

# Liberty-Benton Middle School News

*“Where Eagles Learn to Soar”*

## AUGUST 2008

This newsletter is a periodic publication sent to parents of Liberty-Benton Middle School students and is designed to keep you informed school related events. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 422-9166.

*Bruce Otley, Principal*

### A Greeting from the Principal

It was a short summer, but hopefully you have had some time to re-charge the batteries and will be ready for an exciting 2008-2009 school year. I am pleased to report that Liberty-Benton Middle School met 9 out of 10 state indicators on our building report card and has earned Effective status. Once again, significant gains were achieved in math and in reading. Because of the hard work and dedication of both students and teachers during the 2007-2008 school year, I am proud to share that Liberty-Benton Middle School experienced an increase in our performance index of 1.4 points! This increase contributed to our overall **district rating of Excellent** for the 2007-2008 school year. I am looking forward to working with you and your student as we begin a new “Quest for Excellence”. Tuesday, August 19, 2008 will be here before we know it.

### Liberty Benton Schools: Excellent!

Liberty Benton Schools has earned the highest district rating on our district report card: **Excellent!** As district, we experienced a performance index growth of 2.5 points. Our district PI is 100.8. Districts that achieve a PI of 100 or greater are deemed high performing districts. To help you better understand the significance of this, below is some information on the Performance Index.

**Performance Index Calculation:** PI is calculated using a formula that gives different weights to the number of students that performed at the different levels of achievement on the Ohio Achievement Tests in grades 3-8 and on the Ohio Graduation Test at grade 10 (limited-advanced). The formula is as follows:

# of students at each performance level / total number of tests x 100 = % x weight = points

#### The performance level weightings are as follows:

Untested: 0

Below Basic/Limited: 0.3

Basic: 0.6

Proficient: 1.0

Accelerated: 1.1

Advanced: 1.2

As you can see, a PI of 100 or more means that a significant number of students are performing at either the proficient, accelerated, or advanced levels on the OAT and OGT and that proportionally speaking, significantly less students are below the proficient level. However, true excellence is a byproduct of a healthy culture. On page 2 are a few tidbits that reflect the high standards that make Liberty-Benton Middle School culture a place where “Eagles Learn to Soar”.

### **Liberty-Benton Middle School Did You Knows?.....**

- 73% of the entire student body in grades 6-8 made the all A or A/B honor roll in 2007-2008
- The average sixth grade student performed 15 months ahead of their chronological age on the IOWA Test of Basic Skills (A nationally normed test) \*2007
- The average seventh grade student performed 16 months ahead of their chronological age on the IOWA Test of Basic Skills (A nationally normed test) \*2007
- The two year average (06/07-07/08) for parental participation at sixth grade orientation is 92%!  
(THANKS PARENTS for your continued involvement and SUPPORT!!)
- 77% of the staff at Liberty-Benton Middle School has a Masters Degree

As you can see, Liberty-Benton is truly a special place. This is a result of all of us (staff, students, parents, and community) responding to the high expectations of the district and the community. Thank you for your continued support in making Liberty-Benton Middle School a place where *“Eagles learn to soar”*.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade/New Student Orientation Friday, August 15, 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

An orientation program for all incoming sixth grade students or any new student will be held at the Middle School gym from 6-7 p.m. The program will begin with an informational presentation from the administration regarding expectations for students and parents for the upcoming school year as well as an introduction to the sixth grade teaching staff. Sixth grade teachers will not be in their classrooms until after the assembly. After the assembly, students will then be able to pick up their schedules and tour the Middle School to find their classes. At this time, parents will be able to pay school fees and if applicable, pay the remainder of your Camp Storer balance. If you are the parent of an incoming sixth grade or new student, please plan on attending.

### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Meet the Teacher Night, Friday, August 15 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Students and parents are encouraged to attend this open-house format and can come and go anytime between 4:00-6:00 p.m. While you are here you can:

- Find your classrooms
- Meet your teachers
- See your friends
- Pay your school fees/put money in your lunch account (all fees and lunch accounts will be taken in the cafeteria)
- Learn about ways parents can help through PTO
- New volunteers can get fingerprinted for a background check at no cost
- Did I mention ice cream? **Hope to see you there!**

### **Interim Report Dates**

Interim reports are sent home with the student **four times a year** around the midterm of every 9 weeks. **Students will receive a progress report even if they owe fees.** You should expect a progress report from your child on the following dates:

- Qtr. 1—September 26
- Qtr. 2 – November 21
- Qtr. 3 – February 20
- Qtr. 4 – April 17

### **Student Attendance**

Student attendance may be the most important factor in helping your student achieve success at school and later on at the workplace. Good attendance is positively correlated to academic achievement and job performance. Dependability is a trait that can reap a lifetime of rewards. Because of recent changes in state regulations, attendance at school will be closely monitored. As a parent or legal guardian, you are responsible for making sure that your student regularly attends school and does not accumulate unexcused absences. Please help us help your student to reach their potential by making sure they are at school.

## First Day of School Tuesday, August 19, 2008

Our custodial and maintenance crews have done a great job over a short summer to get our building and grounds ready! The first of our 180 Opportunities for Excellence will be on Tuesday, August 19, 2008. Students may enter the building at 7:40 a.m. with the tardy bell ringing at 7:50 a.m. to begin instruction. Homeroom lists will be posted on the doors and students should report to their Homeroom when they arrive where they will receive their handbooks and other important information. Students will be dismissed at the regular 2:29 p.m. dismissal time. I am extremely excited about working with all of you in making this the best school year yet!

### Student Pick Up/Drop Off

For the safety of all please pick up or drop off students in the east parking lot near the east stairs. **Students should not arrive at school before 7:40 a.m. and must wait in front of the school building until the 7:40 a.m. entry bell rings.** Please help us to keep all of our kids safe by dropping off and picking up your student at the appropriate time and location.

### Transportation

For information regarding bus routes, pick up/drop off times, and location of stops please call the transportation department at 422-9249.

### Medication

According to the Ohio Legislature Amended Senate Bill 262, certain criteria must be met before any medication can be administered to children at school. A medication authorization form must be filled out and on file in the main office. Over the counter medications will be given in the main office by school personnel only with written permission from the parent/guardian. Please remember that prescription **medications and over the counter meds** (Tylenol, Advil, cough syrup, even cough drops etc.) must be brought to school by a parent/guardian.

## Picture Day September 9, 2008

School picture day is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, September 9, 2008. Re-takes for fall pictures have been scheduled for October, 16, 2008. Make sure your student brings a smile to school on these days.

### Middle School Fees

Fees are due at the beginning of the school year and can be paid in the main office. School fees must be paid before students can attend field trips. The 2007-2008 fees for Liberty-Benton Middle School are as follows:

#### Eighth Grade

\$44.00 Regular student  
\$44.00 Student w/French  
\$45.00 Student w/Spanish  
\$52.00 Student w/ Ag. Sci.  
\*Add \$2.00 for choir

#### Seventh Grade

\$42.00 Regular student  
\$48.00 Student w/Video Production  
\*Add \$2.00 for choir

#### Sixth Grade

\$49.00 Regular student  
\*Add \$2.00 for choir

School fees are charged to parents to cover the expense of consumable items used in classes such as workbooks, art supplies, science lab materials etc. Payment is due upon receipt of the fee schedule. Grade cards will be withheld after the first quarter if fees are still owed. Students with unpaid fees will not be permitted to attend field trips. Field trips are not a mandatory part of school, but rather a privilege to extend the learning in a fun and meaningful way. Students will be permitted to attend field trips so long as 25% of the total school fees are paid at the beginning of each grading period.

If you have extenuating economic circumstances, please contact the main office so that a payment schedule can be arranged for school fees. All fees must be paid in full by the end of the school year. Checks should be made payable to Liberty-Benton Middle School.

## **Camp Storer Reminders October 6-10, 2008**

Camp Storer is located in Jackson Michigan, about one hour west of Dundee, Michigan (Cabelas). The cost of this year's trip is \$189.00. If you are new to the district, or still have a balance, please make you check payable to Liberty-Benton Middle School and write Camp Storer and your student's name on the memo line. I will be sending home more detailed information regarding what to bring to camp, departure and arrival times, as well as other pertinent camp information in September as our departure date draws nearer. Please contact the middle school office at 422-9166 if you have questions regarding the trip.

## **One Stop Shop**

Pick up for one stop shop will be August 14, 2008: 11:30-12:30 or 6:30-7:30

\*Orders that are not picked up will be delivered to your student's home room location on August 15, 2008.

## **Summer Office Hours**

The middle school office will be open from 8:00-3:00 Monday-Friday. The office is closed during the month of July, with the exception of the following dates from 8-12:

July 9

July 17

July 23

**July 30 8-3 p.m.**

## **Welcome New Staff**

We will be welcoming four new staff members at the middle school for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Thomas Holben: Director of Bands

Mr. Marshall Headley: Seventh Grade Science

Mrs. Connie Sherrer: Middle School Receptionist

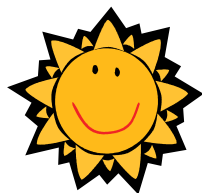
Mrs. Beth Wanamaker: Sixth Grade Instructional Aide

## **Dress Code Reminders**

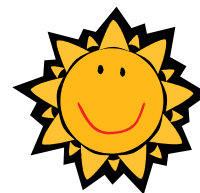
When venturing out to do your school clothes shopping, please consider the dress code. Sometimes, the latest fashion trends are not always in harmony with appropriate school attire. Below are just a few items that are prohibited by our student dress code:

- Flip flops
- Wheelie shoes
- Bare midriffs (low rise jeans/pants and short shirts combination so that the midriff is exposed)
- Apparel portraying drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or questionable language
- Sagging pants (pants must be worn at the waist at all times)
- Clothes that are torn/ripped/frayed so that the skin or undergarments are exposed

Thanks for sending your student to school ready to learn.



# Enjoy Your Summer Vacation!



## Important Dates 2008-2009....

July 30	The main office will be open for student registration 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
August 1 -14	Summer Intervention 8:30-12:00
August 14	One Stop Shop pre-order pick up 11:30-12:30 and 6:30-7:30 p.m.
August 15	Meet the teacher night 4:00-6:00 p.m. Orientation for 6 <sup>th</sup> graders or any new student—6:00-7:00 p.m.
August 19	First day of school for students 7:40 a.m.-2:29 p.m.
August 27-29	No School
September 1	No School Labor Day
September 2	School Resumes
September 9	School picture day
September 19	2 Hour Collaboration Day PTO Magazine Sales Kickoff
September 26	Midterms go home with students
October 2	PTO Magazine Sale Ends
October 6-10	6 <sup>th</sup> grade Camp Storer trip
October 13	No School Teacher In-Service Day
October 16	Picture re-takes
October 24	End of first 9 weeks <i>44 days</i>
November 10	Two hour collaboration day
November 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:30-8:30
November 21	Midterms go home with students
November 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences 5:30-8:30 p.m.
November 25	Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.
November 26	No School
November 27-30	Thanksgiving Break
December 1	School Resumes
December 2	2 Hour Collaboration Day
December 22-Jan. 4	Winter Break
January 5	School Resumes
January 16	End of the second 9 weeks <i>48 days</i>
January 19	No School Martin Luther King Junior Day
February 16	No School Presidents Day
February 20	Midterm reports go home with students
March 4	2 Hour Collaboration Day
March 20	End of third 9 weeks <i>43 days</i>
March 23	Middle School Spring Pictures
April 9-13	Spring Break
April 14	School Resumes
April 17	Midterm reports go home with students
April 27-May 1	OAT TESTING WEEK
May 7	2 Hour Collaboration Day
May 25	No School Memorial Day
May 28	Last Day of School for Students End of fourth 9 weeks <i>45 days</i>
May 29	Teacher Work Day

 **Go Eagles!** 