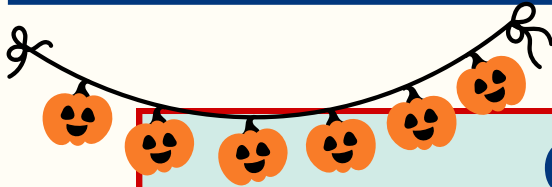


The Liberty Lantern

OCTOBER
2025



Office Personnel:

Principal: Shane Street

Assistant Principal: Ed Lesniak

Administrative Assistant: Nicole Morris

Administrative Assistant: Jane Lysik

School Office Hours: 7:00am – 3:55pm

Telephone Number: 815-462-7951

[Liberty Jr High Website Link](#)

From the Main Office:

The first month and a half of the year has flown by and it has been a great start to the school year. Midterm day was last Friday, September 26, and parents/guardians are encouraged to check PowerSchool if they have not yet done so as all grades were updated. Please contact the office if you'd like a paper copy of midterm grades sent home. Our baseball, softball, and golf teams enjoyed fantastic seasons this fall. Thank you to all involved in representing Liberty so very, very well. Students are working hard in the classrooms and this year is shaping up to be a great year.

Shane Street
Principal

Ed Lesniak
Assistant Principal

Important Dates

- **Oct. 2 ~ Lockdown Drill**
- **Oct. 7 ~ Fire Drill**
- **Oct. 9-12 ~ Washington DC Trip**
- **Oct. 13 ~ Holiday No School**
- **Oct. 21 ~ Board Meeting 6:00pm**
- **Oct. 30 ~ 8th Grade PreACT Test**
- **Oct. 31 ~ Early Dismissal 11:25am**

NEWS

you can use

Staff Emails:

For most non-urgent matters, emailing is the best way to contact a teacher. Please use the first initial of the first name and the full last name @nlsd122.org EX: John Smith jsmith@nlsd122.org



Student iPads...

All students are issued a NLSD 122 iPad and are expected to have this with them for all classes and to bring it home each night. Bringing a fully charged iPad to class each day is essential for maximizing learning opportunities and ensuring seamless participation in digital activities. A dead battery can hinder learning, disrupt the classroom and put students at a disadvantage. Please assist your child with creating a routine that ensures they have a fully charged iPad to start each and every day of school.

School Lunch:

The school lunch order link is sent out by district office every other week to the parent/guardian email listed in PowerSchool. Please place your order by the deadline in order to ensure your child will receive lunch. You can find more information on the lunch program here: [Lunch Program](#)

Lunch Times

7th Grade

5A 11:17-11:36

5B 11:36-11:55

8th Grade

6A 11:59-12:18

6B 12:18-12:37

Attendance Matters...

It is very important that your child be in attendance each and every day, but we do realize that there will be times when they are sick and need to stay home. If your child will be absent, please call the main office at 815-462-7951 by 8:30am the day of the absence. Please call even if you send a note or email the teacher. We will begin calling parent/guardians and emergency contacts if we do not receive a call by 8:30am. To arrange an early pickup for your student please call the office to let us know the time you will be arriving.



Ice Cream & Snacks:

Hershey ice cream and other snacks ex: chips, granolas bars, are offered every day during lunch. A variety of flavors/items are available for \$1.00 each. These are a cash only purchase and cannot be deducted from the student's lunch account.



NEWS

you can use

Student Council:

The Liberty Student Council is gearing up for a busy year! Student Council members participated in a community service activity with our annual fall cleanup. Members pulled weeds, raked leaves, and picked up garbage in our courtyard, bus lane, and main entrance areas of Liberty. Thank you to the Student Council members who volunteered their time and energy for our fall cleanup.

The Student Council Executive Board attended a leadership training day at Iron Oaks Adventure Center to set goals for the year and to increase their communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. Student Council will also plan and host the fall spirit week and pep assembly at the end of October. Fun activities and dress days will be planned for the entire student body. The fall is a busy time for Liberty Student Council as we continue to give back to our school and community!

Congratulations to the following members who were promoted to the Liberty Student Council Executive Board for the 2025-2026 school year: Chelsea Bagang, Aubrey Diez, Lillian Dornbos, Hailey Hatch, Kailey Hogan, Nooryan Hussein, Natalie Meder, Lylah Moyer, Brooklyn Shenberger, and Nora Wilke.

8th Grade Standardized Test:

Eighth grade students at Liberty Junior High will take the PreACT 8/9 standardized test on Thursday, October 30th. The test is used not only by our school to assess student progress, but also by both Lincoln-Way West High School and Joliet Central High School as their first set of data on the incoming freshman class. Test results will also be made available to other high schools upon request, as we know not all of our students will be attending Lincoln-Way or Joliet Central.

Morning Math:

Monday ~ Mr. Billig Rm 120
Tuesday ~ Ms. Lavin Rm 100
Wednesday ~ Mrs. Bethman Rm 102
Thursday ~ Mrs. Bergeron Rm 200
Friday ~ Mr. Bahret Rm 118

Homework Club:

Join as needed in Rm 220
Tuesday ~ 2:55-3:30pm
Wednesday ~ 7:30-8:15am
Thursday ~ 2:55-3:30pm

8th Grade End Of The Year Events:

- 8th Grade Graduation Dance = Friday, May 8th (6:00pm-8:00pm)
- 8th Grade Great America Trip = Thursday, May 21st
- Last Day of Attendance for 8th Graders = Tuesday, May 26th
- Graduation Ceremony = Wednesday, May 27th at Lincoln-Way West HS (7:30pm)



NEWS

you can use

National Junior Honor Society:

Liberty NJHS members are off and running with several great initiatives this school year. Members participated in creating uplifting cards for children fighting cancer as well as a fall clean-up event, along with Student Council members, to help beautify our school grounds. NJHS officers and Student Council leaders took a field trip to Irons Oaks Adventure Center where they had a fun and memorable day working together to strengthen their leadership, listening and communication skills. NJHS members will have their next meeting on Friday, October 24th at 7:30am.

Congratulations to the following NJHS office holders for the 2025-2026 school year:

President - Nooryan H

Secretary - Sophia D

Community Service Chairperson - Danielle B

Vice President - Kyle C

Treasurer - Natalie M

Historian - Hanna B

Seventh graders interested in applying for NJHS this spring should check the school website (select "News" then "NJHS") for membership requirements as well as a volunteer log to begin completing the required volunteer hours. Feel free to stop by and see Ms. McEttrick in room 202 if you have any questions.

NLPD Coat Drive:

New Lenox Police Department proudly announce the department's 17th annual "Cops Care" Coat Drive. With the active participation of New Lenox School District I22, the police department will be leading an effort to impress upon the youth of our community the value of demonstrating good character and helping others. The coat drive will commence on Wednesday, October 1st and conclude on Friday, October 31st. Drop off points for those members of the public who wish to participate will be: New Lenox Schools, The New Lenox Village Hall (1 Veterans Parkway), and New Lenox Police Department (200 Veterans Parkway). Morning Star Treasure Chest II (2571 East Lincoln Highway, New Lenox, IL) will again be participating in this event. They will provide a coat, free of charge, for anyone who presents them with a voucher. Vouchers will be available at the New Lenox Police Department, New Lenox School District I22 Administration Office (102 S Cedar Rd.), the New Lenox Township building and all NLS D I22 schools starting October 1st.

Archery Club:

The Liberty Archery Club is in full swing, and it's not too late to join the fun!

Meeting Dates: Every Tuesday through the end of October

Time: After school until 3:45pm

No experience is necessary - all skill levels are welcome!

Whether you're brand new to the sport or looking to sharpen your aim, this is a great way to learn, practice, and make new friends. There's still room for more students, if interested please get a permission slip from Mrs. Hartwig.

Picture Day:

Liberty's Picture Day was Monday, September 29th. Visual Image Photography (VIP) is completely paperless and you will receive an email when your child's images are ready to view online. All ordering will take place online. If you have any questions, please contact VIP by emailing support@vipis.com.



NEWS

you can use

7th Grade Upcoming Field Trip:

Seventh Grade Parents please stay tuned for more information about our exciting field trip to see "A Christmas Carol" at Drury Lane Theater in December. More information will be coming home soon.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 27, 2025

Set in Victorian-era London, *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol* tells the classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and the spirited ghosts that visit him one fateful Christmas Eve hoping to persuade him to change his miserly ways. Complete with falling snow and magical illusions, *A Christmas Carol* is a visually stunning experience and, at one hour long, perfect for children of all ages. Continue your tradition or start a new one by gathering the whole family for this truly memorable holiday classic.

Directed by:
MATTHEW D. CARNEY

Speech Team:

The Liberty Speech Team is getting ready to compete at the Minooka Invitational Speech Contest, which will take place on November 7th. The students are preparing scripted scenes, poetry readings, improvisation, and other drama and public speaking events. This year's competitors are:

Peyton Tamosiunas	Kelly Ayala	Margie Hess	Scarlett Fideli
Kira Gagan	Lena Holzman	Anna McVicker	Bailey Parise
Dominic Bielak	Tessa Fideli	Peyton Dooley	

School Safety Parent Resources:

We encourage parents of students, grades 4-8, to take advantage of the Cyber Safe Schools resource videos for parents, provided by the District. Please see the login information for Be Sure Consulting for Cyber Safe Schools. If you would like to watch the student videos with your child, we suggest you preview them before logging in to the student portal. The video series is a parent resource, we do not show the videos at school.

Parent login for Parent Video Series:

URL: vimeo.com/showcase/nlsp

Password: NLSP623!

Parent login for Student Video Series:

URL: vimeo.com/showcase/nlss

Password: NLSS876!



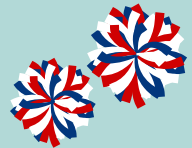
ATHLETICS



CHEERLEADING

Thank you to everyone who tried out for the cheerleading team! The members of this year's squad are:

Brenna Biedron	Londyn Cullen	Carmella DeCesare	Sophia DeGrave
Holly Ganbarg	Zoe Kranich	Bailey Kudla	Alicea Lanski
Hadley Mansker	Ava Matarrese	Rylee McArthur	Natalie Meder
Kaylee Mundy	Kenzie Neubauer	Lily Popp	Kendall Pritchard
Ellie Stahr	Danira Vardal	Delaney Wilson	Emerson Xanders



Their first performance is on October 20th, where they will be performing sideline cheers. Please come out and support the Liberty Cheerleaders and join them in cheering on the Lady Patriots!

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

With the start of a new school year comes the start of a new girls basketball season. Both coaches Bollini and Didier are looking to another successful year of basketball! The girls have been practicing hard over the last couple of weeks and are looking forward to the first home game of the season on Thursday, October 2nd, against Summit Hill JH. Looking forward to seeing a big turnout for what should be another exciting year of girls basketball!

Congrats to your 2025 8th grade Lady Patriots!

Jordan Bartley	Leila Boers	Kinzie Catellier	Josie Elstner	Maggie Gallas	Eva Hale
Emily Lavey	Madeline Lazinek	Megan Saller	Kendall Spiller	Allie Vladika	

Congrats to your 2025 7th grade Lady Patriots!

Leah Bax	Hailey Gross	Tory Gugliuzza	Meredyth Mellott	Megan Michals
LillyAnn Nimon	Avery Pantol	Dylan Roesner	Natalie Slotwinski	Lana Walker
Autumn Wallace				



BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Your 7th grade boys' volleyball team began the month of September as a group of boys with no experience on their side. Little by little, the team has worked each and every day to improve their skill and understanding of the game to play the right way. Coach Zumpano is happy with the progress of the team that has earned some success along the way. The team had a strong win against Martino and has played tough against the likes of Homer, Troy, and Hickory Creek. The team finishes up their regular season game play with matches against Manhattan at Lincoln-Way West High School and Mokena. They will then conclude the season the week of October 6th with the annual Des Plaines Valley Conference tournament to be held at Homer Jr. High. Best of luck to our boys in blue and red the last two weeks of the season!

The 8th grade team has been working hard in practice and that has carried over into match play. With one game left to play, the team has a record of 4 wins and 2 losses and is ranked 3rd in the Des Plaines Valley Conference standings. Standout play by Sully Burns, Kyle Casey and Dylan Guthrie has been leading the team; however, everyone has been contributing to the team's success! The team is looking forward to the upcoming DPVC Tournament at Homer JHS on October 7, 8 and 9. Best of luck boys!!

ATHLETICS cont.



SOFTBALL

The Liberty Girls' Softball Team finished their season with a record of 11-5. Congratulations to the girls on a successful season and good luck to the following 8th graders in High School next year: Kinzie Catellier (All-Conference), Josie Elstner (All-Conference), Cathy Granata (All-Conference), Avery Schoan (Sportsmanship Award), Jordan Bartley, Samantha Formell, Maddie Greenhill, Adeline Kaczanowski, Emily Lavey, Reagan Muldoon

UPCOMING TRYOUTS

All students must have a current sports physical on file in the office in order to tryout.

IESA Physical Form

Boys' Basketball

DATES: October 20th and 21st

TIME: 3:00pm - 4:30pm

LOCATION: Liberty Main Gym

YOU MUST ATTEND BOTH DAYS OF TRYOUTS TO QUALIFY FOR THE OFFICIAL ROSTER.



GOLF

The Liberty Golf Team has wrapped up an outstanding 2025 season and we couldn't be more proud! Every player showed incredible dedication, sportsmanship, and growth on and off the course. This season was filled with personal bests, team milestones, and unforgettable moments. Thank you to our athletes, families, and supporters who made it all possible. Your hard work and encouragement kept our team swinging strong all season long! Let's celebrate the success of Liberty Golf, a team that truly embodies perseverance, teamwork, and school pride.

Congrats on a fantastic season!



BOYS' BASKETBALL

The basketball season is upon us. Coach Bahret and Coach Zumpano are looking forward to seeing the talent here at Liberty and the challenge of a new season. For anyone interested in trying out, mark down the following important dates. There will be an open gym after school from 3:00-4:00pm to showcase your talent and team skills on Tuesday, October 14th, and Wednesday October 15th. While it is highly recommended to attend these open gyms for those who want to try out, it is not a requirement. The official tryout information is listed under "Upcoming Tryouts". Good luck to all the boys looking to make the Liberty basketball team this year!

BASEBALL

The Liberty Baseball Team recently concluded a successful season with an overall record of 12-5-1. The team had exciting key wins over Martino, Minooka, Mokena, and Manhattan among others. A thrilling come back walk-off win in the playoffs against Hickory Creek will be remembered. The boys rattled off 8 consecutive wins going into the playoffs, with the entire roster stepping up at various times. A tough 4-1 loss to Homer ended the season in the regional semifinals. All-Conference selections included Nate O'Dette, Jackson Strein, Peter Lotus, and Caden Pawula. Congratulations to all the players on a great season and good luck the rest of the year!

MUSIC

dept.



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

BAND & ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Date: **October 15th**, 2025

Time: **6:30pm**

Location: **Liberty Main Gym**



BAND

The Liberty Band is excited to perform our first concert on Wednesday, October 15th at 6:30pm in the Liberty Gym. Admission is free and we encourage our Liberty families to come out to hear some great music. We hope to see you there!

ORCHESTRA

The Liberty Orchestra is ready for our first concert of the year! On Wednesday, October 15th at 6:30pm, the Liberty Orchestra will perform its Fall Concert along with the Liberty Band. Musicians are reminded to look over the CONCERT BLACK requirements and email Ms. Darin if you have any questions about appropriate concert attire.

CHORUS

The Patriot Chorus is off to a busy start this school year. Our singers are working hard to prepare for our upcoming first concert, which will be on Thursday, November 13th at 7:00pm in the Liberty cafeteria. The chorus will present a variety of songs ranging from a 17th century motet to a gospel version of an American folk song. We also are sending our positive thoughts to the singers auditioning for the ILMEA District I Honors Chorus.

CONTACT

Band: jclark@nlsd122.org
Orchestra: edarin@nlsd122.org
Chorus: tjesse@nlsd122.org



CALENDAR REMINDERS



- **2nd** Lockdown Drill
- **7th** Fire Drill
- **9th - 12th** Washington D.C. Trip
- **13th** Holiday No School
- **15th** Band & Orchestra Concert 6:30pm
- **21st** Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm
- **24th** Q1 Ends
- **25th** Band & Chorus Performance NL
Commons TBA
- **30th** PreACT Test for 8th Grade
- **31st** Early Dismissal 11:25am



- **2nd** Daylight Savings Time
- **5th** Picture Retakes
6th Grade Band, Orchestra, Allegro, Jazz
Band Concert 6:30pm
- **13th** 5th Grade Concerts
Orchestra 5:30pm
Band 6:15pm
Chorus 7:00pm
- **14th** Trimester 1 Ends
- **15th** ILMEA Jazz Festival TBA
- **17th** Trimester 2 Cycle Classes Begin
- **18th** Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm
- **21st** Early Dismissal 11:25am
- **22nd** ILMEA Jazz Festival TBA
- **24th** Parent Teacher Conferences
12:00pm-8:00pm
- **25th** Parent Teacher Conferences
8:00am-12:00pm
- **26th - 28th** Thanksgiving Break

LIBERTY FULL CALENDAR

WEEKLY ACTIVITY CALENDAR



NURSE'S CORNER

Respiratory Virus season is approaching.

Core prevention strategies are essential practices recommended for everyone. They provide a foundation of protection for you and your loved ones:

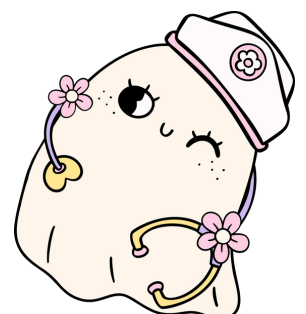
- Stay up to date with recommended [immunizations](#).
Talk to your doctor or trusted healthcare provider about what may be recommended for you and your family.
- Practice good [hygiene](#) like washing your hands regularly and cleaning commonly touched surfaces.
- Take [steps for cleaner air](#) as possible in places where people live and work.
- When sick with a respiratory illness:
 - Use [precautions to prevent spread](#). Stay home and away from others for at least 24 hours until feeling better and fever-free. Take added precaution for the next 5 days (wearing a mask, physical distancing)
 - Seek health care promptly for treatment if you have [risk factors for severe illness](#); [treatment](#) may help lower your risk of severe illness.



For more information please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/index.html>

For further questions regarding a prolonged illness greater than 3 days, please feel free to call the school nurse for guidance regarding absences and when to return to school at 815-462-7806 or email jkerzman@nlsd122.org.





Liberty Junior High 2025-2026 VIP hardcover yearbook

The 2025-2026 yearbook has two options:
Standard Yearbook ONLY - for \$30 (Due 4/10/26)

8th grade Yearbook with Happy Ad - for \$40 (Due 12/20/25)

*Email to follow with Happy-Ad details after purchase

Questions?

Email Ms. Alvarez at aalvarez@nlsd122.org or Mrs. Berwanger at mberwanger@nlsd122.org

<https://www.vipis.com/group/db0e9aa9/liberty-junior-high-school>



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE GEOGRAPHY BEE!

Liberty and Martino will be hosting a school level competition and a Cross-Town Competition this year.

Liberty School Level Competition (Students Only):

Date: 11/12

Time: 2:50-3:50

Location: Room B-108 (Mrs. Ferree's Room)

The top five finalists will advance to the Cross-Town Competition.

Cross-Town Competition(Families may attend):

Date: December 9

Time: 4:00- 5:00

Location: Liberty Jr. High Cafeteria

**SIGNUP: JOIN GOOGLE CLASSROOM PAGE WITH CODE-
4yr4emjh**



NEW LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT COAT DRIVE



(October 1st through 31st)



DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

**NEW LENOX SCHOOLS, NEW
LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT,
OR NEW LENOX VILLAGE HALL.**

COAT VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

**NEW LENOX SCHOOLS, NEW
LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT,
NEW LENOX VILLAGE HALL,
OR NEW LENOX TOWNSHIP**



STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

HOLD

"In Your Classroom or Area"

Students are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



SECURE

"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"

Students are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN

"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

Students are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE

"To a Location"

Students are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

Adults and staff are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



SHELTER

"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"

Hazards might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

Safety Strategies might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

Students are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and staff are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.

