

LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATOR

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SCHOOL DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Early Childhood/Elementary Schools

Early Childhood Center	9600 NE 79th St. KCMO 64158	736-5324	Bart Tittle, Principal Sabrina Dotson, Asst. Principal
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 Toeppen, Principal Jaysa Hartman, Asst. Principal
Kellybrook	10701 N. Eastern Ave. KCMO 64157	736-5700	Jerrod Fellhauer, 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 Jaysa Hartman, Asst. Principal Emily Griffin, 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 N Flintlock Rd. KCMO 64157	736-7150	Christy Boman, Principal Ashley Assman, Asst. 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 Alec Eslick, Asst. Principal
Liberty Middle School	1500 S. Withers Rd. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5410	Jeremy Bradham, Principal Morgan Dawson, Asst. Principal
South Valley Middle School	1000 Midjay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-7180	Jill Mullen, Principal Jennifer Selock, 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 Ryan Nichols, 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 RoseAngela Taney, Asst. Principal Stacy Syler, Asst. Principal David McDorman, Activities Director
Liberty Academy	1115 Blackberry Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5470	Melissa Norris, Director of Alternative Education



2025-2026 Liberty Public Schools Board of Education -
Pictured (Back row, L-R): Dan Currence, AJ Byrd, Nick Bartlow,
Drew Marriott; (Front row, L-R): Karen Rogers, Angie Reed,
Jenn Bauer

Board of Education

Karen Rogers, President
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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

INDEX

School Directory Information	3
Sharing the LPS Story	4
LPS In The News	6-7
Character Traits Recognition.....	7
Hall of Fame Inductions	8-9
By The Numbers	10
Liberty Education Foundation	11



All Liberty Public Schools staff wore their LPS t-shirts on Thursday, September 25, 2025, to celebrate "LPS is the Best" Day.



EVERY SMILE TELLS A STORY

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team and become
a part of their story!



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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.



Sharing 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	@LibertyOaksLPS	#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

Ashlyn Garton @MissGarton · Aug 16
Welcoming the class of 2038 to Liberty Oaks with Popsicles on the Playground. @LibertyOaksLPS



LPS53 @LIBERTYSCHOOLS · Aug 20
Members of the Web Team at @dmsbluejays providing support with a smile for new members of the DMS community! #LPSFirstDay25



LPS53 @LIBERTYSCHOOLS · Aug 20
Is there a more iconic back to school pic than the one at the statue at Franklin Elementary? #LPSFirstDay25



FOLLOW
US ON



LPS53 @LIBERTYSCHOOLS · Aug 27
Thanks to @kmbc for featuring our @LHSJAYS this morning! It was early, but our Blue Jays showed up loud and proud! #ShareTheGoodLPS



LPS53 @LIBERTYSCHOOLS · Sep 6
It's been great seeing students enjoy some of our new spaces that were completed thanks to our community supporting LPS! #ShareTheGoodLPS





Ayrie Yearbook Gains All-American Status

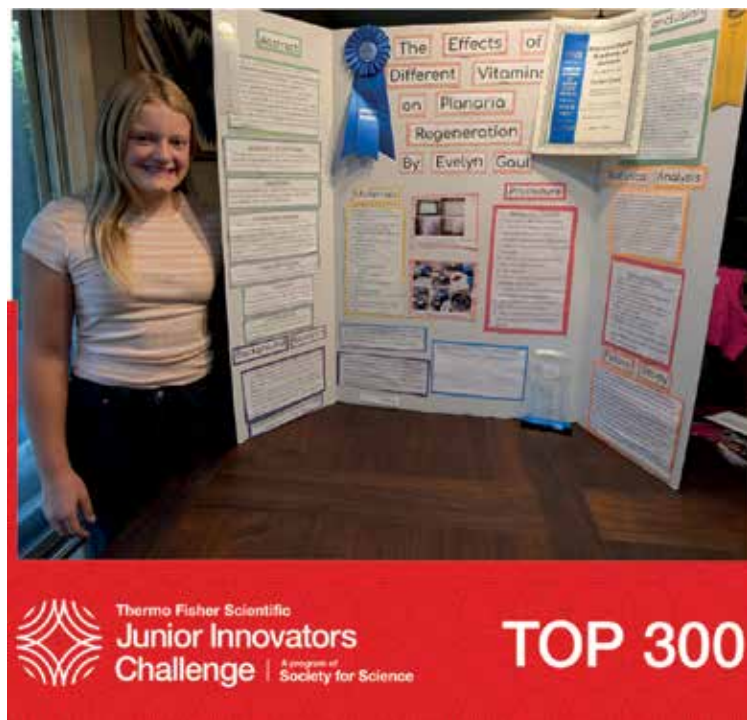
Liberty North High School's Ayrie yearbooks staff was given the prestigious All-American title again for the 2025 edition.

The All-American rating awarded by the National Scholastic Press Association is the highest possible rating. LNHS was awarded that top honor with Marks of Distinction in Essentials, Coverage, Design and Photography.

Liberty North's yearbook was inducted into the National Journalism Hall of Fame in spring of 2024 due to their repeat excellence.

Judges comments included: "Your book has fantastic coverage, strong writing, powerful photography, and a cohesive theme... It deserves to be honored. Everything you've done earned you national recognition, and that should be celebrated. You have a stellar staff that produced an award-winning publication. You should be proud."

Congratulations to the entire Ayrie yearbook staff at LNHS!



HMS Student Named Junior Innovator

Heritage Middle School 7th grader Evelyn Gaul has been named as part of the Top 300 students in the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge.

The Junior Innovators Challenge is the top STEM competition for middle schoolers.

Evelyn's project on The Effects of Vitamins E, D and B7 on Girardia tigrina Regeneration received first

place at the Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair.

The project then took second place at the State Junior Sciences Academy. The Top 300 JIC students were chosen from over 2,000 applicants across 48 states and several U.S. territories.

Each of the Top 300 Junior Innovators will receive a \$125 award and a prize package from DoD STEM.



LPS Paraprofessional Named Sporting Samaritan

Alexander Doniphan Elementary Paraprofessional, Jess Santos, received tremendous recognition earlier this semester when she was presented with the Sporting Samaritan Award by Sporting Kansas City. Through the Blue KC Sporting Samaritan program, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City (Blue KC) and Sporting KC honor students and teachers who are making a significant impact in Kansas City and inspiring others to do the same.

"Jess consistently exceeds expectations to ensure that all students feel welcomed, supported and valued," said Santo's nominator, Kylah Bierbrodt. "Her dedication to creating an atmosphere where everyone is

welcome is evident in her interactions with students from diverse backgrounds and abilities. Whether it's through personalized attention, creative teaching strategies or simply lending a compassionate ear, Jess has a unique ability to connect with each student and empower them to succeed. Her innovative approaches to curriculum enrichment and classroom activities not only captivate students' interest, but also encourage active participation and collaboration."

Ms. Santos was presented with her award at a Sporting Kansas City game in September. LPS congratulates her on this amazing recognition!

National Merit Semifinalists Named



Liberty Public Schools is excited to announce that seven students have been named semifinalists in the 2026 National Merit competition.

Students recognized are seniors in high school and have scored well on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Just over 16,000 of the 1.3 million entrants are chosen.

Liberty High School students named as semifinalists:

- Matthew Fang
- Michael Fang
- Eleanor Henderson
- Carmen Tang

Liberty North High School students named as semifinalists:

- Bryce Harms
- Tyler Johnson
- Joseph Ridder

Congratulations to each and every one of these outstanding students!

15,000 National Merit finalists will be announced in February. From there, 660 students will be chosen to receive Special Scholarships and 6,930 will be chosen for Merit Scholarships. That final announcement should come in March.

Additionally, several students were named National Merit Commended Scholars.

Liberty High School:

- Parker Blaine
- Jordan Naseem
- Harrison Sameck

Liberty North High School:

- Alana Fizer
- Hannah Prockish
- Luke Winn



CHARACTER TRAITS RECOGNITION

Front Row (L-R):

Lydia McDonald (Alexander Doniphan Elementary), Jackson Bouse (Franklin Elementary), Hazel Perdue (Alexander Doniphan Elementary), Anthony Niave (Franklin Elementary)

Back Row (L-R):

Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts), Hank Glazer (Stephens/Heffner Financial Partners), Katie Mitchell (GI Junk Removal), Kristen Pixler (Attic Storage), Reyann Hay (Nothing Bundt Cakes), Emily Arrocha (Climate Control), Ed Hughes (Northland Roladium), Colleen Pelletier (Liberty Chamber), Kim Anaya (Hy-Vee), Dan Currence (Liberty Public Schools Board of Education)

Five Inducted Into Liberty High School Hall of Fame

Included in this year's hall of fame class are: John Denison ('79), John Sprugel ('83), Steve Rhoades ('88), Christopher Elbow ('92), Kami Groom ('08) and former teacher and coach, Mr. Kenneth Robinson was also recognized as part of this year's class. All of the nominees were introduced at halftime of the Liberty High School homecoming football game that took place Friday, September 26, 2025. You can find more about each of this year's recipients below and on page 9. Congratulations to the LHS Hall of Fame Class of 2025!



LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

Hall of Fame



JOHN DENISON
Class of 1979

After graduating from LHS and attending William Jewell College, Denison joined Time Warner Cable. As an employee of Time Warner Cable (now Spectrum) in 1997, Denison founded Metro Sports, a 24-hour regional sports network. Covering Kansas City high school, college, and professional sports, Metro Sports was the first US regional sports network that wasn't in a top media market dominated by professional sports media rights. After serving as Metro Sports' general manager from its inception in 1997 until 2010, Denison left Time Warner Cable to form his own company, Niles Media Group. His involvement in this and many other ventures includes deep community involvement including the eventual development of the Liberty and Liberty North sports complexes.



JOHN SPRUGEL
Class of 1983

John is a Liberty High School graduate and began his career in broadcast journalism with Liberty Update on Cablevision, and has since built an accomplished career in media and community leadership. He currently serves as Senior Vice President for LTN Global's Managed Solutions unit, a leader in media and technology solutions. Previously, John co-founded Niles Media Group, where he guided its sports production and content division to national recognition. With more than 20 years of broadcast news experience, his career includes leadership roles at NBC's TODAY Show and NBC News in New York. Locally, his civic service includes earning the Missouri PTA Distinguished Service Award, while also co-chairing the LPS Building Pride Campaign to fund activity complexes at Liberty High and Liberty North High School. John and his wife, Karen, a 1982 graduate, have two sons, Ryan and Drew, who are both graduates of Liberty North High School.



KAMI GROOM Class of 2008

Kami graduated in 2008 where she was valedictorian and a decorated multi-sport athlete. A four-year starter in basketball, soccer, and track, she earned multiple all-conference honors, set a school record in the 300M hurdles, won a state championship in basketball, and was nominated as a Kansas City Star Scholar Athlete. She went on to earn degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Chicago,

and the University of Michigan. Dedicated to public service, Kami has built a legal career with international and national impact, including work with the United Nations. Beyond her legal career, she is internationally recognized in ultimate frisbee, representing Team USA and winning four world medals. Kami joins her sister, Shea Groom, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2021.

2025 LHS HALL OF FAME

Thank you to our One Blue Jay Nation and the Liberty community for supporting and recognizing these honorees. Congratulations to the 2025 LHS Hall of Fame Class!



**STEVE
RHOADES**
Class of 1988

Steve graduated from LHS in 1988 where he excelled in music as a tuba player in the Concert and Symphonic Bands. He distinguished himself through numerous solo and ensemble performances at district and state competitions, with a highlight being the Symphonic Band's third-place finish at the National Adjudicators Invitational in Washington, D.C. He went on to study Landscape Architecture at Kansas State University, where his professional achievements and service earned him recognition as the 2003 Alumni Honoree by the university's Landscape Architecture Department. Beyond his professional work, Steve is committed to giving back through volunteer work with the Clay County Fine Arts Council, youth sports coaching, Boy Scout Troop 320, and ongoing support for Liberty Public Schools and programs.



**CHRISTOPHER
ELBOW**
Class of 1992

A Liberty High School graduate of 1992, Christopher was an accomplished swimmer who earned multiple district and state awards. He also showcased a well-rounded commitment through marching band, tennis, the National Honor Society, and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. After earning his degree from the University of Nebraska, Christopher pursued his passion for culinary arts, starting as a line cook at a Liberty country club before moving into fine dining and pastry work. His career took him to Las Vegas, where he worked under acclaimed chefs, including Emeril Lagasse. There, he discovered his passion for chocolate - not only as a culinary ingredient but also as a medium for artistry and creativity. In 2003, he returned to Kansas City to establish Christopher Elbow Chocolates, which has grown into a nationally recognized brand over the past two decades. Christopher lives in Kansas City with his wife of 20 years, Jenny.



**KENNETH
ROBINSON**

We also celebrate the life of Kenneth Robinson, a longtime teacher and coach at Liberty High School from 1971-1985, where he taught psychology/sociology, was an assistant football coach, and head track and field coach. He was known as a powerful, charismatic, confidence-building mentor for LHS students. While he holds a special place in the history of LHS, his community involvement goes deeper. In partnership with his wife Cecelia Robinson, Ken was an inspirational leader in the Liberty community for many years. Ken helped lead efforts to purchase the Garrison

School building. Ken also helped lead efforts to build the Freedom Fountain on the Liberty square. He received numerous community awards including: The Martin Luther King Jr. Award, The Civic Leadership Award, and The Liberty Juneteenth Award for preserving African American Culture in the Liberty and Northland Community. Ken was ordained a deacon at First Baptist Church, where he also served as treasurer for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Cecilia Robinson and daughter Kristen Robinson.

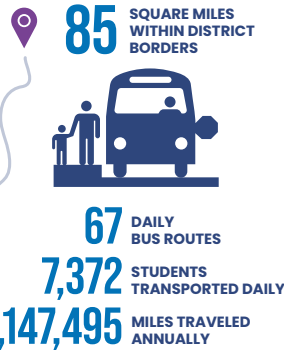
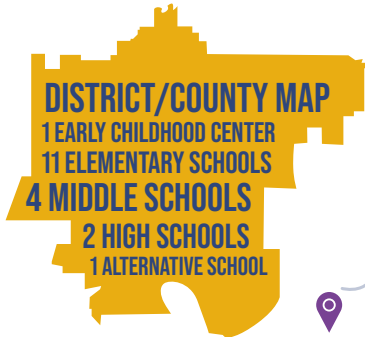
BY THE NUMBERS

2025-2026



11,662
STUDENTS K-12

241
STUDENTS PRE-K



WHERE OUR STUDENTS RESIDE BY HOME ADDRESS



84% OF OUR TEACHERS HAVE 6+ YEARS OF CLASSROOM EXP.
88% OF OUR TEACHERS HOLD A MASTERS DEGREE OR HIGHER

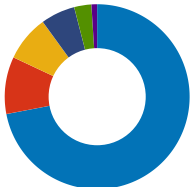
AVERAGE TEACHER'S SALARY **\$70,032**

OUR TEAM

2,152 STAFF MEMBERS
978 CERTIFIED (TEACHERS, COUNSELORS, ETC.)
942 CLASSIFIED (SUPPORT STAFF, BUS DRIVERS, COOKS, ETC.)

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

WHITE 72%
HISPANIC 10%
MULTI 8%
BLACK 7%
ASIAN 3%
OTHER .4%



1,141,494 LUNCHES SERVED ANNUALLY
6,675 LUNCHES SERVED DAILY
2,783 FREE & REDUCED LUNCH STUDENTS
22% FREE & REDUCED LUNCH STUDENTS

THERE ARE **55** DIFFERENT LANGUAGES REPRESENTED IN LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

96.3%

GRADUATION RATE

69%

OF OUR GRADUATES ATTEND A 2-4 YR COLLEGE

BUDGET

\$263.7M OVERALL LPS BUDGET

\$205.6M OPERATING BUDGET

REVENUE SOURCES

LOCAL 60.5%
STATE 36.4%
FEDERAL 3.1%

AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER STUDENT **\$15,902**

REAL WORLD LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



In partnership with Metropolitan Community College (MCC), juniors and seniors may attend afternoon classes on the Maple Woods Campus and receive college credit (9-13 hours per semester). The majority of these classes will transfer to other colleges and universities if the student chooses to continue their education. LPS pays for the courses and textbooks.



With a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics, STEAM initiatives at LPS involve K-12 participation in Project Lead the Way (PLTW), internship and experimental activities, and partnerships that provide students with the opportunity to solve real-world problems.



Students are provided focused, active learning that prepares them for college and career opportunities. Students are able to earn Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs) while earning both English and math credits. This type of training provides them the necessary academic and employability skills to be successful after graduation.



This program is designed to provide students with a learning experience in healthcare that exposes them to the nursing profession, educational expectations and academic rigor of a nursing education program, clinical experience, and the preparation to earn the Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) certification.



Career Navigators are provided at each high school campus to work with students to promote career activities, facilitate job shadowing opportunities for grades 9-12, and place students in internships with area businesses.



Teachers combine the arts with core Missouri and Arts Standards, which is helping students succeed academically. By transforming lessons from a static to dynamic experience, students have begun to see themselves as creators, designers, and artists.



GROW YOUR OWN TEACHERS

Liberty Public Schools recognizes the need to diversify our certificated teaching staff, and has developed the *Grow Your Own Teachers* program to enhance the diversity of the teacher applicant pool. It is our intent that applicants for the GYOT program be recruited for careers in education from among our current senior class of Liberty High School and Liberty North High School students.



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FOLLOW US





THE LIBERTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE 30 YEARS AS THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO INVESTING IN THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF OF LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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HOMECOMING 2025



Liberty North High School Homecoming King Ethan Allenbaugh and Queen Campbell Mabin.

Photo by Alyssa Flener



Liberty High School Homecoming King Freddy Bryant and Queen Olivia Dolton.

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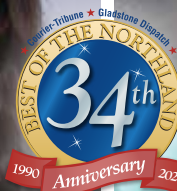
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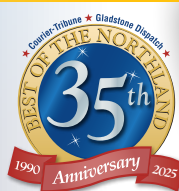
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