

November 12, 2018

# The Tornado Times

"Journalism is an act of faith in the future."



@gphysyearbook16



Facebook.com/GriggsvillePerryYearbook

Griggsville-Perry High School

202 North Stanford, Griggsville, IL 62340

Volume 5, Issue 2

## Pre-K No More: Board Votes to End Program

By Jeremy Bray,

Following a 4-3 vote, the Griggsville-Perry school board decided that it would end the pre-K program due to a lack of funding. The GP pre-K program works on a grant funded bases in which the state legislature divvies out the money to the schools who have applied for the grant. Unfortunately for the GP school district and many others, the grant was denied.

"Pre-K has always been a grant funded program," said GP Superintendent Kent Hawley. "So what happens basically is that the state allocates the money, people apply for those grants, state says ok, we will give this school so much money and we will give this other school so much money and so forth."

The state gives money to a certain number of schools to fund a pre-K and Griggsville-Perry's application was denied.

"So what happened this year is that everybody was up for the grant and the state legislature appropriated money for that, actually more money than they have in the past," said Hawley. "But they also had more entities that applied for those grants and so we applied and our application was denied."

When the application was denied for the pre-K, the school

tried again appealed the denial. "We appealed that decision and the state board of education came back and denied our appeal saying that we couldn't appeal our application ratings. We can only appeal the process, and they said the process had integrity and, therefore, our appeal was denied. So we didn't get those funds," Hawley explained.

The teachers in the pre-K aren't going to lose their jobs yet, in part in hopes that the program will be brought back soon.

"I do not know assignments or what will happen, but they will be a part of the Griggsville-Perry district for the rest of the school year in some capacity," GP Principal Jillian Theis shared. "Typically, their salaries are written into that grant, but since we are self funding we have had to just shift some different things around to make sure that we can pay them for the rest of the year. So that money has just come out of different accounts, which is more a behind the scenes things, so it may be that a teacher could not go to a conference or something like that."

The school is also holding onto the curriculum so that if the program comes is ever reinstat-

ed, it will all be ready to go, but if things go south they are still planning to use it where they can.

"At this point there are a lot of things that pre-K has purchased over the years and so forth. And in case we can bring the program back, we are going to hold on to those and see how that goes," Hawley concluded. "If that is not a possibility we are going to, you know, we will see where it can best be used by kindergarten through fourth grade, and as far as the rooms are concerned we will just have to see."

Hawley also went on to explain the financing issue surrounding the pre-K situation. "Last year [funding the pre-K] was \$150,000. That includes things [such as] the salaries and benefits and those kinds of things. And there's transportation on top of that. There are snacks on top of that and materials and so forth," Hawley said. "The issue with the staff is that those staff can be reallocated to other places to do other things and we may not need somebody else. That would give us some savings in salaries."

The biggest question left is whether the Pre-k program will be able to get off the ground this



year or next.

"Basically the state legislature is going to have to come up with more money and the state board of education would have to open up that application process again. My indications from my sources say that's not going to happen," Hawley said.

Hawley also addressed the possibility of using local donations to fund the program.

"It would take a large donation each year to have that funded," Hawley explained. "At the board meeting we discussed some options that could be available, that way the program could come back. I guess there is always hope, but at this point, from a state funding stand point, that the way we have usually done. It's not

looking good," said Hawley.

But GP isn't done. Hawley says the administration hopes to get the pre-K program back one day and continue for the sake of the students.

"We would always like to have it," Hawley explained. "It's an important program. It helps prepare our youngest kids. A lot of times our neediest kids, in terms of intellectual development and social development, [are given] a chance to develop those skills before they get to kindergarten. And so its so important if we can bring it back."

*Additional Reporting by  
Brookelyn Crone and Hawk  
Lothridge*

## FFA Goes to National Convention

By: Ashlee Jones

On October 24th, 2018 a few of the FFA kids set off for national convention. The FFA kids went to Indiana. A few of the seniors here from Griggsville-Perry had some great things to say about the trip.

Seniors Matthew Myers and Lane Spencer stated they had a great time.

"I enjoyed eating at Fogo Chão Brazilian Steakhouse and seeing Garth Brooks I also enjoyed the speaker we listened to during the section.

Matthew Myers is the president of FFA and also went on the trip.

"The trip was fun, we left Wednesday and we had a long day we didn't get much sleep on

the trip at all," said Myers.

Lane Spencer a senior at Griggsville-Perry high school is the vice president for FFA.

"I enjoyed eating at Chão Brazilian Steakhouse and I also enjoyed watching Garth Brooks," said Spencer.

Spencer enjoyed going on the trip.

"It was a very fun and enjoyable trip to attend I recommend anyone that can go, attend," said Spencer.

The FFA students did some fun things over in Indiana.

"We saw Garth Brooks, ate at a fancy steakhouse, we also went to a haunted house," said Spencer.





The  
**Tornado Times**

“Journalism is an act of faith in the future.”

### The Tornado Times

202 North Stanford

Griggsville, IL 62340

217-833-2352

### Staff

#### Editors-in-Chief Faculty Advisor

Brookelyn Crone Andrew Crivilare

Ashlee Jones

#### Designers for This Issue

Brookelyn Crone

#### Staff Writers

Hawk Lothridge

Mya Kattleman

Jason Crane

Ivy McCarter

Jeremy Bray

### Check out our social media

 GriggsvillePerryYearbook

 @gphsyearbook16

 @gphsyearbook

### About

The Tornado Times is produced by the students of Griggsville-Perry Highschool's newspaper production class. It is published monthly on the last school day of the month, September through May. One copy per month is free to students and faculty. Additional copies can be obtained through the Griggsville-Perry High School office.

### Advertisements

To place an advertisement with The Tornado Times and the Griggoneer yearbook, please contact Andrew Crivilare at [crivilarea@griggsvilleperry.org](mailto:crivilarea@griggsvilleperry.org) or call 217-833-2352.

### Corrections

The Tornado Times is committed to accuracy in its coverage of the news. Any factual errors the staff finds, or is made aware of by its readers, will be corrected as promptly as possible. Please report any errors to Brookelyn Crone at [croneb@griggsvilleperry.org](mailto:croneb@griggsvilleperry.org)

# G-P Welcomes New Teachers

## Risely Joins G-P

By: Ivy McCarter

Tiffany Risley is the new Special Education teacher of the Griggsville-Perry District, she lives in Perry and chose this district because it's closer to home.

“I grew up in Winchester so I graduated in 2011 so I went to McKendree University in Lebanon and played basketball and went to Illinois College in Jacksonville for a year and a half and played basketball at Western I graduated with my bachelors in special education”

Risley chose to be a special ed teacher because she enjoys working with kids with disabilities and she got to help out in the special ed room in her high school.

“Last year I worked at Western as a K-4 special education teacher I really wanted to get back with the high school classes because I feel like I get to teach more academic content not so much lower grade levels so that's why I ended up here at the high school.”

Risley says she enjoys teaching because it changes everyday.

“My favorite subject to teach is english I like to see what ideas you guys come up with”



Tiffany Risley, one of the new Special Ed teachers in the high school.

# Newman the New Social Studies Teacher

By: Hawk Lothridge

There are many history teachers in America, but no one eats, sleeps, and breathes history like Wilson Newman. Mr. Newman is the new history teacher here at Griggsville-Perry High School.

Mr. Newman has a very extensive background of history. But before teaching, he had a variety of jobs.

“After I graduated from college I helped organize a small local museum in Winchester called Old School Museum,” Newman said. “I worked as a landscaper for a little while. I have also worked as a researcher for a military surplus

company but mostly museum work. I've also worked as a tour guide. For the past 5 years, I worked as a substitute teacher.”

Newman has been to a variety of colleges in his pursue to find a career that fit him the best.

“My first college was Philadelphia University, I was studying architecture. I decided to study historical architecture so I changed programs and went to Southeast Missouri State University and went through the historic preservation program. After graduating I started to get interested in archival work and historic site administration, and then I received my teaching license

through the University of Illinois in Springfield.”

Allison Dokey, the high school guidance counselor, had some very positive things to say about Mr. Newman.

“Overall I think Mr. Newman is a great addition to the Griggsville-Perry staff,” said Dokey. “For example, I did a lesson in his freshman seminar class and while I was teaching the lesson he made sure all of his students understood the assignment and what was expected of them. For those who didn't understand it, he sat by their desk and helped them with the assignment one on one, which I thought was awesome. He's also

very knowledgeable in history and he wants to share that with all of his students and make sure they all succeed. He is also very friendly, very nice, and I can tell he goes the extra mile for his students.”

Newman spoke highly of his past communities and jobs.

“I'm from Winchester. It's where I grew up and went to school. Then I moved to Florida for a couple years and worked as a tour guide. I moved back about 5 years ago and I am enjoying living in the country again.”

# Hanson Joins Staff as P.E. Teacher

By: Jeremy Bray

Most teachers don't like it when kids are running, screaming, and bumping into each other, but Matt Hansen loves it when he can play tag with his kids.

He plays tag games with his class every Tuesday; he calls it “Tag Tuesday”. While he likes to have fun with the kids he also does not want them to scream and interrupt other classes at the same time.

Hansen, the newest P.E. teacher at Griggsville-Perry High School, went to college at Illinois State for his teaching degree. “After High School I went to Illinois State, I knew I wanted to be a teacher and they are the number one producer of

teachers in the state and so I knew that if I wanted to be a teacher I wanted to probably go where they get the most of them and so that is why I chose Illinois State.” says Hansen.

Seth Taylor, another P.E. teacher at Griggsville-Perry, has positive things to say about Hansen.

“I like him and I like how he asks me for advice when he needs it.” says Taylor. “I also like how he cross-teaches math facts into his elementary P.E. classes. This helps out the teachers with helping the kids remember those facts.” Hansen coaches middle school girls basketball and Taylor had this to say “I like how he coaches and teaches in the same school day. I especially like how

he coaches a girls basketball team for Griggsville-Perry Middle School.”



# Senior Profile Stories

## Nash Reflections on Future Plans

By: Jason Crane

Mary Nash, a Senior, know by many as a kind and easy going friend. She plans on graduating from Griggsville-Perry High School this spring with the intentions of pushing forward towards college.

"I plan to maybe go to Alabama, but if not I'm thinking SIUE," explained Nash. "I would like to major in business, because there's a lot of opportunities in it."

She explained how she was very excited and ready to finish high school. Nash also believes in her choice and plans to stick with it.

"I'm very excited I think it's a good choice," Nash stated.

She plans on continuing playing sports and to continue rocking cheerleading.

"I would love too continue. I really want to cheer in college because cheer is my passion

and I just have always loved it." Nash said with enthusiasm.

Nash also will miss Griggsville High School. She gave a teary eyed explanation

"I'll miss it because this is what i'm use to, this is where all my friends are, and I like to come here because everyone

here is nice and excepting." Nash stated about Griggsville High.

Nash also commented that she loved the teachers here at Griggsville High and explained why she would miss them.

"I think I'm going to miss them all because, all of them are very supportive and helpful and it's more like a friendship kind of." Nash explained.

She also stated what she wouldn't miss.

"I won't miss the lunch!" Nash exclaimed firmly.

Nash talked about her life goals and how she planned to execute them.

"Yeah I would like to succeed in college, then after that succeed in my career and help give back to my family because they have helped me so much and that would be important to me." Nash said.

Nash also said that she would also miss her friends.

"I'm gonna miss them a lot, but I'm really gonna miss Savanna, Lakelyn, Colton, Eva, and my friend group. Because we have a lot of fun together, and seeing them everyday in school is so much fun, and I'm really gonna miss that. I won't be used to it at all."

Her friends also state how they feel about her. And how she affects their lives and the impact she has around them.

"I think Mary is very honest, and you can be honest with her too." Savannah Irving firmly stated.

Laklyn Westfall also voiced her opinion. How Mary's life has affected her.

"We have a very close friendship." Westfall informed. "I like that she's very caring and always tells you what she thinks."

Westfall went on to tell about how they have done some fascinating pranks together.

"One time me and Mary hid out in front of Colton's house. We could see him in the window and when he walked away, we wrote on his car."

Nash is also the senior class president and stated that she feels like a leader.

"I feel like a leader as the class president and initiating stuff. I really feel involved and my parents are very proud of me for being class president so that's pretty rewarding I guess." Nash said.

Nash also has advice for the next generation of high schoolers and seniors that we all could learn from.



"Do not take these high school days for granted because it will go fast, stay focus on your studies, and come to school everyday, because this is the best time of your life." Nash spoke wisely.

## Matthew Myers Has a Bright Future Ahead

By: Ashlee Jones

Matthew Myers is an athlete here at Griggsville Perry high school. Myers is a senior this year at Griggsville Perry High School.

Myers is graduating this year.

"It's awesome knowing that I'm gonna be out of this school and continue on with my life in college," Myers said

Myers plans on majoring in agribusiness.

"I plan on attending the

University of Illinois and majoring in agribusiness and then getting a job after college, I'll probably work in a bank.

Myers is involved in some actives this year.

"I am involved in basketball, baseball, FFA, team impact, student council, the national honor society," Myers said

Myers has a few hobbies that he enjoys doing.

"I like to boat, fish, play sports, and hunt," Myers said

Myers favorite sport to play

is basketball.

"I enjoy being on the court with my friends and shooting hoops," Myers said

Myers is living out his last year of high school.

"I'm excited to get it over with and continue on in college.

Myers is a member of the FFA and also the president.

"It's a lot of fun to be in FFA, we do a lot of things for the community and we go to a lot of events," said Myers.



### What are you wearing to prom?

Buy a yearbook and you can see pictures OF YOURSELF!



# Now only \$35

See Mr.C or Cathy if you are interested

# CEO Students Learn How to Build a Business

By: Jason Crone

Have you ever wondered how a business is started? Or have you ever wanted to be an entrepreneur yourself? Well, 15 students from the surrounding schools in Pike county have gotten the chance to learn how to become experienced and successful business men and women. A business class, ran by two courageous teachers, Brandon Moore and Shawn Rennecke, is held at Pittsfield High, called CEO has done just that. Teaching them a wide scale of soft skills to business plans this class is building future business owners.

“In CEO, we learn soft skills like how to handshake properly

and small talk,” Hawk Lothridge explained.

He said he has learned many soft skills including how to properly handshake and carry on small talk. Although this class has not fully engaged the actual business side of things yet, they are planning to hit that subject head on in the following semester.

“Like at the beginning of second semester we do a class business, then after we do that we have to run our own business till the end of the year, then we do a trade show, and show off our products or services that we came up with,” stated Lothridge.

The class can help anyone even if they don't desire to start a

business.

“Oh yeah, you can always learn how to manage your money right,” asked Lothridge.

The class lasts all year and after they learn how to grow and run a business, they all create a business and at the end of the year they have a trade show, which is when they show off their work.

The class instructors provides students with information on writing a business plan, marketing, networking, and communications. Students receive business advice from the mentor assigned to them and the 40+ business and community leaders to speak to them during the course of the year. By the end of this course every student



CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES

will be set on their way with enough knowledge to successfully run a business.

# Team Impact Brings the Community Together Again

By: Mya Kattleman

Girls in bright pink jerseys. The crowd in pink goes wild in the stands. Volley for Hope is just one of the things Team Impact does for the school.

“It impacts the the recipient but also the community,” Kayt Risley, Team Impact faculty advisor, said.

Volley for Hope benefits the volunteers, teaching everyone what kind of impact that students can

really have on the residential area and what they are capable of.

“It's a community togetherness thing and it makes the community feel good about being able to help someone,” said Risley.

Team impact is just one of the few clubs that are sponsored by the school.

“I keep coming back because I love to help and support my town and school,” senior Jeremy Bray said.

“The community is a very great place to live and its helped me out so I did it to help them,” senior Hawk Lothridge said.

The kids are often willing to help and lead wanting to keep the impact going. Although there are a couple of key issues that can be fixed including keeping the students motivated. “Kids are pulled in so many different directions. Nowadays they are involved in a lot of organizations and sports,” Risley explained.

The spirit mob impacts



the students, teammates and the crowd who come to cheer on their team. When everyone dresses up, the gym lights up and more smiles are on the teammates and the peoples faces.

“With the spirit mob, we are trying to get the spirit mob going by dressing up for the theme nights at home games like the school has been doing for volleyball,” explained Risley.