

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 ~

All students have one quarter (eight weeks) of health class.

Students are pulled from their P.E. class for 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 (A.D.S.).

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 .

ENCORE CLASS SELECTIONS:

Parents/Guardians Will Make
Encore Class Selections
Using PowerSchool

Opens: Monday, April 7

Closes: Friday, April 25

More Info Will Be Shared In The Near Future
On How To Complete This Process

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

8 Class Periods per Day + 1 Lunch/Study Hall Period = 9 Total Periods per Day

Bell Schedule

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)

PERIOD	TIME
1	8:25 - 9:07
2	9:11 - 9:49
3	9:53 - 10:31
4	10:35 - 11:13
5	11:17 - 11:55
6	11:59 - 12:37
7	12:41 - 1:19
8	1:23 - 2:01
9	2:05 - 2:45

38 Minute Class Periods
Lunches: 7th Grade = Per. 5 / 8th Grade = Per. 6

ACADEMIC TEAM CONCEPT

- **Each Grade Level Has Two “Teams”**
 - All students will be placed on one of our two teams.
 - 7th Grade = “Team A” and “Team M”
- **Each Team Has:**
 - Two ELA Teachers
 - Two Math Teachers
 - One Science Teacher
 - One Social Studies Teacher
- All students on a team will have the same science / social studies teacher and one of the two ELA / Math teachers.

THE BENEFIT OF TEAMS

- **Teachers Have The Same Plan Period:**
 - Collaborate with each other to support students.
 - Available to hold group meetings/conference calls with parents/guardians.
- **“School Within A School” Feel:**
 - Classrooms near each other
 - Lockers centrally located
- **Study Hall Support:**
 - All team teachers have the same study hall time.
- **Student Work Load Balancing:**
 - Teams can avoid projects/tests/etc. on the same day.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Encore Class:

Cycle:

- Different class each trimester
- Period stays the same each trimester

Spanish/Band/ Orchestra/Aspire:

- Full Year Classes

Liberty Junior High
151 Lenox Street
New Lenox, IL 60451
(815) 462-7951

2022-2023

STUDENT NAME
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

Period	Term	Course	Teacher	Room
1-2(A)	23-24	ELA	ZITNIK, CATHERINE	A-106
3(A)	23-24	Social Studies	FERREE, JULIE	B-108
4(A) 7(A)	23-24	Math	BETHMAN, CHRISTIE	A-102
5(A)	T1	Art Cycle	MCKIMSON, ANGELA	A-105
5(A)	T2	Music Cycle	JESSE, THOMAS	MUSIC
5(A)	T3	Applied Digital Skills Cycle	PATRAS, KATIE	A-203
6(A)	23-24	Lunch/Study Hall	FERREE, JULIE	B-108
8(A)	23-24	Physical Education	ZUMPARO, ANTHONY	GYM
8(A)	Q4	Health	SCALETTA, JANAYA	C-221
9(A)	23-24	Science	ENGLE, RALAND	C-117

Locker Number: #

Locker Combination: # - # - #

BUS NUMBER: #

PICKUP TIME: TIME
PICKUP LOCATION: ADDRESS

DROPOFF TIME: TIME
DROPOFF LOCATION: ADDRESS

Transportation Phone Number: 815-717-3100

Lunch & Study Hall:

Organized By "Team":

- Team A eats lunch first, then study hall.
- Team M goes to study hall first, then lunch.
- Listed in order on the schedule:
 - "Lunch/Study Hall"
 - "Study Hall/Lunch"

Health Class:

Pulled From P.E. Class:

- Each student will have one "quarter" (roughly 8 weeks) of health class.

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 P.E. Lockers
 - School provides all locks.
 - Hallway locker will be located near your study hall classroom.
 - Hallway locker assignments and combinations will be on your child's schedule in August.
 - P.E. locker and a combination will be provided by P.E. teacher after the start of the school year.
- **How does P.E. work?**
 - Students change into P.E. uniforms for class each day.
 - P.E. uniforms can be purchased at the Walk-Thru in August or through the P.E. teacher after 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 report cards each trimester

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

- **Do you offer Accelerated (GATE) Classes?**
 - We offer Accelerated ELA and Math.
- **How do students qualify for Accelerated Classes?**
 - There are separate qualifications for each class.
 - 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/guardians be notified of Accelerated placements?**
 - Letters are anticipated to be mailed out to those that qualify 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 Safe
 - Be Respectful
 - Be Responsible

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Athletic Programs:

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

Sports Physical On File Prior To Tryouts

**Summer Camps: Cross Country, Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Cheer, and Volleyball
(Information Will Be Made Available Soon)**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Clubs and Activities:

- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Spring Play
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Speech/Drama Contest
- Fishing Club
- Archery Club
- National Junior Honor Society (N.J.H.S.)
- Geography Bee
- Game Club
- Art Club
- Homework Club
- Allegro Ensemble
- Bowling Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Scholastic Bowl
- Mathletes
- Spelling Bee
- Chorus
- Jazz Band
- Show Choir
- Spanish Club

STEP-UP FOLDERS:

Students Will Be Given

A Folder Containing:

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

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Shane Street
Principal
sstreet@nisd122.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@nisd122.org

March 25, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians of Liberty Jr. High School's Class of 2027 Students,

Welcome to Liberty Junior High School! Today, students of our Class of 2027 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 skill 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 7, and Friday, April 25**. Directions on how to complete the process will be shared prior to April 7.

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 2025 - 2026 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 7 and Friday, April 25. 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 (A.D.S.):**
 - 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. Students will also participate in career exploration activities in this class.

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. Members of this group are eligible to audition for the ILMEA Honors Ensemble and participate in IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest. In addition, students from the junior high band program are eligible to participate in the Jazz Band, an extra-curricular band ensemble open to all band members and orchestra bass players. One or two field trips are typically planned to celebrate the band's successes. *All members must have prior band experience to participate. Exceptions are at the discretion of the teacher.* 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 IGSMA 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 2024-2025

Name of Activity	Sponsor/Coach	Duration	Meeting/Time	Special Notes
Boys' Baseball	Mr. Kohlbacher (head) Mr. Gatton (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	Ms. Diaz (head) Ms. Schultz (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 (boys) Mr. Cutright (girls)	August-September	2-3 Days Per Week	Tryouts are held to determine team members. Unlimited participation for the first month of the season. The top golfers qualify for the sectional tournament.
Boys' Volleyball	Mr. Zumpano (7th) Mr. Havlin (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	Mrs. Mulder (boys) Mrs. Rokas (girls) Mrs. Worden (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-January	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	Ms. Lavin	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. Manzi (head) Mr. Havlin (asst.)	December-March	Daily: 3:30 - 4:45pm	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) Mrs. Curta (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. Hence (girls) Mr. Havlin (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 Mrs. Patras	September-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 Team	Mr. Jesse	September-November	1-2 Meetings Per Week	All students wanting to represent Liberty in a state drama and speech competition are welcome.
Yearbook/Photography Club	Ms. Alvarez Mrs. Rauzen	September-End of Year	Wednesdays 2:50 - 3:30pm	All interested students are encouraged to apply to participate in this club.
Homework Club	Mrs. Zettergren Mrs. Patras	September-End of Year	Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:50 - 3:30 pm	All are welcome to attend this club where they can receive help on homework.

Chorus	Mr. Jesse	September-May	2 Days Per Week After School & 1 Before School	All students are welcome to join this group.
Show Choir/Voices of Freedom	Mr. Jesse	September-May	2-3 Meetings Per Week After School	Members are chosen from Liberty Chorus or by audition.
Mathletes	Mr. Bahret (7th) Mrs. Zettergren (8th)	Dec/Jan - April	One Day per Week 7:15 - 8:15 am	Open to students who enjoy a challenging mathematics competition on both an individual and team level.
Art Club	Ms. Forberg	September - end of year	Tuesdays and Thursdays Bi-Weekly Meetings	All students interested in art are welcome to join. Sessions will be capped at 30 students max.
Jazz Band	Mrs. Clark	September-May	Mon. & Wed. 7:30 - 8:10am	Students need to participate in the NLSO Band to be eligible. No auditions are required.
Allegro Ensemble	Mrs. Durin	September-May	Mon. & Wed. 7:30 - 8:10am	Any students enrolled in NLSO Orchestra are eligible. No auditions are required.
Geography Bee	Mrs. Feece	November-December	1st Round: 2:50-4:00pm 2nd Round: 5:00-6:00 pm	Both an individual and team competition of geographic knowledge with Martino Jr. High School. A school champion will advance to larger local, and potentially national, competitions.
Scholastic Bowl	Mrs. Feece	January-April	Weekly: Practice: 2:50-4:00pm Matches 2:50-6:00pm	Tryouts will be held to determine a team that will participate in trivia quiz competitions against neighboring schools.
School Play	Mrs. Styx (head) Mr. Jesse (asst.)	January-March	2-3 Times per Week 3:00-5:00pm	Auditions are held in January for the cast of characters for the play. Behind the scenes positions are also available for students not interested in acting.
National Junior Honors Society	Mrs. Clark	Sept-May	1-2 Meetings Per Month 7:30 - 8:15 am	Students who meet specific academic, leadership, and service criteria are invited to join this group.
Morning Math	Mr. Bahret Mrs. Bergeron Mrs. Bethman Mr. Billig Ms. Lavin	Sept- May	Monday - Friday 7:30 - 8:15 am	Teachers assist students in understanding concepts taught in math classes. All students are welcome to attend any session. Mon: Billig (Room 120) / Tues: Lavin (Room 100) Wed: Bethman (Room 102) / Thurs: Bergeron (Room 200) Fri: Bahret (Room 118)
Spelling Bee	Mrs. Scaletta	Nov. - February	1-2 x's per Week TBD	Open to all students. The winner of the school competition competes at the county level if desired.
Bowling Club	Mrs. Hartwig Mr. Cutright	February-April	1x per Week 2:50 - 5:30pm	Open to all students (48 max). Bowlers will compete against each other and then there will be a tournament at the end.
Archery	Mrs. Hartwig	September - October	Tuesdays 2:50 - 4:00pm	Open to all students (40 students max).
Creative Writing Club	Mrs. Carroll	September-May	One Monday per Month 2:50 - 3:50 pm	Open to all students who enjoy writing creatively. Each meeting we share our writing and offer constructive criticism, praise, and advice. Students are encouraged to set individual goals to work on throughout the year.
Game Club	Mrs. Brister	Oct- March	Mondays and Wednesdays October - March 2:50 - 4:00pm	Come play games with your peers. Board games and cards are provided by the school. You may bring a board game from home, or with parent permission, game on your phone, iPad, or gaming system. All games played at school must be school appropriate.
Fishing Club	Mr. Engle	March-May	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Open to all students

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!!!