

Dear Liberty Families,

August is here. The month that signifies the start of another school year. Hopefully you and your family have had a very relaxing, safe, and enjoyable summer. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the families new to Liberty and a sincere welcome back to our returning Patriots. It has been a busy summer here as we've been preparing for what is sure to be a great school year.

Linked below, you will find some important documents containing information to help get the year started on the right track:

- [Bell Schedule for First Three Days of School](#) (Wednesday, Aug. 21, Thurs., Aug. 22, and Fri., Aug. 23)
- [Bell Schedule for Normal School Days](#) (Starting Monday, August 26)
- [Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures For Car-Riders](#)
- [School Supplies List](#)

One thing you will notice was not attached is your child's schedule. District 122 will make those available to students and parents/guardians on Friday, August 9, by logging into PowerSchool. Students that will be riding a bus will have their transportation information available in PowerSchool on Wednesday, August 14. We recommend rechecking the transportation information on Tuesday, August 20, in case last minute changes have been made.

This year's bell schedule is the same as last year for those returning to Liberty. It consists of a nine-period daily schedule, with all classes being 38 minutes long. ELA and math classes will meet two class periods per day, while all others will meet once per day. In addition to our class periods, we also have a period for lunch/study hall in the middle of the day. Study Hall will be an 18-minute period of time when students can get help from a teacher, work on assignments/homework, get absent make-up work, get organized, or read a book. On your child's schedule, you will see either "Lunch/Study Hall" or "Study Hall/Lunch." For 8<sup>th</sup> graders, that will be during period 6 and for 7<sup>th</sup> graders it will be during period 5. The room number listed on the schedule will be the study hall room location. All students will eat in the cafeteria, with half of the grade level having lunch the first half of the period ("Lunch/Study Hall") and the other half having study hall first and lunch the second half of the period ("Study Hall/Lunch"). The cost of school lunch will be \$4.00 (milk included) and all lunch orders will be placed electronically following the same procedures our District utilized last year. The first lunch order form will be sent electronically to all parents/guardians on Friday, August 9.

We utilize the middle school "teaming" concept at Liberty. Each grade level will have two "academic teams" consisting of the following teachers: two ELA teachers, two math teachers, one science teacher, and one social studies teacher. All students on a team will have the same science and social studies teachers along with one of the two ELA and math teachers. All students on the same team will eat lunch together in the cafeteria at the same time as well. Teacher assignments for a student's encore and PE class will not be team aligned.

The "Find Your Way" Event is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. This is a time when students and parents/guardians can become familiar with the layout of the school, locate classrooms, find and access lockers, and organize school supplies. Please be aware that our teachers will not be in the building during this event and we request that all students be accompanied by an adult. P.E. uniforms will also be on sale at this event (please see details below).

The first day of school will be Wednesday, August 21. This will be a full day of school (8:25am to 2:45pm) and we'll have a special schedule as all students will go to their study hall classrooms to start the day with an orientation presentation. This allows us to make sure everyone is organized, able to get into their lockers, is aware of our expectations, and is able to ask questions prior to going to their first class. We will do this same special schedule on Thursday, August 22, and Friday, August 23, as we continue the orientation presentations. Monday, August 26, will be the first day to follow the normal bell schedule.

All students will be issued a NLSJ 122 iPad on the second day of school. They will be expected to have this with them for all classes and to bring it home each night. Please assist your child with creating a routine that ensures they have a fully-charged iPad to start each and every day of school.

All students are issued lockers at the junior high school and the number and combination will be viewable in PowerSchool on Friday, August 9.

Our school supply list is attached to this email. Students are welcome to use the type of organizational tool (i.e., binders, portfolios, folders,) they are more comfortable with. If you ordered supplies through the PTO, they should have been sent to your home. Please check with the New Lenox PTO if you have questions on those kits. The Walk-Thru Event is a great time to bring supplies to school and get them organized in lockers prior to the start of school. Paper towels and facial tissues can be kept in the locker until the first day of school, when they will be brought to the student's study hall classroom.

Our P.E. teachers will be selling P.E. uniforms during both the Find Your Way event and P.E. classes the first week of school. Payment for P.E. uniforms can be made in the form of cash or check (made payable to Liberty Jr. High School) and the costs are as follows: shirts = \$10, shorts = \$10, and pinnies = \$5 (\$25 for all three). Students who already own a P.E. uniform are welcome to reuse it and are not required to purchase a new one every year.

There are a couple of apps that our District is asking parents/guardians to please take the time to download. The School Messenger App, which will allow you to have quick access to all district and building communications. Click [Here](#) for the directions on how to access school messenger on your mobile device. The PowerSchool Mobile App is also a very helpful tool and directions for that can be found [Here](#).

The Liberty staff invites all parents/guardians to our Expectation Night on Thursday, September 5. This event will start at 6:00pm and will provide you an opportunity to learn about each of the classes that your child will have this year. Please keep an eye out for more details soon.

The daily hours for the main office are 7:00am to 3:55pm, the school phone number is 815-462-7951, and the fax number is 815-462-0672. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. In the event your child is absent from school, please call the school phone number to report the absence. Make every effort to call this number before 8:45am on the day your child is absent. If you call during a time when our office is closed, the automated system will guide you to a place to leave a message. **In the event we do not receive a call by 8:45am, office personnel will begin calling parent contact numbers and emergency contacts until an adult can confirm the absence. We ask the New Lenox Police Department to do a safety/wellness check on students that we are unable to get confirmation on, so please make sure you call by 8:45am to avoid unnecessary wellness checks by the NLPD.**

All students not riding District transportation to school in the morning must enter the building at the main entrance (east side of the building). The bus lane, which runs parallel to Lenox Street on the south side of the school property, is for buses only during the school day. Students entering the building between 8:05am and 8:20am will go to the foyer to wait for the bell. Please do not drop your child off prior to 8:05am unless they have a meeting scheduled with a staff member or are attending a meeting for a sport or club. Also, please do not drop your child off on Lenox Street and have them walk up to the main entrance. After school, all students not riding District transportation home will gather in the lobby of the main entrance. Attached to this email are directions for car-rider drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please be sure to review these if your child will not be riding a bus. Also, please be aware that we will have a couple buses that pick-up students near the main entrance after school every day. We put out cones to reserve space for them; please avoid parking within that reserved space.

Safety is always a top priority. We have a number of students that walk to and from school. Please remember the school zone speed limit is 20 miles per hour and the use of cell phones/texting while driving in a school zone is illegal. The New Lenox Police Department patrols our school grounds on a regular basis. Also, please keep an eye out for bus STOP arms and make sure not to pass a bus that has the STOP arm extended.

I speak for the entire staff of Liberty Junior High School when I say we look forward to the start of a great school year!

Sincerely,

Shane Street  
Principal  
Liberty Junior High School

Ed Lesniak  
Assistant Principal  
Liberty Junior High School