

Bluejay Strong – January 26, 2024

Good afternoon students and parents,

As we wrap up the week, I am feeling thankful for the collaboration between our school and community, including the city administration and law enforcement, as well as our dedicated teachers and staff. What we are doing to reopen our schools while continuing to heal is not easy, and we appreciate the grace that is being extended to us.

Part of our [reopening plan](#) includes hiring support administrators. These individuals bring decades of experience to our district and are focused on supporting our administrators, staff, and students as we navigate the months ahead. Here is a bit more information about each of these highly talented administrators.



Mr. Scott Grimes - Has served as an educator in Iowa for 30 years. His experience includes serving as a middle school teacher, an elementary principal, and a superintendent of both rural and suburban communities. Mr. Grimes was previously the superintendent at Dallas Center-Grimes for the past 12 years. Throughout these many roles, he has also served as an instructional coach, mediator, leader, and mentor. Mr. Grimes will be assisting at Perry High School.



Ms. Jill Anderson - Has served in education for over 35 years in two school districts, Sioux Center and Norwalk. She has various teaching experiences and subjects at the secondary and elementary level. After being in the classroom, Ms. Anderson served as the counselor at Norwalk Middle School. Her administrative experience includes being a Dean and Assistant Principal at the Middle School and ended her career as an elementary principal. She was at Lakewood Elementary (4th/5th Grade Building) for 18 years. Ms. Anderson will be assisting at Perry High School.



Mr. Randy Martin - Has served as an educator and administrator for more than four decades. Mr. Martin began his career as an industrial arts and auto mechanics teacher for middle and high school before taking his first administrative position at Sentral of Fenton as the 7-12 principal. He then moved to the Rockwell City – Lytton/South Central Calhoun district as high school principal until he retired last year. Mr. Martin will be assisting at Perry Middle School.



Dr. Mandy Ross - Has served as a proud public educator for over 40 years. She began as a substitute teacher, then taught middle school for 13 years at Saydel and Ankeny. Her first administrative position was as principal at Perry Elementary School. She has also served as a consultant at Heartland AEA; an elementary principal in Ames, where she also served as associate superintendent; director of teaching and learning in Waukee; and has recently retired after serving as Webster City Schools superintendent. Dr. Ross will be assisting at Perry Elementary School.

Mr. Tom Lipovac – Has more than 40 years of experience in education, with the majority of that in the Perry Community School District as a teacher and activities director. He was inducted into the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Hall of Fame in 2020. He was also a two-time finalist for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Athletic Director of the Year award. Mr.



Lipovac now serves as Academic Advisor for the Career Advantage program at DMACC. Mr. Lipovac will support the Activities Director on a part-time basis.

As we continue our path toward school reopening, your teachers, principals, and staff will resume regular communication and Bluejay Strong updates will taper off after February 1. Please continue to monitor the district's website, Facebook pages and School Messenger for updates. Additional questions can still be sent to Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us.

News for Today – Friday, January 26, 2024

SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN REMINDERS

High School

- The open house for parents and students and the first day of school occur next week. The open house at the high school is Tuesday, January 30 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and the first day of classes is Wednesday, January 31.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lunches – Grab and Go lunches will continue until January 30th. They can be picked up from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. in the east parking lot of the elementary school. Please pull up to the service drive – door #8 to be helped.

COUNSELING

Important Note to Parents: When schools reopen, counseling support will be available to all students who are seeking additional support. If you DO NOT want your child to receive these support services, please contact your building principal. If you have additional questions, please contact Laura Skeel, Director of Learning Supports, at 515-330-6970.

Heart of Iowa Community Services

Heart of Iowa Community Services (www.hicsiowa.org) is available to assist with resources for both short- and long-term therapy and service needs. Financial assistance for mental health and disability services is also available for those without insurance or with limited insurance coverage. Please contact our office at 515-993-1722 or visit our website to learn about our services.

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.