



APRIL 2025

THE LIBERTY LANTERN

Administration:

Dr. Lori Motsch
Superintendent

Shane Street
Principal

Ed Lesniak
Assistant Principal

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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:

The winter season seems to have slowly but surely made its way into our rearview mirror and we should now be able to enjoy some nice spring weather. Spring is an exciting time and we have many important events and activities planned at Liberty. The track and field season has started and they are preparing for their first home meet on April 8. The Bowling Sectionals will be held on April 5 and we wish the students who qualified for that the best of luck. We have recently concluded our I.A.R. state standardized testing, though our 8th graders will be taking the I.S.A. state science tests April 14 - 16. A busy time around here for sure.

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.



Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

Friday, March 28, is Paraprofessional Appreciation Day. Please join us in giving a big "shout out" to Liberty's paraprofessionals that do such an awesome job of helping and supporting our students. Thank you Mrs. Duda, Mrs. Haerr, Mrs. Hallo, Mrs. Kurczak, Mrs. Minnis, Mr. Richardson, and Mrs. Ronza for all that you do!!!



NEWS YOU CAN USE



Bowling Sectional Set For April 5:

Get ready to cheer on our top bowlers! The bowling Sectional Tournament will take place on April 5 at Strike and Spare in Lockport. Our athletes have worked hard all season, and now they're ready to compete at the next level. Congratulations to the athletes who made this year's sectional team:

Boys Team: Jadon Cutright, Nathan Davis, Logan Kelley, Jayson Marzano, and Noah Pearson

Girls Team: Angelina Coon, Bella Dul, Makenna Majda, and Morgan Tippet

Come out and support our team as they aim for a spot at the state tournament. Best of luck to all our bowlers... let's bring home the victory!



Mathletes Update:

8th grade Mathletes are finishing up their season of competitions with the conclusion of the season on April 17. The amazingly talented team members are Alejandro Acosta, Leonardo Avalos, Caleb Guendling, Hunter Hansen, Brenden Pritchard, Sawyer Pritchard, and Patireck Sturgeon. This group really knows their numbers!



The 7th grade Mathletes recently competed in the Math League Contest after a few weeks of preparation and practice. This is a challenging individual test in which mathletes need to answer 35 questions in just 30 minutes. The team performed amazingly and saw massive growth from the practice runs last month. We had 2 students get a score of 24 out of 35 and one with 25 out of 35. Given the time restraints, those are top of the class efforts. The team now prepares for their last competition over the next few weeks. Great job Mathletes!

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

Thank you to all the parents/guardians and students that have shown interest in next year's 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. This trip through EF Tours is going to be the most educational, memorable trip of a lifetime. The trip includes all travel expenses, hotel, food, and exhibits including a tour guide the entire trip. There are a few spots remaining, so sign up soon at www.efexploreamerica.com/2850685EC or reach out to Mrs. Zettergren at rzettergren@nlsd122.org.



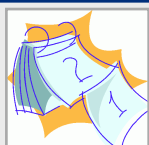
Voices of Freedom Update:

Voices of Freedom will resume after spring break to prepare a variety show for a May performance. We will need a large ensemble of singers and actors to make this show happen. Encourage your students to join us.



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:

- There is no school from Monday, March 31, through Friday, April 4, as it is spring break.
- There is no school on Friday, April 18, as it is a holiday.
- There is no school on Monday, April 21, as it is a full day teachers' institute.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Track and Field Set To Start Their Season:

Tryouts have concluded and the teams have been formed for the 2025 Track and Field season! The coaches are excited for another competitive and fun season and hope for a season of pleasant weather conditions! Practices have already been initiated and the boys' and girls' teams will be facing off against their first opponents, Oak Prairie and St. Mary's on April 8, at 4:00pm at Liberty Junior High. Good luck this season to all athletes and we wish you the best of luck in your endeavors to qualify for the IESA State Finals in May!



Girls' 7th Grade Team Members:

Jordan Bartley	Leila Boers	Kinzie Catellier	Leigha DeMaertelaere	Josie Elstner
Taylor Fixel	Mairead Gallas	Maddie Greenhill	Eva Hale	Emily LaPorte
Alicea Lanski	Violet McCann	Lylah Moyer	Reagan Muldoon	Kenzie Neubauer
Megan Saller	Ellie Stahr	Geneva Stiglic	Hailey Thayer	Delia Urbanczyk
Allie Vladika				

Girls' 8th Grade Team Members:

Delaney Butera	Keira Dempsey	Mia DiBenedetto	Brooklyn Fishback	Julia Howard
Lyla Lokanc	Maryn Lucas	Brooke Martenz	Neve McSherry	Elisa Momoh
Sophia Olstza	Terryn Ostrowski	Paulina Pajerski	Penny Pinciak	Raegan Saysongkham
Kacie Sheriff	Lucy Sheriff	Emily Smith	Haley Trench	Evelyn Walker
Madelyn Zack				

Boys' 7th Grade Team Members:

Brandon Amador	Brandon Bettenhausen	Dominic Casey	Michael Dempsey	Seth Griefff
Josh Hence	Brennen Jacobs	Lucas Lauricella	Julian Maldonado	Easton McDonnell
Landen Miller	Michael Morrison	Andrew Murino	Jack Noble	Keegan Norberg
Donny Pasqua	Henry Radnis	Gavin Reyna	Liam Schumacher	Olin Shea
Brendan Stoehr	Elliot Sweeney	Max Worden	Collin Veach	

Boys' 8th Grade Team Members:

Alejandro Acosta	Leonardo Avalos	Colin Bender	Ethan Brauch	Jack Casey
Kahne DeBella	Warren Gerring	Gavin Hansen	Jimmy Hoff	Tyler Jastrzab
Bryce Johnson	Teddy Kaczmarczyk	Billy Kolacek	Luke Kwasneski	Quinn Ladd
Camden Mansker	Kamil Mikulec	Andy Nconi Zheng	Austin Nimon	Aydin Okla
Brenden Pritchard	Sawyer Pritchard	Patrick Schwerha	Jameson Wargo	Owen Wills

Student Council News:

Liberty Student Council is looking forward to many exciting spring activities! Student Council members recently delivered fleece blankets they made to the Daybreak Shelter. Members were able to tour the shelter and learn more about the resources offered. Student Council will be planning ways to honor and show gratitude for our staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. In conjunction with Earth Day, we will also host a spring clean-up around the grounds of Liberty.



Many thanks to all students who have participated in Student Council this year! The next general Student Council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15, after school until 3:45pm. Everyone is welcome; see you then!

NEWS YOU CAN USE



Scholastic Bowl Team Update:

The Liberty Scholastic Bowl team has faced some tough competition from Martino, Hickory Creek, Homer, Manhattan, and Troy so far this year. We've had some tough matches and have 2 wins so far this year. The top scorers so far this season for the Liberty team are: Patrick Sturgeon, Noah Schlottmann, Donny Pasqua, Evelyn Wilson, Lillian Pearson, Mario Lopez, and Leo Avalos. Also scoring this season are: Kelly Ayala, Kurt Pantol, Landen Miller, Sammy Schmidt, Jason White, and Kaylee Christopherson (Booker). The team looks to try to finish the season strong against Summit Hill and Hilda Walker before preparing for Regionals at the end of April. Good Luck team!



Orchestra Update:

The Liberty Orchestra is gearing up for the end of the year! We have two upcoming concerts: Allegro will perform at the Spring String Fling on Thursday, April 17, and the Liberty Orchestra will perform at the Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 14. Looking forward to summer? There are lots of upcoming summer camps including Lincoln Way ROCK ORCHESTRA!! Mark your calendars now for June 2-13 and be on the lookout for the registration form which should be coming soon!



Chorus Update:

In March, the Patriot Chorus had a series of wonderful performances. They were part of the ILMEA Choral Festival at Olivet Nazarene University, where they not only sang their concert, but also had a workshop with Dr. Sam Handley from Northern Illinois University. Then, they performed on the Liberty stage along with the Nelson Ridge Chorus and the Lincoln-Way West Madrigals. Our singers are gearing up for their final performance of the year in May. Details will come next month.



National Junior Honor Society:

Our next meeting for current members is Friday, April 11 at 7:30am in the band room. We will be working on the induction ceremony and teacher appreciation week.



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:

On March 5, the band traveled to Olivet Nazarene University to perform at the Illinois Music Education Association Large Group Festival. The band had the opportunity to perform on the beautiful Olivet stage and received an amazing clinic from the band director at St. Xavier University. The band played extremely well and had a great time learning from a wonderful music educator during our clinic. The Jazz Band also performed in March at the Lincoln-Way West West Fest on Saturday, March 22. The Jazz Band did an amazing job and we are so proud of our musicians for learning some tough music and performing it so well!



April is a quiet month for band, but we have many performances in May! Please come out to hear us perform!

- Sunday, May 4 - Liberty Band marches in the New Lenox Loyalty Day Parade
- Thursday, May 8 - 5th and 6th Grade Band and Orchestra Spring Concert
- Saturday, May 10 - Jazz Band performance at the LW West Jazz Cafe
- Wednesday, May 14 - Liberty Band and Orchestra Spring Concert

All performances are free except for the Jazz Cafe which requires an advance purchase ticket. Jazz Band families will receive ticketing info in April.

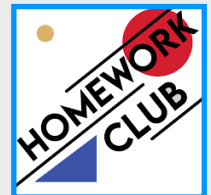
School Play Was A Huge Success:

Congratulations to the cast and crew of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" on two outstanding performances. The actors on stage did a fantastic job bringing this classic American tale to life. The stage crew played a pivotal role setting each scene. Bravo one and all!



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.



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.**

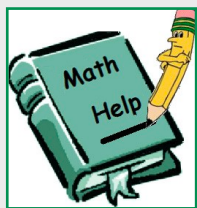
Questions?
Email Ms. Alvarez at aalvarez@nlsd122.org or Mrs. Rauen at krauen@nlsd122.org

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:

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)

May:

- 4 Band Performance @ Loyalty Day Parade
- 5 Start Teacher Appreciation Week
Home Track Meet (4:00pm)
- 7 Nurse Appreciation Day
- 9 Early Dismissal at 11:25 am
8th Grade Graduation Dance (6:00pm)
- 10 Jazz Band Performance @ LWW Jazz Cafe'
- 13 Choir and Voice of Freedom Concert (6:30pm)
- 14 Band & Orchestra Concert (6:30pm)
- 16 Speech Language Path Appreciation Day
- 20 School Board Meeting
- At Haven Administration Center (6:00pm)
- 22 8th Grade Great America Trip
- 26 No School ~ Memorial Day
- 27/28 Graduation Practice for 8th Graders
- 28 Last Day of 8th Grade Attendance
- 29 8th Grade Graduation Ceremony (7:30pm)
- At Lincoln-Way West High School
- 30 Last Day of School for 7th Graders
- Early Dismissal @ 11:25 am
Trimester 3 Report Cards Emailed Home



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

630.461.0044
richwistocki@besureconsulting.com
www.besureconsulting.com

March is the month for two safety videos; Drug Use (13) and Hidden Apps and Best Practices (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: <http://vimeo.com/showcase/nlsp>

Password: NLSP623!

Student Login:

URL: <http://vimeo.com/showcase/nlss>

Password: NLSS876!

NURSE'S NOTES



Important Health Information From the Nurse For Parents to Know

- **Doctor's Appointments:** Please turn in doctor notes for any absences related to doctors appointments.
- Stay home if sick with fever over 100 degrees until fever free for 24 hours; without fever-reducing medications.
- Please update your emergency contacts in PowerSchool.
- Doctors orders must be turned in to the school 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 include a doctor's note with length of excusal listed.
- Please contact the school nurse for prolonged illness lasting longer than three consecutive school days, injuries, and concussions. The nurse can assist in planning for return to school.

Please do not hesitate to call (815) 462-7806 or email me at jkerzman@nlsd122.org if you have any questions or concerns. I am in the office Monday through Friday from 7:55 am – 3:10 pm.

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

Gifted & Academically Talented Education (GATE)

New Lenox School District 122 believes that each child is unique and has special talents. Teachers provide experiences in an atmosphere in which these talents will be nurtured and new talents will be acquired and encouraged. Teachers provide options in classroom assignments and learning experiences that will encompass a variety of intelligences, modalities, or learning styles. In addition to these experiences, our district offers gifted/accelerated classes.

Our current Gifted And Talented Education program known as GATE will acknowledge the abilities and talents of not only gifted students but high achievers. The intermediate GATE classes will be structured similar to the junior high Accelerated classes in order to provide more opportunities for our students. Students will still need to meet the program requirements in order to participate.

Beginning in fourth grade, a set criteria will be used to determine students' eligibility into the program. A matrix measuring multiple components including student's class performance, cognitive ability, achievement and aptitude will be used. We have included more criteria to determine placement including aims scores and the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR).

Below is the complete list of assessments that will be used to qualify students.

	ELA	Math
Grades 4-8	Cognitive Skills Index (CSI) TerraNova Reading & Language aimswebPlus Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) GPA <i>Local Placement Test (6-8 only)</i>	Cognitive Skills Index (CSI) TerraNova Math aimswebPlus Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) GPA <i>Local Placement Test (6-8 only)</i>

In the GATE/Accelerated class, the curriculum will be presented at an accelerated pace, instruction will involve a deeper level of application and students will be required to work independently on many tasks. Students in GATE are expected to continually meet and exceed the following criteria to remain in the program. Below are work habits and skills expected of GATE students.

- Independently complete class work.
- Read and comprehend textbooks and material independently.
- Consistently complete homework on time.
- Manage time in order to successfully participate in other activities in addition to academics.
- Attend school regularly.
- Display a high level of focus while in class.
- Demonstrate problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- Participate in additional enrichment beyond required curriculum.
- Produce work at a higher level of mastery.
- Understand working at a higher level may mean limited re-dos and grades that are not all A's.
- Demonstrate a deeper level of application of skills and concepts.
- Enjoy the challenge of the advanced program.
- Demonstrate kindness, patience, and support for one another's unique displays of giftedness.

If your child qualifies for the program, you will receive a letter in May. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or principal. For more information, visit our website for the complete GATE document.



NLSD 122 is seeking volunteers who are interested in playing an important part in helping students with disabilities learn to ride a two-wheel bicycle independently during our iCanBike Summer program from June 23rd through June 27th.

Volunteers will be responsible for walking/jogging/running alongside a rider as they are learning to ride a bike during a 75-minute session (with short breaks). We ask volunteers to commit to attending all 5 days of camp for the session(s) you select. In addition, please plan to attend our 45-minute orientation on Sunday, June 10th at 4:00pm to learn about how the iCan Bike program operates, what to expect each day, and to receive training tips on spotting your assigned rider.

No prior experience with people with disabilities is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. This is a wonderful opportunity for obtaining required high school service hours.

Please visit www.nlsd122.org for more information and registration information.

Scan the QR code to register!



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

PERIOD 7	11:30 - 11:50
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PERIOD 8	11:55 - 12:15
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PERIOD 9	12:20 - 12:40
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BREAK	12:40 - 1:10
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ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING ACTIVITIES	1:10 - 3:10
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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