

## Bluejay Strong – January 8, 2024

Good evening students and parents.

As we reflect on last week's tragedy, we know the grieving process is real and will continue to impact everyone differently in the days, weeks and months to come. Our hope is that you are in the process of healing and doing whatever is necessary to get your mind and body healthy so everyone can have a successful return to school for learning and continued support.

Given the importance of staying connected with the school community, a daily message, called Bluejay Strong, will be sent out to provide updates on a variety of important topics. Our goal is to share these messages on the district's website, through the School Messenger system, and on the school Facebook pages by 3:00 p.m. each day moving forward.

Today, we are also sharing information regarding the visitation and funeral for Ahmir Jolliff, our friend, classmate and student. We grieve with his family and the entire Perry Community School District at the loss of this special young man.

As we continue to provide updates, Bluejay Strong will be an important communication tool for us to share timely and accurate information with everyone, so please look for this from us each day.

News for Today – Monday, January 8, 2024

### Announcements

- Ahmir Jolliff Visitation – Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home's Perry Chapel from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., with the family being present from 4 – 7 p.m.
- Ahmir Jolliff Funeral – Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Perry beginning at 10:30 a.m. *Note: Overflow seating will be available at the First Christian Church across the street from St. Patrick Catholic Church.*
- Due to impending winter weather, students will NOT be able to pick up personal belongings in any of the buildings tomorrow (Tuesday), as was previously reported over the weekend.
  - Weather permitting, students will be able to retrieve personal belongings from the high school or middle school on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
  - *Note: Everyone must enter through the middle school doors, where onsite assistance will be provided.*

### Resources

- Childcare is available at the McCreary Community Building free of charge for school age children from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.
  - 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: PCDC (Kim): 515-465-2522 / 515-201-8859
- 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 and social media pages, so please watch for updates.

#### Return to School

- High school students will not be returning to classes all this week. A final decision on elementary and middle school students will be coming soon.
- Please watch the school website and social media channels for any other updates and announcements.
- DMACC classes at the Perry VanKirk Academy Center will resume on Wednesday. High School counselors can assist regarding DMACC schedule changes.

#### Happening Tomorrow – Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

- Practices for all extracurricular activities (both middle school and high school) will resume on Tuesday; each student will be contacted by their coach or sponsor regarding times and/or location.
- Given the possibility of winter weather, changes may be necessary, so please watch for additional announcements regarding this.

Thank you for your time and attention, and please let us know if there are any questions.

You can reach us at [Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us](mailto:Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us).

Keep healing. Keep the faith. Bluejay Strong!

Clark Wicks

Superintendent

PCSD