

LIBERTY HIGH
LIONS



HOME OF THE LIBERTY LIONS

Student/Parent Handbook 2025-2026

Lodi Unified School District Board of Education

Mr. Gary Knackstedt, President
Dr. Rommel Bal, Vice President
Ms. Sherry Alexander, Clerk
Mr. Courtney Porter, Board Member
Mr. Jeff Stroh, Board Member
Mrs. Susan Macfarlane, Board Member
Mr. Joe Nava, Board Member

District Administration

Mr. Neil Young, Superintendent
Dr. David Horton, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Mark Dawson, Area Director
Mrs. Susan Peterson, Director of Education

Liberty High School Site Staff

Principal	Dr. Eugene Christmas
Principal's Secretary	Alyson Gregg
Counselor	Tiffany Wood
Registrar	Selena Lopez

Teachers

Leah Graham	English
Misty Hackworth	RSP
J.P. Hannah	Science, Horticulture, Art
David Johnson	Econ/Gov't, World History
Lynette Lewis	Math, Psychology
Jeff Simpfinderfer	English
Dale Strawn	US History, Guitar
Tim Stutz	Photo, Student Success

Custodian	Tony Stanbridge
Campus Supervisor	Tim Kipp

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

BELL SCHEDULES

Regular Day Schedule			
Period 0	8:30 AM	-	8:50 AM
Period 1	8:52 AM	-	9:35 AM
Period 2	9:37 AM	-	10:20 AM
Period 3	10:22 AM	-	11:05 AM
Lunch	11:05 AM	-	11:29 AM
Period 4	11:32 AM	-	12:15 PM
Period 5	12:17 PM	-	1:00 PM
Period 6	1:02 PM	-	1:45 PM

Minimum Day Schedule			
Period 0	8:30 AM	-	8:52 AM
Period 1	8:54 AM	-	9:20 AM
Period 2	9:22 AM	-	9:48 AM
Period 3	9:50 AM	-	10:16 AM
Period 4	10:18 AM	-	10:44 AM
Period 5	10:46 AM	-	11:12 AM
Period 6	11:14 AM	-	11:40 AM

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL PROFILE

Liberty High School was opened in the fall of 1968 to serve the alternative needs of high school students. Since that time, Liberty has gone through many changes in services. Liberty High School is one of two continuation high schools in the Lodi Unified School District serving students ages 16-18 in the 11th and 12th grades. Plaza Robles High School is our sister continuation school that opened in 1993 to serve students from north Stockton. Students enrolled in Liberty come primarily from Lodi High School (enrollment 2100) and Tokay High School (enrollment 2,050) with its enrollment fluctuating between 125 and 150 students.

The Liberty High School campus is a single building located in an older, residential section in the City of Lodi. The initial purpose of the building was to house the industrial arts program for the original Lodi High School site, now known as Hutchins Street Square and located across the street from Liberty. The school's population consists of students who are moderately to severely deficient in credit and are at-risk of not graduating from high school. All students enrolled at Liberty High School are enrolled voluntarily and reflect the local ethnic population, primarily White and Latino.

Liberty has a 7 period school day, periods 0-6. The school day begins at 8:30 and ends at 1:45. Lunch is served between periods 3 and 4. Liberty does not have a kitchen so hot lunches are delivered from the district central kitchen. Although the school day ends at 1:45, a number of students stay on campus until 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays to take advantage of the credit recovery program that utilizes the Apex system.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL – PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESS

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL Vision and Mission Statement

School Vision Statement

Liberty High School will serve as a haven in which all students will experience academic success and personal growth as they earn their diploma and plan for their future.

Mission statement

Our mission is to provide support, resources and opportunities to students who have not experienced success in the traditional high school program so they may earn a diploma and prepare for a productive future. Education is offered in a climate designed to foster a sense of community where students experience positive relationships, gain confidence and recognition, build resiliency and time management skills, achieve academic success, explore educational options and receive assistance in developing a plan for their post-secondary endeavors in a structured, yet flexible environment.

SCHOOLWIDE LEARNER OUTCOMES

Liberty High School students will demonstrate Literacy, Mastery and Responsibility:

Literate Students will

- Be able to speak, write and read Standard English.
- Be able to read, comprehend and interpret books, newspapers and other media.
- Be able to convey ideas in both written and oral mediums.
- Be able to develop fluency in basic computational skills, procedural operations, problem solving skills and conceptual understanding.

Students who Demonstrate Mastery will

- Show consistent improvement on assessments related to the Common Core State Standards, including the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Tests.
- Show growth on standardized assessments for reading and mathematics that are administered at the beginning and at the end of each school year.
- Meet district-wide graduation requirements.
- Exit Liberty High prepared to enter a post-secondary program or enter an entry level position leading to a future.

Responsible Students will

- Demonstrate a pattern of regular and punctual attendance.
- Demonstrate the development of positive study/work habits, which promote self-reliance and effective time management.
- Demonstrate the ability to complete assigned projects.

This is how we ROAR

Respect: Yourself, your school, and the community.

- *Listening objectively* to differing views and seek appropriate resolution.
- *Appreciate* and learn about the diversity of cultures and ideas of others.
- *Make* personal choices to reflect a healthy lifestyle.

Own: Your life and your actions.

- *Express* ideas, wants, and concerns to others openly, honestly and respectfully.
- *Prioritize* and use time effectively.
- *Identify* problem-solving techniques and draw conclusions.
- *Utilize* available resources to identify and evaluate potential solutions.
- *Set* priorities and realistic goals.

Act Exceptionally:

- *Demonstrate* communication skills through reading, writing, and speaking.
- *Think* about and analyze information.
- *Work* independently as well as collaboratively.
- *Encourage*, refine and improve your work ethic.
- *Use* various mediums including technology to communicate ideas effectively.

Reach Your Goals:

- *Develop* a healthy self-image and self-esteem.
- *Encourage* an interest in lifelong learning.
- *Develop* employability skills.
- *Understand* and develop career plans

LUSD/LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Earn two hundred thirty (230) credits for graduation from Liberty High School
2. Successfully complete a study of mathematics that meets or exceeds the rigor of content standards for Algebra I /Math I (LUSD Policy 6146.1).

Course Requirements

1. Four years of English (40 semester credits)
2. One year of Life Science and one year of Physical Science
3. Two years of Mathematics including 10 semester credits of Algebra I (20 semester credits)
4. Two years of Physical Education (20 semester credits)
5. One year of World History (10 semester credits)
6. One year of United States History (10 semester credits)
7. One year of Government/Economics (10 semester credits)
8. One semester of World Geography or Family Living (5 semester credits)
9. One year of either: Performing Arts, Foreign Language, or Visual Arts (10 semester credits)
10. Electives to complete the total credits required (230 credits)

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Counseling

Liberty High School offers a comprehensive counseling program that provides academic guidance, personal counseling for individuals and groups, and career exploration and assessment. The Counselor assists students in identifying academic and career goals and in planning courses of study that support achievement of these goals. The counseling program is an integral part of Liberty's total school program. The counseling staff works closely with the staff, faculty, administrators, families, and community to provide a supportive, effective and safe environment in which all students can succeed. Students and families are encouraged to contact the counselor to set up an appointment.

School Psychologists, Speech Therapist, Nurse

Each of these services is provided on a part-time basis at Liberty High School. The psychologist and speech therapist conduct assessments and provide services for students who are referred by a counselor or administrator. Parents should work with their student's counselor when requesting these services. The Nurse is only in-house part-time and therefore does not oversee daily medical needs. The nurse's primary responsibility is to screen students for immunization and supervise medical services for students.

Special Education Services

A range of services are available for students identified as needing special education services. Special education services are developed on an individual basis and further questions should be referred to the school counselor.

Library Services

The library is open to students from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day school is in session. Students may access the library before school, at lunch and after school. Students wishing to utilize the library during school/class hours must have a pass or be accompanied by a teacher. Computers are available for student use as a support to classroom activities/assignments.

Textbooks

Textbooks are provided for all classes in which the student is enrolled. Students and parents accept responsibility for any lost or damaged books. Textbooks are also available on student Chromebooks.

Tutoring

Many teachers provide tutoring on an as-needed basis before school, at lunch, or after school. Students and parents should contact the individual teacher or contact their counselor for further assistance. After school tutoring programs may be available. Please contact counselor, Sandi Warmerdam for more information.

OTHER ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPTIONS

The Lodi Unified School District provides a variety of ways to pursue alternative credits toward graduation. The following opportunities are available:

1) Independent Study (IS) Alternative Education Program

Students 14 through 17 years old who are credit-deficient, have attendance or behavior issues, or have special personal needs may request the independent study program. Instruction is provided for the students one hour per week, with the rest of the student's work coming under the direct supervision of the parent(s)/guardian(s). Parents should contact their student's counselor for more details.

2) Fifth Year Seniors: Students MUST submit to the principal a written application for their fifth year to be considered. The applications are available from the counselors. For a student to be considered he/she must have excellent behavior and attendance. Usually, students who are considered for a fifth year have had a debilitating illness or major life disruption during sophomore, or junior year.

4) San Joaquin Delta College

High School students may enroll in courses at Delta for either high school or college credit while being concurrently enrolled at Liberty High School. Students wanting to take courses at Delta must contact the Delta Admissions Office for specific information regarding enrollment. Students can attain some general information from their high school counselor.

5) CTE (Career Technical Education)

The Lodi Unified School District offers a variety of CTE courses that promote success in the workplace. Specific job skills, successful work habits, and regular attendance are emphasized during these courses. Students must be at least 16 years old or enrolled in the 11th or 12th grades to be eligible for enrollment in an CTE course. Classes are generally two periods long and students can earn 20 credits per year. Most classes are offered off-campus. Students interested in enrolling in CTE courses should see their counselor for additional information.

IMPORTANT COLLEGE INFORMATION

California Community College Entrance Requirements

Generally, any student who is 18 years of age, or has a high school diploma or its equivalent, is eligible to enter a California community college. Assessment testing for proper placement is normally required. A student wishing to enter a community college outside his/ her district of residence should inquire about an inter-district agreement. Liberty High and the LUSD have developed an extension partnership with Delta College. For more information, please contact your student's counselor.

STUDENT PROGRESS/GRADE REPORTING

REPORT OF STUDENT PROGRESS AND REPORT CARDS

1) Interim Progress Reports: Teachers and staff attempt to contact parents as soon as problems become apparent. Parents can help the school by ensuring that phone numbers and addresses are current. Parents are encouraged to call the school with any concerns regarding their student. Early intervention is the key to avoiding larger more complicated problems that could develop if left unaddressed.

2) Progress Reports: Progress reports are mailed to each parent during the fifth week of each quarter. Teachers will issue progress reports with a letter grade and comment(s). Parents are asked to review these progress reports with their students upon receiving them. Questions may be directed to the teacher of record. Good home school communication is essential to student success.

3) Report Cards: Report cards are issued at the four quarter grading periods per year. For specific questions regarding report cards, or transcripts, please contact the registrar. LUSD Policy 5124 requires the parent to be notified each marking period whenever it becomes evident to the teacher that the pupil is in danger of failing a course.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS (TESTING)

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

The CAASPP is the statewide student assessment system that was established on January 1st, 2014. The CAASPP includes the Smarter Balances Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Test for English/Language Arts and Mathematics and the California Standards Test (CST) for science. The CAASPP is a state mandated assessment (testing) program that is designed to:

- 1) Assess students on their understanding of the Common Core State Standards
- 2) Compare school achievement to other schools in the county.
- 3) Hold schools and students accountable for their achievement.

The SBAC tests are a series assessment that students will complete using a computer. The testing occurred in the spring of 2025.

SAT/ACT: The Scholastic Aptitude Test and the American College Test are given several times a year beginning in October. Most four-year colleges and universities require these tests for admissions. Students planning to attend a four-college following high school should take these tests which are administered at local sites throughout the academic year. Students should contact Mrs. Warmerdam if interested. Testing fees are required; however, waivers are available for qualified students.

PARENT GROUPS

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and School Site Council

The Parent Teacher Student Association and the School Site Council are the major stakeholders in Liberty High School and work together to support the school and its students. SSC is responsible for approving the school's Single School Plan and annual budget for the academic year. For more information, contact the principal.

English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)

The English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) is for parents with students whose primary language may not be English. Regular meetings are scheduled throughout the year. For more information on ELAC, parents should contact the principal.

CLASSROOM/ SITE VISITATION

Parents are always welcome on the Liberty High School campus. All parents must register in the office upon arrival on campus. Parents wanting to visit their student's classroom may do so with prior notice. **As per LUSD policy, parents/guardians must provide 24-hour advanced notice to teachers before they visit a classroom.** Liberty High School does not permit visitors on campus unless they are parents, custodial guardians or have school related business. Out of town family or friends may not be on campus or attend classes with Liberty students. When visiting our campus please remember to be professional and respectful to our staff and students. Protection and confidentiality of our staff and student is very important to us. Therefore, the use of any recording devices on campus is forbidden and the interaction with any other student is not allowed. Any form of unprofessional or disrespectful behavior towards our staff or students will not be tolerated and referred to our Administration, School Resource Officer, School Security, and District Office. Those involved will be asked to leave campus and may be given notice not to return.

Visitors Not Having Official School Business are Prohibited

Persons who are not students at Liberty High School or are not school employees and who do not have official business at school are not to be present on campus during school hours, including lunch time. Students are not allowed to have guests at school. Students from other schools are not allowed on campus unless they are on official school business.

Visitors Having Official School Business

All visitors/volunteers must sign in at the Main Office and wear a visitor/volunteer badge at all times while on campus. When requested to do so by school or security personnel, visitors and volunteers must show identification. Liberty High School does not issue any student visitor passes. All visitors are prohibited from entering classrooms or any area on campus without prior arrangements with the teacher or administration.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND CLIMATE

Closed Campus: Liberty High School is a closed campus. Once students have arrived at school it is the expectation that they are to remain on site and attend classes. If students must leave campus for any reason, it is required that they check out through the office. A parent note or phone call is required as a part of the check out process. Students will be considered truant if they leave without following these procedures and will be subject to disciplinary action.

Campus Security: Liberty High has a campus supervisor that is responsible for the daily supervision of the campus. The campus supervisor works with teachers, students, and administration to help maintain a climate that is conducive to learning. For more information or if you have questions, please contact the school principal.

School Resource Officers/Lodi Police Department/On-site Probation Officer

Liberty High School has a Lodi PD School Resource Officer who is on call and services Liberty High in addition other school sites in the community. This officer assists the school administration when a crime is committed under the school's jurisdiction. Also available is the position of a San Joaquin County Probation officer who assists both Liberty and neighboring Lodi High School.

Fire Drill Instructions

When the fire signal sounds, students are to do the following:

1. Evacuate all buildings with their class and move quickly to the area designated on the evacuation map. Roll will be taken to account for all students.
2. Remain with their class under their teacher's direction.
3. Stay at least 50 feet away from all buildings.
4. When the all-clear signal is given, return to class immediately.

Lock Down Instructions

When the Lock Down alert is given, students and teachers are to do the following:

1. Remain in the classroom away from doors and windows.
2. Lock classroom doors, close windows and blinds.
3. Reserve classroom phone for emergency use only.
4. If outside, go immediately to the nearest classroom or building.
5. Remain quiet and await further instructions from school officials.

NOTE: During a Lock Down, students will not be released to parents/guardians. Parents are asked to stay away from the school and from roads leading to the school to allow access to emergency and law enforcement personnel.

Guidelines for Students Remaining After School: Students may remain after school for the following reasons: tutorial, detention, or special arrangement with faculty/staff. Students are to wait for transportation home from school in the following locations only: front of school and/or student/staff parking lot. Students are not to remain in the hallways, patio, library or classrooms after school without direct staff supervision. Students remaining on campus after school who are not involved in the above listed activities are subject to disciplinary action.

Parking Enforcement: The City of Lodi has modified city ordinances to permit school district security as designated by the Chief of Police to enforce all traffic laws of the City of Lodi as they relate to jaywalking, and the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles and to issue traffic citations and/or administrative citations.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Telephone #: 209-331-7622

Liberty High School's instructional day begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 1:45 p.m. Students are expected to be on time and attend daily following the adopted Lodi Unified School District Modified Traditional School Calendar. Regular attendance and timeliness are essential for success in school. In order for students to maximize their potential the following attendance requirements will be implemented:

1. Parent/guardian must call the school (331-7622) on the day of the absence to explain the reason for the absence. School office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.
2. If a phone call is not received from a parent/guardian, a note is expected on the day the student returns to school.
3. All absences must be cleared within 5 days of the student's absence. After that time the absence will be considered unexcused, and the student will receive an **Unexcused**.
4. The office will issue an **Excused** Admit if a parent/guardian has called or sent a note to verify that the absence was due to illness or the death of an immediate family member. Excused absences will all result in a Non-Productive Day. Absences for the following reasons require a note of verification from the doctor or court:
 - Medical appointment, quarantine
 - Court appearance
 - Subpoena to court as a witness
5. Students needing to be excused to leave campus for appointments, etc. during the school day must **always check out through the office – NO EXCEPTIONS**. The parent should call ahead or send a note with the student explaining the need for early release.
6. All students who were absent any part of the previous day must come to the office for an admit before going to class.

Notes must include the following:

- Student ID# and grade
- Student's first and last name
- Date of absence
- Reason for absence

- Parent signature and work number
- Students who are 18 years of age or older may **not** clear their own absence.

TARDIES

Students who for whatever reason do not arrive in class at the start of the period will be considered **TARDY**.

HALL PASSES

Hall pass policies are determined on a per-teacher basis.

Students must call or bring a note to school to clear the absence upon returning to school or the absence will be categorized as **UNEXCUSED**.

Compulsory Attendance Regulations

1. **Education Code 48260** - Any student subject to compulsory full-time education or to compulsory continuation education who is absent from school without valid excuse more than three (3) days, or tardy in excess of 30 minutes on each or more than three (3) days in one school year is a truant and shall be reported to the Attendance Supervisor or to the Superintendent of the School District.
2. **Education Code 48261** - Any student who has once been reported as a truant and who is again absent from school without valid excuse one (1) or more days, or tardy on one (1) or more days, shall again be reported as a truant to the Attendance Supervisor or the Superintendent of the District.
3. **Education Code 48262** - Any student is deemed a habitual truant who has been reported as a truant three (3) or more times per school year, provided that an appropriate district officer or employee has made a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference with a parent or guardian of the student and the student him/herself after the filing of either of the reports required by Section 48260 or Section 48261.
4. **Education Code 48263** - If any minor student in any district or county is an habitual truant, or is irregular in attendance at school, as defined in this article, or as referred to a School Attendance Review Board, the supervisor of attendance, or such other persons as the governing board of the school district or county may designate, making such referral shall notify the minor and parent or guardian of said minor, in writing, of the name and address of the board to which the matter has been referred and of the reason of such referral. The notice shall indicate that the student and parent or guardian of the student will be required, along with the referring person, to meet with the School Attendance Review Board to consider a proper disposition of the referral.

If the School Attendance Review Board determines that available community services can resolve the problem of the truant or insubordinate pupil, then the board shall direct the student or the student's parents or guardians or both, to make use of such community services. The School Attendance Review Board may require, at such time as it determines proper, the student or parent/guardian

of the student, or both, to furnish satisfactory evidence of participation in the available community services.

If the School Attendance Review Board determines that available community services cannot resolve the problem of the truant or insubordinate student or if the student or the parents or guardians of the student, or both, have failed to respond to directives of the School Attendance Review Board or to services provided, the School Attendance Review Board may direct the county superintendent of schools to, and, thereupon, the county superintendent of schools shall, request a petition on behalf of the student in the juvenile court of the county. Upon presentation of a request for a petition, the School Attendance Review Board shall submit to the juvenile court documentation of efforts to secure attendance as well as its recommendations on what action the juvenile court shall take in order to bring about a proper disposition of the case.

Students with habitually poor attendance will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) through the following process:

1st Attendance Letter

- A letter is sent to parents after the 4th truancy, or the 10th excused absence.
- A principal or designee conferences with the student concerning attendance.
- A copy of signed letter is filed in the SARB binder, as well as in the student's discipline file.

2nd Attendance Letter

- The school sends a second letter to parents when there is no improvement in attendance.
- The parent is requested to contact the school within five school days to schedule a conference.
- At the conference, the parent and student sign an Attendance Contract.
- If no conference is scheduled, if the parent fails to attend the conference, or if further absences occur, other intervention options will be utilized.
- A copy of the signed letter is filed in the SARB binder, with a copy to the student's discipline file.

3rd Attendance Letter

The school generates a third letter when a student violates his/her attendance contract or when the parent does not schedule and/or attend a conference. This letter is a referral for a SARB hearing in court.

Under state law, parents/guardian are responsible for the regular attendance of their children.

Student Illness and Accident LUSD Policy 5141.1 - Parents/Guardians are required to furnish the school with current emergency information, including:

1. The parent/guardian and student's home address and phone number,
2. The parent/guardian's business address and phone number,
3. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of two relatives or friends who are authorized by the parents or guardian to care for the student in case of emergency when the parent or guardian cannot be reached.

No school district shall be held liable for costs or actions associated with the reasonable emergency treatment or transport of a student without consent of the parent/guardian when the student requires reasonable emergency treatment, and the parent/guardian cannot be reached.

The Board of Education prohibits staff members from accepting or following any “Do Not Resuscitate” orders, either written or verbal, from parents, guardians, or medical professionals. This policy is in accordance with California Education Code requirements. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the LUSD Health Services Department at 331-7075 or 953-8075.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL TO STUDENT SUCCESS

Liberty High School/LUSD Student Conduct Code and Disciplinary Violations and Consequences

Philosophy: It is the intent of the Lodi Unified School District and Liberty High School to provide all students with a school environment in which optimum learning can take place. It is the philosophy of Liberty High School to **heal** student of their prior academic struggles, provide **hope** for their future academic success, and to **inspire** them to achieve beyond our walls and in their future. Students who follow school rules, respect others, and take responsibility for their behavior contribute in a positive way to that type of learning environment. The district believes it is essential that public schools play a key role in preparing youth to be productive and effective citizens by helping each student respect law and order and assume his/her responsibilities as a citizen. Each student should learn that he/she has freedom of choice and action, so long as that action does not infringe on the rights of others. This Student Conduct Code is intended to inform students, parents and staff about school rules and the consequences for certain behaviors. The goal of all disciplinary actions or interventions shall be to reinforce and encourage appropriate behavior and respect for others. The district asks that parents recognize the importance of school regulations by reviewing and discussing them with their school age children. Students who engage in violations of this Conduct Code will be subject to the appropriate consequences, which shall be applied consistently.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

A. Staff will encourage and maintain high standards of student behavior by:

1. Establishing an atmosphere in which productive learning can take place.
2. Establishing an atmosphere of mutual respect and teach the standards of appropriate student behavior.
3. Identifying causes of student misconduct and finding constructive methods of preventing/controlling such behavior.
4. Consistently applying classroom, school and District rules.

5. Communicating regularly with students and parents regarding the behavior and academic progress of their students. (Title 5, CCR 5530, EC 44807)

B. Parents are responsible for:

1. Sending their student to school daily and on time (EC 48200).
2. Acknowledging/accepting that the schools and the Board of Education have the legal responsibility to maintain standards of behavior for all students.
3. Cooperating with staff in helping a student with academic, discipline or attendance problems.
4. Encouraging in their student an attitude that learning, good attendance and proper behavior are important.
5. Parents/guardians are to notify the Attendance Office immediately of any change of address, telephone number, or guardianship. Proof of residency, such as a utility bill, is required on all address changes.

C. Student Responsibilities

Maintaining a safe and positive learning environment

1. Students have the right to concentrate on learning activities without being interrupted. Please do not bring to school or have in your possession any disruptive articles such as radios, iPod, MP3 players, Bluetooth/External speakers or like devices, etc. Administrators and teachers may confiscate these items and ask parents to pick them up. No pets or other animals are allowed on campus.
2. Cell phones are allowed on the school campuses; however, their usage is restricted to specific times. (See Cell Phone Policy)

Dress code/grooming guidelines: Students are expected to wear clothing which is appropriate and does not interfere with the learning environment. No student shall wear articles of clothing, jewelry, or accessories which, in the opinion of school administration, pose a disruption to the educational process or a threat to the physical well being and safety of the student or others. For safety reasons, pants must not touch or drag on the ground. Sagging pants are not acceptable. State law requires footwear to be worn at all times during school hours. The dress code is in effect while on school grounds, going or coming to school, during the lunch period whether on or off campus, or while going to or coming from a school sponsored activity.

- Hats are allowed to be worn on campus – Hats must be removed upon request.
- Clothing or adornment which advertises or otherwise promotes the consumption of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or tobacco products, or controlled substances is prohibited.
- Clothing or adornment which promotes harassment directed at a pupil or group of pupils or is sexually derogatory is prohibited.
- No clothing or articles of clothing (including, but not limited to gloves, bandannas, shoestrings, wristbands, belts, jewelry) related to a group or gang, which may provoke others to acts of violence, shall not be worn on campus or at any school activity. Current examples of articles of clothing or adornment which may be related to a group or gang are:
 - Belt buckles with initials not of student's name, and red, blue or brown web belts
 - Belts hanging out of pants at an excessive length

- Bandanas that are red, blue, or brown
 - Gloves, towels, or other items hanging from pants pockets
 - Potentially dangerous jewelry.
- **Excessive exposure of skin, i.e., midriff, halter/backless tops, and/or revealing shirts, shorts, or skirts are inappropriate and are not permitted.**
1. **Pants, shorts, skirts:**
 - Underwear must not be showing.
 - Excessive “sagging pants” not allowed: waistband must not be below the buttocks.
 - Inappropriately short or high “short shorts”, “short skirts”, or “short dresses are not acceptable.
 - Holes in jeans must be in appropriate location and not show higher than appropriate shorts.
 2. **Tops, shirts, blouses:**
 - Underwear must not be showing.
 - Bare midriffs: tops must cover most of one’s belly.
 - Low cut tops must be of appropriate cut - display of excessive cleavage is not acceptable.
 - See-through fabrics are not permissible.
 - Halter or tube tops, off the shoulder, or bra-like tops are not allowed.
 - A-Frame/wife beater tee-shirts for males are not allowed – Tank Tops are ok.
 - Shirts must not display scantily clad men or women, be sexually suggestive, or items deemed inappropriate by school Administration.
 3. **Footwear**
 - Shoes must be worn at all times.
 4. **Sunglasses**
 - May not be worn indoors/classrooms.
 5. **Students will be required to do one of the following if not meeting dress code requirements:**
 - Change and wear alternate clothing-provided by school personnel.
 - Call parent to bring change of clothing.
 - Leave campus with parent permission to change.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL HAT/HEAD COVERING POLICY

- Caps may be worn on campus but must be removed upon request of any staff member.
- Caps with symbols, words, or images deemed negative by the school are not allowed and will be confiscated.
- Hairnets, shower caps, hair rags, or other grooming items are not allowed.
- Students may wear head coverings required in observance of their religion.

Writing on Personal Belongings

Writing on clothing, hats, backpacks, or binders that is gang-affiliated, crude, vulgar, profane, sexually suggestive, racially, ethnically, or religiously intolerant, which promotes the use of drugs and alcohol, or which in the opinion of the Liberty High School administration is disruptive to the learning environment, will NOT be allowed. The same rules also apply to any writing on the skin.

Gang Apparel is Prohibited

Jewelry, accessory, notebook or manner of grooming (including haircuts) which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark or any other attribute denotes membership in a gang or group is prohibited. No clothing or articles of clothing (including but not limited to gloves, bandannas, shoestrings, wristbands, belts, jewelry) related to group or gang that may provoke others to acts of violence are prohibited. Belt buckles with initials or red, blue, or brown web belts, belts hanging out of pants, red, blue, or brown bandanas either worn in hair or displayed in clothing, gloves, towels, suspenders or other items hanging from rear pants pockets or from belt, excessive clothing items of predominately one color, old English style writing on clothing or notebooks are prohibited. If a student is determined to have violated the dress code by wearing gang colors, he/she will be banned from wearing specific colors or any gang related apparel by being placed on a Color Contract. Students who violate the contract may face home suspension.

Driving: All drivers are to observe existing code provisions, school regulations and common sense while operating their vehicles. Students who endanger the lives of others in the parking lots by speeding or reckless driving are subject to citation by local police and disciplinary action.

Eighteen-Year-Old Students: Eighteen years of age or older, who are having attendance and/or behavior problems, may be placed on contract. Eighteen-year-old students who transfer to Adult School may not be allowed to transfer back to high school. Students requesting to check out will be required to contact a parent prior to being able to exit campus. Principal's discretion.

Nutrition Services: School Meals

Universal free meals will be offered at no cost to any student enrolled in the Lodi Unified School District, when they are in attendance. The California Universal Meals Program will provide students access to breakfast and lunch during each school day free of charge regardless of their income or eligibility. No application is needed for meals, but we do request that you complete a Household Family Survey or Parent Data confirmation in Aeries to help qualify your school for supplemental program funding. Lodi Unified participates in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, as well as the Child and Adult Care Food Program for after school meals. For additional information about our programs, menus, special diet forms, P-EBT eligibility, nutrition education and fundraisers please visit <https://foodservice.lodiUSD.net>.

Outside Food, Drink: To maintain high academic standards and clean classrooms, gum, food and drink are NOT to be brought into the classrooms. Due to Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Policies, Food from outside Commercial Vendors are not allowed. Only Staff Members can order and provide food from Outside Vendors.

Gang-related Conduct/Activity

Gang-related conduct/activity on all school campuses and/or adjacent to the campus during all school sponsored events is a threat to the safety of others and is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Litter

Keep Campus Clean. Please do not litter on school grounds.

OTHER LUSD CAMPUSES: Liberty students are PROHIBITED from being on any other LUSD campus without prior approval & notification of purpose for their presence.

Student Searches

School officials may conduct searches of students and their personal belongings while on school property or at school sponsored events. Personal belongings include, but are not limited to: backpacks, briefcases, bags, vehicles, etc. Searches of students and personal belongings will be conducted when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will provide evidence that the student is violating the law and/or school regulations. The scope of the search will be related to the objectives of the search, the age and gender of the student, and the nature of the violation. Refer to District Policy/Rules for more information.

School properties under joint control are also subject to being searched by school officials. These places include but are not limited to lockers and desks. Lockers and desks are school property and may be searched at any time. Searches may be random and without cause of any kind. There is NO expectation to privacy. (Board Policy 5145.12)

Medications

Students who need to take medication (prescription or non-prescription) during the school day are REQUIRED to have a District medical form on file in the school office prior to such administration. Once the medical form is on file, designated school personnel MUST assist the student in administering the requisite medication including any tests for medical reasons such as those required for diabetic students.

A student who brings a medication (prescription or non-prescription) to school and either (1) gives or sells the medication to another student or (2) self-administers a medication without the proper District medication form on file, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. (EC 49422, EC 49423, Board Policy/Rule 5141.21)

Due Process / Right to Appeal Procedure

No student will be suspended or expelled without being afforded due process. Parents and students have the right to appeal any disciplinary consequence imposed by school officials. Refer to Board Policy/Rules 5144.1 for more information.

Cell Phone & Personal Electronics Policies

Effective January 1, 2025, AB 3216 has amended Section 48901.7 of the California state education code relating to pupils.

Please take the time to understand the new policy for smartphones and how it is changing in the Lodi Unified School District and the state of California. This is a letter detailing those changes from the district:

Lodi Unified School District Families:

Beginning next school year, students will be required to keep their smartphones turned off and stored in their backpacks during the regular school day. This practice, already in place at many of our elementary and middle schools, aligns with Lodi Unified School District's Board Policy 5131: Student Conduct.

This Board of Education approved change is designed to reduce distractions, support student mental health, minimize instances of cyberbullying and support student academic discourse throughout the school day. Research strongly supports limiting phone use during the school day, and similar policies are being adopted in schools across the state. In fact, California's Assembly Bill 3216 will require school districts to adopt such policies by July 1, 2026. Please note that exceptions will be made for students with medical needs or accommodations outlined in their IEPs. We understand that this may change how you communicate with your child during the day, even though they will be able to retrieve messages or return calls at the end of the regular school day. Our school offices are always available to relay important messages, and students can use office phones if needed. In the event of an emergency, it's essential that students stay focused on staff instructions. First responders recommend limiting phone use to ensure safety and clear communication.

We will share more information as the school year approaches, but we appreciate your support in preparing your student for this shift. Please take a moment to discuss these expectations with your child. Thank you for partnering with us to create a safe and focused learning environment.

Students may not

- Use their electronic device(s) during passing periods.
- Use their electronic device(s) in class.
- Listen to music out loud, either with the device's integrated speakers or with a speaker that connects to the device.
- Use ear buds/headphones or smart watches at school.

Graffiti: Gang graffiti, tagging, or other marks made on school or private property is strictly prohibited. Liberty High School **will not tolerate** any type of graffiti. Violators are subject to disciplinary action that may include a recommendation for expulsion, as well as possible criminal charges. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student will be liable for any costs related to the repair and/or clean up of any damage caused by their child.

Insubordination/Disrespect for Teachers, Staff, Substitutes, or School Guests: If a student is defiant or hostile toward any teacher, administrator or school employee, or if a student refuses to comply with any rule set forth by a teacher or administrator, that student will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including recommendation for expulsion.

Public Displays of Affection: Public displays of affection are not appropriate to a school setting and are therefore not allowed. Inappropriate displays of affection shall be defined as heavy kissing, petting, prolonged hugging, and/or hugging in a suggestive manner with body touching, rubbing etc. Students violating the display of affection policy will be issued one warning. The second violation will result in administrative disciplinary action.

School Property: It is everyone's responsibility to help maintain a clean and safe campus. Students are expected to assist the custodial staff in keeping the buildings clean by not throwing papers, sunflower seeds, etc., on the floors or in hallways. Writing or carving on walls, desks and chairs is destructive and is inconsiderate of the many other students who use the facilities. **Students/parents will be charged for all damages or losses that occur to school buildings, books, or equipment.**

Controlled Substances, Tobacco, Alcohol, Use & Abuse LUSD (Policy 5131.6): It shall be the policy of the Lodi Unified School District to take positive action through education, counseling, parental involvement, medical referral, and police referral in the handling of incidents in the schools involving the possession, sale, and/or use of controlled substances, alcohol, inhalants, and drug paraphernalia. Students involved in the possession, sale, and/or use of controlled substances shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension or expulsion.

Tobacco: The Board recognizes that smoking presents a health hazard which can have serious consequences both for the smoker and the non-smoker and desires to discourage students' use of tobacco products. Students shall not be allowed to smoke, chew, or possess tobacco or nicotine products on school property or during school hours, at school-sponsored events, or while under the supervision of district employees. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary procedures which may result in suspension from school.

Consequences for Alcohol/Drug Use and/or Possession

Students are prohibited from using any drugs or consuming any alcohol or being under the influence of any drugs or alcohol or intoxicant of any kind while on school property, during school-sponsored activities and under school jurisdiction. Possession of drugs and/or alcohol or intoxicant of any kind, either actual or constructive, by students on school property, during school-sponsored activities, or under school jurisdiction is also expressly prohibited. Possession of drugs, alcohol or intoxicant of any kind includes, but is not limited to, actual physical possession or control of such substances, possession of such substances in a student's car, locker, desk, backpack or other container or being in close proximity to such substances with the intent to use or possess such substances. Each offense will result in multi-day home suspension, notification of law enforcement and a required parent conference prior to returning to school. Any student that accumulates two (2) alcohol and/or drug offenses in a school year may be recommended for expulsion.

CLOSED CAMPUS: Once a student has arrived on campus, they may not leave without officially checking out. A call to parents will be made to verify the check-out REGARDLESS of student's age.

WORK PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Students under the age of eighteen must obtain a Work Permit at Liberty High School prior to securing employment. The following procedures will apply:

- Work permit requests and work permits may be picked up in the front office.
- There will be a two-day processing period for work permit applications (i.e., if your application is turned in before school on Monday, your work permit may be picked up on Wednesday after school).
- Students in the Lodi Unified School District with work permits are required to maintain appropriate attendance and school performance (GPA of 2.0) to maintain their work permits.
- Students who are truant three (3) or more school days (or 18 class periods) within a school year will have their work permit revoked. Employers will be notified of the revocation of the work permit.
- If the work permit is revoked, students may apply to have their work permit reinstated if attendance and/or academic performance has improved. Ages, and maximum hours per day and per week
- A day of rest from work is required if the total hours employed per week exceed 30 hours or if more than 6 hours are worked on anyone-day during the week.
- Minor's work must be performed between specified hours:
16 - 17 years: 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. (12:30 a.m. when no school the next day)
- When regulations of enforcement agencies differ, the more restrictive regulation applies.

Acknowledgment of Student/Parent Handbook

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE STUDENT /PARENT HANDBOOK

PLEASE PRINT

Student Last Name

First Name

Grade

Student ID #

Home Phone

Date

I have read and understand the Liberty High School Student/Parent Handbook which includes information regarding discipline, harassment, support information and other pertinent Liberty High School resources.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Work Phone Number

Student Signature

Cell Phone Number

This acknowledgment must be signed and returned to the school office.