



MARCH 2025

THE LIBERTY LANTERN

Administration:

Dr. Lori Motsch

Superintendent

Shane Street

Principal

Ed Lesniak

Assistant Principal

Inside This Issue:

<i>News You Can Use</i>	2
<i>News You Can Use</i>	3
<i>News You Can Use</i>	4
<i>News You Can Use</i>	5
<i>School Calendar/News</i>	6
<i>Nurse's Notes</i>	7
<i>5Essentials Survey Letter</i>	8
<i>Yearbook Flier</i>	9
<i>Emergency Day Sched.</i>	10
<i>Employment Flyer</i>	11
<i>Allergy Awareness</i>	12

Office Hours:

7:00 AM - 3:55 PM

School Phone Number:

815-462-7951

Transportation:

815-717-3100

Website:

<http://www2.nlsd122.org/c/index.php/schools/liberty-jr-high/>

From the Main Office:

It is an exciting time around Liberty these days. The second trimester has come to a close and we are headed for the home stretch of the school year. Students have just switched to their third trimester cycle classes and report cards will be emailed home on Friday, March 7. Girls' volleyball and wrestling postseasons are underway and the Bowling Club is off and rolling. We are eagerly anticipating the two upcoming performances of our spring play, *The Legend of Sleepy Hallow*, which will be at 6:30pm on March 20 and 21. Only four weeks until spring break... this time of year seems to fly by. Bring on spring!

Shane Street
Principal

Ed Lesniak
Assistant Principal

Graduation Date and Location:

Our Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 29, at Lincoln-Way West High School's main gym at 7:30pm. Tickets are not required for our graduation ceremony.



Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) and Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) Testing

In the upcoming weeks, New Lenox School District 122 students will participate in online state testing. Seventh and eighth graders will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) test from March 18-24, while students in grades 3-6 will test from April 7-11. The IAR assessment consists of ELA tests and math tests.

In addition to the IAR, fifth and eighth graders will take the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) from April 14th-17th. The ISA consists of three units and will be administered during your child's science class.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Bowling Club Update:

The Bowling Club season is underway! Sectionals will be held on April 5 and the State Competition will take place on April 11 and 12. More information will be provided by Mr. Cutright and Mrs. Hartwig as these dates approach.



Mathletes Season Is Underway:

The 7th grade mathletes team competed in their first competition last week and performed amazingly well. They scored 105 out of 120 total points, which was good enough to place 8th in the state out of 48 teams competing. Liberty had the best score out of all the local schools. They are back at work preparing for the next contest later this month. We have seen tremendous growth within the season so far and are looking to build on the success of the ICTM contest. Great job Mathletes!

8th grade Liberty Mathletes just finished their ICTM Contest with Alejandro Acosta earning a perfect score in the individual round and the team only missed one question in the group round. Keep up the Great Work Mathletes!



2025-2026 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip Details:

Attention 7th Grade Families: Current Liberty 7th graders are invited to join us on our next big trip to Washington, D.C.! All details will be covered at our upcoming in-person informational meeting on Thursday, March 13, at Liberty Jr. High School in the main gym. We will cover our itinerary, activities, dates, academic opportunities, cost, discounts, scholarships, and EF's risk-free enrollment period. It is mandatory to register for the meeting. Please register with this link: <https://rsvp.efexploreamerica.com/4hwgd6k>. Please reach out to trip coordinator Renee Zettergren, via email at rzettergren@nlsd122.org, with any questions.



Fishing Club Starting Soon:

The Liberty Junior High Fishing Club will meet every Tuesday and Friday in which school is in full-day session starting March 18 and going through May 23. Meetings will always start in Mr. Engle's room (room 117) and will be from 3:00 to 4:00pm. The first eight meetings will be covering the basics of fishing and equipment. The last eight meetings will be taking what we have learned and applying it to fishing the Walker Country Estates Pond. The club also hopes to have a visit from a Will County DNR officer, as well as, traveling to a Will or Cook County Forest Preserve body of water to practice our skills as anglers.



8th Grade Graduation Dance Scheduled For May 9:

We are excited to announce that there will be an 8th Grade Graduation Dance at the end of this school year. The dance will be for our 8th grade students and will be held on Friday, May 9, from 6:00 to 8:00pm. We are partnering with the New Lenox P.T.O. in planning for this event, which will feature plenty of music, food, and fun... more details to come once we get closer to the end of the school year.



Don't Forget:

- We have an 11:25am early dismissal day on Friday, March 14.
- There is No School from Monday, March 31, through Friday, April 4, as it is spring break.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Girls' Volleyball:

Your 7th grade girls volleyball team finished off the regular season on a positive note by compiling a total of ten regular season victories as well as finishing third in the annual Des Plaines Valley Conference Tournament held the week of February 17 at Summit Hill Jr. High with victories over Manhattan and Troy. The team is trending in the right direction at this point in the season and is now getting ready for the Illinois Elementary School Association (I.E.S.A.) Regional Playoffs. The team earned a number three seeding and will face off against Kankakee Jr. High School on Saturday, March 1, at Bourbonnais Upper Grade School. Best of luck to the 7th grade girls volleyball team. Coach Zumpano is excited to see what happens at the end of the season.

The 8th Grade Girls Volleyball Team spent the month of February battling in the Des Plaines Valley Conference. The highlight was playing at Lincoln-Way West High School and securing a victory against Manhattan! Most recently, they corralled a victory against Lukancic in Romeoville. The girls are working hard in practice and getting ready to compete in the regionals starting March 11!



Student Council:

In February, members of Liberty Student Council traveled to a local assisted living facility where they were able to make Valentine's Day crafts and visit with the residents. The students enjoyed the opportunity to brighten the day of the senior citizens and look forward to future trips to make a positive difference in the community!



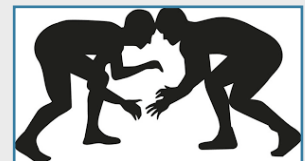
In March, we will be working on making fleece blankets for the Daybreak Shelter in Joliet. Student Council will continue to plan school and community service events for the spring.

Wrestlers Advance In The Post Season:

Congratulations to the New Lenox Wrestling Team for ending their season with a 12-6 dual meet record. The team qualified eleven wrestlers from February 22nd's IESA Regional Tournament to compete in the Sectional Tournament. Sectional qualifiers from Liberty were:

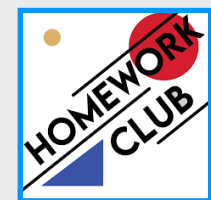
Elliot Sweeney (3rd); Caleb Weathersby (2nd); Aydin Okla (3rd); Quinton Hoffman (2nd); and Nate Silic (1st).

The IESA Sectional will be held at Lukancic Middle School (Romeoville), on Saturday, March 1. The team will wrap up their season with the IESA State Finals at Northern Illinois University's Convocation Center, on Friday, March 7, and Saturday, March 8. Good luck to all who will be competing!



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 absence or late work, please come join us at Homework Club. This club is open to all Liberty Junior High students. Join us as needed in room C220 on Tuesdays or Thursdays after school until 3:30PM. 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 office or ask your Study Hall teacher.



NEWS YOU CAN USE



Scholastic Bowl Team Is Ready To Compete:

The Liberty Scholastic Bowl Team started their regular season matches on February 20 against Martino. Liberty lost match one, but finished in a tie for match two. Top scorers for Liberty on the season so far are Noah Schlottmann and Donny Pasqua. Also scoring for Liberty were Mario Lopez, Lillian Pearson, Henry Radnis, Patrick Sturgeon, and Sammy Schmidt. Our next match this month is Hickory Creek. Good Luck Patriots!



Orchestra Update:

The Liberty Orchestra is headed to Lincoln-Way Central! On Thursday, March 6, we will be joining Mokena, Manhattan, Martino, and the combined Lincoln-Way West and Central Orchestras at our annual step-up concert! Musicians will be staying after school on Thursday, March 6, and will be bussed over to Central. We will spend time in rehearsal, getting to know our fellow orchestra members, and perform at 7:00pm. It's concert time... see you soon!



Chorus Update:

Congratulations to the Patriot Chorus on a fantastic performance at the Lincoln-Way West step-up concert. Our singers represented Liberty very well. On March 6, they'll head to Olivet Nazarene University for the ILMEA Choral Festival, where they will perform and have a clinic with a panel of choral music experts. Finally, we'll return to Liberty on March 11 for a concert at 6:30pm in the Liberty Cafeteria. At this performance, we'll also welcome the choir from Nelson Ridge as well as the Lincoln-Way West Madrigals. Please join us for a wonderful evening of Choral Music.



National Junior Honor Society:

Our next meeting for current members is Friday, March 14, at 7:30am in the band room. Thank you to all the NJHS members who created Valentine's for Vets at our last meeting. We created over 200 valentines to brighten the day of local veterans.



Please read the info below if you are interested in applying for NJHS this year:

Attention all students interested in joining NJHS. In late January, students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 or higher will be added to the NJHS Application Google Classroom. Once in the classroom, students will have access to the NJHS digital application as well as specific information that will outline what achievements are needed to be considered for induction into Liberty Junior High's chapter of NJHS.

Some of the basic requirements are as follows. If you are interested in applying for NJHS later in the school year, please take note of the requirements to make sure you are working to maintain the minimum requirements for membership.

1. Maintain a minimum cumulative G.P.A of a 4.0 at the end of the second trimester.
2. Participate in at least three clubs or activities, one of which must be a Liberty club or activity.
3. Obtain at least five hours of service to either school or community.
4. Maintain a positive discipline record.
 - If an office referral OR four classroom steps are on your record, you will not be eligible for NJHS.
5. Demonstrate strong character in the classroom.
 - If you receive four or more late and/or missing assignments, you will not be eligible for NJHS.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Band Update:

February was the month of performances! The band members were busy giving excellent performances at the IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest, Southwest Community Concert Band Winter Band Day as well as the Lincoln-Way West Step-Up Band Concert. Our musicians did an excellent job and we are so proud of them!



On March 5, the band will travel to Olivet Nazarene University to perform at the Illinois Music Education Association Large Group Festival. The band will have the opportunity to perform on the beautiful Olivet stage and then they will receive a clinic from an esteemed music educator. We know our band members are going to do a fantastic job and learn so much at their clinic.

School Play Coming In March:

"Spooky" Comes to Liberty to Welcome the Springtime! The Liberty Theatre Department is proud to present:

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

- Performance Dates: March 20 and 21
- Start Time: 6:30pm
- Location: Liberty Cafetorium

Tickets are \$5 each and will be available for purchase in school the week prior to the show and at the door, as available.

Cast List:

Ichabod Crane: Maximus Worden
Katrina Van Tassel: Temprence Lynch
Holly Hamhocks: Lily Nikitscher
April Sanderfoot: Cecelia Crosse
Baltus Van Tassel: Peyton Goldschnikl
Dwayne: Caleb Ozbolt
Hannah Gildur: Tessa Fideli
WITCHES
Sabrina: Brianna Sanchez
Hilda: Natalie Pfiffner

Brom Bones: Cristiano Hernandez
Kristina Van Tassel: Maddie Galer
Rose Vanderwelde: Isabella Dul
Janice Worry: Scarlett Fideli
Jeb: Austin Ozbolt
Bill Sanders: Caleb Ozbolt
Betty Gildur: Scarlett Fideli

Samantha: Vivienne Chrusciel
Ursula: Anna McVicker



BeSure Consulting
Training for Law Enforcement,
Schools, Parents and Children

630.461.0044
richwistocki@besureconsulting.com
www.besureconsulting.com

Parents,

March is the month for one safety video; Monitoring Software (14). Attached is the parent login information for Be Sure Consulting for Cyber Safe Schools. If you would like to watch the student videos with your child, please see the following login information. We will not be showing the student videos at school.

Parent login:

URL: vimeo.com/showcase/nlsp
Password: NLSP623!

Student login:

URL: vimeo.com/showcase/nlss
Password: NLSS876!

CALENDAR / NEWS



Morning Math:

This is an additional resource specifically for math help. It will run from 7:30am to 8:15am before school every day. Students will be able to drop-in during that time to request assistance from the math teacher running the help room that day. The teacher schedule for Morning Math will be: Monday = Mr. Billig (room 120), Tuesday = Ms. Lavin (room 100), Wednesday = Mrs. Bethman (room 102), Thursday = Mrs. Bergeron (room 200), and Friday = Mr. Bahret (room 118). Students are able to visit any Morning Math session regardless of who their actual math teacher is. Prior notification to the teacher is also not necessary as it is a drop-in format.



What Do I Do When My Child Is Absent From School:

It is very important that your child be in attendance each and every day, but at the same time, 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 on 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 contact numbers if we do not receive a call by 8:30am.

Trimester Information:

There will be three twelve-week trimesters this year. Here are the important dates to be aware of:

Mid-Terms:

- 3rd Trimester = April 17

End of Term:

- 3rd Trimester = May 30



Calendar of Events:

March:

- 3 3rd Trimester Cycle Classes Begin
- Graduation Portraits Retake Day
- 6 Orchestra Step-Up Event at L-Way West (6:30pm)
- 7 Report Cards Emailed Home
- 11 Choral Festival Concert (6:30pm)
- 14 Early Dismissal at 11:25am
- 8th Grade Holocaust Survivor Story Assembly
- 18 School Board Meeting
 - At Haven Administration Center (6:00pm)
- IAR Standardized Testing Date
- 19 IAR Standardized Testing Date
- 20 IAR Standardized Testing Date
- Spring Play Performance (6:30pm)
- 21 IAR Standardized Testing Date
- Spring Play Performance (6:30pm)
- 22 Jazz Band Performance @ L-Way West
- 24 IAR Standardized Testing Date
- Start Quarter 4 Health Classes
- 28 Paraprofessional Appreciation Day
- 31 - April 4 = Spring Break

April:

- 7 School Resumes After Spring Break
- 8 Home Track Meet (4:00pm)
- 10 Home Track Meet (4:00pm)
- 14-16 Illinois State Science Standardized Test
 - 8th Graders Only
- 15 Home Track Meet (4:00pm)
- 17 Mid-Term Day
- 17 Allegro Concert (6:30pm)
- 18 No School
- 21 No School ~ Full Day Institute
- 22 NJHS Induction Ceremony (6:00pm)
- 23 Administrative Assistant Appreciation Day
- 24 Home Track Meet (4:15pm)
- 25 Evacuation Drill
- 29 School Board Meeting
 - At Haven Administration Center (6:00pm)

NURSE'S NOTES



Important Health Information From the Nurse For Parents to Know

- **Doctor's Appointments:** Please turn in doctors notes for any absences related to doctors appointments. All documents can be dropped off at the main office or emailed to jkerzman@nlsd122.org.
- Stay home if sick with fever over 100 degrees until fever free for 24 hours.
- Please update your emergency contacts.
- Doctors orders must be turned in for ANY medication to be taken or given by the school nurse during school hours. This includes over-the-counter medications such as Advil, Tylenol, etc. as well as prescription medications such as Epipen and inhalers.
- **PE Excuses:** Any excusals lasting longer than two days must be documented with a doctor's note that includes the length of excusal listed.
- Please contact the school nurse at 815-462-7806 for prolonged illness lasting longer than three consecutive school days or that have to do with either injuries or concussions. The nurse can assist in planning for the student's return to school.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns. I am in the office Monday - Friday from 7:55am to 3:10pm. You can also reach me by email at jkerzman@nlsd122.org.

Jeana Kerzman, BSN, RN, PEL-CSN



New Lenox School District 122

102 South Cedar Road, New Lenox, Illinois 60451

Phone 815-485-2169 Fax 815-485-2236

Lori R. Motsch, Ed.D., Superintendent

Illinois 5Essentials survey

Beginning February 18th, students and teachers across Illinois will have an opportunity to participate in the eleventh annual statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This survey is designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child's school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness in a survey about your child's school.

On behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey will be administered online by UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago. The survey gathers data related to five indicators that can predict important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains. These five indicators that affect and predict school success are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

Prior research in more than 400 schools has shown that schools that were strong on at least three of these "5Essentials" indicators were 10 times more likely to improve student learning gains in math and reading than those that were weak on three or more Essentials.

All teachers and **4th through 8th grade students** will be responding to this survey. 5Essentials Reports will be generated for schools if their teachers and/or students meet the response rate threshold of 50 percent. These reports will be sent to schools and districts in May 2025 and will also be included in the State School Report Card.

Additionally, your district has chosen to provide the optional Parent survey supplement. If at least 20 percent of parents complete this survey, a parent supplement report will also be generated. The parent data will not be reported on the State Report Card.

Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will help us understand the conditions at your child's school and guide improvement. Your identity and survey responses will be kept completely confidential and will never be connected to you or your child.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey for students and teachers will be conducted February 18, 2025 through March 28, 2025. The Parent Survey Supplement will be conducted during that same timeframe. To take the survey please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> and select the appropriate survey to begin.

For more information about the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, or to view previous years' Reports, please visit <https://www.5-essentials.org/Illinois>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact UChicago Impact Client Services at 1-866-440-1874 or impact-surveys@uchicago.edu.



Liberty Junior High's 2024-2025
VIP hardcover and in-color
yearbooks are on sale now!

The 2024-2025 yearbook has one option now:
Standard Yearbook ONLY - for \$30



YEARBOOK ORDERS ARE DUE BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9th.

Questions?

Email Ms. Alvarez at aalvarez@nlsd122.org or Mrs. Rauen at krauen@nlsd122.org

LIBERTY EMERGENCY DAY

BELL SCHEDULE

PERIOD 1	9:00 - 9:20
PERIOD 2	9:25 - 9:45
PERIOD 3	9:50 - 10:10
PERIOD 4	10:15 - 10:35
PERIOD 5	10:40 - 11:00

- **8TH GRADE ASYNCHRONOUS**
- **7TH GRADE LIVE INSTRUCTION**

PERIOD 6	11:05 - 11:25
-----------------	----------------------

- **8TH GRADE LIVE INSTRUCTION**
- **7TH GRADE ASYNCHRONOUS**

PERIOD 7	11:30 - 11:50
-----------------	----------------------

PERIOD 8	11:55 - 12:15
-----------------	----------------------

PERIOD 9	12:20 - 12:40
-----------------	----------------------

BREAK	12:40 - 1:10
--------------	---------------------

ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING ACTIVITIES	1:10 - 3:10
---	--------------------



NLSD 122 IS HIRING!

**INTERESTED IN WORKING IN THE
BUILDING YOUR CHILD
ATTENDS? DO YOU NEED TO
WORK THE HOURS YOUR CHILD
IS IN SCHOOL? IF SO, APPLY
NOW TO BE A
PARAPROFESSIONAL!**

With a short-term approval,
paraprofessionals need only to be 19
years of age with a high school
diploma (or equivalent), or higher.
This approval is available now until
June 30, 2025.

Interested applicants can apply on
our website linked [HERE](#).



FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS



Foods that most often cause an allergic reaction:

PEANUTS
TREE NUTS
WHEAT
SOY

MILK
EGGS
FISH
SHELLFISH



However, other, less common foods can also cause allergic reactions. Reactions can range from mild to deadly.

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. The most common causes of anaphylaxis are food, medication, insect stings, and latex.



Common warning signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction:



- Complaint of a tingling, itchiness, or metallic taste in the mouth
- Hives
- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling and/or itching of the mouth and throat area
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Cramps and stomach pain
- Paleness (due to a drop in blood pressure)
- Loss of consciousness

If you see someone showing any of these symptoms, **ACT FAST! Call 911**, mention anaphylaxis, and say you need someone who can administer epinephrine.



The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network
11781 Lee Jackson Hwy., Suite 160
Fairfax, VA 22033-3309
(800) 929-4040
Fax: (703) 691-2713
faan@foodallergy.org
www.foodallergy.org