

Bluejay Strong – January 10, 2024

Good afternoon, students and parents.

Driving to the office this morning, it was heartwarming to see so many signs and ribbons that signify the outpouring of compassion and encouragement from Perry families and businesses. I want you to know how proud I am of the many ways you are all supporting each other. As we work together toward healing and hope, please take advantage of the support resources that are available to you and your family as needed.

Today is the visitation for Ahmir Johliff and I understand many of us will be attending to pay our respects and condolences to his family. Today and tomorrow will be difficult, lean on one another and the support resources available to you.

The purpose of this message is to provide timely updates on a variety of important topics. If you have additional questions, please send them to Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us.

Please note, while we are not in school right now, there are different activities and services that might be affected by winter weather. Consult the usual channels for those updates – School Messenger, the school website, local TV and radio stations, and the school Facebook pages for updates.

News for Today – Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Return to School

- *Reminder:* There is no school for ALL students this week.
- As of today, the district's plan to return to the classroom has some important information and dates to share with everyone.

ELEMENTARY

- **Wednesday, January 17:** An Open House for elementary parents and students will take place from 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Counseling services will be available onsite.
- **Thursday, January 18:** Elementary students will return to the classroom and will have early dismissal which will continue until all three buildings are ready for a full day.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **Thursday, January 18:** An Open House for parents and students will take place from 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Counseling services will be available onsite.
- **Friday, January 19:** Middle School students will return to the classroom with an early dismissal that day, and early dismissal will continue until all three buildings are ready for a full day.

HIGH SCHOOL

- **The return for High School students is still being discussed as there are many factors to consider.**

Other Announcements

- *Reminder:* Ahmir Jolliff's Visitation is today at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home's Perry Chapel until 7 p.m., and the family will be there to receive people starting at 4 p.m.
- *Reminder:* In-person classes at DMACC began today. Students who have questions or need help, should contact the DMACC Perry Van Kirk Center. Students taking online courses should have already received emails from their instructors. If a student needs assistance or flexibility regarding any classes, please let the instructor know. DMACC course textbooks are available at the Perry Van Kirk Center.
- *Reminder:* ALL extracurricular competitions are postponed until January 16th. Coaches and sponsors will share additional information with their respective teams, including details on any practices that restarted this week.

- Entertainment Opportunity: The Perry Grand Theater, with support from the Optimist Club of Perry and RE/MAX Concepts Cares, is offering free admission, pop and popcorn to support the community on Friday, January 12th at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Resources

- **COMFORT DOGS:** The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs team – Eden, Gideon, Katie, Phineas, Charity and Joanna, and their human handlers – are available by appointment. They will also be at the McCreary Community Building daily from approximately 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., as well as other locations around the community. Watch here for updates; or you can email coordinator@k9comfort.org or call or text 847-287-6612 to schedule a visit.
- **CHILDCARE:** Childcare is available at the McCreary Community Building free of charge for school age children from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. There are also disaster relief resource coordinators there for families who have questions.
 - Meals, snacks and activities will be provided at no cost; and parents will need to escort children into the McCreary Community Building, and sign them in. Also, if the pick-up guardian will be different from those who drop off, please make sure to include contact information (email and phone number).
 - For more information please contact: McCreary Community Building at 515-465-5621
- **LUNCHES:** Grab & Go Lunches are available each day until further notice at the elementary school from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Any changes due to winter weather will be posted on the school's website, School Messenger, KCCI and the school's social media pages.
- **COUNSELING:** Heart of Iowa Community Services (www.hicsiowa.org) can connect students needing counseling to long-term mental health support and care coordination services. Financial assistance is available for those without insurance or with limited insurance coverage. Contact Brandon Tews at brandon.tews@dallascountyia.gov or 515-993-1722. We will also post support resources on the school Facebook pages.
 - Today there is free online confidential support through Project Recovery Iowa. Visit [Project Recovery Iowa](#) – to sign up for a time for a virtual conversation, phone or chat and indicate the time that works for you. Call 1-800-447-1985 for more information.

Happening Tomorrow – January 11, 2024

- Ahmir Jolliff's Funeral is tomorrow at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Perry at 10:30 a.m.
 - *Overflow seating will be available at the First Christian Church across the street from St. Patrick Catholic Church.*
 - *The funeral will also be livestreamed. A link can be found at: www.caldwellparrish.com/obituaries/Ahmir-Jolliff?obId=30279853.*
 - *NOTE: Parking is very limited around the churches. Bus transportation will begin at 9:00 a.m. from the Perry Elementary School teacher parking lot off Dewey Street to the church. The last trip will leave the school and go to the church at 10:15 a.m.*
 - *Once the funeral is over, transportation will begin immediately following the funeral, returning to the elementary school.*

Donations Reminder

- Perry Community School District has set up accounts at Raccoon Valley Bank in the wake of last Thursday's incident.
 - There are two distinct accounts: one for the Ahmir Jolliff Family and the other for the Victims/Staff/Students of Perry Community School.
 - Anyone wanting to make a donation by check or cash can stop by any of the Raccoon Valley Bank locations in Perry, Adel, Dallas Center or Grimes. All checks should be made out to the

“Perry Community School District” with the account distinction/preference written in the memo line.

- Donations can be accepted online here:
 - Bluejay Strong - <https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Bluejay-Strong-/Sbql8AQ>
 - Ahmir Johliff Family - <https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/Ahmir-Jolliff-Family/SdUyyS9>
- Donations can also be mailed to the Raccoon Valley Bank at PO Box 129, Perry, Iowa 50220. Perry Community Schools will distribute 100% of the donations collected to those impacted.