

EAGLE MESSENGER

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF LIBERTY-BENTON LOCAL SCHOOLS | SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



Every year around this time I find myself wondering, how is the school year already half over!? They say time flies when you are having fun, and this is certainly true at Liberty-Benton thanks to all of the exciting things happening.

As we've shared in previous construction updates, the remodeling of our high school is scheduled to be completed in time for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. In order for this project to stay on track, however, a change to the last day of school for our high school students is being made.

Originally planned for June 2, the last day of in-person learning for our high school students is now May 20. Students will transition to remote learning from May 23-June 2 to finish out the school year. Alternative plans for graduation are also being made and will be communicated soon.

Elementary and middle school students are unaffected by this change. Their last day of school remains June 2. Change is on the horizon for our fifth graders, however. When our new PK-8 building opens at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, fifth grade students will be located in the middle school portion of the new building. To help prepare students for this shift, fifth graders will attend the current middle school for the 2022-2023 school year rather than continuing to be part of the elementary school. We can't wait to see how our students' experiences will be expanded upon as the result of these new modern learning environments.

In sports news, our volleyball team recently celebrated their state championship with a trip to the Ohio Statehouse. Additionally, congratulations are in order for our bowling team, who just wrapped up their first season as a varsity sport at Liberty-Benton! The renovations to our baseball field are now complete, and plans will soon be announced for the grand opening of our new, state-of-the-art fieldhouse. The Capital Committee is still accepting donations for these projects. Learn more on page 2.

Read on to learn more about the growth happening across our academics, arts and athletics so far this school year.

With Gratitude,

Mark Kowalski, Superintendent

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 31

M.O.R.E. PLAY

APRIL 1

END OF THIRD NINE WEEKS

APRIL 15-18

SPRING BREAK

MAY 10

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

MAY 14

HIGH SCHOOL PROM

MAY 16

**HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC
AWARDS NIGHT**

JUNE 5

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

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

ANNUAL SPELLING BEE WINNERS NAMED

Each year, all fifth grade students participate in a spelling bee within their classroom. On Jan. 10, 19 of these students moved on to the elementary-wide spelling bee. **Congratulations to Hudson Lee, Jillian Flake and Willie Montgomery, who placed first, second and third, respectively.**





NEW ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE COMING FOR LIBERTY-BENTON STUDENT-ATHLETES

Athletics are shown to be an integral part of a child's development. They teach the value of teamwork, instill confidence, build resilience, and train students on the importance of working hard for what you want. That's why we're so excited to be expanding our student-athletes experience by improving our athletic facilities.

Earlier this year, improvements to our baseball field wrapped up with the installation of a new net backstop. Additional seating was also added, and last October, a turf infield was placed. The new turf field will allow players to get back on the field faster after inclement weather and will expand the district's opportunities to host high school and youth tournaments. These improvements were supported by a privately funded capital campaign initiated by the Baseball Diamond Club.

Additionally, our new 28,000-square-foot Eagle Field House is projected to be complete in mid-March and a grand opening on Saturday, April 2. This facility was coordinated through the Master Campus Planning Process. The \$1.5 million project will set Liberty-Benton's athletic program apart from other northwest Ohio schools. The facility is centrally located between our athletic fields, parking, and the new K-8 school. Its features include in-floor heating, a turf field, wall padding and netting, which combine to provide a first-class training facility for our students. The Eagle Field House directly benefits our baseball and softball, soccer, football, track and field, golf, and band and cheer programs, and indirectly benefits all other sports.

We are happy to report that we have exceeded our initial fundraising target of \$1.25 million. All donors are being recognized in the complex's entry. It's not too late to have your name added! You can give via the QR code below or by emailing LBCap2020@gmail.com. Funds raised in excess of the initial goal are being placed in an endowment fund to help with future projects related to the district's master facilities plan. Stay tuned for details of our grand opening.

And don't forget to save the date for our annual Athletic Booster Reverse Raffle, scheduled for April 23 at the Elks.



venmo

LB Athletic Boosters
@LB-AthleticBoosters



DID YOU KNOW **FACTS**

1

DID YOU KNOW

Liberty-Benton manages

1,917

technology devices
(iPads, laptops, desktops)

2

DID YOU KNOW

80

students are involved in
the high school musical
(cast, crew, pit, lights and sound)

3

DID YOU KNOW

86

students are involved in
the M.O.R.E. musical
for Grades 4-5

4

DID YOU KNOW

20

College Credit Plus
courses are taught in
LBHS by our teachers
(Rhodes State College & BGSU)

PK-8 BUILDING PROJECT PICKING UP STEAM

The new PK-8 building is expected to open in time for the 2023-2024 school year, and construction is moving right along. Underground plumbing and electric work has wrapped up. Steel joists and decking were recently completed for the auditorium, music wing, the second floor of the classroom wing, and the main and auxiliary gyms. Installation of the brick veneer on the gyms is underway, and overhead mechanical, electrical and plumbing work in the classroom wing is ongoing.



TREASURER'S UPDATE



We are so excited for the opening of our brand new PK-8 building, scheduled to take place with the start of the 2023-2024 school year. This facility is being funded through a combination of local and state dollars.

In May of 2019, our community passed a bond issue for a combined 7.3 mills. The tax issue for the construction of the high school expired soon after, resulting in a true tax impact of 5.5 mills. Thanks to this local support, Liberty-Benton was able to move forward with a comprehensive master facility plan to include a new K-8 building. In January of 2020, the impact to taxpayers was reduced yet again to 4.35 mills or \$12.69 per month per \$100,000 assessed property value. To date, \$4.3 million in local dollars have gone toward the construction of the new school.

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), which is responsible for guiding capital projects for Ohio's K-12 schools, has so far contributed \$5.7 million to the project.

An additional \$1.3 million has been expensed for Locally Funded Initiatives that include enhancements to the new building above and beyond the OFCC's funded scope of work such as additional square footage and material upgrades.

Thank you to our community for your support of this project. We can't wait to see how it will expand learning opportunities for our students.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Dobbins".

Lisa Dobbins, Treasurer



KINDERGARTENERS APPLY STEM SKILLS

Kindergarten students recently participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) night where they found out just how fun learning can be! They made penny spinners, competed in marble races, constructed bridges over land and water with Legos, stacked cups, and created 2 and 3D shapes using marshmallows and toothpicks.



VOLLEYBALL TEAM HONORED AT STATEHOUSE

That's a wrap! Liberty-Benton's undefeated Division III state champion volleyball team closed the season with a trip to the Ohio Statehouse in early February.

Thank you to Senator Rob McColley and Representative Jon Cross for taking time to honor this outstanding group of student-athletes! Go Eagles!



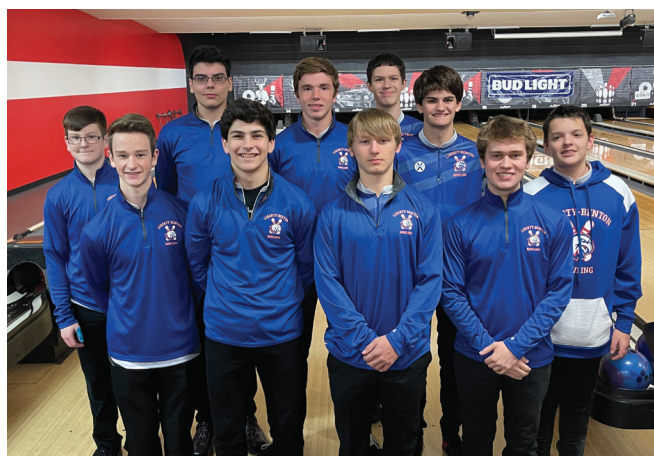


BOWLING TEAM CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR AS VARSITY SPORT

Now in its fourth year as an official sport at Liberty-Benton, the bowling team is striking a balance. The first three years it operated as a club sport, and this year marked the first as a varsity sport.

With 26 players, the co-ed team had a full 24-match schedule in which they held their own, even against a few Division I schools. One match even ended in a rare tie, requiring a bowl-off! Another match resulted in five players bowling higher than 200.

The team had a lot of new talent this year, and the coaches said it was encouraging to see how much everyone improved. Many players repeatedly broke their personal records throughout the season, and congratulations go to Isaac Teders, Cindy Durliat, Lexi Heidlebaugh, Elizabeth Nauert and Sydney Mabe for receiving individual honors. The future is bright for our Eagle bowlers!



END OF YEAR CALENDAR CHANGE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Originally planned for June 2, the last day of in-person learning for our high school students is now May 20. Students will transition to remote learning from May 23-June 2 to finish out the school year. Alternative plans for graduation are also being made and will be communicated soon.

"We can't wait to open the doors of our newly remodeled high school and share the facility with our community," said Mark Kowalski, superintendent. "This modern learning environment will provide an enhanced experience for our students for decades to come."

Elementary and middle school students will not be affected. Their last day of school remains June 2. Please mark your calendar accordingly, and thank you for your patience and understanding.

VISITING ARTIST, FIELD TRIP EXPAND STUDENT KNOWLEDGE

Fifth grade students in Mrs. Wawryzniak's art class have had a number of unique experiences this year. Ann Hymel, owner of Fuzed Glass Studio in Perrysburg, taught students how to create a frame made of glass during students' regularly scheduled art time.

Then, students visited the Toledo Museum of Art where they explored multiple galleries, including the Glass Pavilion, and viewed original works of art. They also sat in the "hot shop" to see a one-of-a-kind glass blowing demonstration.

Our artists in the making have enjoyed learning about the many different art forms!



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