

Rock 4 the Earth plans to ring throughout the halls

By Dillon Chapell

As the end of the school year draws closer, one event becomes center stage within Perry Meridian High School.

Rock 4 The Earth is an annual battle-of-the-bands-style show sponsored by the Environmental Club.

The concert is tonight, May 4, 6 to 10:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are \$5 at the door, which open at 5:45 p.m.

It showcases the talents of Perry students through 22 15-minute slots of soloists and ensembles. A special appearance this year is alumni band Pushing Daisy's (Their name is an on-purpose grammatical gaffe).

Each act has a bucket to collect money, and whatever act collects the most contributions, wins the show.

Custom tees have been sold to bolster the event, and other merchandise and food is sold. Water is provided, and attendees should each bring his or her own reusable bottle.

The excitement and anticipation about R4TE can be seen in the halls as students wear the signature tie-dye shirts.

"Rock 4 The Earth is probably my favorite event at Perry all year," said junior **Jackson Gill**, who has performed in R4TE for the past two years.

"It's a great platform to show Perry's creativity and is a fun and exciting event to take part in."

Gill is performing two times in R4TE tonight. One performance is with

the group UV Fuzz, which consists of juniors **Isabelle Davis**, **Grace Summers** and **Nick Rhorer**. They are the reigning champions from last year.

The other performance is with the group Wilfred, whose members include junior **Michael Sears**; and sophomores **Gabriel Beasley** and **Dominick Heyob**.

The only information Gill would divulge was that both groups were performing original songs and covers.

The students aren't the only ones who put large amounts of work toward Rock 4 The Earth.

The Environmental Club plans the event, led by sponsor, **Jessica Hunter**, English department head and teacher.

"A pretty decent amount goes into planning Rock 4 The Earth" said environmental club member sophomore **Bailey Riddle**, pointing to such duties as running concessions, maintaining security and working spotlights.

All sorts of musical genres are featured, Hunter said.

She listed some of them: jazz, rock, grunge, alternative, blues, house/EDM and contemporary pop.

The audience will also be treated to a variety of instruments, including piano and even woodwind instruments, including saxophone.

"All proceeds go toward beautification projects for PMHS," she noted. In the past, the Environmental Club has planted trees and flowers to spruce up the campus.



Junior Jackson Gil and sophomore Dominick Heyob rehearse for R4TE (Photo provided by Gabe Beasley).

Hill, Bik warn of drug abuse

By Ariel Lucas

A nervous freshman climbed onto the stage. **Joseph Bik**, 14, pulled speaker notes from his pocket, divulging startling drug statistics to his fellow freshmen gathered in the auditorium, including that 100 people a day die from opioid abuse.

The early college student learned that fact in health teacher **Mark Deal's** class.

Bik's class was part of a new educational on-line program designed to stop so many young people from dying from prescription drug overdoses.

"Students are now becoming aware that this is a problem," Deal said. "This is serious, a wake up call to society that we need to deal with this."

Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill attended the April 25 event and spoke too; as did principal **Kert Boedicker**.

Everfi is an educational developer of the prevention program, which it hopes to expand to schools nationwide. It sponsored the special event.



Freshman
Joseph Bik

"They'll become aware this is a problem and this is serious. To have people in this, that are in this, is kind of a wake-up call and as a society we need

to deal with it."

Boedicker explained some statistics on the opioid epidemic. "One quarter of us will be impacted," he said. "People are affected every minute, every hour."

Then he introduced Kari Preston, Walmart Director of Health and Wellness. Everybody clapped.

"It is estimated that opioids are obtained by friends," she said, pointing out that addiction can happen with only one pill.

When Hill took the stage, students clapped even harder. They recognized that having a state official at school was something to celebrate.

"Lots of people get into problematic situations," he said.

"Drugs are designed to change who you are." He urged students to stay away from these killer drugs and reach out to help others who abuse them.

"Find a way to help."

TWEET OF THE WEEK



brokeboi blasé

@blazelowery

yall need to get woke if you dont use a fork when you dip your oreo into the malk



Health Teacher
Mark Deal



Attorney General
Curtis Hill