

**Black Horse Pike Regional School District
Alumni Spotlight - TRITON
FEBRUARY 2021**



EDWARD PERSICHETTI, CO '1998

"When looking to shine a spotlight on a former Mustang this month, I could think of no better nominee than my dear friend, Ed Persichetti. From the time we roamed the halls of Triton together, to his adult life, few people I know so eagerly embrace life and all that comes with it. Ed was always the adventurous type, never happy sitting still, and as an Eagle Scout and avid boater, a great friend to have! They always say, find a job doing something you love and you'll never work a day in your life. I am happy to say that Ed (Captain Eddie) has done that, and gets to spend his time sharing his passions and making the men and women of law enforcement safer as they watch over all of us. Thanks Ed!"

~Michael Maitag, School Counselor, Triton HS

1. AA: Upon graduation, what post-secondary path did you take and why?

ED: I chose to attend La Salle University in Philadelphia and obtained a BA in the arts/communications field. They had, and still have, one of the best nationally recognized communication programs.

2. Looking back, would you have done anything differently and why?

ED: I may have looked at different options of career paths. When in high school, it's hard to avoid the question, "Where do you want to go to college?" I was fortunate to have that option to answer that question but what the question should have been was, "Your about to spend a whole bunch of money and pay it off in the course of the next 20 years, before you make a decision, think long and hard what you would enjoy doing for the rest of your life." When worded that way, I may have chosen a different option.

3. AA: Describe your career/profession today?

*ED: After graduating La Salle, I worked for Comcast SportsNet in Philadelphia. My twin brother Eric (also class of 98') went to college in Bristol, Rhode Island, so in 2003, I moved to Rhode Island and worked for Providence Fox 12. Soon thereafter, I made a huge decision to leave the communications market and pursue a maritime career in New England. I worked on commercial boats, obtained my first Captain's license and then moved into the private sector. I eventually moved to Florida, ran private yachts for high profile individuals and traveled all around the world. I obtained my 1600Ton Open Oceans license and before you know it, I'm running a 140-foot yacht with a crew of 10 which included a EC 130 Eurocopter, which would touch down and take off the decks multiple times a day. It was truly life in the fast lane. This path introduced me to my wife 12 years ago in which we have been married for 10. Then, about 5 years ago, it was time to address the "family "question. My wife and I decided to leave the full time yachting industry, move to our home in New England and start a family. We dabbled in the charter business, maritime education and the broker business but 2 kids later, it proved to be a struggle. So, we looked outside the box and explored moving to my wife's native stomping grounds, Oregon. I applied for a job with the Oregon State Marine Board and I am now the Marine Law Enforcement Training Coordinator. Basically, I facilitate and educate all the marine law enforcement deputies statewide and still find myself sharing the passion of the water on a daily basis. I have the privilege and honor in working with first responders every day and the rewards are inspiring. We're close to family, live in a truly beautiful part of the country and have **yet to shovel snow** since moving from New England. Perfect.*

4. AA: What impact did your BHP high school have on your career path/profession?

ED: Walking through the doors of "Tri High" in 1994 marked the start of something great. As a freshman, it's your chance to be a new person. You have the chance to be someone you've always wanted to be. Surround yourself with students, friends and staff who share your values, hobbies and passions. As a senior, it's your last chance to leave behind your legacy. My family has a huge legacy within those halls. My parents, who were high school sweethearts, graduated Triton in 1965. My sister and cousins graduated Triton from 1989-1991 and now my second cousins are attending. So what impact did Triton have on my career and profession? It was everything. Through that halls of Triton, I learned core values such as integrity, morals, commitment, admitting when you're wrong and showing humility and not showcasing when you're right. I learned not to judge anyone and that hurt feelings are scars that can last a life time. Let's face it, life doesn't get easier but building a good moral foundation during your high school years will only help propel you forward for the rest of your life.

5. AA: Was/were there specific teachers, coaches, counselors, administrators, secretaries or other professionals that had a major impact on you while in school, and if so, who were those professionals? Describe how they helped you along your HS journey.

*ED: I can only imagine most have retired since I graduated but yes, there were so many great teachers and staff who shared their passions to an inspiring level. Off the top of my head, **Mrs. Eastman** was our music director and she always encouraged everyone to share the love of music, no matter what your talent level. That passion still drives me today in playing and recording music with my children. **Mr. Adams** was the band director and his level of professionalism and passion blanketed the football field with red and blue pride. His conducting skills and "ska" talent lighted the stage in the auditorium from musicals, concerts and one act plays. I remember **Mr. Michaelchuck** blowing up balloons filled with helium and then enlightening us with stories of his days in Vietnam. Memorizing the periodic table was not enjoyable but he made sure you understood what the importance of these elements were. I absolutely despised math and yes, I still do. **Mr. Terrusso** would keep me after school, one on one, and would not let me leave his classroom until I understood the algebra problem at hand. Failure was not an option. He would communicate with my other teachers so there was no scheduling conflict with other after school activities. He made sure I was set to succeed and pass the next math exam. **Mr. Costello** ran the AV department and it was his passion that drove me towards communications. We had so much fun airing the "Tri-High News Team", recording sporting events, designing lighting for productions and exploring the endless opportunities through technology. **Miss Julie Seltzer** was director at the time of the shows and she was always positive, honest and just plain cool. All of the coaches beat the red and blue pride into your head to make sure you played with valor, fairness and good sportsmanship. **Mr. Richards, Mr. Minitti**, "Tiny", from soccer to football, they all interacted great with students. It wasn't just the teachers either, the administrative staff played just as much as a crucial role. **Mr. Capelli, Mr. Stimetz, Mr. Golden, Mrs. Maitag, Dr. Bernard and Mrs. Davis** in whom I worked for during my study period, they were all so great. It's a simple philosophy; if you treat each other with kindness and honesty, its' highly likely you'll get the same in return.*

6. AA: Which school clubs, sports, activities, etc., if any, did you participate in at THS? Were there any moments or experiences that you can recall that helped you become the person you are today?

***ED:** I was involved with a lot and for that, I have to thank my parents. They drove my sister, brother and I to get involved as much as you can and taste the waters. You don't know until you try, and that statement stands true. Being involved led me to meet lifelong friends, many whom I keep in touch with to this day. I played soccer until senior year and though it was fun, I realized I'd rather dedicate my time to music, communications and the arts. I was on the swim team for a season and then moved to the dive team. Honestly, I'm not afraid to admit I couldn't keep up with anyone. (laughing). Triton had a great, talented, record breaking team in which I still believe they hold a record. It was like trying out for the Olympics when you play on the Sandlot. But, again, I tried and that short lived experience was a blast. I do have the jacket to prove it. lol.*

*Myself and **Karen Alvarez** were two of the top "peer mediators" in the school. This program was no easy task for anyone involved but at the end of the day, it eliminated unrest in the hallways and hopefully kept students safer. This challenge allowed me to meet individuals from one spectrum to the other. There was no judgement, no gossip, no time limits. Just you, another mediator and two of your peers all with the same goal, a positive outcome. If anything, it built trust among the student body that even strangers care. The skills I learned as a peer mediator absolutely help me to this day. From managing a crew at sea to a father of two, it's about finding the balance.*

*However, my fondest memories are on the stage and in the studio. I was part of the "Tri-High News Team" and it was always a great way to start the day. Live television always made for an interesting way to start the day and **Mr. Costello** made sure it was fun. It was a confidence booster and also expanded your reputation though the halls. Students would give me a nod, say hello, thumbs up or even a thumbs down. But you know what, either way, you were recognized. The theatre program, choir and chorale was a blast for all four years. There was amazing talent and the camaraderie, friendship and support that came from that stage was amazing. Many of those involved, including myself, grew together through the course of those four years not as students but as young teenagers growing into adults. We tend to think we're invincible only to realize 20 years later how vulnerable; we really are. One of my fondest memories was packing the house with a sold out crowd for a show. There was nothing like it. The organized chaos back stage, the stage and sound crew ready to go and then the house lights would go down and the stage lights would come up. One of my finest memories was playing "Tony" in West Side Story. Man, that was a difficult show for everyone involved. But we sold out every night and that crew, cast and everyone involved poured their hearts out to ensure it was a success. I remember the famous "balcony scene" and singing "Maria". On closing night, I held that last note like it was my last breath. It was 1998 and it was possibly the last chance we could leave our legacy, leave our permanent mark on the stage at Tri-High. I remember looking down at the pit and **Mr. Adams** was staring at me, with his baton in the air just mentally passing the message, "Don't let go." **Mrs. Eastman** was sitting in the front row with tears running down her cheeks and directly behind her was a packed house of family, friends, students and the public. That was the moment I knew, these may have been the best days of our lives. Surrounding yourself with positivity and simply trying your best is a trait I carry today and Triton certainly rooted that trait.*

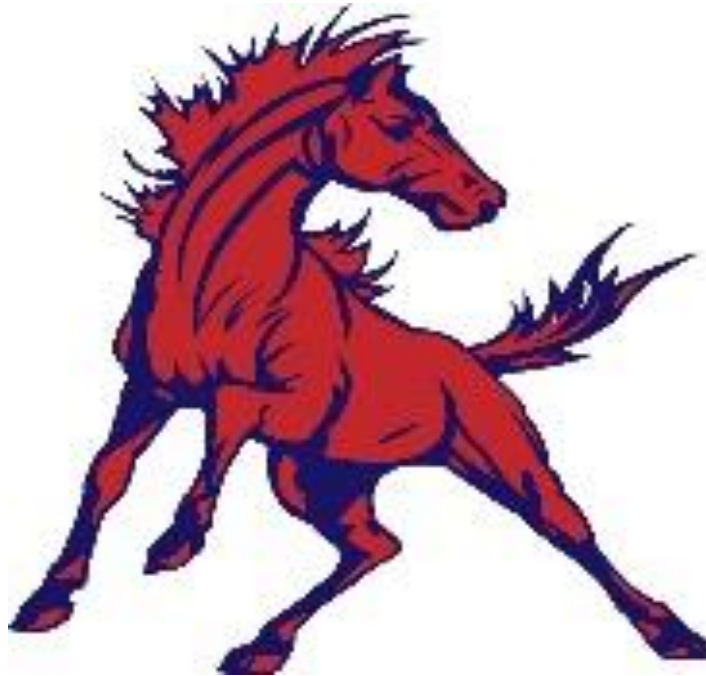
7. AA: Please share any other favorite memories of the Black Horse Pike Regional School District, your HS in particular, that would inspire today's youth?

ED: As I stated earlier, when I walked through those doors at Triton in 1994, it was new start. Middle School wasn't easy for me so here I am, the mere age of 14 with an opportunity to be whoever I wanted to be. Everything before then didn't matter. I remember my first day. There was a group of students sitting in the middle of the main entrance circle, all twice my size playing a green day song on the guitar. That was the first time I realized someone in their teens could grow a beard to resemble Mumford and Sons. The noise of the beater cars with no exhausts racing towards the back parking lot. The faint smell of cigarette smoke and the sound of Nirvana from the front parking lot. I was petrified, scared to death and not afraid to admit it. But, I had the support of my family, my twin brother Eric who was by my side and we stepped foot through those doors together. You know what? We nailed it from the start. Triton Regional High has the ability to reset a person as an individual, I can only assume for the better. I encourage everyone attending to embrace it, challenge it and focus on what they can do to be better and more importantly, the potential of what they can become. Find the resources that can benefit them as individuals and be persistent. Do not give up and do not give in. This is their chance to be great.

8. What advice would you give to our current student body? What would you have done differently in high school if you could turn back time?

ED: A good friend of mine who I hold very close to my heart once said, "You go through life with two things - your name and your honor. Mess up with either and both are tarnished forever." Personally, I've worked hard to not tarnish either but it's no easy task. I reflect upon that quote on a weekly basis. Some of you may be reading this and say this is some Triton grad who is reliving his glory days. Well, maybe, but I can assure you, the lessons I learned in those glory days are lessons I've carried through life. Let's face it, life isn't easy and now it is more difficult than it's ever been for most. Some of us rise in the morning and have rose colored glasses while others just struggle to rise. Some of you may dwell on the simple ideology that "life isn't fair", while others rise to the occasion to gratify yourself in overcoming challenges and earn your own "fairness". I would find it hard pressed if anyone knows someone who has told them life is easy. It's not, but, it can be easier if you surround yourself with positivity, good people and try to seek the opportunities to enjoy the simple pleasures in life. Triton Regional High School has the resources available for anyone who wants to take advantage of them. Good resources at that. However, don't expect them to come to you like a golden egg. You must pursue your goals and continue to drive forward. You will most likely get out of your experiences what you put into them. For some, you may graduate and never look back while others may be asked to type something like this, 22 years later from your graduation day. Those hallways are filled with pride, struggles, opinions, feelings both positive and negative, challenges and a variety of paths but it's up to you to choose the affects they have on you as an individual. So in turn, my advice is this...just try to make the best, next decision.

If I could do anything differently? I would have chosen to be more in tune with the feelings of individuals, both friends and peers. As stated earlier, you may think you're invincible but the fact is many are vulnerable, especially in high school. Think through your peer's eyes. Instead of jumping on a decisive decision, or throwing a comment on social media, think long and hard of your actions. Listen to each other and though you may not agree, you may find that the simple act of listening will open your eyes to reflection. We tend to be selfishly engaged throughout the day but I can assure you, you will reflect upon the decisions you make in those four years for the rest of your life. Remember your alma mater, stand proud for the red and blue and cheer on your Mustangs. These are your peers and this is your legacy so I strongly encourage you to make it count. So, with this, I leave you with a quote from Vince Lombardi, "Watch your actions, they become your habits. Watch your habits, they become your character."



Where Inspiring Excellence is our Standard and Student Achievement is the Result!