



The Liberty Lantern

September 2025



LIBERTY OFFICE PERSONNEL:

Principal: Shane Street

Administrative Assistant : Nicole Morris

Assistant Principal: Ed Lesniak

Administrative Assistant: Jane Lysik

School Office Hours: 7:00am - 3:55pm

Telephone Number: 815-462-7951

[Liberty Jr High Website Link](#)

A NOTE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE...



The Liberty Junior High School staff would like to say a big “WELCOME” to all of our Patriot families as we begin the journey that is the 2025-2026 school year. We are excited, eager, and looking forward to a great year!

Shane Street
Principal

Ed Lesniak
Assistant Principal





We welcome the following staff members as they are new to Liberty Junior High:

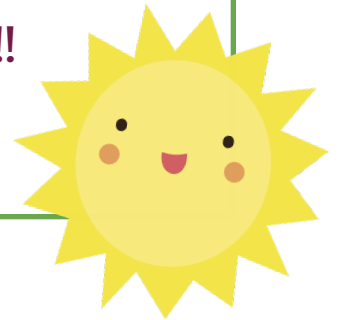
Skye Jones: Social Worker

Gabby Planera: Special Education

Dawn Stawick: Paraprofessional

We are delighted you decided to join us!!!

"A smile is the universal welcome"



Assignment Notebooks...

Students are strongly encouraged to utilize their assignment notebooks on a daily basis. They are a key to developing responsibility and maintaining organization. When used properly, they can be very helpful with homework completion and remembering events. We also encourage parents to check their child's assignment notebook as it is a great way to stay updated on their child's progress.

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.**



News You Can Use



School Absence...

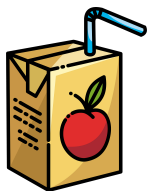
It is very important that your child be in attendance each and every day, but we do realize that there will be times when they are sick and need to stay home. If your child is going to be absent, please be sure to call the main office at 815-462-7951 by 8:30am the day of the absence. **Please be sure to call even if you send a note or email your child's teacher.** School personnel will call parents/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 main office to let us know the time you will be arriving and we will do our best to have your student ready.



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](#)



Ice Cream & Snacks

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



News You Can Use

Upcoming Liberty JH Tryouts



Boys' Volleyball



Dates: August 25th and 26th

Time: 3:00 - 4:30pm

Location: Liberty Main Gym

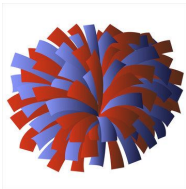
Girls' Basketball



Dates: September 15th and 16th

Time: 3:00 - 4:30pm

Location: Liberty Main Gym



Poms

Dates: Clinic September 22nd
Tryout September 24th

Time: 3:00-5:00pm

Location: Liberty Jr High

[Poms Tryout Info](#)

please join the google classroom [yh3hrv5b](#)



Cheerleading

Dates: Clinic September 15th
Tryout September 17th

Time: 3:00-4:30pm

Location: Liberty Jr High

[Cheer Tryout Info](#)

[IESA-Physical Form](#)

News You Can Use

Emergency Drills Notification:

We regularly schedule emergency drills throughout the year. These drills include evacuate (fire) drills, shelter (tornado) drills, bus evacuation drills, and lockdown (intruder) drills. The dates for these drills will be listed in the "Calendar Reminders" section of our newsletter. We practice all drills in a non-threatening, as minimal a stress level manner as possible. We also do not do unannounced lockdown drills. **The next round of evacuate, shelter, and lockdown drills are scheduled for Friday, September 19th.** Please contact Mr. Street should you have any questions about our drills.



Homework Club:

Students that need a quiet place to work, need help in any class, need to work with a group/partner, get caught up on absent or late work, please come join us. This club is open to all Liberty students. Join us as needed in room C220 on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 3:30pm and Wednesday mornings starting at 7:30am. Students must have a completed permission slip to participate. Please see Mrs. Patras or Mrs. Zettergren with any questions. Permission slips can be picked up in the main office or ask your Study Hall teacher.

Morning Math:

Morning Math is a resource for students to get assistance in Math every morning. Starting on Tuesday, September 2nd from 7:30am-8:15am. The schedule will be: 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. Students must have their permission forms submitted to their math teachers in order to attend. There will always be a teacher there to assist in concept understanding or to help with homework questions. It is also an ideal place to make up or retake Math assessments.



Washington D.C. Trip:

Participating 8th grade students will travel to our nation's capital, October 9-12, 2025. There is a mandatory meeting that all students attending the trip along with their parents/guardians must attend on Thursday, September 25, from 6:00-6:45pm in the Liberty Main Gym. Please reach out to Mrs. Zettergren with any questions.
rzettergren@nlsd122.org.

News You Can Use



Cross Country:

Liberty's 2025 cross-country season began in early August. Cross-country is a sport that emphasizes sportsmanship and teamwork. Students work very hard on a daily basis to prepare for races throughout the season. The following students represent the 2025 Cross Country team:

Brandon Amador	Brandon Bettenhausen	Travis Bills	Abby Boersma
Josh Boersma	Molly Brazel	Julia Davis	Leigha DeMaertelaere
Ethan Fookes	Josh Galka	Caleb Green	Jayla Guajardo
Madison Guendling	Hailey Hatch	Andrew Iwaniuk	Nathan Jastrzab
Lucas Johnson	Jaymeson Kozik	Molly La Porte	Lucas Lauricella
Mason McNulty	Landen Miller	Kara Murphy	Raelynn Peele
Henry Radnis	Henry Ramel	Damian Reamer	Grant Ruklic
Jayce Scara	Addison Schoen	Max Sopousek	Addison Stahr
Olivia Stellwagen	Geneva Stiglic	Carly Stripeik	Jacob Tracy
Carter Tsoluos	Delia Urbanczyk	Andrew VanPuyenbroeck	Max Worden

Baseball:

The Liberty Boys' Baseball team is off to a successful start this fall. A tough schedule remains with games against Minooka, Mokena, Lukancic, Martino and Troy. This year's team roster:

Josh Barger	Nate Berlin	Quinn Broders	Owen Brosius
Ethan Cartolano	Beckham Gremley	Cameron Lask	Peter Lotus
Brennan Mooren	Mason Muthart	Nate O'Dette	Liam Ovalle
Caden Pawula	Jake Ryan	Olin Shea	Jackson Strein
Troy Sweeney			



Softball:

The Liberty Patriots softball team looks to build momentum leading into the upcoming regional tournament. The team has put together an impressive .356 batting average so far this season leading them to a 7-4 record. Good luck in the final weeks of the season girls!

Violette Agema	Katia Ball	Jordan Bartley	Kinzie Catellier	Josie Elstner
Sam Formell	Cathy Granata	Maddie Greenhill	Addie Kaczanowski	Aubrey Landefeld
Emily Lavey	Meghan Michals	Reagan Muldoon	Avery Schoen	Kloe Smith



News You Can Use

Golf Team:

The Liberty Golf Team concluded with a successful season on August 19th at Woodruff Golf Course. Coach Hartwig and Coach Cutright saw great improvements from each of our 16 golfers. We have sectionals on September 3rd at Minne Monesse Golf Course in Grand Park. Congratulations and good luck to our sectional team!

Clark Goodwin Cameron Hood Michael Stephens Aiden Elkei
Jadon Cutright Evan Ruhe



7th Grade Boys' Volleyball:

Congratulations to the following 7th grade boys for being selected to this season's Liberty Junior High Volleyball Team:

Dylan Feckler Ryland Hale Patrick Johns Matt Kwasneski Matt Morrison
Ben Pantol Owen Oberts Declan Pritchard Beckett Vandavelde Jake Wargo

Coach Zumpano is excited to see the team put in hard work and grow throughout the duration of the six week season. The team will start the season unofficially with a practice game at Summit Hill on Tuesday, September 2nd and officially kick off the regular season with a match against Troy on Wednesday, September 10th. The season will conclude with a Des Plaines Valley Conference tournament the second week of October. Best of luck to our young Patriots on a successful season!

8th Grade Boys' Volleyball:

Congratulations to the following 8th grade boys for being selected to this season's Liberty Junior High Volleyball Team:

Sullivan Burns Kyle Casey Clark Goodwin Dylan Guthrie Josh Hence
Nick Litsogannis Michael Morrison Gavin Reyna Rowan Salin Cole Trevino

The team opens up its regular season matches at HOME vs Troy MS on September 10th. Best of luck this season guys!!!



News You Can Use

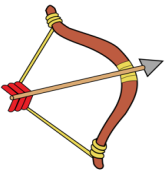


Fishing Club:

Starting September 8th – October 27th every Monday & Friday in which school is in full day session. More details can be found here [Fishing Club Info](#)

Art Club:

Open Studio Art Club is starting September 4th! At Open Studio students will be able to explore new and different art mediums, get creative, and spend time with peers with similar interests. Art Club will meet Thursdays until 4:00pm. Permission slips are available in room 105 and must be turned in before your first meeting. Contact Miss Forberg at gforberg@nlsd122.org with any questions.



Archery Club:

Starting September 2nd! No experience is required. Details here [Archery Club Info](#)

Student Council:

If you like to help improve our school and community, then Student Council might be the perfect club for you! Please use the link for full details [Student Council Info](#)



National Junior Honor Society:

Our first meeting of the year will be on Friday, September 19, at 7:30am with Ms. McEttrick in room 202. This meeting is for students who were inducted into NJHS at the end of the last school year. Please contact Ms. McEttrick with any questions or conflicts cmcettrick@nlsd122.org

Speech Team:

Do you have a flair for the dramatic? Do you like to tell stories? Do you have an active imagination? You should join Liberty's Speech Team. All students are welcome to compete. There will be an informational meeting after school next Wednesday, September 3rd. Please pick up a permission slip in the Music Room or contact Mr. Jesse.



News You Can Use



Orchestra:

Welcome Back Musicians!

The Liberty Orchestra is off to an amazing start to the 2025-2026 school year! Please mark your calendars now for our concerts:

Wednesday, October 15 - 6:30pm at Liberty

Wednesday, December 17 - 6:30pm at Liberty

Thursday, March 5 - 7:00pm at Lincoln Way Central

Wednesday, May 13 - 6:30pm at Liberty

There will be additional performance opportunities throughout the year, including Allegro, but these are the big four to add to your calendar now.

Please reach out to Mrs. Darin with any questions edarin@nlsd122.org

Chorus:

Calling all rock stars! Liberty Patriot Chorus is open to all 7th & 8th grade students. We encourage all of your kids, boys and girls, to get involved in chorus. Music is a great way for kids to become more confident, focused, and is good for their overall wellness. We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and one morning based on their voice part. We also perform several concerts throughout the year. There are additional opportunities for students to perform solos, in small ensembles, and to compete for a spot at the Regional and State level honors choirs. Contact Mr. Jesse if you have questions tjesse@nlsd122.org and pick up a permission slip in the Music Room.

Band:

The Liberty Band has been hard at work since the beginning of August preparing for the Frankfort Fall Festival Parade. This year, the parade in downtown Frankfort was on Sunday, August 31st.





Welcome Back to School from the Liberty Social Workers!

Hello from the Social Workers!

There are a few changes to our social work team this year from last school year. First of all, we welcome Skye Jones from the Haines/Oakview campus to Liberty. Ms. Jones will be working primarily with 8th grade students this year as well as our Specialized Instruction students. Ms. Butters has returned this year as Mrs. Dougherty after getting married over the summer. Mrs. Dougherty (Butters) will work with our 7th graders this school year.

All Liberty students will receive social work services this school year in their study halls once a month. Study hall social work lessons provide an awesome opportunity to teach and learn about how our brains work (or don't work!) when we are faced with a challenging situation or stressful life experience. We will learn various coping strategies that can be applied in and outside of school. Social Workers will begin coming into study halls in September. Lessons will be taught October-April.

We know the adjustment back to school can be both exciting and exhausting for families. Please know that the Liberty social workers are here to assist in making that transition easier. We can assist with support related to organization, building coping skills, and supporting student social growth and friendships. If you or your student needs to talk to a social worker, please contact us via email at:

Skye Jones: 8th grade and S.I.
sjones@nlsd122.org

Kristen Dougherty (Butters): 7th Grade
kdougherty@nlsd122.org
kbutters@nlsd122.org

News You Can Use



Liberty Junior High 2025-2026

VIP hardcover yearbook

The 2025-2026 yearbook has two options:

Standard Yearbook ONLY - for \$30 (**Due 4/10/26**)

8th grade Yearbook with Happy Ad - for \$40 (**Due 12/20/26**)

*Email to follow with Happy-Ad details after purchase

Questions? Please email:

Ms. Alvarez aalvarez@nlsd122.org or

Mrs. Berwanger mberwanger@nlsd122.org



[Yearbook Link](#)

Calendar Reminders



- **1st** Holiday - No School
- **2nd** Boys' V-Ball Scrimmage Away vs Summit Hill 4:15pm
Baseball Game Away vs Minooka 4:30pm
- **3rd** Softball Game Away vs Mokena 4:15pm
Cross Country DPVC PreSeason Meet Away 4:30pm
- **4th** Baseball Game Home vs Mokena 4:00pm
Expectation Night 6:00-8:00pm
- **6th** Baseball Game Home vs Lukancic 10:00am
- **8th** Softball Game Home vs Martino 4:00pm
- **9th** Baseball Game Home vs Troy 4:00pm
- **10th** Boys' V-Ball Game Home vs Troy 4:00pm
Cross Country Meet Away vs Summit Hill 4:15pm
- **13th** Cross Country Meet Away 9:30am
- **15th** Boys' V-Ball Game Away vs Hickory Creek 4:15pm
- **16th** Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm
@ The Manville Admin. Center
- **17th** Boys' V-Ball Game Away vs Martino 4:15pm
Cross Country Meet Away vs Hufford 4:15pm
- **19th** Early Dismissal 11:25am
Evacuate, Shelter & Lockdown Drills
- **22nd** Boys' V-Ball Game Home vs Summit Hill 4:00pm
- **23rd** Cross Country Meet Away vs Humphrey 1:00pm
- **24th** Boys' V-Ball Game Home vs Homer 4:00pm
- **25th** Cross Country Meet Away vs Troy 4:30pm
- **26th** Mid-Term Day
- **27th** Cross Country Meet Away 9:00am
- **29th** Boys' V-Ball Game Away vs Manhattan 4:15pm
Picture Day 😊 in PE Classes
Girls' Basketball Game Away vs Hufford 4:15pm
- **30th** Girls' Basketball Game Away vs Old Quarry 4:15pm



- **1st** Boys' V-Ball Game Home vs Mokena 4:00pm
Cross Country Finals 4:30pm
- **2nd** Lockdown Drill
Girls' Basketball Game Home vs Summit Hill 4:00pm
- **4th** Cross Country Meet Away vs Channahon 9:00am
- **6th** Girls' Basketball Game Away @ Bourbonnais 4:30pm
- **7th** Fire Drill
Girls' Basketball Game Home vs Homer 4:00pm
- **9th** Washington DC Trip Departs
Girls' Basketball Game Away vs Manhattan @ LWW 4:00pm
- **12th** Washington DC Trip Returns
- **13th** Holiday - No School
- **14th** Girls' Basketball Game Home vs Mokena 4:00pm
- **15th** Band, Orchestra, Chorus Concert 6:30pm
Girls' Basketball Game Away vs Joliet Dirksen 4:15pm
- **16th** Girls' Basketball Game Away vs Hickory Creek 4:15pm
- **20th** Girls' Basketball Game Home vs Oak Prairie 4:00pm
- **21st** Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm
@ The Manville Admin. Center
Girls' Basketball Game Away vs Troy 4:30pm
- **23rd** Girls' Basketball Game Home vs Martino 4:00pm
- **24th** Q1 Ends
- **25th** Band & Chorus Performance NL Commons TBA
- **27th** Q2 Begins
- **28th** Girls' Basketball Game Away vs Summit Hill 4:15pm
- **30th** PSAT Test for 8th Grade
Girls' Basketball Game Away vs Homer Glen 4:15pm
- **31st** Early Dismissal 11:25am

[Liberty Calendar](#)



Nurse's Corner

Welcome back to school Liberty Families!

As we begin a new school year please familiarize yourself with our District's general health procedures that are outlined in the *Health and Related Information* section of the Parent/Student Handbook.

Medication: Our District's Board of Education has adopted a strict medication policy and requires a Student Medication Authorization form to be completed by the physician and parent for any medication to be taken in school, including prescription and over-the-counter medications. This includes medication for headaches, menstrual cramps, or any other "as needed" conditions. Please note that OTC medications, including Tylenol and Ibuprofen, must be supplied by the parent or guardian and cannot be supplied by the school. If it is necessary for your child to take any medication during school hours, please contact the nurse.

Food Allergies Requiring An EpiPen: Children who have food allergies requiring an EpiPen are required to have an emergency action plan in place. If your child has a food allergy requiring an EpiPen, please make sure to turn in a completed ILLINOIS FOOD ALLERGY EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN AND TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION form. The form must be completed by a licensed health care provider and the parent/guardian.

General Illness: Please keep your child home if they are sick. Students should be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications before returning to school. We also ask that you please keep your child home for 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting and diarrhea.

Hearing And Vision Screenings: Screenings will be performed over the next couple of months. Screening is performed for all 8th grade students. You will be notified if your child has any difficulty with the screening.

Athletics: Please be sure to get your child's sports physical completed prior to tryouts. Sports physicals are valid for 13 months. The 6th grade physical rarely meets the requirement for sports.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns. I am in the office M-F 7:55-3:10pm. You can reach me by email at any time.

Jeana Kerzman, BSN, RN, PEL-CSN
Certified School Nurse
Liberty Junior High School
815-462-7806
Fax 815-462-0672
jkerzman@nlsd122.org





STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

HOLD

"In Your Classroom or Area"

Students are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



SECURE

"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"

Students are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN

"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

Students are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE

"To a Location"

Students are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



SHELTER

"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"

Hazards might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

Safety Strategies might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

Students are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and staff are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.

