

July 2022

Dear Liberty Middle School families,

It is my pleasure to welcome back students, parents, staff and our entire Liberty Middle School community to another great school year ahead! We are looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year and all that it will bring for our school family. Our teachers and staff have been hard at work preparing our building, classrooms and lesson plans to fulfill our District's mission to facilitate maximum learning for every student. While it isn't quite time yet, please know we will be ready and waiting with enthusiasm in August.

Communication with our families is important to us and we have several places you can find back-to-school information as well as gather pertinent information throughout the year. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these resources and bookmark or download them.

Website: Bookmark the [Liberty Middle website](#). You will be able to retrieve building specific information here throughout the year. Additionally, you will find district-level news and contact information here.

OLSD App: If you have not already done so, please download the district's free mobile app, Olentangy Schools, at the Apple Store or at Google Play to stay connected with our schools. Once you download the app, select the school(s) you would like to follow and set push notifications. Doing so allows you to receive customizable news, calendars, and notifications including district and building level news on your mobile devices.

Schoology: Schoology is used for classroom level communication from teachers about assignments, activities, homework and other classroom events. Parents can also communicate with teachers directly through this system. Schoology may also be accessed through the district mobile app.

PowerSchool: PowerSchool is where parents will complete and update important electronic forms at the start of the year, pay fees, receive student grades and report cards and district-level reports and letters. The district's mass notification system is integrated with PowerSchool and the contact information provided on the emergency medical form, so please make sure your information is accurate and updated throughout the year. New families should opt in to the district's text messaging service by texting YES to 87569.



Social Media: Twitter is used to share pictures and results from athletic events, school activities, and extra-curricular activities. Follow us @OLMSWarriors.

The district Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and podcast pages share what makes Olentangy unique and special. Follow social media here:

Facebook - www.facebook.com/olentangyschools/

Twitter - [@olentangysd](https://twitter.com/olentangysd)

Instagram - [@olentangylocalschools](https://www.instagram.com/olentangylocalschools)

LinkedIn – Olentangy Local School District

YouTube - www.youtube.com/user/OlentangySchools

Podcast - rss.com/podcasts/helloolentangy/

Possip: New to our middle and high school families this year, Olentangy Schools has partnered with a group called Possip to provide twice monthly “pulse check” surveys sent straight to your phone. The survey is only two questions with an option to provide additional feedback. Parent feedback can be seen by schools in a weekly report and trends on what’s going well and what families need can be identified. Look for examples of praise, appreciation, and feedback or questions and answers on our Liberty website.

As is the case with any new school year, we are welcoming some new staff members to the Liberty team. Please join us in welcoming:

Sandy Buck – Intervention Specialist

Brent Fisher – Math Specialist

Heather Morgan – Technology

Erin Murray – 6th Grade Social Studies/ELA

Tyler Pray – Technology

Angela Rafey – L-Z Counselor

Samantha Welsh – 7th Grade ELA

Jessica Wright – 7th Grade Math/Science

Additionally, some of our favorite familiar faces will be working in new areas. Please join me in welcoming these staff members to their new roles:

Michael Baker – 7th Grade Social Studies

Sara Celek – 8th Grade Social Studies/ELA

Kyle Laughrey – 7th Grade Social Studies/ELA

Matt Longley – 6th Grade Social Studies

Erin Natale – 8th Grade Science/Math

Kathryn Siegel – Media Specialist



Looking toward the start of another great school year, it is important to remember we want to give time for our students to gain some independence and build confidence in settling into their new school routines. We believe our students will be most successful if they are able to learn to take care of themselves and take pride in their independence. Thank you for partnering with us to build these skills in our students, your children.

Please note important times in the OLMS day:

Drop-off begins: 7:40 a.m.

Classes begin: 8:05 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:10 p.m.

School Supplies

If you pre-ordered your school supply kits from our PTO, they will be delivered to your home before the first day of school. Students do not need to bring all of their school supplies in the first few days of school. Teachers will help them get organized in knowing what to bring to class to minimize the weight of their bookbags.

School Forms

All forms will be electronically provided in PowerSchool and should be filled out prior to the first day of school. The form of most importance is the Emergency Medical Form. Please note these forms need to be filled out every year. We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

School Fees

Any past due school fees are available for online payment through the parent PowerSchool account, which can be accessed through the district website. This year's school fees will be payable through PowerSchool by the first week of September 2022.

Transportation

Contact the Transportation Department at 740-657-4080 with any questions about your child's bus, route or driver. Bus numbers and route information will be posted in PowerSchool no later than Thursday, August 11.

Absences

Parent/guardian must call the school, 740-657-4430 if his/her child will be absent, no later than 8:30 a.m. the day of the absence. A call may be made anytime and a voice message left. Please include the child's name, grade level, teacher's name, and reason for the absence. Upon child's return, a doctor's note or note from parent is required.



Dismissal

All teachers and the main office must be notified of any changes to your child's normal dismissal plan. The child's normal dismissal plan will be followed without a note from a parent. The students may:

- Ride school bus or walk home
- Parent sign student out in the office, all students leaving school prior to regular dismissal must be signed out by a parent/guardian.
- If your student is riding a different bus, please have them bring a note with a signature from a parent/guardian to the main office in the morning to receive a bus pass.
- Parent pick-up is at the front entrance to our building. Please pull up to the marked curb area to wait on your student at the regular dismissal.

Dates to mark in your calendar include:

August 10 – School Visit for New 7th and 8th Grade Students
August 11 – PowerSchool opens
August 11 – Open House for 7th and 8th Grade Students
August 12 – W.E.B. Orientation for 6th Grade Students
August 18 – First Day of School
August 31 – Curriculum Night

Parent/Teacher Conference Dates:

September 29 – 4:00-7:30 p.m.
October 6 – 4:00-7:30 p.m.
October 19 – 4:00-7:30 p.m.
March 2 – 4:00-7:30 p.m.

Testing Dates:

Sixth Grade – February 22-March 3
Seventh Grade – April 5-May 8
Eighth Grade – April 5-May 8

As you begin to prepare for your own family's back-to-school routine, you may consider incorporating some of the following activities:

Sleep: Getting a good night's sleep is an essential key to a productive day for each of us. Establishing a school bedtime routine a week or two before the beginning of school makes adjusting to the school year easier for everyone in your home.

Healthy start: Planning ahead to start each day with a healthy breakfast helps ensure that your child has a great day at school and can focus on the day ahead.



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I am excited for this year at Liberty Middle School! If at any time you have questions or concerns about your child, please contact your child's teacher first and then our front office. I look forward to seeing your child on our first day back to school, Thursday, August 18th. If you have any questions you may contact me at brian_baker@olsd.us or (740) 657-4400. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Be Respectful. Be Resilient. Be a Warrior!

Sincerely,

Brian Baker
Principal
Olentangy Liberty Middle School