Message from the Superintendent

Dear Liberty Community:

I hope your new year is off to a great start. As we begin the second half of the school year, I’d like to take an opportunity to highlight some of the many accomplishments of our students and district so far.

- The campus has undergone an amazing transformation as the construction crews have completed the bus loop and parking lot renovations and continue to make great progress on the high school remodel and new addition construction.
- Enrollment reached 500 students this fall (over 100 new students since 2015).
- Our Lancer football team made it to the state championship game and finished 2nd in state for the second consecutive year.
- Our Lancer volleyball team advanced to the state tournament for the first time since 1975.
- The junior high team was honored as a 2017 School of Distinction for their five-year sustained growth in English language arts and math as measured on the state assessments.
- Our junior high Knights athletes had an outstanding fall with undefeated varsity seasons in football, volleyball, and girls’ basketball.

As you can see, we’ve had a fantastic start to the year at Liberty and are looking forward to an equally successful finish.

Included in this month’s newsletter is a levy fact sheet. The district is running two replacement levies on the February 13 ballot to fund Educational Programs and Operations and Technology, Safety, and Security. More information can be found at www.LibertySD.us/levies.

Our winter activities are in full swing. The Knowledge Bowl, FFA, basketball, and wrestling teams have shown success early in their seasons. We hope to see you supporting the students at some of our upcoming contests.

Thank you for your continuing support of our schools and district; your partnership and dedication to our students is vital to the success of our community. If you should have any questions, please contact me at krydell@libertysd.us or 245-6213.

Kyle Rydell, Superintendent/ K-8 Principal

Driver’s Education

911 Driving School will offer a class at Liberty this spring, April 10-May 10. Classes are held at the high school in the mornings prior to school starting.

For more information about this program, please contact 911 Driving School at (509) 324-0911 or 911drivingschool.com.

Congratulations to Liberty Junior High 2017 School of Distinction

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Kindergarten Roundup

Friday, April 27, 9:30 a.m.

Kindergarten registration opens March 1.
Computer Science Enters our Junior High Science Classrooms

This summer Mrs. Berry received a grant to attend a training to aid in the focus on integrating computer science into our junior high science curriculum. CODE.org is behind the change as we prepare our students for the next wave of a technology-driven society. Students are being introduced to programming, design, and the many facets of coding through each of the six units of study. The students are focusing on problem solving, persistence, creativity, collaboration, and communication as they work through the lessons.

Sheriff’s Corner - See something, say something!

The start of the 2017-2018 school year has affected numerous lives, including mine. The Freeman school shooting has changed the way schools and police in our area do business forever. Every inappropriate post, threat, and rumor of harm must be checked on, leaving no stone unturned. The way we accomplish this is through reporting and communication. As parents, this is where we come in.

The students at Liberty are the ones who see and hear what’s happening in and outside of school way before the adults. The students keep our school safe. I urge each parent or guardian of our students to encourage communication with an adult if they see or hear something that is unsafe. That includes posts on social media, rumors, or conversations that may be overheard. The sooner it’s reported, the better.

I know that kids don’t want to be labeled as a snitch or tattletale. Reporting something that might be unsafe is about doing the right thing. As parents, we need to teach our kids that doing the right thing is okay no matter what their peers might say. The more we teach our kids to talk to us about the things going on in and around school, the safer we will be.

There are several ways to report unsafe things: call the police, tell a trusted adult, tell “Safe Schools Alert.” Whatever method you or your student chooses, the bottom line is, if you see something, say something. This will continue to keep our schools and communities a safer place.
Elementary Character Awards

November

Congratulations to November’s elementary citizens of the month, who exemplified the character trait of THANKFULNESS:
(l-r) Paige Holling, Hayden Rohrbach, Meric Riley, Jocelyn Thomas, Raymond Lasz, Linus Bair, Aubrey Hofmann, Arabella Curtis, Coleman Tee, Quinn Morgan, Scarlett Harader

December

Congratulations to December’s elementary citizens of the month, who exemplified the character trait of CARING:
(l-r) Chelsea Demateis, Bret Smith, Hannah Konshuk, Addy Karlis, Riley Rohrbach, Moxon Strobel, Waylon Tellessen, Marley George, Riley Kelley, London Rice, Gunnar Lenon

January

Congratulations to January’s elementary citizens of the month, who exemplified the character trait of RESPECT:
(l-r) Garrett Gollehon, Ethan Fuchs, Henry Johnson, Brody Ross, Heidi Stout, Aaron Lee, Faith Tofsrud, Reed Widman, Maddex Strobel, Cooper Thomas, Caleb Nollmeyer

Junior High Awards—Term 2

8th GRADE - 4.0 GPA

(at left, l-r, back-to-front) Amelia Suksdorf, Ella Plaksin, Logan Grumbly, Benjamin Pritchett, Mekenzie Pestana, Sophia Pyankova, Kyle Belles, Tayshawn Colvin, London Foland, Colton Marsh, Sarah Burley, Annika Tee, Ava Budde, Allison Karlis

3.5-3.99 GPA Kasey Branon, Henry Greer, Vivian Harader, Matthew Heer, Gage Holling, Alexandra Kettner, Mitchell Lencioni, Delaney Lenon, Colton Materne, Ryleigh Medart, Madison Obermier, Jenna Piersol, Mason Simmons, Jaidyn Stephens, Connor Stitt, Trenton Stoe, Hayden Tee, Damon Thieren, Dillon Thieren, Logan Wilson

7th GRADE - 4.0 GPA (at right) Kenzie Barta, Hailey Carter, Shaley Tieg, Angelina Widman, Elizabeth Denny, Annah Schulken


Most Improved GPA

At left: Henry Greer Jenna Piersol Danny Yarkovoy Christian Barlow

Academic Students of the Quarter

At left: Ally Karlis Hailey Carter Ashton Strobel Logan Grumbly

Character Awards: Thankfulness/Caring/Respect
Character Counts
Each month Liberty School District focuses on a specific character trait. For the month of February, students will be focusing on ENCOURAGEMENT. In January the student body focused on RESPECT. The following students were recognized for displaying respect in a variety of ways (pictured below, back-to-front, l-r): Alec Fletcher, Tyson Schenk, Jawuan Nave, Catherine Brown, Kendyl Fletcher, Olivia Morgan, Diana Nikolaychuk. Not pictured: Naomi Fry, Bud Hahnlen, Gloria Nikityuk.

Teacher of the Month
Congratulations to Liberty 6th grade teacher Mrs. Molly Gentry, nominated by Madison Lewis and recognized by STCU and Avista as Teacher of the Month!

Knowledge Bowl
Congratulations to Mr. VanSickle and the Knowledge Bowl team who continue to be undefeated this year in their competitions. This group will continue their season with two more regular season matches in February. They will also compete in the Regional competition February 23 at Whitworth University.

Knights Athletics
Congratulations to our junior high Knights football, volleyball, and girls’ basketball players and coaches for finishing their varsity seasons with undefeated records!

Knights Athletics
UNDEFEATED!

Liberty High School
Aaron Fletcher, Principal
509-245-3229 ext. 7-1222, afletcher@libertysd.us

Our Prom committee has been actively working on setting up for Prom 2018. This year we will join Freeman High School on April 28th at CenterPlace in Spokane Valley. Tickets must be pre-purchased at the school office. The dance will begin at 8pm and end at 11. Both districts will provide chaperones in addition to help from the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office. For more information about Prom, contact Mrs. Chambers at ext. 1302.

Knowledge Bowl
This year’s team (l-r): James Heer, Matthew Burley, Brett Watson, Tyson Schenk, Justin Jeske, Alec Fletcher, Justin King, Breydon Doubet, Thomas Redder, and Austin Rambo.
Ag Issues  Mr. Braun and the LHS FFA Ag Issues teams have begun their annual spring competitions. Liberty has two Ag Issues teams competing for a trip to FFA State held at WSU in May. Both teams did very well at the FFA District 5 Ag Issues Leadership Development Event held in Cheney in December. The team that presented on Immigration in Agriculture placed third and has qualified for State. That team consists of Isaak Ottmar, Jon Denny, Jacob Biegert, Emma Kate Bartels, Ashlyn Bartels, Cheyanne Gleave, and Emma Holwegner (at left, l-r).

Robotics  The Liberty Robotics team #3220 kicked off their season at Eastern Washington University where they discovered what this year’s game will be. The game is called Power Up, and teams score points by collecting boxes and stacking them on the team scale. Team #3220 has six weeks to build a robot that will compete at two district contests. The team will compete at the Yakima Valley SunDome March 16-17, and at West Valley High School March 22 and 24, for a chance to attend the district championships. Approximately 20 students will work on the robot to get it competition-ready.

Art Contest Award  Congratulations to Daniel Knudson for placing 5th in the teen art contest at First Night in Spokane. Daniel was one of 30 entrants competing for the top spot in the contest with the crest he created in Metal Art class. His attention to detail and vivid imagination helped him place in the top ten. Great job, Daniel!
Approximately 500 students and 100 staff members are directly affected by the levy.

The EPO Levy is a replacement of the expiring three-year levy. It is NOT a new tax.

The EPO Levy helps maintain current educational programs, smaller class sizes, maintenance of facilities and grounds, and student activities not funded by state or federal dollars.

The EPO Levy will provide approximately 17 percent of Liberty School District’s total budget:

- $1,068,175 in 2019 (based on an estimated tax rate of $1.50 per $1,000 of assessed property value)
- $1,281,811 in 2020 (tax rate = $1.50 per $1,000)
- $1,538,173 in 2021 (tax rate = $1.50 per $1,000)

On February 13, Liberty School District voters will be asked to renew the Educational Programs and Operations Levy and the Technology, Safety and Security Levy, both of which expire in 2018.

These are NOT new taxes.

Approximately 500 students and 100 staff members are directly affected by the levy.

The TSS Levy is a replacement of the expiring three-year levy. It is NOT a new tax.

The TSS Levy is used to:
- Maintain district servers and networks
- Supply classrooms and labs with up-to-date 1:1 equipment
- Pay for annual software licenses and internet connection fees
- Train instructional staff
- Improve campus security, security cameras, and door access

The TSS Levy will provide $175,000 per year, taxed at an approximate rate of $0.25 per $1,000 of assessed property value.

Levy rates will decrease by 48 percent.

$2.88/$1,000 assessed value in 2018 down to $1.50/$1,000 thereafter.

Levy tax exemptions are available.

Contact the Spokane County Assessor’s office, (509) 477-5754.

Monthly Cost Based on Sample Property Values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levy &amp; Rate</th>
<th>Assessed Value</th>
<th>Levy Tax Exemption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPO: $1.50/$1,000</td>
<td>$100,000 = $13</td>
<td>$100,000 = $0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$300,000 = $28</td>
<td>$300,000 = $0.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Levy tax exemptions are available.

Contact the Spokane County Assessor’s office, (509) 477-5754.

For more information, contact Kyle Rydell
District Superintendent & K-8 Principal
(509) 245-3211 ext. 7-2213
krydell@libertysd.us

Mail-in ballots are due on or before February 13.

Liberty School District No. 362
29818 S. North Pine Creek Rd., Spangle WA 99031
www.libertysd.us