



# THE BUZZ AT PJHS

**PERRYSBURG  
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
550 E. South Boundary  
Perrysburg OH 43551  
419-874-9193

**ISSUE 45  
MAY 2024**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Scott Buker,**  
*Principal*

**Brandon Decker,**  
*8th Grade  
Assistant Principal*

**Chad Warnimont,**  
*7th Grade  
Assistant Principal*

## **LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear PJHS Families,

Thank you!

This past school year has been tremendous for our students, staff members, families and our PJHS community. We can't thank you enough for your support of your student, our staff members and our school. May brings mixed emotions to many people – excitement for our current 8th grade students to enter high school and the next phase of their life, calm for our current 7th grade students knowing that there won't be quite as difficult of a transition next year and a sense of relaxation as everyone looks forward to warm weather and sunshine that June, July and August bring.

The spring months certainly were busy at PJHS! In March, we once again were treated to a visit from Dr. Irene Butter, a Holocaust Survivor, as she presented her life story to our 8th grade students as part of a unit on the Holocaust. Dr. Butter then returned for an evening presentation for our community sponsored by Perrysburg Schools Foundation. Our 8th grade students also experienced trips to Penta Career Center and the annual FroshFest at Perrysburg High School, which is an event to welcome students to the PHS atmosphere. Our students came back from FroshFest excited and looking forward to their next chapters as high school students.

Both grades successfully navigated Ohio State Testing in April by taking assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics, plus Science for our 8th grade students. We are awaiting results from these assessments as those will be coming during our summer months.

Our PJHS Band Program put a new twist on their annual Band on the Run at Levis Commons, turning this event into an evening Glow Run. They fought off some earlier storms and rains to have a successful first run at this and we look forward to building on it in the future. Both our boys and girls Jacket Track and Field Teams claimed NLL Championships and we had several athletes qualify to the Junior High State Track and Field Championships in May. At our Spring Spirit Assembly, we recognized students in all of our extracurricular activities, which continue to grow in number and student participation.

The year concluded with us being honored to present Outstanding Students in all of the content areas and our Portrait of a Jacket Nominees at our morning recognition ceremonies and then recognizing all 8th grade students rising to 9th grade at the evening recognition ceremony at Perrysburg High School. On the last day of school, students were treated to our annual PJHS Talent Show that featured various musical acts, dance routines, artwork and even a performance from the PJHS teacher band, *The Clipboards*.

Once again, thank you to all of our families for your support of your student and our staff members here at PJHS. We are certainly very grateful to be a part of such a strong community. Have a great summer!

Go Jackets!

Scott Buker  
PJHS Principal



## YOUSCIENCE

7th grade students took the YouScience Career Aptitude and Interest Inventory Assessment on April 23rd. YouScience helps students discover their natural aptitudes and make the connection to what they're learning with career and educational aspirations of tomorrow. It would be a great opportunity for families to discuss the YouScience results with their child. See what career aptitudes your child has that match with their interests.

## THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Congratulations to our 8th grade class for having a wonderful Junior High career! You will be missed and we wish you the best in high school. We look forward to having our 7th grade class become the leaders next year! Hoping all staff and students have a fun and relaxing summer.

-Andrea Monheim & Tom Przybylski

**How do I find out final grades???** Please use the link below to help you find your grades in PowerSchool. Grades will be posted the week of June 3rd.

**Incoming Freshmen:** Do you need to reach your high school counselor before the end of school???. Here's their contact information based on your last name.

A-C . . . Mr. Wray jwray@perrysburgschools.net

D-H . . . Mrs. Potts bpotts@perrysburgschools.net

I-MI . . . Mrs. Sidebottom dsidebottom@perrysburgschools.net

Mj-Sh . . . Mrs. Sigg asigg@perrysburgschools.net

Si-Z . . . Mrs. Highsmith lhighsmith@perrysburgschools.net



**Need help over the summer for you or a friend??** Below are two great resources.

### Crisis Text Line - text "4hope" to 741 741

People of all ages may reach out by text 24/7 to communicate with someone trained to listen and respond in a method that is free, private, secure and confidential. Data usage while texting Crisis Text Line is free and the number will not appear on a phone bill with the mobile service carrier.

### 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers 24/7 access to trained counselors who can help people experiencing mental health-related distress. People in distress can call and text 988, or chat with someone on 988lifeline.org. People worried about a loved one who may need crisis support may also use these services.

## JR. HIGH PARENTS' ORGANIZATION (JHPO) UPDATE

JHPO sends lots of energy and support as our students, teachers and families go through that final push of the school year!

Frosh Fest shirts were completed for our outbound 8th graders on May 3.

We were excited to offer a luncheon on May 8 for Teacher Appreciation Week, catered by Fatboyz food truck! Thanks so much for all that our teachers and staff members do for PJHS, you're the best group around!

**New officers were elected for our '24-'25 school year!**

President: Nikki Clark

Vice President: Janet Smith

Treasurer: Heather Seymour

Secretary: Elyse Maher

**Thanks so much to our '23-'24 board members:**  
 President: Kit Mejedsky  
 Vice President: Nikki Clark  
 Treasurer: Kara Svendsen  
 Secretary: Sara Jones

As an opportunity to "chill out" before summer, JHPO is hosting the PJHS first-annual "Aloha" dance May 17th! Thanks to any and all family members who volunteer to help out – we appreciate you all!

## What is your plan for RETIREMENT?

Let us help you live the dash in retirement. Contact our team to schedule an educational discovery call at no cost to you, and start building a brighter financial future!



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## COMMUNITY EVENT AT PJHS

Holocaust Survivor Dr. Irene Butter recently spoke at Perrysburg Junior High School to over 200 members in attendance in which she shared her personal story of living through and surviving the Holocaust. Dr. Butter was born in Berlin, Germany in 1930 but fled to Amsterdam, Holland in 1937 with her family to escape Hitler and the Nazi Regime. In June 1943, the family was deported first to Westerbork, a transit camp, and then in February 1944, to a German concentration camp, Bergen-Belsen, where a large number of inmates died from terrorist practices including slave labor, malnutrition and epidemics. She is one of the last known people alive today to have made personal contact with Anne Frank, who was in an adjacent section of the camp. Irene shared her story of survival including how her family managed to be included in a rare exchange of German citizens and prisoners of war for Jews who had obtained South and Central American passports. On the second night of the Red Cross Train transport towards freedom in January 1945, her father died from the torture and starvation suffered in the camps. Dr. Butter, age 14, was then separated from her surviving mother and brother and deported to North Africa to a refugee camp. Eighteen months later, the three were reunited in New York City and began their new life in America.

The visit to the Perrysburg community was in addition to her meeting with the 450+ 8th grade students at the Jr. High earlier in March as part of the English Language Arts curriculum on the Holocaust.

"Each year, we spend time building background knowledge about the Holocaust; learning about propaganda and the rise of Nazi Germany, 'walking in the shoes' of survivors by reading Gerda Weissmann Klein's excerpt from *All But My Life* and Elie Wiesel's memoir *Night*," explained Megan Helman, Perrysburg Junior High School English Teacher. "Students were also required to select an independent reading book about this time period to help enhance their learning and understanding. Many of our students will also attend the eighth grade Washington D.C. trip in June, where they will tour the Holocaust Memorial Museum. We find that our students are very much engaged and interested in learning about this time period. Their thinking is changed and challenged, while also finding connection with these personal stories. Dr. Butter's personal story brought this unit of study to a meaningful close by offering hope amongst some of the darkest times. She truly is a blessing!"

Perrysburg Schools Foundation sponsored Dr. Butter's both events. For further information, please visit [www.irenebutter.com](http://www.irenebutter.com).

## THE JACKET WAY

The Jacket Way and WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) programs concluded for the year in March. The 8th grade WEB leaders did an outstanding job guiding the 7th graders this year. The 7th graders thoroughly enjoyed participating in the WEB program and curriculum throughout the school year. Our 8th grade WEB leaders will have one final opportunity to impact the Junior High by leading 6th grade groups during our "Meet You in the Middle" event. This event provides incoming 6th graders with a chance to familiarize themselves with the Junior High and enjoy a fun-filled day.

In April, we initiated the application process for our 7th graders to become the new 8th grade WEB leaders for the upcoming school year. With such an exceptional 7th grade class, WEB Coordinators are eagerly anticipating our 7th graders stepping into the role of WEB leaders for the 2024-2025 school year.


PJHS held its final spirit assembly on May 17. Students had the opportunity to exchange tickets for various raffle items, including an Electric Scooter, Roblox gift card, ICE Slushie machine, Mystery box of fun and a Virtual Reality headset. Congratulations to the following students who were selected for a free Jacket Way Subway Lunch in April: Carter Arneson, Elise Born, Cooper Dornan, Isabella Jacobsen, Brandon Josefowicz, Addison Kincaid, Ellie Pesci, and Eva Yarcusko. Additionally, congratulations to our staff winners: Mrs. Cannon, Mrs. Flynn, and Mr. Parquette. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the students for their dedication to our PJHS Jacket Way and WEB programs.



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# PJHS CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

## MATHCOUNTS

On Saturday, March 16, the Perrysburg Junior High School MathCounts Team consisting of Hasrith Chatla, Paul Davies, Eric Sun, Aiden Wilson, and Ean Wilson all competed in the State MathCounts Competition in Columbus. We are very proud of our MathCounts Team on a successful year.



## PING PONG CLUB

This school year Ping Pong Club had approximately 25 meetings, averaging 23 students per meeting, for a total of more than 57 students participating. Thanks to all the students who chose to come out! (And to all the students who let Mr. Blue beat them!) Looking forward to next school year. Ping Pong Club fun and the 2024 ping pong winner!



## STUDENT COUNCIL



Student Council has continued their mission to help the PJHS community and beyond throughout the last few months. Recently, StuCo has been working with "The Buzz" Cafe team to bring a special "Buzz" menu to staff members. Students designed the menu, ordered the supplies, and will help deliver special goodies to teachers on May 17. This has been a fun collaboration for all involved!

Also, we will soon celebrate *Spring Spirit Week* to recognize all of the spring athletic teams and year long school clubs with some fun spirit days, followed by a Spirit Assembly. See this poster for the upcoming spirit days! Throughout Spring Spirit Week, StuCo will once again collect Soccer Gear for Gambia. Donations of gently used soccer equipment, clothes or soccer balls may be dropped off in the boxes outside the main office through May 17.



At our last meeting, Student Council members celebrated their achievements this year with a "certificate ceremony" and a pizza party. We are looking forward to planning for next year!

## SCIENCE FAIR

Three Perrysburg Junior High School students qualified for State Science Day this year! Isaiah Lake, Michaela Lake and Graydon Ward all earned a Superior rating at a District Science Day and went on to submit their projects for the State Science Day. This is Isaiah's 2nd time in a row! Michaela also received 2nd place overall for Engineering Project and a scholarship for B-WISER Science Camp (From Buckeye Women in Science, Engineering & Research). Michaela Lake earned a Superior rating at the state science competition. Isaiah Lake and Graydon Ward earned an Excellent rating. All three students chose research topics that connected to them personally. Graydon experimented with materials to aid in his own 3D printing business, Isaiah investigated composting for his strawberry garden and Michaela created a computer microcontroller to water her plants. We are so proud of their work!



## POWER OF THE PEN

Power of the Pen is heading to the state tournament at Ashland University on Friday, May 17th. The following students have qualified and will be competing:

Abby Van Dam, Aubrie Ghesquire, Mona Gill, Freyja Langrish, Natalie Miller, Elaine Tan, and Anushree Verma. Students will be participating in three rounds of writing where they will have 35 minutes to write to a given prompt. The top 54 finalists will compete in a fourth writing round. Congratulations to all Power of the Pen writers!

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## WORLD LANGUAGE CLUB

As we begin to wrap up another amazing year at PJHS, the World Language Club students enjoyed a cultural movie night watching *Kung Fu Panda* while having the opportunity to try an Iraqi dish. Our very last event of the year took place



on Friday, May 3rd celebrating Cinco de Mayo with tacos and a potluck where students brought in cultural dishes incorporating recipes that are near and dear to their families. We discussed future avenues for our club next year and can't wait to pick back up where we left off after summer break!

## GIRLS IN STEM

Girls in STEM enjoyed a day at The Ohio University, Gibraltar Island, Ohio. For well over 100 years, the island has boasted a rich history and invaluable freshwater biology lab. Their Stone Laboratory opened its doors to analyzing Lake Erie water qualities, investigative practices into anatomy of both invasive and natural invertebrates, glacial groove inspections, orthology walks and microorganisms revealed its population size of both zooplankton and phytoplankton.



Did you know:

- Lake Erie has approximately 20 islands depending upon water levels.
- Lake Erie produces more fish for human consumption than all other Great Lakes put together.
- Lake Erie circulates each water droplet once per 2.6 years, offering the shortest retention time over the other lakes. Lake Superior, for contrast, has a retention rate of 191 years! This makes studying freshwater ecosystems much more timely in Lake Erie.
- Ships loaded in the Great Lakes will rise 15-18 cm upon entering the ocean due to the ocean's density.
- Speaking of density - freezing temperatures of salt water is lower than fresh water - ocean temperatures must dip to 28 degrees Fahrenheit before freezing.



We are so appreciative of the support received for such an opportunity by PJHS administration, teachers, Perrysburg Schools Foundation and our families! The team and participants know we could not explore our natural environment without your help and support. We also want to thank our team leaders and of course... Newton!

## MOCK TRIAL

Maybe inspired by the April 19, 2024 midnight release of a highly anticipated album or by the fact that Taylor herself played Rosemary in the movie, "The Giver," the PJHS mock trial students encouraged each other to perform their best and, if nervous, to simply "shake it off." Departing on a bus at 6:00 a.m., the mock trial teams went into the competition with confidence and enthusiasm. And their efforts certainly paid off. Mackenzie Frye, Andrew Kerber and Atalia Richardson received "Best Attorney" awards from the judges. Maesyn Crane, Mona Gill and Lucy Knaggs won "Best Witness" awards. Notably, Maesyn received a "Best Witness" award for her performances of both Defendant Jonas and Chief Elder Riley. Team ratings will appear on the OCLRE website after the final Showcase on May 17, 2024.



Both teams presented the defense side of the case in the morning and the prosecution side in the afternoon. Mackenzie Frye, Brianna Chavez, Rollin Kossick, and Jackson Riha portrayed prosecution attorneys. Their witnesses were played by Samiyah Bennett, Peyton Buckner, Maesyn Crane, Isla King, Lucy Knaggs, and Amelia Mazzarella. On the defense side, Andrew Kerber, Isla King, Atalia Richardson and Sophie Switala played attorneys. Their witnesses included Paris-Pearl Abia, Peyton Buckner, Maesyn Crane, Mona Gill, Lucy Knaggs, and Tyler Meredith.

The students would like to thank Judge S. Dwight Osterud for his expertise, all of the pizza and breadsticks that he brought to practices and the delicious dinner at Buca di Beppo in Worthington on the day of the Showcase. "Judge O" started the PJHS mock trial program about twelve years ago! The students would also like to thank their families for so much support and encouragement. Finally, they extend their thanks to Judge Aram Ohanian and his staff members at Perrysburg Municipal Court for the invaluable experience of conducting a dress rehearsal in the courtrooms.



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## FROM THE MEDIA CENTER



### Keep Reading Over the Summer.

Don't forget we have over 350 ebooks (most with a text-to-speech option) and 50 digital audiobooks that are available throughout the summer from our PJHS library catalog.

**Need more?** Students can use their Way Library eCard information to access Way Library's Digital Content Portal for ebooks, digital audiobooks, newspaper/magazine articles and videos. And don't forget to check out Way Public Library's teen summer reading program, *Adventure Begins at Your Library*, for an opportunity to win prizes or participate in one of the many events just for teens.



(Way Library eCard information)



(Way Library's Digital Content Portal)



(Events For Teens)



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**Need help or have questions?** Please send a Schoology message or email Ms. Franck at [lf Franck@perrysburgschools.net](mailto:lf Franck@perrysburgschools.net).

Have a great summer!

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## REFLECTIONS FROM PEER MENTORS

"I love being a Peer Mentor! I am so grateful for the opportunity to help others and make other students happy! It is a highlight of my day. When my parents ask me what was a 'positive' of my day – it's always Peer mentoring. I've learned that everyone has their own story and sometimes we need to slow down and listen." - Josie Swanson

"I always want the best for my friends and I want to have fun with them, as well as watch them succeed! I've learned that I need to be more patient and understanding as opposed to flipping the switch. It's a phenomenal experience, when I have the chance to talk/bond with the kids, I get to forget about all of the other stressors in my life." - Jay Patel

"I enjoy watching other kids succeed and seeing the smiles along with their accomplishments. Peer Mentoring has taught me to be patient with others. It's also helped me to be more outgoing with people that I wouldn't have expected. Peer Mentoring makes me feel good because I enjoy helping others and making other peoples' day!" - Rowen Converse

**JOIN US FOR THIS SUMMER'S EVENTS!**

**SUMMER MUSIC SERIES**  
 June 5 - September 28  
 Every Wednesday 11:30am - 1:30pm  
 Every other Saturday 5pm - 7pm

**CLASSIC CAR SHOW**  
 June 15 (rain date: June 22)  
 10am - 2pm

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## CAFETERIA

As of May 1, Perrysburg Junior High School has served 2,964 breakfast meals and 59,172 lunches to students this year!

Chicken Patty Sandwiches are the students' favorite lunch. We sold 21,227 sandwiches!

## PJHS TALENT SHOW

The school talent show was a spectacular event filled with mesmerizing musical performances, jaw-dropping dance routines and captivating acts that kept the audience on the edge of their seats. From talented musicians to graceful dancers, students showcased their incredible abilities on stage, creating an unforgettable evening of entertainment. It was a moment to celebrate the diverse talents within our school community and to applaud the hard work and dedication of all the participants.

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# FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



## Band

The 11th annual HPI/PJHS Band on the Run 5K Glow Run featured over 400 runners, two pep bands and countless volunteers. This Perrysburg community event has become one of the largest 5k events in our region. The "bandlings" brought music, spirit and GLOW to this year's event.

Meet You in the Middle is a great HPI and PJHS tradition, and the PJHS Pep Bands are excited to be back in action at this year's experience. PJHS Pep Band members will welcome our rising 7th graders and enjoy some donuts together while welcoming their first day of summer.

Members of the PJHS Pep Band are ready to swarm the historic PJHS Gymnasium for this year's Spring Spirit Assembly! Our "bandlings" will march through the halls, inviting the student body to make their way down to the event. Once in the gymnasium, our band will provide the atmosphere and vibe that is unique to PJHS!

The PJHS Marching Yellow Jackets will close the PJHS Bands 2023 - 2024 season with a performance at the Perrysburg Memorial Day Parade. Our band students will march down Louisiana Avenue while playing *America the Beautiful* in honor of our country and those who we remember on this day. This experience is closely tied to the history of bands and we are fortunate to be a part of the event.

Thank you for all of your support of the PJHS Bands this year! You'll hear us again in August!



## Orchestra

PJHS Orchestra students will wrap up their school year with a final spring concert on Monday, May 20th. Congratulations to all 7th and 8th grade orchestra students on a terrific school year!

48 PJHS orchestra students participated in this year's BGSU Middle School Honors String Festival on Wednesday, April 17. Students participated in orchestra rehearsals, sectionals, attended concerts and worked with BGSU music professors. They performed two songs with the BGSU Philharmonic at a concert that evening. We are so proud of the PJHS orchestra students for representing our school district in such an impressive way! Congratulations to the following participants:



Logan Adams, Grace Allen, Sammy Alnaqeeb, Mack Avery, Marissa Bayer, Samiyah Bennett, Olivia Boice, Elise Born, Jocelyn Brown, Ore Dada, Elaina Farley, William Fisher, Taylor Gerwin, Momina Gill, Estelle Heath, Bea Hudson, Zaid Ishkhatem, Jed Jiang, Jacky Jimenez, Lily Johnson, Grace Keller, Lola Koppitsch, Ben Kunos, Jeffrey Laing, Jeffrey Ligman, Brayden Linkes, Emily Manges, Preston McClain, Emily McFall, Brayden Moore, Rory Moreno, Emma Newhouse, Kaden Nicholson, Joey Orlop, Mahi Patel, Sean Perry, Katelyn Phothirath, Jayden Rodriguez Pate, Aidan Rominski, Varnith Sadhu, Carolyn Stierman, Jonah Sweetser, Lily Taylor, Anushree Verma, Advika Vijay, Abby Wong, Heidi Yan and Aidan Zechman.



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## Choir

Choir directors Joel Hamilton and Katie Kuhlman bid farewell to the 8th graders and wished them the best of luck as they transition to high school. Throughout their time together, these students have grown not only as singers but also as individuals, learning the value of teamwork, dedication and artistic expression. As they embark on this new chapter of their academic journey, they carry with them the memories and skills cultivated in the choir, ready to continue shining bright in their musical pursuits.

**ENCORE:** The Perrysburg Association of Choir and Theater Boosters (PACTB) is hosting their annual show choir summer camp Tuesday, May 28th - Friday, May 31st at PJHS. The camp is open to students who are currently enrolled in grades 4-8. Students will learn a variety of songs, choreography, participate in theater workshops and more. The camp will conclude with a performance by campers.

### Grades 4-6:

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/bV8-JQ?vid=14jdyo>

### Grades 7-8:

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/GcFiKw?vid=14jfoo>

Please contact Mrs. Kuhlman (kkuhlman@perrysburgschools.net) or Mr. Hamilton (jhamilton@perrysburgschools.net) with questions.

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### ATHLETIC AVENUE

Congratulations to both the Boys and Girls Track and Field Teams for winning the NLL CHAMPIONSHIPS!!

Here are some highlights:

Girls 4x8 Broke the NLL Record  
(Baxter, Cornwell, Rogge, & Schultz)

Boys 4x2 Broke their own school record  
(Clemens, Hahn, Jackson, & Myers)

Dakota Jackson broke his own long jump record

Lane Gazarek broke the NLL 800 record & school record

Participating in a Fall Sport – Cross-Country, Football, Football Cheerleading, or Volleyball? If so, here's some important information:

#### Code of Conduct Meeting

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 from 6-8 p.m.

You must have a new physical on record prior to tryouts for any fall sports.

OHSAA Physical Form (use the link below)  
[www.ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/2024-25PPE\(English\).pdf](http://www.ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/2024-25PPE(English).pdf)



### STUDENT REFLECTIONS FROM THE DIVERSITY PROGRAM

"I really enjoyed my time at the Diversity trip! Erika Gold's story was exciting to hear and I really learned a lot about the Holocaust outside of the Concentration Camp. I thought it was funny whenever her ice cream story was brought up, she would make us laugh every time! Her story was so emotional, how her dad had to leave, but it was also hopeful and optimistic, how she escaped the cattle car and ran to the housekeeper's house to hide in the closet from the Nazis. I am truly inspired by her story and learned that it is never good to be a bystander and instead be an upstander, to call out anything that seems wrong. I thought the slideshow was cool because the papers and photos really helped fill in any blanks people might have had before hearing her story. Overall, I would go to hear another Holocaust survivor if I had the chance because Erika Gold showed us exactly what that Elie Wiesel quote said, how if witnesses tell witnesses their story, the listener will then become another witness. Thank you for allowing me to come on this field trip, I really enjoyed it!" - Brayden Linkes

"I had the special experience of going to the Diversity program. This program was hosted at the Valentine Theater in Toledo, Ohio. Students from schools all over the area attended this impactful event and loved it all so much. The speaker, Erika Gold, did an amazing job telling her fascinating story. She grew up during the time of the holocaust as a Jewish girl. The Holocaust was the genocide of European Jews during World War 2. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered around six million Jews across German-occupied Europe, which was two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population. This is a time in history that the world will always look down upon in shame. Erika's story captivated the audience, making everyone desire to know what happened next. Her story was sorrowful, with lots of loss and tragedy. Her story was a true inspiration to me and something I will never forget." - Tessa Parker