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Winter 2024



MAKING HISTORY

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SCHOOL DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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Alexander Doniphan	1900 Clay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5400	Beth Cunningham, Principal Chavis Clawson, Asst. Principal
EPiC Elementary	650 Conistor Liberty, MO 64068	736-5730	Jamie Ackart, Principal
Franklin	201 W. Mill Street Liberty, MO 64068	736-5440	Amy Toebben, Principal Jaysa Hartman, Asst. Principal
Kellybrook	10701 N. Eastern Ave. KCMO 64157	736-5700	Kayli Burrell, Principal Megan Thompson, Asst. Principal
Lewis and Clark	1407 Nashua Liberty, MO 64068	736-5430	Mitch Hiser, Principal Dawn Shannon, Asst. Principal
Liberty Oaks	8150 N. Farley KCMO 64158	736-5600	Jeanne Hinnenkamp, Principal Ashlyn Garton, Asst. Principal
Lillian Schumacher	425 Claywoods Pkwy. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5490	Matthew Krohne, Principal Emily Griffin, Asst. Principal Jaysa Hartman, Asst. Principal
Manor Hill	1400 Skyline Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5460	Jordan Williamson, Principal Julie Gosnell, Asst. Principal
Ridgeview	701 Thornton Liberty, MO 64068	736-5450	Tyler Shannon, Principal Heather Buckman, Asst. Principal
Shoal Creek	9000 NE Flintlock Rd. KCMO 64157	736-7150	Christy Boman, Principal Danielle Compton, Asst. Principal
Warren Hills	1251 Camille St. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5630	Michelle Swierski, Principal Heather Lee, Asst. Principal

Secondary Schools

Discovery Middle School	800 Midjay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-7300	Greg Mees, Principal Courtney Dickerson, Asst. Principal
Heritage Middle School	600 W. Kansas Liberty, MO 64068	736-5380	Reagan Allegri, Principal Ryan Dahm, Asst. Principal Jennifer Selock, Asst. Principal
Liberty Middle School	1500 S. Withers Rd. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5410	Jeremy Bradham, Principal Shirley Kantola, Asst. Principal
South Valley Middle School	1000 Midjay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-7180	Jill Mullen, Principal Joe Lutes, Asst. Principal Whitney Weakley, Asst. Principal
Liberty High School	200 Blue Jay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5340	Mike Sharp, Principal Tara Bell, Asst. Principal Caleb Champ, Asst. Principal Bridget Herrman, Asst. Principal David McDorman, Asst. Principal Jason Cahill, Activities Director
Liberty North High School	1000 NE 104th St. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5500	Rosemary Camp, Principal Lee Allen, Asst. Principal Josh Baldwin, Asst. Principal Brandon McCoy, Asst. Principal Stacie Syler, Asst. Principal Lane Green, Activities Director
Liberty Academy Alt. School	1115 Blackberry Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5470	Melissa Norris, Director of Alternative Education



2023-2024 Liberty Public Schools Board of Education -
Pictured (Front Row L-R): Karen Rogers, Jenn Bauer, and
Angie Reed; (Back Row L-R) Dan Currence, AJ Byrd, Nick Bartlow,
and Drew Marriott

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Liberty Public Schools

District Offices
8 Victory Lane
Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 736-5300

Superintendent

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker

Website

www.lps53.org



From the desk of

DR. M. JEREMY TUCKER



PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

I hope this update finds you doing well. As we are now into the calendar year 2024, there are so many exciting things taking place all across our District. Our students and staff continue to shine with various team and individual achievements in the many activities that they participate in. Many of these are highlighted in the pages of this publication that follow.

For this month's edition, I wanted to share with you an update as to some important work that our entire team has begun to embark on. In recent weeks, we have started the process of updating our LPS Strategic Plan. This work is important on many levels, as the planning component is a critical piece in our collective pursuit of excellence in education. It is the compass guiding our efforts to provide top-notch learning experience for every one of our 12,500+ students in Liberty Public Schools. Through careful analysis and collaborative decision-making, we aim to align our resources and initiatives with the evolving needs of our dynamic community.

Your involvement is pivotal in this process. We value your insights and invite you to actively participate in shaping the roadmap for our district's future. In recent weeks, we have started the process

of conducting focus group discussions with staff, students, parents, and our business community. We also have offered survey opportunities for our various stakeholder groups in an effort to gain an understanding of the needs, goals, and expectations of our District from our LPS community. Thank you to those who have participated thus far in this process. If you have not yet done so, we would encourage you to visit our website (www.lps53.org), as more information is available, including additional opportunities to submit your feedback. It is our hope to be able to pull together findings from these platforms and formulate an updated plan that would be established and put into place for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this strategic planning journey. Your commitment to our students' success is the driving force behind our shared aspirations.

Be Well!

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker,
Superintendent - Liberty Public Schools



LPS Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Tucker provides a district update at the annual Community Breakfast, hosted by the Liberty Education Foundation, held Thursday, November 2, 2023.



Members of the Liberty North High School Counseling Department join Dr. Tucker for a photo following the presentation of SOAR Awards at the school.

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On the cover

Members of the Liberty North High School football team are presented with the state championship trophy on Saturday night, December 2, 2023, in Columbia, Missouri.

If you would like more information about Liberty School District, please contact the Communications Office at 736-5300, or visit our website at www.lps53.org.





Photo courtesy of Kate Hamilton

Liberty Public Schools had never had a state champion crowned in the sport of football in the history of the District. That all changed in December 2023, and in convincing fashion.

The Liberty North High School Eagles defeated Christian Brothers College (CBC) on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Faurot Field in Columbia, Missouri, by a final score of 38-7 to claim the MSHSAA 6 championship.

What made the big win even sweeter was the fact that CBC had knocked the Eagles out of the state playoffs the previous two seasons. The Cadets had their streak of two state championships snapped in the process.

“This is a tremendous group of young men that continue to prove each and every week how good they are, and not only are they good

at football, but they’re great human beings,” Eagle Head Coach Andy Lierman told reporters following the game. “I’m extremely proud of the effort they gave tonight. Before the season these guys set a goal out and they knew what they wanted to do and they set that goal in front of them and they just kept marching towards it each and every day.”

Following the championship win, the Eagles received recognition from several entities, including the Kansas City, Missouri City Council, the City of Liberty, and the Kansas City Chiefs. As is always the case with all state championship teams and individuals, the team was also recognized at the Tuesday, December 19, 2023, LPS Board of Education meeting.



Photo courtesy of Kate Hamilton



Telling the LPS Story

In Liberty Public Schools, several social media platforms that we have in place provide us with the opportunity to tell our story. One of these platforms is X (formerly Twitter), where we share updates daily. Provided are some posts that were shared this semester to help tell the LPS story. In addition, you will find all of our school X handles and hashtags below, and we encourage you to give them a follow!

Name	Account	Hashtag
Elementary Schools		
Alexander Doniphan	@ADdolphins	#lpsad
EPiC	@EpicElementary	#lpsepic
Franklin	@LPSFranklinElem	#lpsfranklin
Kellybrook	@KBElementary	#kbcougars
Lewis and Clark	@lclblazers	#lclblazers
Liberty Oaks	@libertyoaks	#libertyoaks
Lillian Schumacher	@LillianSchuElem	#lssharks
Manor Hill	@MHPatriot	#mhpatriot
Ridgeview	@RVRoadrunner	#rvroadrunner
Shoal Creek	@ShoalCreekStars	#starssc
Warren Hills	@WHWildcats	#whcats
Middle Schools		
Discovery Middle School	@dmsbluejays	#dmsleads
Heritage Middle School	@heritagescoop	#heritagem
Liberty Middle School	@LibertyLMS	#LMSsoars
South Valley Middle School	@svmsEagles	#svmseagles
High Schools		
Liberty Academy	@LibAcademy	#LPSAcademy
Liberty High School	@LHSJAYS	#lhsjays
Liberty North High School	@LNEagleNews	#northnation



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MARIE GOEGLEIN	SOUTH VALLEY
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MICHELLE HERRIG	SOUTH VALLEY
LORI MCCABE	WARREN HILLS
RON MCCOY	LIBERTY OAKS
GARRETT NIEMEIER	LIBERTY MIDDLE
LORI RIEDEL	LIBERTY HIGH
MARCY SHEELEY	LEWIS AND CLARK
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ZACH KIMMEL	RIDGEVIEW
GARY MAJORS	DISTRICT ADMIN CENTER
JOY O'NEAL	HERITAGE MIDDLE
STACIE SYLER	LIBERTY NORTH
DEBBIE WALLACE	WARREN HILLS/KID'S ZONE

Each spring, the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce hosts a banquet to celebrate education in the Northland as part of its Excellence in Education program. Recently, our LPS community nominated several members of our staff to participate in this prestigious event, scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2024. Categories included in the event include Excellence in Classroom Teaching and Excellence in Service to Education. Below, you will find the complete list of this year's Liberty Public Schools nominees.

FRANKLIN ART TEACHER SELECTED TO DESIGN PARADE OF HEART



Franklin Elementary Art Teacher, Melissa Allshouse, has been sharing quite the experience with her art students in recent months. Allshouse was recently selected to design one of the Kansas City Parade of Hearts that will be displayed all across the Kansas City area later this spring. Nearly five hundred submissions were entered for the opportunity to design a heart. In the end, one hundred hearts will be displayed in high traffic areas and attractions throughout the metro.

"It has been fun to have my art students along with me for the journey," said Allshouse. "I've been able to share with them some valuable lessons throughout this process. I think they have enjoyed seeing this project come together".

The heart that Allshouse is designing has a wedding theme, and her specific theme involves hope and unity. Parade of Hearts is a public art experience that celebrates our diversity, unites communities, and supports nonprofits by placing beautifully designed hearts by local artists throughout the Kansas City region. The hearts will be displayed around Kansas City between April - August 2024. Locations for the hearts have not yet been announced.

Melissa Allshouse was recognized for her KC Parade of Hearts project at the Tuesday, January 23, 2024, Board of Education meeting.





“We enjoy our positions at LPS because the environment is family oriented. Everyone is always friendly and willing to help in any way possible. The transportation department is rewarding because we feel like we are making a difference for our students and their parents. Also, we feel like leadership and dispatch always ensure we transport students as safely as possible. Their positive and winning attitude rubs off on others.”

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Thanks to the resounding passage of the April 2023 No Tax Levy Increase Bond Issue, the Liberty Public Schools community is now beginning to see the completion of several significant construction projects, with several more to take place in the next few years. In all, approximately \$100 million in construction projects will be completed at campuses around LPS. The first project that was completed were the eight tennis courts on the southwest side of the Liberty High School campus. These courts will provide the Blue Jay tennis teams to remain on campus for practices and competitions. Previously, the Jays traveled to Bennett Park for their team activities. The new courts will make their official debut when the Liberty High School boys tennis team opens their season in March.

“These courts are not only a big addition for the Liberty High School campus, but for the entire Liberty community,” said LPS Chief Operations Officer Steve Anderson. “Much like the various other facilities around the district, we would expect the eight courts to receive a lot of use from the greater community, which is fantastic.”



A total of eight tennis courts on the southwest corner of Liberty High School were completed in November 2023. These courts will not only serve the boys and girls tennis teams at LHS, but also provide additional court opportunities for our community.

Another significant upgrade that is nearing completion is the installation of artificial field turf at both baseball fields at Liberty High School and Liberty North High School. This work began last fall, with completion expected to take place around the time that the Blue Jay and Eagle teams began practice this spring. Work will then transition



An exterior rendering of the baseball/softball turf project at Liberty North High School. Turf installation for baseball at both Liberty High School and Liberty North High School is expected to be completed in Spring 2024, with softball fields completed in time for the Blue Jay and Eagle seasons this fall.

to install the same turf for the respective softball fields at both campuses, and in time for the start of their seasons in August 2024.

“These upgrades will not only provide significant enhancements for these baseball and softball programs, but also outdoor classroom space opportunities for the high schools to use during the regular school day,” said Anderson.

While the projects listed above have been taking place, a tremendous amount of planning has been in the works for a handful of other significant projects that will begin construction this summer. These projects include:

- **Construction of a Gymnasium at EPiC Elementary**

Since officially becoming an elementary school nearly a decade ago, EPiC has operated without a gymnasium on their campus. No longer will the school need to operate physical education and other larger building-level activities in a small space. This addition will also benefit the community, as it will be made available for community events.

- **Gymnasium/Performance Space at both Discovery Middle School and South Valley Middle School**

With large student enrollments, Discovery Middle School and South Valley Middle School will welcome these respective additions to their campuses. These 11,000 square foot additions will be used for various purposes, not only during the school day but for extra-curricular activities.



An architect rendering of the exterior of gymnasium/performance space at South Valley Middle School, expected to be completed in 2025.

- **Significant Building Renovations to Heritage Middle School**

One of the most tradition rich buildings in LPS, Heritage Middle School celebrates 100 years being a school this year. In the most recent round of Long Range/Facility Master Planning, HMS was identified as a priority for renovations to both its interior and exterior. Included in the upgrades will be cafeteria, restroom, and classroom space renovations, along with exterior masonry renovations and window replacement.

Additional projects that will be completed include interior upgrades at Liberty High School, construction of a shop building at the Liberty Academy, construction of a Distribution Center near the current LPS Facilities Center, renovation to existing space for completion of a District Technology Center, and more.

To receive regular updates regarding construction progress in the months and years to come, we encourage you to visit our website at www.lps53.org.

“We are excited to see these various projects come to fruition,” said LPS Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Tucker. “None of this would be possible without the resounding support from our stakeholders that make up Liberty Public Schools, and we thank them for providing our students and staff with these tremendous facilities.”



LED lighting upgrades are planned throughout the District, with this work already taking place in several buildings. These upgrades will be sequenced with other projects and will be completed district-wide over the course of the next two years



For a detailed look at the various projects taking place around LPS, click this QR code provided.



A much-needed LPS Distribution Center will be constructed near the existing LPS Facilities Center, located at 1138 Southview Drive. This 29,000 square foot facility will provide a dry food warehouse, storage warehouse, a large storage freezer, and more.



A 1,600 square foot shop building will be constructed just west of the existing Blackberry Commons facility that houses students attending the Liberty Academy. This will provide flexible open learning space that will include woodworking and metalworking spaces.



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CHARACTER TRAITS RECOGNITION



NOVEMBER, 2023

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Colleen Pelletier (Liberty Chamber),
Joyce Olsen (Hy-Vee),
Jeff Klein (ServPro),
Ed Hughes (Northland Rolladium),
Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts)
- Middle Row, Left to Right:
Cooper Enloe (Lillian Schumacher),
Ryker Bondow (Ridgeview),
Amiya Crawford (Ridgeview),
Skylar Hogan (Manor Hill)
- Front Row, Left to Right:
Everett Junod (Lillian Schumacher),
Molly Myrick (Manor Hill)



DECEMBER, 2023

- Back Row, Left to Right:
Joyce Olsen (Hy-Vee),
Jenn Bauer (LPS Board of Education),
Colleen Pelletier (Liberty Chamber),
Debra Doering (FastKick Martial Arts),
Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts)
- Front Row, Left to Right:
Joyce Olsen (Hy-Vee),
Jenn Bauer (LPS Board of Education),
Colleen Pelletier (Liberty Chamber),
Debra Doering (FastKick Martial Arts),
Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts)

BATTLE OF THE BRAINS

A group of PEAK students (LPS gifted education) from Shoal Creek Elementary have been named as a top 20 finalist in the annual Burns and McDonnell Battle of the Brains competition.

Battle of the Brains is a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) competition that sees K-12 students across Kansas City dream up an exhibit idea for Science City located at Union Station. The winner of the competition will see their exhibit come to life.

The Shoal Creek students made up one of nearly 740 groups to compete in this year's competition. That included more than 6,800 students from 245 schools across 50 school districts.

On Thursday, December 7, 2023, the Battle of the Brains Bus visited Ridgeview Elementary - where the PEAK program is headquartered - to surprise the students with the news. There was music, bubbles, banners and even a red carpet.

Their proposed exhibit is called "Artmazeum: Colorful STEM Experience."

The LPS team did not make the top five teams that were awarded at a ceremony on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at Union Station. However, because they were a Top 20 team, they will still receive a \$2,500 grant from Burns and McDonnell.



LPS

News & Notes

Eagle Senior is Buck Buchanan Award Winner (Again)

Immediately following the team's state football championship in early December, the individual recognitions began pouring in for the Liberty North High School Eagle Football Team. Arguably the most impressive honor came on Wednesday, December 6, 2024, when LNHS Senior Melvin Laster was named the 2023 Buck Buchanan Award recipient. This award is annually presented to the top offensive/defensive lineman or linebacker in the Kansas City metropolitan area. What's most impressive is that Laster has now won this award for three consecutive years, which has never been accomplished since the award started being handed out. Laster played and started in every varsity high school football game since his freshman year. He is now off to the University of Nevada - Las Vegas to continue his football career for the Rebels. Way to go, Melvin!

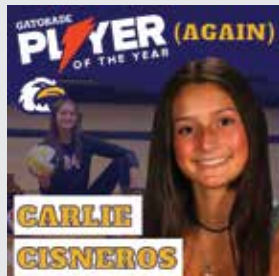


LNHS'S CISNEROS REPEATS AS GATORADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

In its 39th year of honoring the nation's most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced Carlie Cisneros of Liberty North High School is the 2023-24 Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year. Cisneros is the second Gatorade Missouri Volleyball Player of the Year to be chosen from Liberty North High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation's top high school athletes for excellence on the court, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Cisneros as Missouri's best high school volleyball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Harper Murray (2022-23, Skyline High School, Mich.), Kerri Walsh Jennings (1995-96, Archbishop Mitty High School, Calif.) and April Ross (1999-00, Newport Harbor High School, Calif.).

The state's returning Gatorade Player of the Year, the 6-foot-1 senior outside hitter recorded 405 kills and 356 digs this past season, leading the Eagles (24-7) to the Class 5 state quarterfinals. Cisneros also compiled 52 blocks and 49 service aces while posting a .459 kill percentage and a .362 hitting percentage. Ranked as the nation's No. 1 recruit in the Class of 2024 by PrepVolleyball.com, Cisneros is a four-time Class 5 First Team All-State selection. She concluded her prep volleyball career with a school-record 1,642 kills.



LPS Fine Arts Celebrates All-State Performers

Several students who are part of the LPS Fine Arts programs received invitations to play in Missouri All-State music ensembles.

All ensembles perform at the Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA) conference in January at Tan-Tar-A Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Students selected for All-State had to first audition for and make All-District ensembles. After that, they went through another round of auditions for the state ensembles.

The following students were selected to perform in the All-State ensembles:

Ashton Garcia (LHS, Choir), Allyson Johnston (LHS, Choir), Eliana Ross (LNHS, Choir), Matthew Fant (LHS, Violin), Natalie Coleman (LNHS, Viola), Brian Sequeira (LHS, Viola), Michael Fant (LHS, Cello), Seth Nickel (LNHS, Clarinet), Madison Smith (LHS, Bassoon), Natalie Smith (LHS, Horn), Mason Burnett (LNHS Trombone), Tim Heil (LHS, Trombone), Andrew McGuire (LNHS, Trombone), William Kanning (LNHS, Tuba), Grace Flener (LNHS, Percussion) and Noah Adrineda (LNHS, Percussion).

Many other students were also named as alternates or given honorable mention. Please congratulate all of these talented fine arts students!



Liberty High School students perform with the All-District Orchestra on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at Liberty North High School.

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