

# Blue Crew: Necessity for boosting school spirit

By Lexie Julbert

"You get sweatpants' days," said biology teacher **Nikki Knight**, giggling, as she listed reasons why students should join Blue Crew.

As a member of Blue Crew myself, which focuses on school spirit and brings the school together to create a tighter community, I call on students to join the group because they want to give back to the school, boosting pride and spirit.

Still, I understand Knight wanting to involve as many students as possible, and that sometimes means tempting them with comfortable clothing, giveaways at games and prizes for shooting baskets or participating in other contests.

All Blue Crew members must pay \$20 annually, but that's a good deal since each receives a special t-shirt designed by Von Storm, a 2015 graduate, Knight said.

I'm not anywhere near rich, but I've paid those dues gladly since my freshman year, and I think the experience and t-shirts are worth it.

**"We want everyone to show up at games, but we can build community this way."**

But, what about students who truly

cannot afford to spend their money on Blue Crew or who have parents who cannot afford it or approve of the cost? I would like to see financial aid options or fundraising opportunities for those who don't join because of the cost.

This year, the school motto promoted by Blue Crew is "Our House, Our Time," illustrating how all of Perry comes together at this time in our lives as one.

This year's motto is a spunky way of getting students to see each other as a team rather than having walls of separation between clubs.

"We want everyone to show up at games, but we can build community this way,"

Knight said referencing wearing the themed t-shirt to events, "this is the second year we have the theme tied with a t-shirt for everyone."

Knight views the t-shirt as a piece

of "memorabilia" and reminder of this school year.

"How cool will it be to not only be wearing the same color but the same shirt," she said. She thinks this shows "people care and stand behind athletes."

Another way that Blue Crew is showing that support is by creating locker signs for every athlete to help create a partnership between Blue Crew and sports teams.

Tonight at the stadium opening, Blue Crew members will mingle among tailgaters, sparking the fun and spirit. Students who want to tailgate should bring grills and plenty of food to share with friends.

Supervision and organization are key to Blue Crew's success. It is "as good or as bad as students make it," assistant athletic director **Emily Steinmetz** said.

Blue Crew is more inclusive than it

has been in the past because it has eliminated spirit captains. Steinmetz calls it a "grassroots organization."

Blue Crew's goal is to become more than a cheer block, with members wearing their special shirt to show their support of the entire school.

"It isn't all just about athletics," Steinmetz said. "It's about pride in the school. Wearing shirts on FEST and opening day of musical."

**"It's about pride in the school."**

The student body should get involved this year and spread kindness and support. School events will be more enjoyable if more students join Blue Crew. Bring your voices to the games, your cheers to the musicals and your ideas to the club.

the CROZ NEST



**Adam Crozier interviews Jerry Brown, resident PM historian.**

**Will you be at the stadium grand opening?**

*I am going to have a display table with PMHS football history memorabilia. I have some team pictures from the early years.*

**How excited are you for the stadium?**

*I am very excited about the new stadium. It does not seem "real" to me yet.*

**FOCUS surveyed 100 students about his or her favorite concession snack. What's yours and why?**

*My favorite concession snack is a hot dog. Hot dogs always seem to taste better at a sporting event. If it is cold out though I like a hot cup of coffee.*

**Anything else you'd like to add?**

*I wish that Kelly Clore was still alive to see this. Kelly was the first head PMHS football coach: 1973-1982. Sadly, Kelly passed away in 2010. He would be so happy to see PMHS have their own stadium.*

DONT GIVE UP  
THE SHIP

## 2017 home game dates and Blue Crew themes

8/18 vs. Greenwood - White Out

9/1 - vs. Southport - Blue Out

9/8 - vs. Terre Haute South - Black Out

9/15 - vs. Franklin Central - Hawaiian

10/6 - vs. Terre Haute North - Pink Out

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