schools. It has been an honor and privilege to work with Perkins Schools' stakeholders. I have enjoyed watching our students achieve, perform, and find resiliency in solving challenges that daily life "tosses" at them.

I am grateful for the work of the Perkins Schools teachers and staff, the Board of Education, and our students and families. We have listened to each other, processed ideas, and implemented plans to provide a "better way" for our young people. We built a supportive relationship with our Perkins Township, community, and business leaders, as well as fostered strong relationships with our neighboring school districts.

Perkins Local Schools are now in the hands of my friend, Dr. Lonny Rivera. He brings strength and vigor to the district that will provide the necessities to keep our youth succeeding. You will be impressed.

Thank you all.

With Gratitude,
Todd Boggs



PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2024-2025 CALENDAR

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.....Thursday, August 22
LABOR DAY (no school).....Monday, September 2
STAFF DAY (no school).....Wednesday, November 27
THANKSGIVING (no school).....Thursday, November 28
NO SCHOOL.....Friday, November 29
STAFF DAY (no school).....Monday, December 2
WINTER BREAK (no school).....Monday, Dec. 23 - Wednesday, Jan. 1
STAFF DAY (no school).....Friday, January 10
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY (no school).....Monday, Jan. 20
STAFF DAY (no school).....Friday, February 14
PRESIDENT'S DAY (no school).....Monday, February 17
STAFF DAY (no school).....Tuesday, February 18
SPRING BREAK (no school).....Friday, April 18 - Sunday, April 27
GRADUATION.....Sunday, May 25
MEMORIAL DAY (no school).....Monday, May 26
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.....Wednesday, May 29



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THIS IS PERKINS Now

• POSTAL CUSTOMER •

PERKINS SCHOOLS by the numbers

Class of 2024

GRADUATION FACTS

- 147 | graduating seniors
- \$452,804 | scholarships awarded

POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

- 53 | grads going to four-year college
- 33 | grads going to two-year college
- 6 | grads going in the military

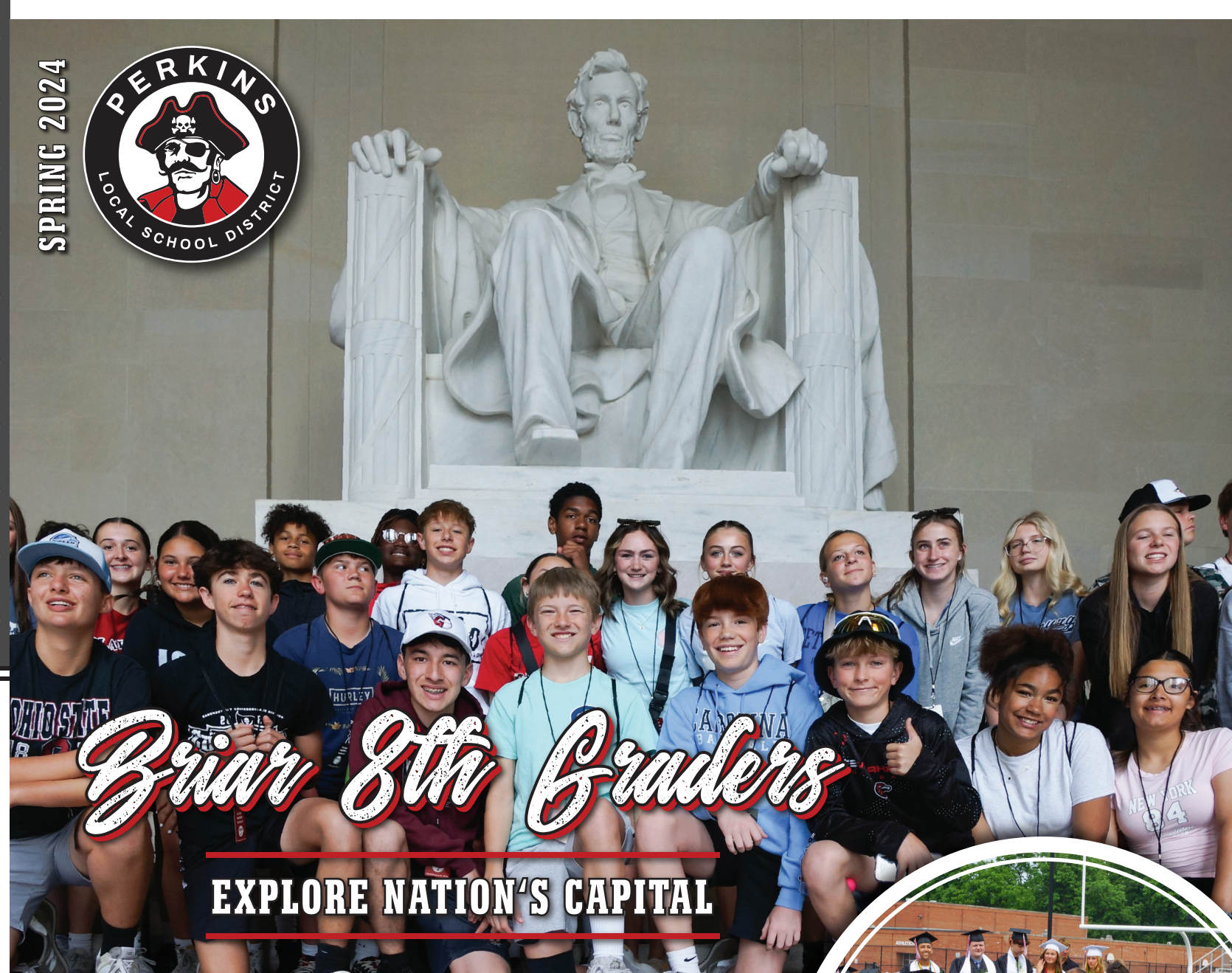
CLASS SONG

- "24K Magic" | Bruno Mars

Have a safe
& fun summer!

PRIDE

A NEWSLETTER FROM *your* PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOLS



Briar 8th Graders

EXPLORE NATION'S CAPITAL

in this
issue

PHS Celebrates 64th Commencement

Perkins Says Goodbye To Retirees

Perkins Women Build Bond Through Pen-Pal Campaign





STUDENTS VISIT MONUMENTS, MUSEUMS, CAPITOL BUILDING FOR 8TH GRADE TRIP

About 80 Briar Middle School students ventured from their classrooms in early May for a three-day trip to wander among monuments to presidents and veterans in the Nation's Capital on the annual 8th-grade trip.

They followed a jam-packed itinerary that took students to museums, battlefields, and iconic sites, and had them sharing tour buses and hotel rooms with their classmates in this bustling city.

"I loved it," said student Hadley Divelbiss. "It's crazy to think that there are so many people visiting the capital. It's a big city."

Her favorite stop on the trip was a visit to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. "I'm a big history fan," she said.

For Hadley, like many other students, it was the first away from her family for an extended time.

It was also student Paul Keys' first time in Washington, D.C. He was impressed with the Lincoln Memorial – "it is huge," he said. "I really enjoyed the trip and had a great time with friends."

His favorite stop? Eating and playing games with friends at the Dave & Buster's restaurant on Thursday evening.

And that's a part of the overall experience, said Briar teacher Joe Taylor.

"The trip gives us a chance to bond," Mr. Taylor said. "The students get to see us (teachers and chaperones) in a different light, and we get to know them better. It's a rewarding experience."

As a social studies teacher, Mr. Taylor said the trip is a valuable experience for the students.

"This is a real-world experience. When students are there, in person, they take ownership of 'We The People.' Maybe, in the future, they will become more involved because of what they saw. That's my goal as a social studies teacher."

The trip, organized by Nowak Tours of Valley City, followed a tight – and flawless – agenda.

It started on Wednesday, May 8, with a visit to the Gettysburg National Military Park with a battlefield tour. After a buffet dinner, they climbed back on the buses for their hotel in suburban Washington, D.C.

The students and their 10 chaperones on Thursday visited the Vietnam, Korean, and World War II memorials, the Lincoln Memorial, and took a guided tour of the Capitol Building. They visited Arlington National Cemetery and the graves of John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. At the Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier, they witnessed the iconic changing of the guard ceremony.

They also visited the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and gathered for a photo at the White House.

The students on Friday visited the Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson memorials, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. On the way home, the trip concluded with a visit to the National Flight 93 Memorial in Pennsylvania.

"These trips are a great opportunity for our kids to experience the significance of history first-hand," said Briar Principal Jeff Thom. "Visiting the memorials and museums puts our kids in a different mindset of learning as they interact with culturally-enriching environments."



'Find Gratitude For Memories We Created'
CLASS OF 2024

GRADUATES FROM PERKINS HIGH SCHOOL

With family and friends filling Firelands Health Stadium, the 147 members of the Class of 2024 crossed the football field to accept their diplomas as part of the 64th Commencement of Perkins High School on Sunday, May 26.

The ceremony was nearly perfect, with a warm breeze and the sun peeking around some gray clouds in the sky.

"I cannot believe this day is finally here," said Class of 2024 president Ar'Ciele Riddle during her graduation address. "For our entire high school career, teachers have told us that these four years will go fast, and I hate to admit it, but they were right."

Ar'Ciele encouraged her classmates to live and savor the moments they are in now, instead of worrying about what might happen in the future.

"It's in these moments when we stop and look around that we find gratitude for the memories we have created," Ar'Ciele said. "Not only gratitude for the memories but also appreciation for the loved ones who surround us."

And, as is tradition at the PHS graduation, the class's Honor Scholars (who received straight A's across their high school career) choose who would speak. This year, the three Honor Scholars – Trevor Ramsdell, Maggie McVeigh, Noah Normington-Slay – would each take a turn and address the Past, Present, and Future.

"Most of us began as little pirates, curious and full of energy," said Trevor on the Past. "There were many firsts, like crushes and dances ... We were all led down different paths with different journeys, but today, all our paths converge together for one memorable day."

Maggie addressed the Present. "For the past four years, we've all been guided by some pretty amazing teachers, coaches, family, and friends who made us the people we are today. And for that, you all deserve a big thank-you."

Looking to the Future, Noah said, "As we move into the next part of our stories, may we never forget the lessons we have learned, memories we have shared, and connections we have made, because, for all we know, another class may never have the distinct pleasure of being as awesome as we are."

Board of Education President Eric Lapata also addressed the graduates, and encouraged them to be "there you are" people – those who listen more than they speak, celebrate others' successes, and help others during difficult times.

"Class of 2024, you have one life to live. Just one," Mr. Lapata said. "And you will be remembered for how you chose to live this one life. May you have the courage to be a 'there you are' person in a 'here I am' world."

Congratulations
and best of luck to you.



Watch The PHS Graduation Video



PIRATE
PEN-PALS

GIRLS SHOW SUPPORT THROUGH LETTERS
BETWEEN MEADOWLAWN, BRIAR, & PHS

In an era when many kids spend hours texting and on social media, a group of girls at three Perkins Schools have turned to a more traditional means of communication – handwritten letters – to share ideas, ask tough questions, and support each other.

The pen-pal campaign started early in the 2023-2024 school year with 36 girls in Grades 5 to 12 from Meadowlawn Intermediate School, Briar Middle School, and Perkins High School. Sarah Bowerman, the district's social worker, organized the group to enable girls of different ages to share feelings about friendships, anxiety, coping, and conflict resolution.

"I felt the girls needed to be connected to someone outside their friend groups and their buildings – someone with a different perspective," Mrs. Bowerman said. She paired girls at Meadowlawn and Briar with girls at Perkins High. She also set some parameters – the girls remain anonymous and use first names, and there are no social media or instant messaging connections.

Throughout the year, they exchanged letters weekly. Mrs. Bowerman delivers letters between the girls.

"The first time I delivered letters to the 5th-, 6th-, and 7th-grade girls from the high school girls, they felt like they were getting letters from celebrities," she said.

The girls agreed.



"It was awkward at first," acknowledged Noelle, a 7th grader at Briar. "But the more we wrote, the more we realized how much we have in common."

Olivia, also a 7th grader, said the letters helped her build confidence and relationships. In her letters, she's asked questions about being a high schooler and building and keeping friendships.

Mrs. Bowerman credits Perkins High School junior Caden McClellan with the idea for the pen-pal group. Caden explained that she had struggles as a middle school student, and instead of talking to someone about them, she kept them to herself.

"I now realize how many people go through the same thing and don't tell anyone because they are scared of what others may think," Caden said. "I also thought how scary and overwhelming high school seemed and, in reality, it's not that scary."

The girls met in May at a "reveal party" for the girls to meet each other in-person.

"I feel like I have gained a little sister through the letters," Caden said. "The other high schoolers love their littles, too, and get so excited when they receive a new letter."

The program has been successful in building relationships among young women, Mrs. Bowerman said, and she hopes to expand it next year to include more students.



I have a question about your
time in middle school ... what
type of drama did you have?

"You are awesome the way you are."

