





***Liberty Elementary School
Newsletter
May Edition***



Mission

Liberty Elementary School will ignite a lifelong love of learning in ALL students through engagement, relevance, and authenticity, fostering personal and academic growth.

Vision



**To ignite, engage, and educate,
every student,
every day.**

Important Dates

April 30-May 1st

Fastbridge Testing for Kindergarten & 1st Grade
Staff Appreciation Week!

May 4th-8th

May 8th

Students in 4th Cross-Categorical Class to SVUE
Family Council Meeting

May 12th

<https://meet.google.com/bhm-cmej-hzj>

May 13th

Early Dismissal (1:15 dismissal)

May 19th

“Bubble Guy” at Liberty

May 20th

4th Grade Track Meet @ DHS Practice Field (3:30)

May 20th

Inflatables Day

May 21st & 22nd

Field Day

May 25th

No School (Memorial Day)

May 28th

½ Day (10:45 Dismissal)

May 29th

½ Day (10:45 Dismissal) **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**

From the Desk of Mrs. Gouard

Greetings Liberty Sparkler Families,

May is here! We are in the “home stretch.” As always, learning is taking place and it is important that your child continue to attend school each day.

Towards the end of the month, we will be having our yearly fun activities including field day and bounce house day. These activities will be tied in with our PBIS goal of following Liberty’s expectation of following the group plan across all settings in the school. Spring is in the air and school is almost finished for the year, but we must continue to follow our school rules.

Thank you for trusting us to educate and love your children this school year. We look forward to working with you next school year! Have a great summer break!

Mrs. Amber Gouard



From the Desk of Mrs. Gouard

For the month of April

Amount of tardies by grade level:

Kindergarten- 100

Grade 1-76

Grade 2-107

Grade 3-73

Grade 4-124

There were 476 tardies in the month of April.

These tardies were accomplished by 157 students.

Tardiness is a disruption to the educational setting!

Please bring your students promptly to school at 7:35.

What's Your W.I.G.????

A W.I.G. is a "wildly important goal!"

We are focused on being our best selves and bettering our reading abilities. So, everyone in the building has a goal.

Liberty's goal is to have at least 25% of students in 1st-4th grades score at or above the 60th percentile on their reading Fastbridge Tests.

Your child's teacher has a more specific classroom goal to help us achieve our building goal.

AND your child has an individual goal that they set for themselves!
Ask your child what their goal is. Are they on track to reaching their W.I.G.???

College Begins in Kindergarten



Greetings Kindergarten Families,

As April showers turn to May flowers, our Kindergarten students are in full bloom! We're amazed by how much they have grown this year as they've worked hard to learn letters, sounds, and sight words to become early readers. We encourage you to continue reading with your child and practicing those sight words they need to be ready for the next level.

Math in May will focus on both addition and subtraction as we solve word problems and work to master addition and subtraction facts through 5. We will learn how to build and break apart teen numbers into a group of ten plus more ones. The rest of the school year will be spent polishing up our skills, reviewing and strengthening what we have learned, and preparing students for next year.

Even in the last month of the school year, **ATTENDANCE** is so important to your child's success. Students need to be here at school on time each and every day they are healthy → If your child is sick with a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc., please do keep them home to heal and to avoid spreading the illness to others! Most Kindergarten learning is done through hands-on experiences in the classroom, and we will continue to learn until the very last day of the school year.

Thank you for sharing your child with us this year and for everything you do to help them grow and learn!

Your Kindergarten Team- Mrs. Greer, Ms. Talbott & Mrs. Welsch

First Grade News

Hello First-Grade Families,

It's that time of year again when our days are getting warmer and kids are anxious to play outside, but we still have a few weeks left of learning. Please continue to encourage your children to do their best. They should keep reading at least 15 - 20 minutes every night. They should practice sight words daily. To encourage writing skills, have them use sight words in a sentence. Please continue practicing math facts with your children. Right now, we are working on place value, adding/subtraction, measurement and continuing math fact practice. Over the next few weeks, we will start to explore geometry and time. Also, this month we will be celebrating Mother's Day. Thank you mothers for all you do. Let's work together to make sure our students have a great rest of the year!

Remember...Teachers should inspire a child to reach academic success, a parent should inspire that child to use that success in a way that influences positive change in the world.

Have a great summer,

Your first-grade team,
Miss Brice, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Doggett & Mrs. Lawhorn



Second Grade News

Happy May!

We made it to May! Look at all that we learned this year. We can read 100 words per minute. We can write sentences with a capital letter and a punctuation mark. We can add and subtract numbers.

In this last month of school, we are going to learn about multiplication. We will use arrays and repeated addition to understand what multiplication means. Our reading series has us learning about the Civil War. We will learn about Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln and Clara Barton.

As the school year winds down, behavior expectations are still needed so we can learn all that we can. Come to school ready to learn. At the end of the month, we will have some fun activities to celebrate our behavior and learning. Thank you for a great year. Have a great summer!

Your second grade team,

Mrs. Boyer, Mrs. Carlton & Miss Dye



Third Grade News

Hello Sparkler Families,

The end is in sight! However, 3rd grade isn't over yet! We still have a lot to accomplish before the end of the year. Please be sure your child is here every day – on time. They should be reading and practicing math facts each evening. These skills will carry over into the beginning of 4th grade.

In math, we will finish our Geometry and Measurement Word Problems module. Then we will do some review of earlier taught skills. We will finish our Early Explorations of North America unit and complete a Colonial America unit. We might even get to the Ecology unit.

All three classes met our WIG goal! So now we are working to achieve another goal. Students are working toward passing a set number of tests by the end of the year. Keep encouraging them to read those AR books and be ready for a test the next day. We want to celebrate!

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you. We appreciate you entrusting your children to us this year! We wish them all the best in 4th grade!

Mr. Parker ~ Mrs. Smiley ~ Mrs. Swafford



Fourth Grade News

Happy May 4th grade families,

May is here, and hopefully that means some warmer weather. Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Isenhower, Miss Hall and Mr. Pettit are looking forward to seeing those kids at school every day. Let's Spring into some reading this month!

**We are about to start our Spring Fastbridge testing! It is a benchmark assessment to show growth in reading and math for the entire year.

We are currently and will continue to work on "Flexible Thinking." It is part of our Social/Emotional curriculum.

We are continuing our Wildly Important Goals or WIG for short. Their goals range from words per minute, AR tests and Fastbridge improvement. We will continue to work on personal narratives in writing as well as RACE. We will be finishing our Treasure Island and working through our Holocaust lesson in the weeks ahead.

Fourth graders are expected to know their multiplication math facts and read for 20-30 minutes every night. We are working on decimals and fractions and converting the two. We will be working on converting time, and units of measure. We will continue to review 2-digit multiplication and long division. We will continue to review place value, rounding, and 3 to 6 digits addition and subtraction with regrouping.

We have had a great year and have enjoyed working with your children! Have a great summer.

Your fourth grade team,

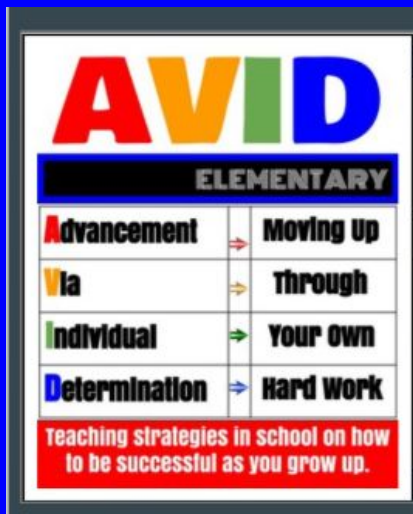
Mrs. Cash, Miss Hall, Mrs. Isenhower, and Mr. Pettit



AVID News

We continue with collaboration as the year comes to an end. Students really enjoy the team huddle strategy. They move around the room and when the teacher calls out a number, the students huddle. This strategy can be used in reading and math. The teacher calls out a question and the students use their speaking and listening skills to come up with the answer.

Students benefit from AVID strategies in and out of the classroom. Liberty uses AVID strategies to also teach important life skills such as organization and collaboration. These kids are AVID scholars! They utilized many WICOR strategies this year that helped them move forward in their achievements. We look forward to learning and practicing new strategies next year!



Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)



ATTENDANCE

May PBIS Challenge

Arrive to school **ON TIME**
in order to participate in our
attENDANCE on May 26th.

CRITERIA:

- * **NO TARDIES**
- * **1 OR LESS EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Students will be
marked tardy if they
arrive after 7:45 AM.



Challenge dates:
May 1-22



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Our Final SEL Topic: Superflex

The Superflex Series by Michelle Garcia Winner is a storybook curriculum that empowers children to become their own superheroes and manage behavior challenges.

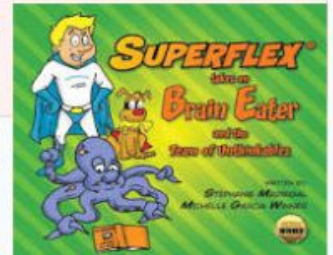
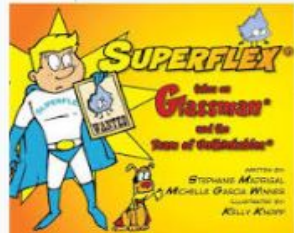
The Superflex Strategy

- Teaches social problem-solving and behavior awareness.
- Empowers proactive self-regulation.
- Develops "superheroic" thinking to overcome social challenges at school and home.

Defeating "Unthinkabots"

Students give faces to social challenges by learning about a villainous team of "Unthinkable" characters.

Goal: Use Superflex strategies to defeat these behaviors and expand our character knowledge!



A note from the Nurse's Office:

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, May is a busy and exciting time! With warmer weather and end-of-year activities, here are a few important health reminders to help keep our students safe, healthy, and ready to finish strong.

Seasonal Allergies

Allergy season is here! If your child suffers from allergies: administer allergy medication before school as needed, notify the health office of any concerns, and make sure we have updated health forms on file.

Field Day & End-of Year Activities

With increased physical activity: ensure your child wears appropriate shoes, inform the nurse of any medical concerns, and student with inhalers should have them available.

Medication Pick-Up Reminder

All medications stored in the health office must be picked up by the last day of school. Medications cannot be sent home with students and will be properly disposed of if not picked up.

Health Forms for Next Year

If your child has conditions such as asthma, diabetes, severe allergies, or seizures, updated health plans and medication forms will be required for the next school year. Forms can be found on the school website or in the health office.

It has been a pleasure caring for your children this school year. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community healthy and safe. Wishing all of our families a fun, safe, and healthy summer! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the health office.

With appreciation,
Nurse Leek



Home Program Intervention Coordinator

Happy almost summer,

We have officially made it to MAY, the last month of school! It has been wonderful spending this school year with your students and getting to know their families! Please remember that May is the last month of school, but it's still important to be at school; we are still learning, as well as the fun activities we have planned throughout the month! Please also remember to contact the school when your child needs to be absent by calling (217)444-3000.

Have a great summer,

Mrs. Sarah Funk

Home Program Intervention Coordinator

217-444-3021

Home Program Intervention Coordinator

Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow!

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
read well by the end of third grade



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
pass important courses



HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for graduation



COLLEGE STUDENTS
earn their degrees



WORKERS
succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



READY FOR COLLEGE, READY FOR CAREERS, READY FOR LIFE