

EAGLE MESSENGER

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF LIBERTY-BENTON LOCAL SCHOOLS | SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER



According to Dictionary.com, the definition of gratitude is “the quality or feeling of being grateful or thankful.” There is no better way to describe how I’m feeling as the 2020-2021 school year comes to a close.

This year, our nation experienced political and social unrest like never before, but here at Liberty-Benton, I witnessed a community come together like never before. I’m beyond grateful for your endless support throughout this school year.

I’m especially grateful for Eagle, Liberty, and Blanchard Townships, who donated money to the district to help us combat the effects of the pandemic. For Benton Ridge Council, who donated CARES Act monies. For our state and local officials for all that they did to keep our community and schools open and thriving as best they could. For our union leadership for supporting our staff. For our staff, who weathered the challenges of this year with professionalism, always making sure our students were their top priority. And for our students, who never gave up and learned to seamlessly adapt no matter what curveballs were thrown at them.

I’m thankful that as the school year wound down, we were able to return to some of our more traditional events - like sports seasons and celebrating our seniors. Congratulations to all of our athletes, who continued with COVID-19 protocols so they could get back to doing what they love. Congratulations also to the class of 2021. I know you won’t soon forget this year, but I know that it has made you stronger and more poised to take on whatever comes next.

This year hasn’t been easy. But for me at least, it has made me take a step back and reevaluate my priorities. I hope your experiences over the last year have helped you to do the same. Thank you for helping me understand the true meaning of gratitude. I hope everyone has a safe and restful summer and that we can all look forward to returning in August to a more normal school year.

With Gratitude,

Mark Kowalski, Superintendent

UPCOMING DATES

AUGUST 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19 | 6-8 PM

**SUMMER LIBRARY
READING PROGRAM**
Elementary/Middle
School Library

AUGUST 24 | 6 PM

**PARENT/STUDENT
CAMP NUHOP**
Middle School Gym

AUGUST 25 | 7 PM

**EAGLE ACADEMY
ORIENTATION NIGHT**

**AUGUST 31 | 1-4 PM
AND 5-8 PM**

**ELEMENTARY MEET
THE TEACHER EVENT**
15 minute appointments

**SEPTEMBER 7
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

*All dates are subject to change.
Please visit our website for updates.





2021 ARTS FESTIVAL REVIEW



This year's Liberty-Benton Arts Festival highlighted the creativity and technical skill of students in grades K-12. Throughout the year, students concentrated on knowledge of famous artists, artistic styles and techniques, world geography, history, and culture. Additionally, they explored careers in the field of art.

The artwork of elementary and middle school students was displayed in the gym, and included two and three-dimensional work. Kindergarten through eighth grade students focused on drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fused glass, and more.

High school artwork was housed in the cafetorium. Ninth through twelfth grade students demonstrated knowledge of two-dimensional drawings from life, perspective drawing, value, digital photography, graphic design, acrylic, watercolor and oil painting, batik, and printmaking, among other disciplines. The students' three-dimensional work was composed of hand built ceramics, wheel-thrown ceramics, as well as fused glass and tile mosaics.

High school senior Marissa Green was given her own section in this year's festival to highlight three of her exceptional oil paintings, two of which received awards at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts Advanced Art Exhibition in April.

Thank you to our great students, staff and community for making this event possible!



DID YOU KNOW **FACTS**

1

88.3% of the class of 2021 earned college credit while attending LB. The Class of 2021 earned a total of

1986

semester hours of college credit.
(There are 121 seniors in the Class of 2021.)

2

18 seniors earned an honors level of 26 or higher on their ACT. 5 seniors earned a 30 or higher on their ACT. All members of the class of 2021 took the ACT with a class average of

20.534

3

Class of 2021

4% joining the military

23% employed

73% heading off to college

4

42.9%

of the class received scholarship money totaling \$541,086 for their first year and \$1,971,844 over their four years of college.



UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER



It is always difficult to believe that years go by so quickly. Undoubtedly, one thing we have learned through the past year is to remain flexible, evaluate new ideas and stay abreast of current events and trends.

We are diligently wrapping up this fiscal year and starting another. There will be new and continuing operational challenges coming out of the pandemic that will become factors while crafting the school budget for next year.

In addition to these variables, we await from the State of Ohio their budget for the next two years. Approximately, 36% of Liberty-Benton's funding comes from the State. The General Assembly is actively working on the next biennial budget, which must be signed by June 30 and becomes effective July 1. Our hope is that some of the more well-known historical concerns for over three decades related to school funding will be addressed. Until then, we must move ahead with our FY 22 planning with the information that is currently available.

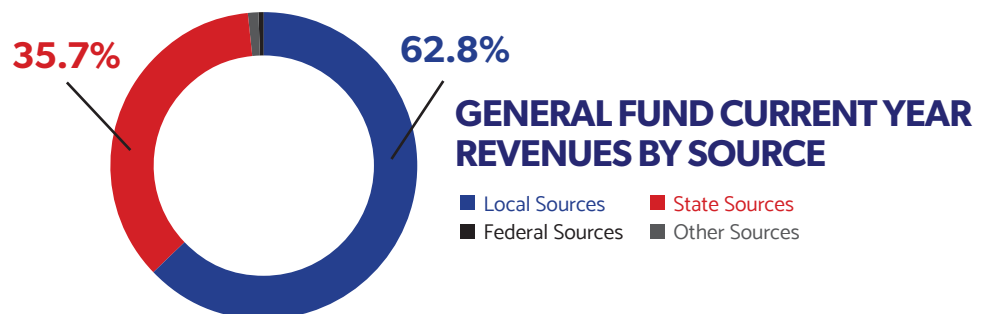
Only time will tell what the new normal will look like in our community and for our schools, but rest assured, achieving our goals in the most fiscally responsible way has always been, and will continue to be, our top priority.

Respectfully,

Lisa Dobbins, Treasurer



Congratulations to Lisa Dobbins, our Liberty-Benton District Treasurer, on her receipt of the Ohio Auditor of State Award for excellent financial reporting.



PK-8 GROUNDBREAKING

JUNE 3



FIELD HOUSE GROUNDBREAKING

JUNE 14



SPORTS WRAP-UP

OHSAA Division II State Track & Field Championships

1st Place: Discus

1st Place: Pole Vault

8th Place: High Jump



IZZY
GRANGER



ALEXIS
RICKENBACHER



KARIS
WILLOW



2020-21 BVC Co-Champions

Congratulations to our winter and spring sports teams! With a record of 19-5, the girls basketball team was named Blanchard Valley Conference (BVC) champions. Additionally, Lauren Gerken was named 1st Team BVC, Riley Irwin was named 2nd Team BVC, and Lauren Smith was named 3rd Team BVC.

The wrestling team was also named BVC champions, and Nathaniel Dire finished eighth at the state wrestling tournament.

The boys basketball, baseball, and both the girls and the boys track teams also brought home championship titles this year. Congratulations to the following track stars, who placed in the 2021 OHSAA Division II state meet: Izzy Granger, first in discus; Alexis Rickenbacher, first in pole vault; and Karis Willow, eighth in high jump.

Thanks for everyone's support so Liberty-Benton athletes could return to normal play. Go Eagles!



Baseball – BVC Champions



THANK YOU

CAREER EXPLORATION CLASS SPEAKERS



A HUGE thank you to all of the parents, LB graduates, community members, and friends that volunteered to speak to the students in our Career Exploration class at the high school.

This semester, thirty-one people spoke to the class about their current job and journey to get there. What a great opportunity for students to learn about so many different careers and have the chance to ask questions! We sincerely appreciate all of the volunteers we have had over the past three years and are thankful to have met so many great people!

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Liberty-Benton Local Schools
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