

WELCOME TO
LIBERTY JR. HIGH



HOME OF THE PATRIOTS

7TH GRADE CORE CURRICULUM:

(WE HAVE FOUR CORE CLASSES)

~ ELA ~

~ Math ~

~ Science ~

~ Social Studies ~

NON-CORE CURRICULUM:

(WE HAVE TWO NON-CORE CLASSES)

~ Physical Education/Health ~

~ Encore Class ~

ENCORE CLASS:

All 7th grade students will choose one of the following
“Encore” class options:

Cycle 7:

A trimester each of Art, Music, and Applied Digital Skills.

Introduction to Spanish:

A full year introductory Spanish class.

This course provides an academically rigorous curriculum. A strong work ethic is necessary to be successful. Students' standardized test scores will be considered as part of the placement process for Introduction to Spanish.

Band:

A full year Band class.

Orchestra:

A full year Orchestra class.

Aspire:

Available to students with special education services as outlined in their IEP .

STUDY HALL

- **18 Minutes Long**
- **Opposite of Lunch in the Middle of the Day:**
- **What To Do During Study Hall:**
 - **Get Help from Teachers**
 - **Work on Assignments/Homework**
 - **Get Make-Up/Missing Work**
 - **Check PowerSchool for Grades**
 - **Organize Supplies, Assignment Notebook, and Locker**
 - **Handouts/Letters for Home are Distributed**
 - **Special Activities, Character Ed Lessons, Presentations**

LUNCH

- 18 Minutes Long
- In The Cafeteria
- We use the same lunch program as your current school.

OUR SCHEDULE

- Students have a total of **8 classes per day** plus the lunch/study hall period.

PERIOD	TIME
1	8:25 - 9:09
2	9:13 - 9:51
3	9:55 - 10:33
4	10:37 - 11:15
5	11:19 - 11:57
6	12:01 - 12:39
7	12:43 - 1:21
8	1:25 - 2:03
9	2:07 - 2:45

38 Minute Classes

Lunches: 8th Grade = Per. 5 / 7th Grade = Per. 6

NUMBER OF CLASSES	CLASS
1 and 2	ELA
3 and 4	Math
5	Science
6	Social Studies
7	P.E. / Health
8	Encore
(9)	(Lunch/Study Hall)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **When do students receive their schedules?**
 - Schedules are typically made available in PowerSchool the second week in August.
- **Do students have lockers?**
 - Yes, students will have two different lockers: Hallway and PE Lockers
 - Hallway locker will be located near your study hall classroom.
 - Hallway locker assignments and combinations will be available in PowerSchool when your schedule is ready in August.
 - P.E. locker and a combination will be provided by P.E. teacher.
- **How does P.E. work?**
 - Students change into P.E. uniforms for class each day.
 - P.E. uniforms are purchased through the P.E. teacher at the start of the year.
 - Students DO NOT shower at the end of P.E. class.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What technology do junior high students use?

- We use pretty much the same as what you use in 6th grade:
 - iPads **w/ Keyboard Cases**
 - Google Classroom
 - Phones? They are to be put away and not used during the school day.

Can students find their classrooms and move in to their lockers before school starts in the fall?

- We will have a Walk-Thru Event in August.

How do I keep updated on my child's progress?

- Parents/Guardians can follow grades via PowerSchool
- Students and parents/guardians get separate passwords
- Electronic mid-terms and paper report cards each trimester

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **Do you offer Accelerated (GATE) Classes?**
 - We do offer Accelerated ELA and Math.
- **How do students qualify for Accelerated Classes?**
 - There is a separate qualification process for ELA and Math.
 - We use the District's Matrix Rubric to determine placement.
 - The Matrix Rubric utilizes a combination of assessment scores and a student's grade point average.
- **When will students/parents be notified of Accelerated placements?**
 - Letters anticipated to be mailed out in May.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **What are the most important things a student can do to be successful at Liberty?**
 - Complete your daily assignments on time.
 - Ask for help when needed.
 - Stay as organized as possible (folders and locker).
 - Use your assignment notebook (due dates/homework).
 - Get involved in clubs and sports (find ways to have fun).
 - Follow Our Motto:
 - Be Respectful
 - Be Responsible
 - Be Safe

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Athletic Programs:

- **Baseball** (August)
- **Softball** (August)
- **Golf** (August)
- **Cross-Country** (August)
- **Volleyball** (Boys = August/Girls = January)
- **Cheerleading** (September)
- **Poms/Dance Team** (September)
- **Basketball** (Girls = September/Boys = October)
- **Wrestling** (November)
- **Track and Field** (March)

Summer Camps: Cross Country, Basketball, Softball, and Volleyball

(Information Will Be Made Available Soon)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Clubs and Activities:

- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Spring Play
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Speech/Drama Contest
- Floor Hockey Club
- Archery Club
- Bean Bags Club
- Geography Bee
- Board Game Club
- Art Club
- Homework Club
- Allegro Ensemble
- Bowling Club
- Creative Writing Club
- National Junior Honor Society
- Scholastic Bowl
- Mathletes
- Spelling Bee
- Chorus
- Jazz Band
- Show Choir
- Spanish Club

STEP-UP FOLDERS:

Left Side:

- Letter from the Principal
- Extra-Curricular Activities List
 - This Year's List... May Change For Next Year

Right Side:

- Encore Courses Description Sheet

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Shane Street
Principal
sstreet@nlsd122.org

Liberty Junior High School

151 Lenox Street, New Lenox, Illinois 60451
Phone 815-462-7951 Fax 815-462-0672

Edward Lesniak
Assistant Principal
elesniak@nlsd122.org

March 27, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of Liberty Jr. High School's Class of 2025 Students,

Welcome to Liberty Junior High School! Today, students of our Class of 2025 had the opportunity to visit Liberty to learn about their upcoming transition to junior high school. We spoke with the students about how our schedule works, the classes that will be offered, and the extra-curricular activities we provide. They also took a tour of the building and had the opportunity to ask questions to a couple of our current eighth grade students.

One very important topic we covered was that of the "encore" class. Students are able to select this class based on what best fits their interests and skills set. Each student was provided an *Encore Course Description Sheet* that contains the list of the encore classes that are available for next year along with a short description of each. Please review this information to determine which course is most appropriate for your child. Encore class selections will be made in PowerSchool **between Monday, April 3, and Friday, April 21**. Directions on how to complete the process will be shared prior to April 3.

In regards to Introduction to Spanish, this course provides an academically rigorous curriculum and a strong work ethic is necessary to be successful. Students' standardized test scores will be considered as part of the placement process for Introduction to Spanish. As space is limited in this class, there is a likelihood that not all requests will be able to be granted. In this event, students that are not able to be placed in Introduction to Spanish will be placed in cycle class.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Liberty main office at 815-462-7951 should you have any questions about the encore selection process.

Sincerely,

Shane Street
Principal
Liberty Junior High School

Ed Lesniak
Assistant Principal
Liberty Junior High School

ENCORE COURSES DESCRIPTION SHEET:

Contains A Description Of All Encore Classes

ENCORE COURSES DESCRIPTION SHEET

FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

LIBERTY JUNIOR HIGH

All junior high students are assigned an "encore" class each year. Please see the list of encore class options below, then make your selections in the PowerSchool parent portal between Monday, April 3, and Friday, April 21. The course options for this year are:

CYCLE (available to both 7th and 8th grade students):

Cycle classes provide an introduction to a variety of topics and cover required state standards. The cycle classes for both 7th and 8th graders next year are:

- **Music:**
 - This class will give students a graduated knowledge and appreciation of music, which engages the mind to read, compose, perform, and critique. Through active participation in a variety of individual and ensemble experiences using traditional instruments and technology, students will strive for musical excellence and to become life-long participants, intelligent consumers, and active patrons and advocates for the arts.
- **Art:**
 - Students in this class will have fun engaging in hands-on learning experiences using a variety of media. Students will create projects large and small while practicing skills including but not limited to: drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, mixed media, pottery, and sculpture. There will be something to fit all students' interests with a focus on helping them discover the joy of learning as they follow their passion through creativity.
- **Applied Digital Skills:**
 - Digital learners participate in coding, robotics, digital design and multimedia creation. Students will enhance their communication skills, digital citizenship, and practical technology skills using real-life applications.

BAND (available to both 7th and 8th grade students):

The Junior High Band program consists of many different musical opportunities for all students including; concert band, jazz band, marching band, woodwind choir, brass choir, and percussion ensemble. These groups perform at numerous concerts, contests and parades and have achieved a high level of success through each member's dedication and diligent hard work. One or two field trips are typically planned to celebrate the band's successes. *All members must have prior band experience to participate.* A **\$60 fee** will be required.

ORCHESTRA (available to both 7th and 8th grade students):

The Junior High Orchestra program offers students the opportunity to perform at a variety of concerts and community events throughout the school year on an orchestral instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass). Members of this group are eligible to audition for the ILMEA Honors Ensemble and participate in IGSM solo and ensemble contest. In addition, students from the junior high orchestra program are eligible to participate in the Allegro Ensemble, an alternative strings group open to all orchestra members, and Jazz Band (Bass players only). The group performs at least three school concerts a year. *All members are expected to have prior orchestra experience to participate. Exceptions are at the discretion of the teacher.* A **\$60 fee** will be required.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES LIST

Extra-Curricular Activities Liberty Junior High School 2022-2023				
Name of Activity	Sponsor/ Coach	Duration	Meeting/ Time	Special Notes
Boys' Baseball	Mr. Kohlbacher (head) Mr. Gatto (asst.)	August-September	Daily: 2:50 - 4:30pm	Tryouts are held to determine team members. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Girls' Softball	Mr. Kman (head) Ms. Diaz (asst.)	August-September	Daily: 2:50 - 4:30pm	Tryouts are held to determine team members. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Boys' and Girls' Golf	Mrs. Hartwig (girls) Mr. Cutright (boys)	August-September	2-3 Days Per Week	Unlimited participation for the first month of the season. The top golfers qualify for the sectional tournament.
Boys' Volleyball	Mr. Zumpano (7th) Mr. Hawlin (8th)	August-October	Daily: 2:50 - 4:30pm	Tryouts are held to determine team members. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Boys' and Girls' Cross Country	Mr. Van Dyke (boys) Mrs. Mulder (girls) Ms. Venezio (asst.)	August-October	Monday - Thursday 2:50 - 4:30pm Some Saturdays	Team is made up of fifth through eighth grade students. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Girls' Basketball	Mr. Bollini (7th) Mr. Didier (8th)	September-December	Monday - Friday 2:50 - 4:30pm	Tryouts are held to determine team members. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Cheerleading	Mrs. Johnson (head) Mrs. Zinkel (asst.)	September-December	2-3 days per Week 2:50 - 4:30pm	Tryouts are held to select squad members who will cheer at Liberty home games and assemblies.
POMS	Mrs. Ferree	September-December	1-2 days per Week 2:50 - 4:30pm	Tryouts are held to select squad members who will perform at Liberty home games and assemblies.
Boys' Basketball	Mr. Zumpano (7th) Mr. Bahret (8th)	October-February	Daily: 90 min on Average	Tryouts are held to determine team members. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Wrestling	Mr. DeNeut (head) Mr. Hawlin (asst.) Mr. Klotz (asst.) Mr. Vicari (asst.)	November-March	Daily: 3:30 - 5:00pm	All are welcome to participate. The team is made up of 5th thru 8th grade students. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Girls' Volleyball	Mr. Zumpano (7th) Ms. Papparella (8th)	December-March	Daily: 90 min on Average	Tryouts are held to determine team members. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Boys' and Girls' Track	Mr. Henue (girls) Mr. Hawlin (boys) Mr. Zumpano (asst.) Mr. Bollini (asst.) Mrs. Prodoehl (asst.)	March-May	Daily: 2:50 - 4:30pm	Tryouts are held to determine teams. This team competes against other area teams in the Des Plaines Valley Conference.
Ultimate Frisbee	Mrs. O'Brien	Fall & Spring Sessions	Wednesdays 2:50 - 3:45pm	All are welcome to participate. Club will meet weekly depending on the weather.
Student Council	Mrs. O'Brien (8th) Mrs. Patras (7th)	October-End of Year	Tuesdays 2x's per Month 2:50 - 3:45pm	All students are welcome to join this group that engages in a wide variety of activities and provides leadership for the student body.
Speech and Drama Team	Mr. Jesse	September-November	Weekly 2:50 - 3:50pm	All students wanting to represent Liberty in a state drama and speech competition are welcome.
Yearbook/ Photography Club	Ms. Alvarez Mrs. Raues	September-End of Year	Thursdays 2:50 - 3:30pm	All interested students are encouraged to apply to participate in this club.

This is a copy of this year's extra-curricular activities. There may be changes made for next year. A new sheet will be shared after school starts in the fall.



**Thank You Very Much For
Being A Great Audience**

**Have A Great End Of
Your 6th Grade Year**

See You This Fall

Go Patriots!!!