



## Welcome Back, Sparklers

Welcome back to school!

We have an exciting new year ahead with key dates, important info, and fun activities planned for students.

Get ready to learn, grow, and make new friends!









## Meet the Team!

Principal: Mrs. Davis Gouard

Secretary: Mrs. Cinnamon Long

School Nurse: Mrs. Leek

School Social Worker: Mrs. Drews

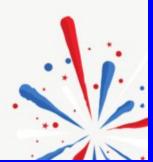
Home Program Intervention Coordinator: Mrs. Funk

Library Resource Clerk-Julie Legg

Music-Mr. Davis

Physical Education-Mr. Dokey

Resource Teacher-Mrs. K. Talbott





## Meet the Team!

K-2 Cross Categorical Teacher: Mrs. Dubois (Mrs. Cox)

3-4 Cross Categorical Teacher: Mrs. Fairchild

3-4 Cross Categorical TAs- Mrs. Bower/Miss Reed

Kindergarten: Mrs. Greer/Ms. R. Talbott/Mrs. Welsch

1st Grade: Ms. Armstrong/Mrs. Doggett/Ms. Lawhorn

Miss Brice

2nd Grade: Mrs. Boyer/Mrs. Carlton/Miss Dye

3rd Grade:Mr. Parker/Mrs. Smiley/Mrs. Swafford

4th Grade: Mrs. Cash/Miss Hall/Mrs. Isenhower/Mr. Pettit

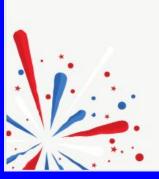
Instructional TAs-Mrs. Fleurimond/Ms. Walworth

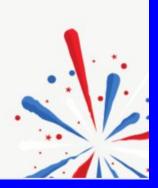




Special Education Support-Miss Moore Speech/Language Pathologist-Mrs. Whorrall EL/Bilingual Teacher-Mrs. Kahney EL Support-Mrs. Shillo Kitchen Manager-Dustin Fink Assistant Manager-Ashley Rhodes Kitchen Staff-

> Johanna Gourley Josephine Unger Cornelius Wilson









# A Note From the Principal

Below are a few reminders:

Car riders enter/exit through the back of the building.

Students are required to be at school by 7:45.

Car riders arriving after 7:45 are required to enter through the front entrance and must be signed in.

Please call (do not leave a message) by 1:30 for any early dismissals or transportation changes.

Please call 217-444-3001 to report student absences









# A Note From the Principal

## In the classroom:

Sign-up for your child(ren's) teacher's Classroom DOJO.

Check your student's communication folder every night.

Read to your student (or have them read to you) every night.

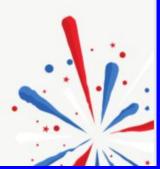
Practice addition/subtraction facts (Grades K-2) nightly.

Practice multiplication/division facts (Grades 3-4) nightly.

Limit screen time!!!!!! Grab a good book!

Let's have an amazing year!

Mrs. Gouard



### **College and Careers begin in Kindergarten!**

Happy September Kindergarten families! If you haven't already, please join the Class Dojo for your child's class ASAP, so you don't miss important information and announcements. Also, please take time to read through the Ownership in Education handbook that is located on the District 118 website and review school rules and expectations with your child. Most of the first several weeks of kindergarten are spent learning about these daily expectations as well as basic classroom procedures.

This year will also be the 1st year of our new Language Arts program, CKLA. During the month of September, we will continue learning to read and write color words as we begin our Fundations phonics program. Be sure to always ask your child to share what we are learning in Kindergarten. Watch us grow as we learn letters and their sounds this month!

Our Eureka math program starts with a module on sorting, comparing, and counting. During September, we will explore and use a variety of manipulatives to provide hands-on experience with these concepts.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is an <u>extremely</u> important part of a child's development, especially in elementary school. Our daily SEL lessons will help teach students to be respectful, responsible learners. We will teach and continue to reinforce skills that will help your child communicate effectively with others, become aware of his or her own social-emotional well-being, and succeed as a lifelong learner.

A few things you can work on at home with your child to help him or her be more successful at school:

- · One of the BEST things you can do at home to help your child learn to read is to read to him or her as often as you can!
- · Teach your child to tie his or her own shoes, zip zippers, and button buttons.
- Teach your child to both recognize and write his or her 1st name. We use a capital at the beginning and lowercase letters for the rest (unless your child's name has 2 capitals, of course!)
- · Practice counting with your child every day. By the end of the year, all students need to be able to count independently to 100 by 1s and 10s.

We're excited to help your children learn and grow as we have our best year yet in Kindergarten at Liberty!



### **First Grade News**

**General:** Students have an orange folder containing important information and/or assignments due. There is a keep at home side and a return to school side. The return to school side includes any documents or paperwork the student must return to school. The keep-at-home side contains papers to take out and leave at home. We are encouraging responsibility in the students. The students have a monthly calendar in their folder to document their attendance days. There is also a weekly calendar to let families know what assignments are due each day.

**Math:** Please review the weekly calendar sheet to determine which math lesson is due the next school day. Students are working on adding and subtracting within 20.

**Reading and writing skills:** The students have been working very hard. This month, we will work on blending CVC words. Students should practice tapping out each sound of CVC words. The students will also need to practice "trick" or sight words we have learned so far. Trick words are sent on yellow paper each Monday to practice every night.

We are looking forward to a great school year with your children!

Ms. Armstrong, Miss Brice, Mrs. Doggett, & Mrs. Lawhorn

Happy September,

We are excited to jump right into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Last month, we focused on the "group plan" in the classroom, cafeteria, hallway, recess, and bathroom. Now that we know the expected behavior, we can get down to business. Our reading program, CKLA, has us exploring fairy tales and tall tales. We will learn what those characteristics are. Ask your child if they know. Then, we will move into early Asian Civilizations.

Our math program, Eureka, is starting with addition and subtraction to 100. Right now, it is helpful to review basic math facts with your child. Also, practice counting to 120 forwards and backwards. Math will be easier if students can already do these things.

Fundations is our phonics program. Unit 1 is reviewing blends, digraphs, and tapping out words to spell them. We are reviewing first grade trick words and will be starting second grade trick words. In the library, students will get two books (AR) to read at home each week. Once they read the book three times with someone, they will take a test on it. They will earn points to make the 10, 25, or 50 point club. Lots of good stuff is occurring in second grade. Be here every day to learn all you can! Parents, keep checking the Dojo daily and the homework folders. Thank you!

The Second Grade Team,

Mrs. Boyer, Mrs. Carlton, & Miss Dye

# 3rd Grade News

Welcome to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade!

We are so excited to have your children with us this year! Students have been working hard to learn the routines, procedures, and expectations of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Please remind them of these at home.

We are working on the Properties of Multiplication and Division and Solving Problems with Units of 2-5 and 10 in math. Please have your child practice skip counting by 2's, 3's, 4's, and 5's at home. Homework will be starting soon. Be sure to check your child's blue homework folder each day.

For ELA, we began our Classic Tales unit. Very soon, we will begin visiting the library. Students will be bringing a library book home each evening. They should read this either independently or with you and be ready to take an AR test the next day.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year with you and your child!

Mr. Parker

Mrs. Smiley

Mrs. Swafford

# 4th Grade News

Welcome back 4<sup>th</sup> grade families,

Fourth grade Liberty Sparklers are off to a great start! Mrs. Cash, Mrs. Isenhower, Miss Hall, and Mr. Pettit are looking forward to watching those minds grow. We are currently working on "The Group Plan", it is part of our Social/Emotional curriculum. In a nutshell, it is what our bodies and mouths are doing in the different areas of the building. Please take the time to accept your Dojo invitations if you haven't already; that is the best way to communicate with families.

Fourth graders are expected to know their multiplication math facts and read for 20-30 minutes every night.

In reading, each student will have an individual goal to meet each month. Their goals range from words per minute, AR tests, and Fastbridge improvement. Our first unit in reading/writing is focused on personal narratives.

In math, we are working on place value and rounding. Soon we will be working on 4 and 5 digit addition and subtracting with regrouping.

We would like to thank everyone who came to Meet the Teacher. We enjoyed meeting you!

Thank you,

Your 4<sup>th</sup> Grade team!





#### Welcome to AVID!

AVID looks a little different in our elementary building than it does at North Ridge and DHS. We are AVID Elementary! AVID Elementary teaches students in grades K-4 essential skills for future college and career success by integrating WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organikation, Reading) strategies into daily lessons. The program fosters a "college-bound" mindset, helping young students develop organization, study skills, communication, and self-advocacy while building a strong foundation for academic success in later grades.

#### What is the goal of AVID Elementary?

- 1. Close the opportunity gap.
- 2. Develop a growth mindset.
- 3. Create a college-going culture.

#### How does it work in elementary school?

- 1. Integrated into daily instruction:
- 2. Utilizing WICOR strategies:

Writing: Developing clear communication skills.

Inquiry: Learning to ask higher-level questions and think critically.

Collaboration: Working with peers to deepen understanding.

Organization: Developing skills to manage belongings and academic tasks.

Reading: Strengthening reading comprehension and critical reading skills.

#### 3. Focus on foundational skills:

Students learn <u>note-taking</u> and <u>goal-setting</u>, how to manage their time, and how to take initiative in their learning.

#### How does this benefit your child?

- 1. Academic preparation.
- 2. Empowerment.
- 3. Exposure to future paths.







# Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Every day at Liberty Elementary this year students are learning about and practicing social emotional skills. Our first topic this year is **The Group Plan**.

We began our lessons understanding that all of us have different **brain smarts**. Each of us have different things we already know about or are good at. This means all of our brains are differently wired. Long wires are things we know and short wires are things we are learning. All these different brains sharing space together in a classroom require that we have a *group plan* for a classroom to run effectively. Teachers and parents encourage the practice of following *the group plan* with joint attention and following routines and expectations. We can practice through group activities, peer-based play, helping with chores, doing events together as a family, etc.

Noticing the group plan and understanding one's role in the group is not simply behavior, it requires each child to socially attend, interpret and problem solve in order to figure out the behaviors expected. When students are following the group plan, we have discovered that everyone is more comfortable and better able to learn.



The Group Plan

## A note from the Nurse's Office:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year! September is a great time to establish healthy routines. Please make sure your child is getting plenty of rest, eating a balanced breakfast, and staying hydrated throughout the day.

As we settle into the school year, just a few quick reminders:

- If your child is feeling unwell (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.), please keep them home until they are symptom-free without medication for at least 24 hours.
- Please make sure the school has up-to-date emergency contacts and any necessary medical information, including allergy or medication needs.
- If your child has a chronic condition, including asthma, diabetes, and allergies, please be sure the school has the proper forms and necessary medications.

Let's work together to keep our students healthy and ready to learn. Wishing you and your family a safe and happy start to the school year!

Warmly,

Kaitlin Leek, RN

School Nurse

# Home Program Intervention Coordinator

### Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a restful summer break and is ready to do some serious learning this year!

Please remember to call the school if your child needs to be absent for illness or an appointment within 48 hours. The number is 217-444-3000. Please be mindful that anyone who comes after 7:45 is tardy and will need to go to the front door with a parent and be checked in at the office.

If you are in need, and I can connect you with any community resources, I'm always happy to help! Please call me at (217)444-3021.

Mrs. Sarah Funk

# Home Program Intervention Coordinator





# SEPTEMBER | 2025



## Pre-K-8 Breakfast Menu

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
1	NO SCHOOL	Cinnamon Toast Crunch Bar Vanilla Yogurt Cinnamon Applesauce 100% Apple Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	Mini Chicken Patty on Biscuit w/honey Fresh Apple 100% Fruit Punch juice Skim or 1% White Milk	4 Banana bread Banana 100% Very Berry Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	5Egg and Cheese Omelet on Tortilla Shell Fresh Orange 100% Strawberry Kiwi Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	
8	Strawberry Cream Cheese Bagel Strawberry Applesauce 100% Orange Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	9 Super Donut Strawberry Banana Yogurt Fresh Apple 100% Apple Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	10 Turkey Sausage Pizza Bagel Banana 100% Fruit Punch Skim or 1% White Milk	11 Mini Blueberry Waffles Fresh Plums 100% Very Berry Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	Sandwich Fresh Orange	FOUNDED 1862
1	5 Apple Cinnamon Texas Toast Plain Applesauce 100% Orange Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	16 Powdered Donut Hole Cluster Fresh Apple 100% Apple Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	17gg and Cheese Biscuit Fresh Plum 100% Fruit Punch Skim or 1% White Milk	18 Cinnamon Oatmeal Round Bar Strawberry Go-gurt Fresh Orange 100% Very Berry Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	19 Maple Pancakes Mozzarella String Cheese Fresh Grapes 100% Strawberry Kiwi Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	Served Daily: Cold 1% White Milk Cold Skim White Milk Latose Free Milk
2	2 Mini Cinni Caramel Roll Cinnamon Applesauce 100% Orange Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	Turkey Sausage and Cheese Scrambler Fresh Orange 100% Apple Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	24 Banana Muffin Cheese Cubes Banana 100% Fruit Punch Skim or 1% White Milk	25 Mini Cinnamon Waffle Fresh Grapes 100% Very Berry Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	26 Breakfast Pizza Fresh Apple 100% Strawberry Kiwi Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	For Questions Regarding This Menu, Please Contact: Zetta Piggott Director of Food Service 217-444-1070 PiggottZ@Danville118.org
2	9 Sliced Blueberry Bread Blue Raspberry Applesauce 100% Orange Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	30 Cinnamon Bun Fresh Apple 100% Apple Juice Skim or 1% White Milk	1	2	3	

# SEPTEMBER 2025

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# Pre-K-8 Lunch Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 No School	Beef Hot Dog on Bun Mustard, Ketchup, Relish Smiley Potatoes Fresh Broccoli /ranch Fresh Orange *NR baked wedges	Homestyle Sloppy Joe on Bun Tossed Salad w/dressing Corn on the Cob Fresh Peach	4 Chicken and Waffles w/BBQ Sauce, Syrup Steamed Carrots Cole Slaw Fresh Plums	Homestyle Mac & Cheese Turkey Ham Slice Dinner Roll Red Beans Cauliflower w/ranch Fresh Apple
8 Pulled BBQ Turkey on Bun Popeye Salad w/dressing Grape Tomatoes Fresh Orange	9 Beef Taco Shredded Cheese, Salsa Lettuce, Sour cream Spanish Rice Pinto Beans Baby Carrots Wiranch Fresh Plums	10 Chicken Bowl w/Corn, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Popcorn Chicken Sliced Bread Fresh Apple	Baked Potato w/Homestyle Chili, Shredded Cheese, Sour Cream, Butter Dinner Roll Fresh Celery w/ranch Fresh Peach	12Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Garlic Bread Steamed Carrots Fresh Cauliflower w/ranch Variety Fresh Fruit
Chicken Patty on Bun w/mayonnaise Waffle Fries Cole Slaw Diced Peaches	Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread Steamed Broccoli Baby Carrots w/ranch Fresh Orange	17 Sweet & Sour Chicken Brown Rice Scooby Snacks Red Beans Grape Tomatoes Pineapple Tidbits	18 Cheeseburger on Bun Lettuce, Tomatoes, Pickles, Mustard & Ketchup Baked Wedges Fresh Cauliflower w/ranch Fresh Apple	19 Homestyle Salisbury Steak Dinner Roll Mashed Potatoes Fresh Zucchini wRanch Fruit Cocktail
26rilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Steamed Broccoli Fresh Celery w/Ranch Fresh Apple	23 French Bread Pizza Steamed Corn Grape Tomatoes w/ranch Diced Pears	24 Chicken Drumstick, Breaded Cornbread Pinto Beans Fresh Squash w/ranch Fresh Grapes	25 Beef Hot Dog on Bun Mustard, Ketchup, Relish Tator Tots Baby Carrots w/ranch Sliced Peaches	26 WG Pancakes Turkey Sausage Patty Hashbrowns Dragon Punch Fresh Orange
29 Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad w/dressing Steamed Corn Fruit Cocktail	30 Burrito Bowl w/Beef Taco Meat, Black Beans, and Rice Goldfish Graham Fresh Broccoli w/ranch Fresh Orange	1	2	3



# News NATIONAL CHEEESEBURGER DAY

September 18th

#### Served Daily:

Cold 1% White Milk Cold Skim White Milk Cold 1% Chocolate Milk Cold 1% Strawberry Milk 2nd Meal Option:

#### Variety of Specialty Salads Or Deli Sandwiches Vegetarian Options:

Mixed Lettuce Salad Sunflower Jelly Sandwich Cheese Filled Bosco Stick Popeye Salad w/Cheese Stick

Grilled Cheese Sandwich