



DR. LONNY RIVERA NAMED NEXT SUPERINTENDENT

SUPT. TODD BOGGS WILL RETIRE ON JULY 31

Dr. Lonny Rivera, a longtime educator with deep ties to Perkins Local Schools, will become the next Superintendent of Schools for the district, effective August 1, 2024. Dr. Rivera will succeed Superintendent Todd Boggs, who will retire after six years with Perkins Schools.

Dr. Rivera currently serves as the Director of Innovation for North Point Education Service Center in Sandusky. He started his career as a special education teacher for Toledo Public Schools, was a principal for Maumee City Schools and Oregon City Schools, Superintendent of Oregon City Schools and interim Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Ohio.

He is an advocate for the transformative power of public education and is dedicated to working collaboratively to foster an innovative educational environment to ensure every student's success.

"Growing up as the son of a migrant worker, I learned the values of hard work, resilience, and the transformative power of education," Dr. Rivera said. "These early experiences instilled in me a deep appreciation for the role education plays in breaking down barriers and opening doors to opportunity."

Dr. Rivera is truly committed to ensuring all students are supported.

"Throughout my career, I have remained steadfast to building a culture that fosters a love for learning, collaboration, and a passion for helping others discover new pathways," Dr. Rivera said.

The Perkins Board of Education conducted a months-long search for the next Superintendent. Board President Eric Lapata said the district was fortunate to receive interest in the position from several quality candidates.

"Dr. Rivera's passion for public education, clear visionary leadership, and dedication to the betterment of people made him the obvious choice," Mr. Lapata said. "He has spent his entire career in service to students and it shows."

While students and families may not know Dr. Rivera, they likely know his work. He has been instrumental in the implementation of Perkins Schools' culture initiative, The Pirate Way. Dr. Rivera worked closely with Mr. Boggs during these efforts.

"I witnessed firsthand Todd's leadership and focus on developing a positive culture," Dr. Rivera said. "I'm deeply grateful for his unwavering commitment, which will have a lasting impact on the community."

Mr. Boggs said the Board could not have picked a better person for the job.

"I have full faith and confidence in Dr. Rivera leading Perkins Schools," Mr. Boggs said. "Dr. Rivera knows Perkins Schools, its staff, and its students."

Meantime, Mr. Boggs will continue in the post until July 31. He has been a popular superintendent and built relationships with teachers and staff, students and their families, and the broader Perkins Township community.

"I love the trajectory that Perkins Local Schools is heading, and the academic, artistic, and athletic performances of our students continue to grow," said Mr. Boggs. "It's been an honor to serve Perkins Schools' students, staff, teachers, and community."

Perkins Schools certainly appreciate all that Mr. Boggs has done, said Mr. Lapata.

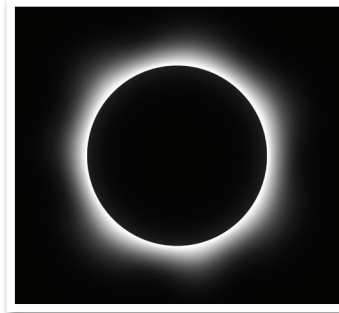
"Todd has given so much to our District, always putting the needs of our students first," said Mr. Lapata. "His dedication and passion has left a lasting legacy and the Board is incredibly grateful for his service."



Watch The Press Conference
With Dr. Lonny Rivera

Perkins Prepares for TOTAL ECLIPSE

SCHOOLS WILL CLOSE APRIL 8



Residents of Perkins Township and the surrounding areas are no strangers to throngs of tourists pouring into the area – but typically it's not until late spring and summer. With Perkins in the middle of the shadow of the so-called Great

American Eclipse on April 8, local police and tourism experts say we are in for an unprecedented invasion of visitors.

Hotels across northern Ohio – and the path of the eclipse's shadow from Mexico to Canada – are sold out. Police and transportation experts warn of traffic jams on streets and roads, and wireless telecommunications could be strained.

So when the sun goes dark for four minutes beginning at 3:12 p.m. that day, Perkins Local School District students, faculty, and staff will not be in school. Perkins Superintendent Todd Boggs has announced that students and staff will have a remote learning day.

The eclipse occurs on the same day students, teachers, and staff of Perkins Local Schools were to return from spring break, which is scheduled from Friday, March 29, through Sunday, April 7. Monday, April 8, will be recorded officially as an asynchronous learning day, and teachers will assign lessons that students can complete at home and with minimal assistance from parents and family.

Meanwhile, there are no athletic or extracurricular events currently scheduled that day. All Perkins Schools facilities will be closed, as well.

PERKINS SCHOOLS by the numbers

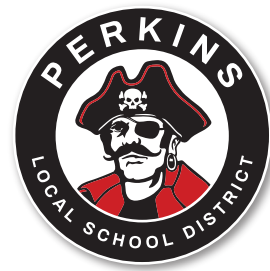


PATH OF TOTALITY FOR PERKINS TOWNSHIP AND SANDUSKY

- 1:57 pm | Partial Eclipse Begins
- 3:12 pm | Total Eclipse Begins
- 3:14 pm | Maximum Total Eclipse
- 3:16 pm | Total Eclipse Ends
- 4:27 pm | Partial Eclipse Ends

Source: NASA.gov

- 10 Degrees Fahrenheit | The expected approximate temperature drop during the eclipse
- August 23, 2044 | The next total solar eclipse



THIS IS PERKINS Now

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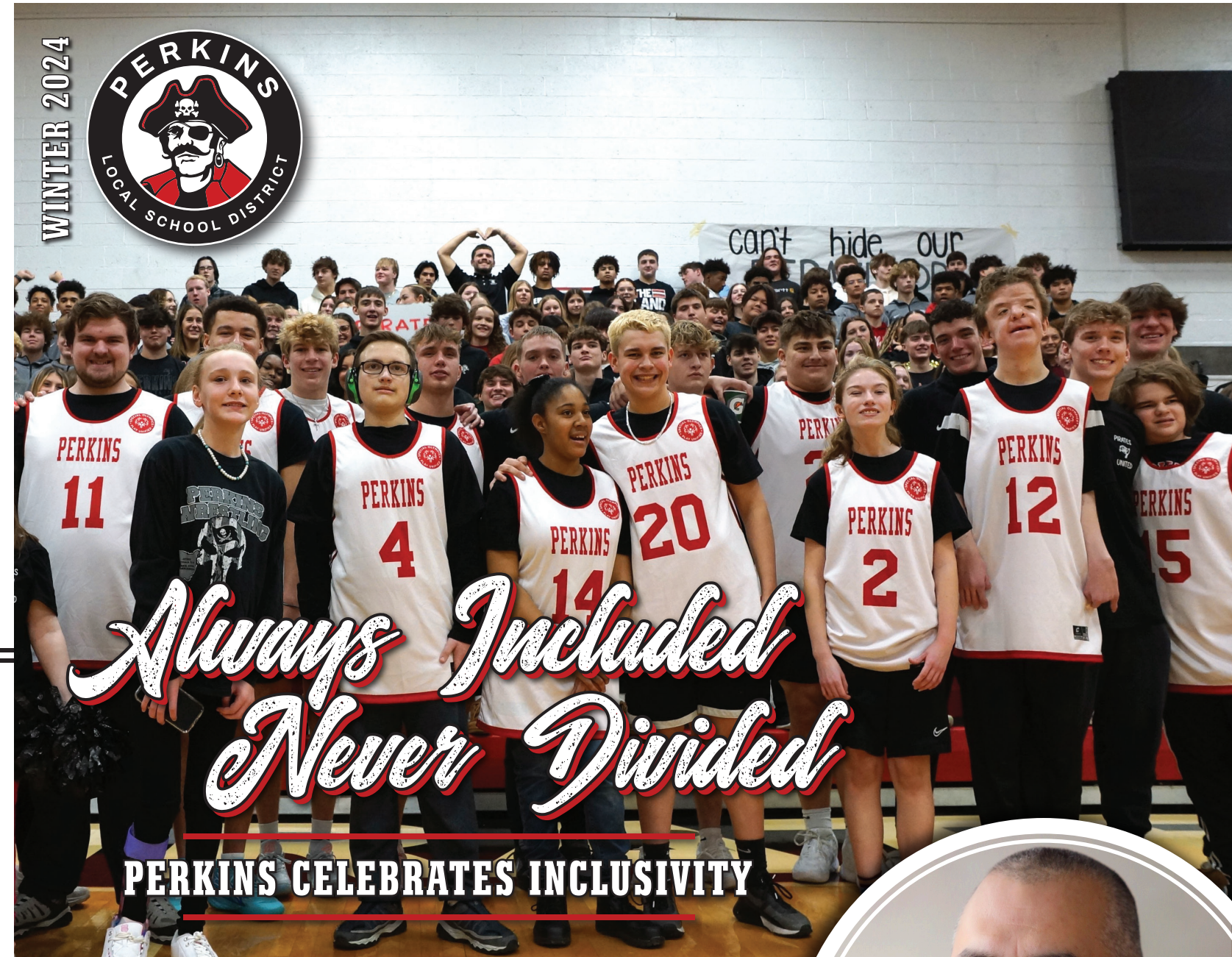
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A NEWSLETTER FROM *your* PERKINS LOCAL SCHOOLS

PRIDE



in this
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- Hall of Fame Welcomes Latest Inductees
- Little Treasures Awarded 5-Star Rating



PIRATES UNITED For Special Olympics

PHS HOSTS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TO BUILD INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

Perkins High School senior Kali Ohlemacher started the 2023-2024 school year on a mission – to bring a Unified Sports program to her high school and that PHS would be recognized as a Banner School by the Special Olympics board.

On Friday, February 2, PHS took a big, wonderful step toward reaching those goals. With the entire PHS student body present, the school hosted a Unified Sports round-robin basketball tournament with Unified teams from Amherst, Lorain, and Sandusky, as well as our own team from Perkins.

The teams include players and their student partners, and student coaches from each school's athletic teams. Cheer squads with players and partners lined the baselines and rooted for their teams and fans.

And, yeah, the Perkins' gymnasium bleachers were packed with Pirates. For the week ahead of the tournament, PHS hosted a Spirit Week, with days devoted to the Special Olympics, recognition of disabilities, and supporting our Unified basketball team as well as our Pirates United club.

"It's awesome," Kali said between games. "We got together to make the world a better place."

Kali, who transferred to PHS this year, is a Special Olympics U.S. Youth Ambassador who has traveled to Germany, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere to promote the movement.

She is a believer in bringing all kids, regardless of their skills, talents, and abilities, together for sports, classroom, and learning experiences.

Lindsay Bookshar, an intervention specialist at PHS, spearheaded the celebration on February 2 as well as the Spirit Week. Like Kali, she is new to PHS this year, and saw the great benefits of not only bringing Unified Sports to PHS, but also starting a united club within the school.

"I'm excited for the kids to experience this," Ms. Bookshar said of the basketball games and activities. The players, who are students in her class, got to experience what PHS's varsity athletes experience – a send-off parade through the PHS hallways, running through the spirit banner at the start of the game, the school band playing, the choir singing the National Anthem, and, of course, playing in front of cheering classmates.

"I want Perkins High to be recognized as this awesome inclusive school, because they fully have been," Ms. Bookshar said. "It's been easy for everyone to get on board."

And, indeed, several athletes joined as partners and coaches. Many other students helped promote and plan, as well as become a part of the school's Pirates United Club.

"People are in different situations," said PHS sophomore Autumn Yontz. "And we can brighten anyone's day with a smile and saying hello."

Freshman Rocco Speer agreed: "This brings everyone together. We've never had an event like this before. Hopefully, other schools will follow us."

Beyond hosting events and spirit weeks, to become a banner school for Special Olympics, the programs must be sustainable and continue from year to year.

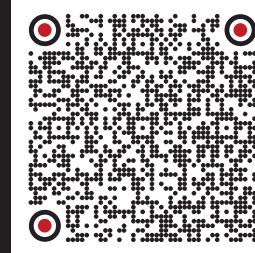
"That's the end goal," said Leslie Drury, an intervention specialist at Briar Middle School. "We really want to push for everyone to feel like they are part of Perkins and the Pirate Way."



Watch The Full Video Here



Teachers, Athletes, Distinguished Alumni Join PERKINS HALL OF FAME



Read Full Bios Here

Two long-time teachers, six outstanding alumni, two celebrated athletes, and the 1993 State Championship Girls Track Team were inducted into the Perkins Hall of Fame at the Distinguished Awards Banquet on January 14, 2024. Keynote speaker Kyle Hallock, a 2007 Perkins High School graduate and a 2020 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, welcomed the latest members and reminisced about their achievements. As Perkins students and staff, the inductees were "chasing excellence" and did not have time to celebrate, Mr. Hallock said. "Well, that time to recognize and appreciate their achievements is tonight. This ceremony is an opportunity to show gratitude to the inductees for their outstanding accomplishments."

Distinguished Alumni

JIM GUERRERA, CLASS OF 1993

Jim Guerrero earned 10 letters in four sports during his Perkins High athletics career and won First Team All-SBC honors in baseball, basketball, and football. He also earned First Team All-Ohio in football and First Team All-District in basketball, and still holds two school basketball records.

SEAN G. WIEBER, CLASS OF 1998

At Perkins High School, Sean Wieber lettered nine times across football, basketball, and baseball – and served as captain in all three sports for his junior and senior seasons. He earned multiple all-conference and all-district honors en route to graduating third in his class.

MATT LUGINBILL, CLASS OF 1998

Matt Luginbill, the son of parents who spent their careers teaching at Perkins Local Schools, has education in his blood. While at Perkins High School, Matt played soccer and baseball, and earned All-SBC and All-District honors in soccer and All-Conference and Second-Team All-Ohio honors in baseball.

JASON HERMES, CLASS OF 1994

Jason Hermes, a two-sport athlete at Perkins High School, collected an impressive 77-5 record as a wrestler, with multiple SBC and sectional championships, district runner-up titles, and 3rd-place at state. In football, he collected three letters and 2nd Team All-SBC honors. He also was a member and president of FFA while at PHS.

TOM RITZENTHALER, CLASS OF 1986

Tom Ritzenthaler made a name for himself as a BMX racer during his time at Perkins Schools. While Tom raced BMX for 43 years, his signature on the sport comes in more impressive forms – the BMX tracks he designs for people and places around the globe, including the Olympics. His tracks were in the 2008 Beijing Games, the 2012 London Games, and the 2016 Rio Games.

BRENT ADAMS, CLASS OF 2000

Few people can say they quarterbacked a state championship football team – Brent Adams is among those who can. A two-sport athlete at Perkins High School, he played QB and defensive back for Perkins High, including the 1999 state championship. He also played basketball and collected all-district and all-Ohio honors.

Distinguished Staff

JANIS ZURA, STAFF MEMBER

Janis Zura joined the teaching staff at Perkins High School in 1968. Her first lab had 30 manual typewriters, four electric typewriters, and two comptometers. She taught business classes, including accounting, shorthand, typing, cooperative office education, and general business, for 35 years, and was the Cooperative Office Education Coordinator for more than 25 years. She retired in 2003.

DOUG MEHLING, STAFF MEMBER

After starting his teaching and coaching career at Sandusky High School in 1968, Doug Mehling was hired at Perkins High School in 1975 as a social studies teacher, assistant football coach, and head baseball coach. While at PHS, Doug instituted a History Film program. He and other staff members created a Living History program that centered around the American Civil War and included a day-long series of Civil War re-enactments.

Distinguished Athletes

AARON RICHARDSON, CLASS OF 2004

Aaron Richardson collected 10 varsity letters as a three-sport athlete (track, basketball, and football) at Perkins High School. As a track and field athlete, Aaron won multiple SBC, regional, district, and state honors, and All-SBC and district honors in football. He went to Bowling Green State University on a full academic scholarship, and also pursued his goal of playing Division 1 football. Tragically, he died during his first football practice.

BETHANY (CAUDILL) OFFER, CLASS OF 2009

As a Perkins Pirate, Bethany earned nine varsity letters in volleyball, track and field, and basketball. In basketball, Bethany was a member of one of the most decorated teams in Perkins Girls Basketball history, winning two SBC Championships, multiple sectional and district titles, a regional championship, and the program's first and only state tournament appearance.

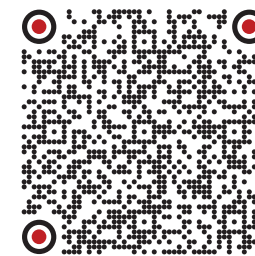
1993 GIRLS TRACK TEAM

The Perkins High School Girls Track Team capped an amazing spring season in 1993 by winning the State Championship. The Pirates were led by Nikki Sturzinger Anderson, who was a state champion in both shot put and discus, Shellie Swain Manley, who was state runner-up in the 100 hurdles, and Jessica LaFene Weber, who was state runner-up in the 1600 meters. The Pirates were coached that year by Chris Green, John Hinton, Tom Bouy, and Rod Litz.



Little Treasures, Perkins Local School District's preschool program, in January was awarded a 5-Star Step Up To Quality rating from the state of Ohio.

"The rating says a lot about our program," said Little Treasures Director Hillary Turner, Psy.D. "It shows we're going above and beyond for our kids."



The five-star rating is the highest a preschool can receive.

Registration for
24-25 Preschool

The Ohio Department of Education & Workforce and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services administer the rating and improvement system. The agencies evaluate preschool programs on multiple criteria, Dr. Turner said. Among the standards, the district maintains professional development for the preschool staff, uses student assessments to guide learning for each child, demonstrates and maintains partnerships with families and community organizations, and all relevant health and safety standards.

The district has had eight preschool classes (four in the morning and four in the afternoon) for 3-, 4- and 5-year-old children for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years – up from the prior years when there were six classes.

Currently, about 110 children attend Little Treasures preschool. Although the district has been considering an option to expand and even relocate the program from Fury Elementary, those plans were put on hold in December while the administration takes a wider look at Perkins Schools' facility needs.



ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

MEADOWLAWN FAMILY OPENS BOOK, TOGETHER



Watch The Videos Here

Meadowlawn Intermediate School students, teachers, and staff are serious about reading. And, they want everyone to enjoy it.

Each year, the 3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-grade students, and staff take part in the building's "One School, One Book" program. This year, the Meadowlawn family read *Fish In A Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. The book is an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that speaks to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they did not fit in.

Each day, staff members took turns reading chapters of the book, which are recorded and posted to the Perkins Now YouTube page. Families can watch the videos and read along with their kids.

"It's such a great book," said Meadowlawn teacher Kim Rogers, who organized the One School, One Book program for the school. "It's a very pertinent story to a lot of our students."

And, not only is the program great at bringing together students and staff from across the building, reading a good book inspires boys and girls to read more. Which is part of a greater focus of the district to improve literacy scores on state report cards.

Meadowlawn Principal Jeremy Hiser said each year when a new class of third-graders comes to the building, there are students who are not reading at their grade-level proficiency.

For example, at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school, 62 students (45 percent of all 3rd graders) were not reading at the 3rd grade level. Every student has reading class each day, and those students not at grade-level get an extra 40 minutes of focused learning, Mr. Hiser said. That effort has shown results – the number of 3rd grade students not at grade level has been cut in half.

"By no means are we done," Mr. Hiser said. "The work is very difficult and takes an incredible amount of time and energy for everyone, but we are making some big waves."

When a youngster hits grade-level reading, they get sent to the office for a high-five from Principal Hiser and a photo. It's worthy of celebration.