



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Perry Local Schools to Implement Many Positive Changes for the 2018-2019 School Year

MASSILLON, OH – (August 10, 2018) – At the start of the 2018-2019 school year, Perry Local School District will implement several changes that align with the community’s goal of promoting positivity and ensuring the highest quality educational experience for students.

The changes will also reflect the district’s dedication to creating a culture of inclusion, collaboration and respect among the students, staff members, administrators and families. This year, the district will continue to focus on appreciation and encouraging both staff and students to speak kindness, speak positivity and find the good things in one another to create a positive environment for everyone to learn and work.

During the month of September, with full implementation occurring in October, all Perry stakeholders will participate in training by The Sandy Hook Promise Foundation’s “Say Something Anonymous Reporting System.”

The “Say Something” program enables school administrators and law enforcement to create effective interventions and to help prevent violence, suicide, bullying, self-harm and other forms of threatening behavior. Perry stakeholders will be trained to submit secure and anonymous safety concerns, so the district can identify and intervene before individuals face danger.

Further, Perry will continue its partnership with Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (MHAR) to provide additional, comprehensive school-based behavioral health services in all school buildings.

“The ‘Say Something’ program and our partnership with Stark Mental Health & Addiction Recovery will augment our belief in the shared hope, wellness and security of the entire Perry community,” said Superintendent Scott Beatty.

At Perry High School (PHS) and at the elementary level, there will be one additional counselor to support the current counseling staff. There will be an additional counseling secretary at PHS, and the district’s clinical counselor will now be full-time. Additionally, there will be an increased presence of resource officers throughout the district beginning this school year.

The district will also increase the C.A.R.E. teams in all buildings, which are comprised of teachers, administrators and staff from multiple community agencies including law enforcement, alcohol and drugs, mental health and other social services throughout the county.



The teams will continue to address challenges facing at-risk students and their families, striving to decrease risk factors and increase positive factors.

The C.A.R.E. teams at Pfeiffer Intermediate School and Edison Middle School will also be implementing a mentoring program, called the Legacy Project. Volunteers will begin working with 96 of the district's at-risk students starting in September to help those students succeed in the classroom, as well as later in life.

In addition to the many personnel and program updates, Perry will be adding more security cameras both inside and outside to many of its buildings. Finally, Perry will update the phone system in each school building to allow for better response to emergency situations and increase communication with all stakeholders.

"We are grateful to have so many wonderful individuals in Perry who are dedicated to enhancing the educational experiences of our students on a daily basis," said Superintendent Beatty. "The Perry Local Schools remains fiscally sound and has been able to implement these new initiatives while staying within our budget. We will continue to evaluate and implement other programs and resources as the need arises to best serve our students and families. With the ongoing support of our administrators, staff, parents, students and community members, we hope that these changes make this year one of our best years yet."

For more information on Perry Local School District, please visit www.perrylocal.org.

###