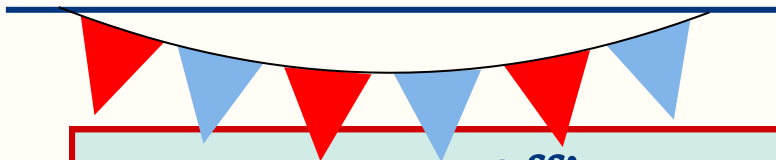


The Liberty Lantern

**MAY
2026**



Office Personnel:

Principal: Shane Street

Assistant Principal: Ed Lesniak

Administrative Assistant: Nicole Morris

Administrative Assistant: Jane Lysik

School Office Hours: 7:00am – 3:55pm

Telephone Number: 815-462-7951

[Liberty Jr High Website Link](#)

From the Main Office:

The end of the year is fast approaching as there are just over four weeks of school remaining. It has been a great year so far. Hopefully, the end of the year will go as smoothly as possible for all of us.

There are a couple important announcements/reminders I would like to make you aware of. The date of the eighth grade graduation ceremony is Wednesday, May 27. It will begin at 7:30pm and should conclude by 8:30pm. The event will be held in the main gym at Lincoln-Way West High School. Other important events coming up include Teacher Appreciation Week May 4th – 9th, 8th grade graduation practices on Wednesday, May 20th and Tuesday, May 26th during regular school hours. Please refer to the "Important Dates" section of this newsletter for more details.

**Shane Street
Principal**

**Ed Lesniak
Assistant Principal**

Important Dates

- **May 4th – 8th : Teacher Appreciation Week**
- **May 8: Early Dismissal 11:25am**
- **May 8: 8th Grade Dance 6:00–8:00pm**
- **May 19: School Board Meeting 6:00pm**
- **May 20: Graduation Practice (during school hours)**
- **May 21: 8th Gr. Great America Trip**
- **May 25: No School – Memorial Day**
- **May 26: Graduation Practice, 8th Gr. iPad Collection, 8th Gr. Last Day**
- **May 27: Graduation Ceremony 7:30pm
7th Gr. iPad Collection**
- **May 28: 7th Gr. Last Day 11:25am
Dismissal – Report Cards Emailed Home**

NEWS



you can use

Staff Emails:

For most non-urgent matters, emailing is the best way to contact a teacher. Please use the first initial of the first name and the full last name @nlsd122.org EX: John Smith jsmith@nlsd122.org



Student iPads...

All students are issued a NLSD 122 iPad and are expected to have this with them for all classes and to bring it home each night. Bringing a fully charged iPad to class each day is essential for maximizing learning opportunities and ensuring seamless participation in digital activities. A dead battery can hinder learning, disrupt the classroom and put students at a disadvantage. Please assist your child with creating a routine that ensures they have a fully charged iPad to start each and every day of school.

School Lunch:

The school lunch order link is sent out by district office every other week to the parent/guardian email listed in PowerSchool. Please place your order by the deadline in order to ensure your child will receive lunch. You can find more information on the lunch program here: [Lunch Program](#)

Lunch Times

7th Grade

5A 11:17-11:36

5B 11:36-11:55

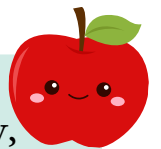
8th Grade

6A 11:59-12:18

6B 12:18-12:37

Attendance Matters...

It is very important that your child be in attendance each and every day, but we do realize that there will be times when they are sick and need to stay home. If your child will be absent, please call the main office at 815-462-7951 by 8:30am the day of the absence. Please call even if you send a note or email the teacher. We will begin calling parent/guardians and emergency contacts if we do not receive a call by 8:30am. To arrange an early pickup for your student please call the office to let us know the time you will be arriving.



Ice Cream & Snacks:

Hershey ice cream and other snacks ex: chips, granolas bars, are offered every day during lunch. A variety of flavors/items are available for \$1.00 each. These are a cash only purchase and cannot be deducted from the student's lunch account.



NEWS



you can use

8th Grade End Of The Year Events:

- 8th Grade Graduation Dance = Friday, May 8th (6:00pm-8:00pm)
- 8th Grade Great America Trip = Thursday, May 21st
- Last Day of Attendance for 8th Graders = Tuesday, May 26th
- Graduation Ceremony = Wednesday, May 27th at Lincoln-Way West HS (7:30pm)



Morning Math:

Monday ~ Mr. Billig Rm 120
Tuesday ~ Ms. Lavin Rm 100
Wednesday ~ Mrs. Bethman Rm 102
Thursday ~ Mrs. Bergeron Rm 200
Friday ~ Mr. Bahret Rm 118



Homework Club:

Join as needed in Rm 220
Tuesday ~ 2:55-3:30pm
Wednesday ~ 7:30-8:15am
Thursday ~ 2:55-3:30pm

Washington DC :

Liberty 7th grade students are invited to join Mrs. Zettergren, through EF Explore America, on a trip to Washington, D.C., October 9-11, 2026. Students interested in attending this educational, once in a lifetime trip, should contact Mrs. Zettergren at rzettergren@nlsd122.org, or visit EF www.efexploreamerica.com/2998812CM for more information. Limited spots are available, register by June 21, 2026. This is not a school sponsored event.

Scholastic Bowl:

The Liberty Scholastic Bowl team wrapped up their regular season with an overall record of 9-7. The team will now move on to Regionals on Wednesday, 4/29 as the 3 seed in the tournament at Manhattan Jr. High. Top scorers for Liberty on the season were Nate B and Noah S both tied with 23 toss-ups, Andrew V with 19, Gwen P and Mario L both with 18 and Donny P with 14. Best of Luck to them at Regionals!

NEWS



you can use



National Junior Honor Society:

In April, Liberty's NJHS sponsored a very successful donation drive in support of NAWS animal shelter. As a school, we donated an astounding 1015 items to help homeless pets!! Thank you for your generosity, Liberty Patriots! On Wednesday, April 22, six 8th grade students and twenty-four 7th grade students were inducted into the Liberty Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Congratulations to all of the inductees and thank you to the current members and faculty members who were on hand to make the ceremony special. Our final meeting for all NJHS members is Friday, May 1st, at 7:30am. We are honored to welcome Dr. Motsch to our meeting as she will provide a leadership workshop for our members. Thank you, Dr. Motsch, for sharing your time and wisdom with us! Our last service project of the school year will be on Tuesday, May 5th, where we will team up with Student Council to complete a spring clean up around the Liberty grounds. Students should turn in the permission slip ASAP if they would like to help out.



Voices of Freedom:

The Voices of Freedom musical theatre workshop is putting the final touches on their spring show: AniMagic!. This contemporary retelling of the Grimm fairy tale "The Bremen Town Musicians" will feature several talented Liberty and Martino students performing songs from some of our favorite animated features. We hope you can join us for what will be a first-class evening of entertainment on Wednesday, May 20, at 6:30pm in the Cafetorium.

Student Council:

Student Council teamed with NJHS for a spring clean at Liberty. Members pulled weeds and cleared up our courtyard, bus lane, and main entrance areas. Liberty looks great due to the wonderful help of the Student Council and NJHS members who volunteered for this spring clean-up activity! Student Council members also lead a Salad Dressing Drive for Daybreak Shelter. Members visited the shelter and received a tour to learn how the shelter supports members of our community. We are grateful to all who donated. We are thankful for our hardworking and creative Student Council members.



ATHLETICS

Summer Athletic Camp Info:

Attention All Current 7th Graders: If you are interested in participating in a camp this summer, Liberty Jr High is offering 9 camps to get involved in. Anyone interested please see the flyer on pages 10 & 11 of this newsletter for all the information associated with each of the camps. If you have questions regarding a specific camp, please email the sponsoring coach. These camps are open to incoming 6th and 7th graders (and incoming 5th graders for cross-country), so feel free to share this information with anyone in District 122 that may want to get involved in a junior high level activity. To register please visit <https://nlsd122.revtrak.net/liberty-jr-high/#/list>

Track & Field:

The track and field team is nearing the conclusion of their season, and with three meets left before DPV Conference Meet at Memorial Stadium in Joliet, athletes are all toiling to achieve their season-long goal of making the conference and sectional team with their eyes on Peoria for a possible trip to the State meet. Coaches Havlin, Hence, Bollini, Prodoehl, and Engle are extremely proud of all the success everyone experienced this year! Best of luck to the runners, jumpers, and throwers who represent our school so well!

Golf:

Liberty Golf is gearing up for an exciting 2026 season and tryouts are just around the corner! All students interested in joining the team must complete the official 2026 Golf Tryout Sign-Up Form. This form helps coaches plan for tryouts, communicate important details, and ensure all participants are prepared for the season ahead. Be sure to submit your information by the July 17th deadline so you don't miss your chance to be part of Liberty Golf. We're looking forward to seeing both returning players and new talent out on the course!

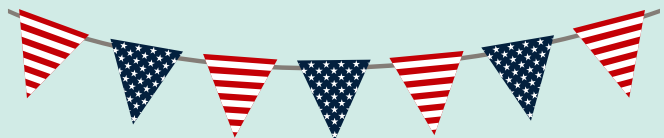
2026 Liberty Golf Try-out Sign-up Form:
<https://forms.gle/HoPGzD9nmEFNgpSJ9>

Bowling:

The Liberty Bowling team completed a great season. The girls finished in the top 10 at sectionals. The boys finished in 9th place at State. We look forward to next season with many returning bowlers.

MUSIC

dept.



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Choir & Voices of Freedom Concert

Date: May 20th

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Liberty Cafeteria



Band & Orchestra Concert

Date: May 13th

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Liberty Main Gym

Admission is FREE to all of our concerts!

ORCHESTRA

The Liberty Orchestra is ready to finish the year strong at our Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 13, at 6:30pm! Looking ahead to summer: Mark your calendars for Lincoln-Way Rock Orchestra, June 1-4 and 8-11 with the Final Concert on Friday, June 12. You can register at <https://omella.com/hd0mr>. Even if you are not able to participate in the camp, go see the concert! It's the best show in town. Additional summer camps have gone out in Ms. Darin's weekly emails, and for 7th graders, the Liberty Orchestra Camp will take place August 3-6 and 10-13. More details coming soon, so check your email. As for next year: 8th graders who are using school instruments need to return these instruments during Liberty Orchestra Camp. If you are renting your instrument from Quinlan and Fabish, your rental just follows you to the high school.....no action is required! Happy May Musicians!

BAND

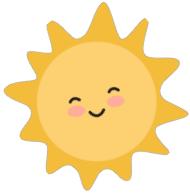
The Liberty Band will be very busy at the end of the school year! Our last jazz performance of the year was on April 25 at the Jazz Cafe at Lincoln-Way West where the students performed beautifully in a jazz coffee house style performance. We are so proud of our jazz band members for their hard work and dedication this school year! Moving into May, the Liberty Band will perform in the New Lenox Loyalty Day Parade on Sunday, May 3, right here in New Lenox at 2:00pm. Come out to the parade route to support the bands and other parade participants! On May 13, the Liberty Band will perform their final concert at 6:30pm in the Liberty gym. Please come out to support our musicians on their final performance of the year while they play some incredible music! You don't want to miss this one.

CHORUS

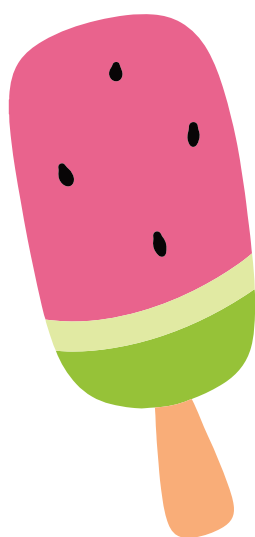
The Liberty Patriot Chorus has had a phenomenal year and has made great strides in their singing. They are busy preparing for their final concert which will take place on Wednesday, May 20, at 6:30pm in the Cafetorium. We hope you will join us for this program.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

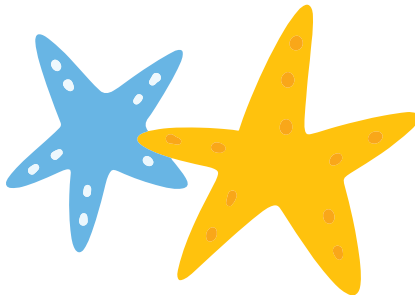
MAY



- 7th - 5th & 6th Gr Band/Orchestra Concert 6:30PM
- 8th - Early Dismissal 11:25AM
- 8th Gr Graduation Dance 6:00-8:00PM
- 13th - Band/Orchestra Concert 6:30PM
- 19th - School Board Meeting 6:00PM
- 21st - 8th Gr. Great America Trip
- 25th - Memorial Day No School
- 26th - Last Day 8th Gr. Attendance
- 27th - Graduation Ceremony @ LWW 7:30PM
- 28th - Last Day of School 11:25AM Dismissal



HAPPY 
SUMMER



Nurse's Corner

Important Health Information From the Nurse For Parents- MAY

School physicals are not required for returning

NLSD students at Liberty. However, summer is a great time to schedule well visits with your child's doctor. During this visit, you may have a sports physical completed, which will be valid for the entire school year (13 months). This helps prevent the last-minute rush for sports physicals before tryouts. Please note that students must have a current sports physical on file before participating in tryouts.



If your child needs to take medication at school, a medication authorization form must be completed by a medical provider each school year. This includes over-the-counter medications such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) and acetaminophen (Tylenol). The form can be found on the district website. Parents must drop off medication before the start of the school year in a clearly labeled bottle with the child's name. Students may bring EpiPens and inhalers on the first day of school.

If your child carries an inhaler, they may keep it with them rather than storing it in the nurse's office. A medication authorization form (back page only) must be completed by a parent, and a photo of the prescription must be provided to the school nurse.

If you have any health-related questions, please email me at jkerzman@nlsd122.org.

Have a great summer!



New Lenox School District 122
102 South Cedar Road, New Lenox, Illinois 60451
Phone 815-485-2169 Fax 815-485-2236

Gifted & Academically Talented Education (GATE)

New Lenox School District 122 values each child's unique talents and provides varied learning experiences to support different learning styles. In addition to core instruction, the district offers the GATE program for both gifted students and high achievers.

Beginning in fourth grade, students are identified using a matrix that includes class performance, cognitive ability, achievement, and aptitude (available on the district website). GATE and Accelerated classes feature a faster pace, deeper application of skills, and increased independence. Students must meet ongoing expectations to remain in the program. In addition to meeting the qualifications the below work habits are expected to be maintained.

Work habits and skills expected of GATE students:

- Independently complete class work
- Read and comprehend materials independently
- Consistently complete homework on time
- Manage time effectively alongside other activities
- Attend school regularly
- Maintain strong focus in class
- Demonstrate problem-solving and critical thinking
- Engage in enrichment beyond required curriculum
- Produce work at a high level of mastery
- Understand that higher expectations may mean limited re-dos and not all A's
- Apply skills and concepts at a deeper level
- Embrace academic challenge
- Show kindness, patience, and support for others

Families will be notified in May if their child qualifies. For questions, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

Liberty Jr. High Summer Athletic Camp 2026



Summer Camp Registration - Opens April 13th

Registration link will be sent out on April 13th via SchoolMessenger

Please note: Camp registration closes promptly at 12:00PM the Friday before the camp starts.

- Students **MUST** be enrolled in NLS122 in order to sign up.
- Grade levels listed for each camp are for the 2026/2027 school year.
- Campers **MUST** be registered by May 15th to be guaranteed a t-shirt with camp registration. (There may be extras available, while supplies last, after the May 15 registration deadline.)
- For questions on a camp, please contact the coach using their email address included in the camp information below.

ALL CAMP REGISTRATIONS ARE FINAL - NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN

<p>Liberty X-Country Camp</p> <p>Coach: Patty Mulder pmulder@nlsd122.org Nicole Rokas nrokas@nlsd122.org</p> <p>Date: June 1st, 3rd, 5th, 9th & 11th Time: 8:00 - 9:15 AM Grades: 5th - 8th grade Location: Liberty Campus and New Lenox Parks/Forest Preserves Cost: \$85</p> 	<p>Liberty Cheer Camp</p> <p>Coach: Samantha Johnson sjohnson@nlsd122.org Dianne Zinkel dzinkel@nlsd122.org</p> <p>Dates: June 1st - 4th Time: 9:30 - 11:00 AM Grades: 6th - 8th Location: Liberty Gym Fee: \$70 *Registration closes May 15th* *No stunting will be involved in the camp*</p> 
<p>Liberty Baseball Camp</p> <p>Coach: Mike Wisz mwysz@nlsd122.org</p> <p>Dates: July 14th, 15th, 21st, and 22nd Time: 9:00 - 10:30 AM Grades: 6th - 8th grade Location: Tyler/Bentley Baseball Field #9 Fee: \$70</p> 	<p>Liberty Softball Camp</p> <p>Coach: Ryan Billig rbillig@nlsd122.org</p> <p>Dates: June 22nd - 25th Time: 8:00 - 9:30 AM Grades: 6th - 8th grade Location: Walona Softball Fields Fee: \$70</p> 
<p>Liberty Boys' Basketball Camp</p> <p>Coach: John Bahret jbahret@nlsd122.org Tony Zumpano azumpano@nlsd122.org</p> <p>Dates: July 27th - 30th Time: 9:00 - 10:30 AM Grades: 6th - 8th Location: Liberty Gym Fee: \$70</p> 	<p>Liberty Girls' Basketball Camp</p> <p>Coach: Alan Didier adidier@nlsd122.org Dan Bollini dbollini@nlsd122.org</p> <p>Dates: August 3rd - 6th Time: 8:00 - 9:30 AM Grades: 6th - 8th Location: Liberty Gym Fee: \$70</p> 
<p>Liberty Coed Volleyball Camp</p> <p>Coach: Tony Zumpano azumpano@nlsd122.org Dana Curta dcurta@nlsd122.org</p> <p>Dates: August 3rd - 6th Time: 10:00 - 11:30 AM Grades: 6th - 8th Location: Liberty Gym Fee: \$70</p> 	<p>Martino/Liberty Musical Theatre Camp</p> <p>Director: Amanda Herman (Martino) aherman@nlsd122.org</p> <p>Dates: July 27th - July 30th Time: 12:00 - 1:30 PM Grades: 6th - 8th grade Location: Martino Jr High School Cafeteria Fee: \$70</p> 

Martino/Liberty Art Camp

Director: Zachary McDivitt (Martino)
zmcdivitt@nlsd122.org

Dates: July 27th - July 30th

Time: 10:00 - 11:45 AM

Grades: 6th - 8th

Location: Martino Jr High School Cafeteria

Fee: \$70



Liberty Jr. High Upcoming Tryouts 2026/2027 School Year

Softball Tryouts	Dates: July 27 th & 28 th (29 th Rain Date) Time: 8:30 - 10:00 AM Location: Walona (Field #2)
Baseball	Dates: August 3 rd & 4 th (5 th Rain Date) Time: 7th Grade: 8:30 - 10:30 AM 8th Grade: 11:00 - 1:00 PM Location: Bentley (Field #9)
Cross Country	Dates: August 3 rd = 5 th & 6 th Grades August 4 th = 7 th & 8 th Grades August 5 th = Rain Date Time: 8:00 - 9:15 AM Location: Liberty Track
Golf	Dates: August 4 th , 5 th , and 6 th Time: 11:00 - 2:00PM Location: Woodruff Golf Course
Boys' Volleyball	Dates: August 31 st and September 1 st Time: 3:00-4:30 PM Location: Liberty Main Gym

*** Students must be enrolled in NLSD122 to sign up ***

In compliance with the IESA, sport physicals are valid for 395 days from the date of the exam. Students cannot participate in tryouts without an updated physical on file in the school office. A copy of the physical form can be found on our school website, at most doctor offices and clinics, or by clicking this link: [IESA-Physical Form](#).

Physicals can be submitted in one of the following ways:

1. Email Physical to Mrs. Jeana Kerzman at jkerzman@nlsd122.org

2. Dropped off in the main office at Liberty.

● *School Office Hours during the school year 7:00AM - 3:45PM*

● *Summer hours for drop off are Monday-Thursday from 7:00AM - 3:00PM.*

Please call the Liberty office at 815-462-7951 if stopping by, to verify office staff is available.

Please understand that due to IESA rules we cannot allow students to try out for any sport without a valid physical on file.



Yearbook sales have now closed online



We are pleased to offer a limited number of additional yearbooks for purchase at \$30 each.

These will be sold on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.

If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook please contact Ms. Alvarez to have your name added to the waiting list at

aalvarez@nlsd122.org

Liberty Jr. High - 3rd Trimester Academic All-Stars

The Academic All-Star Award is given in the middle of each trimester to outstanding seventh and eighth grade students by each department at LJHS. The award represents much more than a grade point average. Academic All-Stars are top in *effort, attitude, service to others, and interest in their subject area*. They serve as *models of commitment* for the rest of the student body.



7th Grade

Applied Digital Skills:

Nora Wilke

Art:

Dominic Buoncore

ELA:

Mia Dempsey, Zion Ervin, Frida Gray, Ben Pantol, Avery Pantol

Math:

Noah Baker, Kegan Kirk, Matthew Kwasneski, Lawson Lokanc, Echo Wiechec

Music:

Jacob Smit

Science:

Carson Bartasius, Ricky Olszta

Social Studies:

Davina Aragbonfoh, Greyson Capp

Intro to Spanish:

Alexis Costello

8th Grade

Applied Digital Skills:

Nick Litsogannis

Art:

Charlotte Richards

ELA:

Kelly Ayala, Kellen Durkin, Samantha Formell, Ashely Twardak

Math:

Louis He, Jordan Rogel-Guadarrama, Anna Plambeck, Olin Shea, Lihua (Kevin) Zheng

Music:

Zack Brockway

Science:

Landen Miller, Adrianna Portillo, Jackson Strein

Social Studies:

Elyse Nelson, Molly Klimczak

Advanced Spanish:

Chloe Alvarez

Physical Education: Nathan Boye, Ryan Hartigan, Courtney Kozicki

Health: Nico Tapia

Band: Logan Visny

Orchestra: Helena Wolf



NLSD122
PTO



BASEBALL
FUN



Joliet Slammers

VS. WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS



FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026
5:35 PM

JOLIET SLAMMERS STADIUM

1 MAYOR ART SCHULTZ DR. JOLIET, IL

Grab your seats for an NLSD122 PTO Night Out with the Joliet Slammers! Enjoy a fun night at the ballpark with family and friends—open to everyone. Every ticket supports our PTO!

[CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS](#)



**TICKET SALES END
JUNE 5 AT 3:35 PM**

Plant a Seed, Read

Summer Learning Challenge 2026

for Kids, Teens & Adults

Sunday, June 7 to Saturday, August 1

Scan to QR
code to sign
up for a
Beanstack
account!



This Summer's theme is **Plant a Seed, Read!** Sign up begins Sunday, June 7. The Summer Learning Challenge is for all ages, from birth through adults. The first week, June 7-14, is for registration only. Print logs will be accepted starting on Monday, June 15.

Registration is completed through Beanstack and is available at the Library and online. Download the Beanstack app or visit newlenoxlibrary.beanstack.org to register yourself! To sign up in the library, see one of our Summer Learning Challenge volunteers in Youth Services. Teens and adults can also register at the Adult & Teen Services desk on the second floor.

You can download Activity Lists at www.newlenoxlibrary.org/summer. Activity lists are also available in either Youth Services (for Birth to 8th Grade) or Adult & Teen Services (7th Grade and up) at the service desks. Only reading and activities completed between June 7 - August 1 will be considered valid.

Birth-8th Grade:

- Complete 12 activities from the kids activity list & earn:
 - Prize vending machine token
 - Certificate of completion
 - Prize drawing entry
 - FREE book
- Bonus logs may be completed for extra tokens & prize entries.
- Prizes picked up at Youth Services. Prize drawings held August 3.



Teens & Adults (7th Grade & Up)

- Complete activities from the Teen or Adult list.
- Ways to Participate:
 - Beanstack: Register, track activities, and enter prize drawings online.
 - Paper Log: Pick up a log at Adult & Teen Services.
- How It Works:
 - Every 5 activities = 1 badge + 1 prize drawing ticket
 - Up to 10 tickets total
 - Repeat activities allowed
- Prize winners will be contacted & have 2 weeks to claim prizes.



Student Access to Digital Subscriptions Over the Summer

Students can access the digital resources below by logging into the [ClassLink](#) LaunchPad via the District website at <https://www.nlsd122.org/c/index.php>. There may be times a program is down due to maintenance. If there is not an icon on the LaunchPad, students will not have access. Below is a list of programs and their summer availability status. Parents will receive a School Messenger message with this information.

IXL	July 30, 2026
BrainPop and BrainPop Jr.	July 30, 2026
PebbleGo	All Summer
Starfall	July 30, 2026
Learning A-Z (Raz+ and/or Vocab A-Z)	July 30, 2026
Reflex/Frax	July 30, 2026
Flocabulary	July 30, 2026
Typing.com	July 30, 2026

8th Grade students may not have access after the last day of school.