

August 20th, 2018



Dear Liberty Parents,

August is here and I don't know about you, but the summer seemed to fly by. The building is already abuzz with activity, with Bernie, our custodian, deep cleaning the rooms and scrubbing floors, teachers coming in to ready their classrooms (before their contract days, mind you), and Tara busily preparing for the new year and registering students. Thank you all for successfully registering online and then coming in to confirm your proof of address. The new system has been pretty slick!

I am so excited to be at Liberty for a second year! This year we will continue to learn about our amazing brains and how a growth mindset will set you on a course to a successful, happy, productive life. In addition, students will engage in Social Emotional Learning lessons in class using the Sanford Harmony program. The overarching focus of this program is building strong classroom communities where students feel connected, comfortable, and ready to learn. Continuing the Liberty achievement excellence tradition, students will also engage in academic rigor and enrichment through art, P.E., and music.

What's New?

- As you may already know, the school day schedule has changed from last year. **School will start at 8:50 am** (*the first bell will ring at 8:45 for students to head to class and the second bell will ring at 8:50 indicating instruction begins*) **and end at 3:25 pm (before school supervision and breakfast begins at 8:35 am)**. The early release dismissal time will be at **2:25 pm** most Wednesdays (see the calendar posted on our website).
- We have some new folks who will be replacing staff due to retirement, maternity leave, or moving out of town:
 - Resource room teacher- Regina Anderson, who is coming to us from San Diego with three years of Special Education experience, replaces Jill North, who has returned to Timber Ridge School.
 - 1st Grade teacher- Replacing Mrs. McKinney, we are lucky to have Christine Robinson. Students may recognize her from last year, when she substitute taught in a few classes.
 - 2nd Grade teacher- Mrs. Moore is taking maternity leave this year (we are so excited for her!) and Jenna Rank will lead the learning for a long term substitute teaching position.
 - 4th Grade teacher- Mrs. Susnik retired this year and David Tracy will be her replacement. He has large shoes to fill, but he comes highly recommended by parents, staff, and students from North Albany Elementary School, where he completed his student teaching practicum last year.
 - P.E.- Mrs. Bates moved to eastern Oregon and Karen Stevens will take over for her this year, teaching P.E. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pamela has taught in Oregon, Brazil, Colombia, and Washington for a total of 17 years.
 - Art- Mrs. Rickards is now an art teacher in New York state, and we are excited that Karen Perry, a retired Liberty teacher, will replace her. Mrs. Perry will teach art on Mondays.
 - Kindergarten- Due to health reasons, Mrs. Galvan will be out for September and October. Katelyn Brunner will be her long term substitute.
- A new program will begin this fall:
 - Mileage Club- This year students will have the opportunity to participate in Mileage Club in the fall and spring. The goal of the program is to promote physical well-being, personal goal setting, and fun! We will need volunteers to help, so if you are interested, please let us know! A big thank you to Amy Huskey for taking on this program!

Interested in Volunteering?

- **All volunteers will be required to complete a background check found online at <http://albany.k12.or.us/>** (this is good for two years) **AND attend one of the volunteer trainings.** If you have been through the volunteer training with me last year, or with Mr. Sipe the previous years, you are only required to review and sign the volunteer guidelines found in the office. The first training will take place before the Parent Teacher Club meeting, September 11th, at 6:15 p.m. The PTC meeting is from 6:30 – 7:30. I would be happy to meet with anyone separately if that time does not work. Please call the office and we will make arrangements. ***If you are able to volunteer for art on Mondays or Technology classes on Fridays, we'd welcome the extra help!***

Here is the back-to-school important dates and events for you and your family:

- **Thursday, August 30th- Meet Your Teacher - School Supply Drop Off & Popsicles With the Principal.** This event, which is for first through fifth grade students, is from 5:30 - 6:30. Class placements will be posted on the main doors of the school that morning. Parents/guardians and students will have an opportunity to become familiar with their new classroom and teacher, as well as organize their school supplies.
- **Tuesday, September 4th-** First day of school for student in grades 1 - 5! Doors will open at 8:35 AM, the first bell will ring at 8:45 AM, and instruction will begin at 8:50 AM.
- **Tuesday - Thursday, September 4th - 6th- Kindergarten Interviews and Assessments.** Thank you for signing up at registration in August for your child's interview. During these interviews, students will take the State Kindergarten Assessment as well as engage in other get-to-know-you activities.
- **Friday, September 7th-** Kindergarten class lists posted around noon, and *Kindergarten Meet Your Teacher - School Supply Drop Off & Popsicles With the Principal-1:30 - 2:30 PM.*
- **Monday, September 10th-** Kindergarteners' first day!
- **Wednesday, September 19th- Curriculum Night (Open House)-** This event is an opportunity for parents/guardians to see their student's teacher and be briefed on the academic course for the year, classroom expectations, opportunities to volunteer, and how to become involved with the Liberty Parent/Teacher Club. To accommodate families with siblings in different grade levels, this will be conducted in two sessions. The first session, for grades 1 - 3, will run from 6:00 - 6:30, and the second session will follow, from 6:30 - 7:00 for grades 4 - 5.

Once again, I am thrilled to be a part of your child(ren)'s road to academic and social success this year. I look forward to seeing everyone again!

Sincerely,

Tracy Day

