

Bluejay Strong – January 17, 2024

Good afternoon, students and parents.

It was good to see so many people attend the Perry vs. Saydel basketball games last night at Wells Fargo Arena. We also had our boys wrestling team competing at Greene County. I want to thank those who attended these events.

It's important to recognize the kindness that was demonstrated by Saydel and other communities around the state. The Iowa Hawkeye Women's Basketball Team shared a video message of support that was played at the beginning of the game. That message can be seen here [\[Message from the Iowa Women's Basketball Team\]](#). A link to the media coverage of our basketball game can be found at the bottom of this email.

I also want to thank all of you for your continued patience, grace and understanding. There is still work to be done in order for us to navigate the school reopening process, but I know we can – and will – do it together.

Please continue to monitor the district's website, Facebook pages and this daily update for more information. If you have additional questions, please send them to Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us.

Also remember, even though we are currently not in school, there are different activities and services that might be affected by winter weather. Consult the usual channels – School Messenger, the school website, local TV and radio stations, and the school Facebook pages – for updates and announcements.

News for Today – Wednesday, January 17, 2024

SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

School Reopening Plans Paused – There is NO school for students, faculty and staff this week. Our plan and timetable for school reopening is being revised so everyone can take time to grieve the loss of Dan Marburger. More information is coming soon, and counseling opportunities will continue to be available.

Parent Questions – We recognize parents, staff and students have questions regarding safety and security measures for our return to school. We are mindful of the concerns and are taking them very seriously. Likewise, we are seeking out the expertise of law enforcement and the advice of other safety experts. The District is also awaiting DCI's conclusion of its pending investigation. We appreciate your patience as we put in the time and thought necessary to carefully study this issue. The Board will be meeting again to continue discussions and will provide notice of the next meeting once information has been gathered and a new date is set.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lunches

Grab & Go Lunches are available daily at the elementary school from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Note: There will NOT be any lunches available this Friday, January 19th, due to Principal Marburger's visitation at the elementary school, but people can pick up two meals on Thursday. Any other changes due to winter weather will be posted on the school's website, School Messenger, KCCI and the school's social media pages.

Reminder: Special Counseling Session Tonight

Tonight, from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m., staff and families from Perry can join a secure Zoom meeting led by a psychologist. This month's topic is working through grief and loss. This interactive webinar is available in both English and Spanish. To participate, pre-register using the link for your preferred language.

English: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qWjtEYSQTIS1yScbWm6fPQ#/registration

Spanish: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-3FhbxETZ6M-PGJPm7rQw#/registration

Reminder: Free, Drop-In Childcare Available

Thanks to generous support from Parker Trucking LLC, Perry Lutheran Homes and Christ Lutheran Church – Bouton, Acorns & Oaks Christian Academy in Perry is offering free, drop-in care for children preschool through 5th grade, from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 515-490-6013 or email mandi@AcornsOaks.com.

Reminder: Temporary Administrators Hired

As first shared yesterday, three full-time contract administrators have been hired by the district to provide support to our current administrative staff. In addition, **Tom Lipovac**, currently academic advisor for the DMAcc Perry Van Kirk Center and Perry's former activities director, has been contracted part-time to assist our current activities director. The individuals who will be helping are:

- **Dr. Mandy Ross** – 40+ years of teaching and administrative experience.
- **Mr. Randy Martin** – 43+ years of teaching and administrative experience.
- **Mr. Scott Grimes** – 30+ years of teaching and administrative experience.

Reminder: Extracurricular Activities

Competitions for middle school and high school students have resumed. Please check the district website for updates on activities and future schedules.

Media coverage: Perry Basketball Games

Below is a link to the media coverage of our basketball game. We had so much support for the Perry Bluejays as they returned to competition.

[KCCI-TV](#)

[WHO-TV](#)

[WOI-TV](#)

RESOURCES

Therapy Dogs

LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are in town again and available to visit with people until Thursday evening. The process for scheduling a visit is via email or by phone to request a day/time/location. Email: coordinator@k9comfort.org, or call or text: (847) 287-6612. The LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs will NOT be in Perry this coming weekend.

- **Note:** On Friday, January 19th, all LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs will also be at the visitation for Principal Marburger to support the community and family and will not have scheduled visits on that day.

Childcare

Beginning Thursday, January 18, the time of free childcare at the McCreary Community Building for school age children will occur from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **There will not be childcare on Friday, January 19, in observance of Mr. Marburger's services.** 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 the McCreary Community Building at 515-465-5621

PACES

PACES will reopen when school begins again. Please watch for updates.

COUNSELING

Heart of Iowa Community Services

Counselors are onsite at the Perry Public Library for in-person counseling this week (weather permitting) from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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. We will also post support resources on the school Facebook pages. Contact Brandon Tews at brandon.tews@dallascountyiowa.gov or 515-993-1722.

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.