

LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATOR

Winter 2022



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Early Childhood/Elementary Schools

Early Childhood Center	9600 NE 79th St. KCMO 64158	736-5324	Sarah Birk, Principal Bart Tittle, Asst. Principal
Alexander Doniphan	1900 Clay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5400	Beth Cunningham, Principal Chavis Clawson, Asst. Principal
EPiC Elementary	650 Conistor Liberty, MO 64068	736-5730	Michelle Schmitz, Principal
Franklin	201 W. Mill Street Liberty, MO 64068	736-5440	Andy Wright, Principal Jaysa Hartman, Asst. Principal
Kellybrook	10701 N. Eastern Ave. KCMO 64157	736-5700	Andrea Wilson, Principal Kayli Burrell, Asst. Principal
Lewis and Clark	1407 Nashua Liberty, MO 64068	736-5430	Mitch Hiser, Principal Dawn Shannon, Asst. Principal
Liberty Oaks	8150 N. Farley KCMO 64158	736-5600	Shannon Thompkins, Principal Jeanne Hinnenkamp, Asst. Principal
Lillian Schumacher	425 Claywoods Pkwy. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5490	Chris Gabriel, Principal Jaysa Hartman, Asst. Principal Amy Toeppen, Asst. Principal
Manor Hill	1400 Skyline Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5460	Valerie Utecht, Principal Jordan Williamson, Asst. Principal
Ridgeview	701 Thornton Liberty, MO 64068	736-5450	Tyler Shannon, Principal Heather Buckman, Asst. Principal
Shoal Creek	9000 NE Flintlock Rd. KCMO 64157	736-7150	Christy Boman, Principal Jamie Ackart, Asst. Principal
Warren Hills	1251 Camille St. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5630	Michelle Swierski, Principal Matthew Krohne, Asst. Principal

Secondary Schools

Discovery Middle School	800 Midjay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-7300	Greg Mees, Principal Courtney Dickerson, Asst. Principal
Heritage Middle School	600 W. Kansas Liberty, MO 64068	736-5380	Reagan Allegri, Principal Ryan Dahm, Asst. Principal Jennifer Selock, Asst. Principal
Liberty Middle School	1500 S. Withers Rd. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5410	Jeremy Bradham, Principal Shirley Kantola, Asst. Principal
South Valley Middle School	1000 Midjay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-7180	Jill Mullen, Principal Whitney Weakley, Asst. Principal Joe Lutes, Asst. Principal
Liberty High School	200 Blue Jay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5340	April Adams, Principal Bridget Herrman, Asst. Principal David McDorman, Asst. Principal Michael Sharp, Asst. Principal Sara Wickham, Asst. Principal Jason Cahill, Activities Director
Liberty North High School	1000 NE 104th St. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5500	Precious Kurth, Principal Lee Allen, Asst. Principal Josh Baldwin, Asst. Principal Rosemary Camp, Asst. Principal Brandon McCoy, Asst. Principal Lane Green, Activities Director
Liberty Academy Alt. School	1115 Blackberry Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5470	Melissa Norris, Director of Alternative Education

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Drew Marriott
drew.marriott@lps53.org

Karen Rogers
karen.rogers@lps53.org

Liberty Public Schools

District Offices
8 Victory Lane
Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 736-5300

Superintendent

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker

Website

www.lps53.org

from the Superintendent

A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION



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I hope this message finds you doing well and enjoying some of these beautiful moments of Fall. It has been an exciting time for us in Liberty Public Schools, beginning back on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, with the official first day of school. As you know, it has been an interesting journey for all of us the past few years as we have navigated through some unprecedented times.

As our over 12,500 students returned to school in August, something we heard often from our families was how elated they were to be able to physically engage with their respective schools. Most of our families had not had the opportunity to be physically present in our schools since prior to our spring break in March 2020. As this year unfolds, we are excited to not only welcome back families into our schools, but also return to so many of our engagement opportunities for students, staff, and families alike. Familiar scenes such as holiday classroom parties, school dances and other functions, school musical performances, and so much more are again commonplace all around LPS. As challenging as these past few years have been, it is important for us to reflect and not take for granted these amazing experiences that we are provided. If you are anything like me, you have caught yourself taking in the smell of popcorn at a ballgame, the sound of excitement and joy of children on the playground at recess, or the simple sight of a classroom of students interacting with one another while working on group projects. These are all sights, sounds, and smells that we would have taken for granted prior to March of 2020. They are now all things that we value and cherish together.

With us now several months into the 2022-2023 school year, great things are happening and there is so much to celebrate in Liberty Public Schools. Individual school, student, staff, team, and community awards are being

accepted on a near daily basis. The following pages in this publication will provide you with the evidence that we continue to be an incredible, high-performing school district. And these are certainly all worthy of celebration. But the biggest celebration for us should be that we are back in our respective school environments that have a look and feel like one in which we had doubts we would ever see again. And none of this would be possible without you. As we now pivot to the next chapter, I must provide you with another message of gratitude for the patience, flexibility, and grace that you displayed to our entire LPS community.

I wish you and your family nothing but the best as we soon approach the upcoming holiday season. And don't forget to appreciate all of the amazing sights, sounds, and smells that you may have once taken for granted.

Be Well!

*Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker,
Superintendent - Liberty Public Schools*



On the cover

This year's Liberty High School and Liberty North High School Homecoming Queens and Kings. More on them can be found on page 6.

If you would like more information about Liberty School District, please contact the Communications Office at 736-5300, or visit our website at www.lps53.org.





FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Telling the LPS Story

In Liberty Public Schools, several social media platforms that we have in place provide us with the opportunity to tell our story. One of these platforms is Twitter, where we share updates daily. Provided are some Tweets that were shared this semester to help tell the LPS story. In addition, you will find all of our school Twitter handles and hashtags below, and we encourage you to give them a follow!

Name	Account	Hashtag
Elementary Schools		
Alexander Doniphan	@ADdolphins	#lpsad
EPiC	@EpicElementary	#lpsepic
Franklin	@LPSFranklinElem	#lpsfranklin
Kellybrook	@KBElementary	#kbcougars
Lewis and Clark	@lclblazers	#lclblazers
Liberty Oaks	@libertyoaks	#libertyoaks
Lillian Schumacher	@LillianSchuElem	#lssharks
Manor Hill	@MHPatriot	#mhpatriot
Ridgeview	@RVRoadrunner	#rvroadrunner
Shoal Creek	@ShoalCreekStars	#starssc
Warren Hills	@WHWildcats	#whcats
Middle Schools		
Discovery Middle School	@dmsbluejays	#dmsleads
Heritage Middle School	@heritagescoop	#heritagem
Liberty Middle School	@LibertyLMS	#LMSsoars
South Valley Middle School	@svmsEagles	#svmseagles
High Schools		
Liberty Academy	@LibAcademy	#LPSAcademy
Liberty High School	@LHSJAYS	#lhsjays
Liberty North High School	@LNEagleNews	#northnation



LPS Named a System of Distinction

Cognia, the global school improvement organization that helps grow learners, teachers, and leaders, has announced its list of Schools of Distinction among Cognia accredited schools and districts, and Liberty Public Schools has made the list! The Schools of Distinction earn this recognition based on the results of Cognia's rigorous Accreditation Engagement Review process.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Cognia conducted approximately 1,500 school engagement reviews for accreditation. This year, 96 schools and 38 systems in 34 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and nine countries are recognized. The number of institutions reviewed and those that earn this designation vary from year to year. Winners carry the designation for one year.

"Congratulations to the 2022 Schools and Systems of Distinction for demonstrating excellence in education in meeting the Cognia Performance Standards," said Cognia President and CEO Dr. Mark A. Elgart. "Based on the results of their 2021-2022 accreditation reviews, each of these schools and systems demonstrated evidence of growth in learning, a healthy culture for learning, engaging and high-quality instructional environments, and effective leadership for learning."

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work and passion put forth by our students, staff, families, and community," said LPS Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Tucker. "We are proud to be a part of this designation, and fully understand that it is truly a team effort."



Cognia is a global, nonprofit improvement organization dedicated to helping institutions and other education providers grow learners, teachers, and leaders. Cognia offers accreditation and certification, assessment, and professional services within a framework of continuous improvement. Serving 36,000 public and private institutions from early learning through high school in more than 90 countries, Cognia brings a global perspective to advancing teaching and learning. Find out more at cognia.org.

Coffee with the Community

Virtual Series Returns in '22-'23

The Liberty Public Schools engagement series, Coffee with the Community, returns for another year in '22-'23. These interactive virtual sessions are streamed on the LPS Facebook page as part of Facebook Live, and officially kicked off on Thursday, September 15, 2022 with an update from Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Tucker. Over 600 viewers tuned in for the first event, with those joining able to submit questions live. On Thursday, October 27, 2022 we were joined by LPS Safety and Security Director, Mr. Gary Majors, who shared valuable information regarding our district's safety and security efforts. All of these virtual events can be viewed in archived format on both our LPS Facebook page and YouTube channel. Next to this paragraph you can find the remainder of the 2022-2023 virtual Coffee with the Community schedule:



Thursday November 17, 2022: Fentanyl/Drug Awareness with LPS Director of Health Services Kathy Ellermeier

Thursday, December 15, 2022: Long Range/Facility master Planning Update with LPS Chief Operations Officer Steve Anderson and Kevin Nelson with Hollis+Miller Architects

Thursday, January 19, 2023: Office of Equity update with Dr. Andrea Dixon-Seahorn

Thursday, February 16, 2023: Real-World Learning Opportunities with Colleen Jones and several students from the program

Thursday, March 30, 2023: Topic to be Announced

Thursday, April 27, 2023: LPS State of the District update with Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Tucker

The search is on!

Liberty Public Schools is seeking exceptional people to join our team.

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LPS

News & Notes

EPiC Elementary Named 2022 Blue Ribbon School

EPiC Elementary has been named a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes outstanding examples of great American schools. EPiC Elementary was awarded under the "Exemplary High Performing Schools" category.

"National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation. A National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing a school's entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning," the U.S. Department of Education writes.

"EPiC" stands for "Every Person is Inspired to Create," and Liberty Public Schools is proud of how the community at EPiC Elementary is living out that statement. Students are empowered to be creative, equipped with an entrepreneurial and innovative spirit, and learn to engage with the community to make an impact.

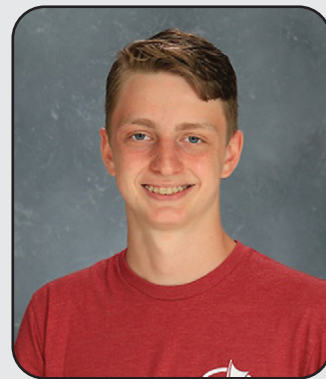
Now, the community of learners, educators and staff at EPiC Elementary are being recognized nationally for what makes them great.

EPiC is one of only 297 National Blue Ribbon Schools nation-wide, and one of just eight in Missouri to receive this prestigious recognition for 2022.



National Merit Scholarship Program Qualifier

Congratulations to Liberty High School Senior Ethan Burnham, son of Brian and Meredith Burnham, for qualifying as a Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. This is a highly competitive academic competition students qualify for by taking the PSAT/NMSQT test during their junior year. Ethan has the opportunity to continue in the competition to become a National Merit Finalist, which includes several requirements to advance.



Homecoming Royalty!

Liberty was full of excitement on Friday evening, September 30, 2022, as both Liberty High School and Liberty North High School celebrated their respective homecoming events. The weather could not have been better for the traditional activities, which included: pep rallies, community celebrations, the dance, and of course, the football games!



Liberty High School Senior Britta Foust was named 2022 Homecoming Queen, and Senior Ricky Ahumaraeze was named Homecoming King on Friday night, September 30, 2022.



Liberty North High School Seniors Bailey Garrison and Jorge Ruiz were announced as homecoming royalty at halftime of the football game held Friday night, September 30, 2022.





In Summer 2022, the Liberty Education Foundation launched a new annual program for Liberty Public Schools rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. The Foundation partnered with William Jewell College's Tucker Leadership Lab to develop and facilitate a customized experience just for Liberty Public Schools students. The THRIVE Institute was a three-day program and free to every student who signed up.

The content was centered around the five categories of the LPS Graduate Profile: Academic, Professional, Cultural, Personal and Entrepreneurial. In addition to the engaging and practical life skills lessons, students heard from five inspiring keynote speakers and had the opportunity to take a deep dive into areas of personal interest through our real world learning labs, facilitated by nearly 15 accomplished leaders in their fields.

In its first year, 50 students from Liberty and Liberty North High Schools participated. One student shared a reflection stating, "I learned how to spend money and how to save it properly, how to be a good listener, how to make a resume correctly and in the best way possible, as well as networking - so how to get to know people and build connections from them."

The dates for the 2023 THRIVE Institute will be announced soon!



On Friday, September 30, 2022, Liberty High School inducted its 2022 Hall of Fame Class. A reception was held at Johnnie's Jazz Bar and Grill in Liberty, Missouri. Afterward, the class of inductees and their guests joined the Liberty High School Homecoming pregame festivities.



The 2022 inductees include:

EVAN N. CLARK - Class of 2002

Evan N. Clark graduated in 2002. While at Liberty, Evan was an outstanding tennis player, where today he holds most of the men's team records. Evan is currently the women's tennis coach at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. With a perfect 31-0 record, Evan took home the 2002 Missouri High School 4A State Singles Championship and was voted the Kansas City Star Tennis Male Athlete of the Year. He went on to be named First-Team All-Mid-Continent Conference following his collegiate debut season. He served as captain of the UMKC's men's tennis team from 2002-04. During the 2004-05 season, he wrapped up his collegiate career as a member of the Arkansas men's tennis program before returning to UMKC to earn his degree in psychology. Accompanying Evan off the courts is his wife, Katelynn, as well as their son, Tripp and daughters, Harper, Quinn and Leighton.



2022 Hall of Fame inductees able to attend the activities pose for a photo at Liberty High School on Friday, September 30, 2022. Pictured (L-R) were: Lindsay Shively, Robert E. Estes III, Madison Duello, and Chad Fleming.

LAUREN E. TUCKER MCCUBBIN - Class of 1997

Lauren Tucker McCubbin graduated in 1997. She was very active in high school as Scholar Bowl captain, yearbook co-editor, and Spectator Queen runner-up. She was also active in National Honor Society, Key Club, TREND, concert choir, and earned a Hope Award during her time at LHS. Lauren is credited for helping start the Mock Trial club at LHS where she later served as a coach and state judge. She currently serves as Commercial Litigation Vice Chair with the Polsinelli Law Firm in Kansas City. She focuses her work on complex commercial litigation. She was named a Top Litigator Under 40' in

Missouri in 2016 and is currently the 2022-2023 president of the Missouri Bar. After graduating cum laude from Wellesley College in 2000 and Washington University Law School in 2003, she feels passionately about improving the local community where she grew up. She currently serves as a board member at the Kc Repertory Theatre and is a mentor at the Student Law Academy. Prior to joining Polsinelli, she served as a law clerk for Missouri Supreme Court Judge William Ray Price Jr. She currently resides in Liberty with her husband Gabe and children Paige, Ainsley, and James.

TURNER STATON - Class of 2014

Turner Staton graduated in 2014. He is credited with being the very first Spirit Leader at Liberty High School and the originator of the famous Roller Coaster Cheer. As part of the LHS Leadership class, you can also find him in the original lib dub video for 2013-2014. He was a stand-out actor and vocalist at LHS, which culminated in playing Kerchak in LHS's production of Disney's Tarzan his senior year, earning him a Blue Star Award for Outstanding Actor in a Lead Role. Liberty also took home the top prize of Outstanding Overall Production. He was also recognized with MSHSAA's top honor for Best Actor for his role of Macbeth in the one act production of Macbeth. His degrees include an Artists Diploma from William Jewell College, a Master's from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor's from Pepperdine University. In 2022, Turner finished his tenure as an Apprentice Artist with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City where he performed in numerous top productions. Turner currently resides in Englewood, Colorado where he is a 2022-2023 Resident Artist for Opera Colorado and will be seen in the touring productions of The Pirates of Penzance (Pirate King), and Romeo & Juliet (Capulet/Tybal). Look for a special video presentation from Turner this evening.



2022 Liberty High School Hall of Fame inductees view a special video presentation prior to the homecoming football game on Friday night, September 30, 2022.

CHAD FLEMING - Class of 2001

Chad Fleming graduated in 2001 and had a terrific high school basketball career for the Blue Jays. He led the men's team to the 2001 State Championship. He is the 7th All-Time leading scorer in the program and is the only player to record a Triple Double in a single game with 18 points, 20 rebounds, and 10 assists. He was an All-Conference award winner multiple times, and All-District player twice, and an All-State performer in 2001. Chad earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from Northwest Missouri State. Following graduation from college, he became a dedicated teacher and coach and was awarded KC Coach of the Year in 2018. After leaving the education field, he has become very successful in the business sector as an insurance broker with Fleming & Associates, LLC. Chad and his wife April live in Kansas City where their two boys Braylen and Jace attend Shoal Creek Elementary.

MADISON DUELLO - Class of 2015

Madison Duello graduated in 2015. She was active in National Honor Society, Key Club, and the Educational Internship Program, working with elementary students of the district. It's her skills on the volleyball court that earned her spot in the LHS Hall of Fame. As one of the top ten prospects in the nation, Madison was recruited heavily and received a volleyball scholarship at the University of Wisconsin. After a near career-ending ACL injury her freshman year, Madison's grit and determination allowed her to work her way back into the starting lineup, eventually earning the America Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All American honors as well as accolades on Big10 All Conference teams. While at Wisconsin, the Badgers won the Big Ten Title in 2019, (22-6 overall, 18-2 Big Ten) and were narrowly defeated in the National Championship by Stanford. Madison has returned "home" to Liberty, where she has started her first year as a fifth grade teacher at Shoal Creek Elementary. She has also rejoined her alma mater as an assistant volleyball coach.

LINDSAY SHIVELY - Class of 2002

Lindsay Shively graduated in 2002. Her dream of being a reporter goes all the way back to working with KLJHS in junior high as a student broadcaster. She joined KSHB-TV in 2009, where she is currently one of their morning show anchors. Lindsay has offered her time back to Liberty Public Schools including guest appearances. For a high school program to really "get on the map," it often takes a student to shine and display professionalism, passion, and determination to make it happen. The Liberty High School Broadcasting Program (KLHS-TV News) had established itself by the early 2000's, but it was Lindsay who made her mark with her on-air talents and passion for broadcasting. She took her talents and passions to the University of Missouri and the prestigious "J-School" following high school. She would end up returning to her roots in 2009, landing a position at Kansas City's NBC affiliate, KSHB-TV Channel 41. Lindsay has traveled to cover everything from F-5

tornadoes to high profile court cases. In 2014, she embedded with the Missouri National Guard to tell the story of America's longest war. While she covered a great KU Championship on the road, she is a die-hard Mizzou Tigers, Royals and Chiefs fan. She resides in Kansas City with her husband Sebastian and daughter Svea.

ROBERT E. ESTES III - Class of 1978

Robert E. Estes III graduated in 1978. He grew up in Excelsior Springs, MO and moved to Liberty his sophomore year. While at Liberty High School, he left a lasting legacy in the Liberty community as being one of the best athletes to ever come out of Liberty High School - and possibly the city of Liberty. At 6 foot 6 inches tall, he was a gifted basketball player and track and field team members. During his senior basketball season, he amassed 530 rebounds (20.8 avg/game), ranking him 7th overall in MSHSAA history. Robert holds many basketball records to this day and was also an outstanding high jumper on the track team Robert went on to play basketball at Iowa State and was the only Cyclone on and All-Big Eight team in 1981 as an honorable mention pick. He scored 1,259 career points, had 95 assists, 60 steals, 48 blocks, and pulled down 634 rebounds. He entered the 1982 NBA Draft and was selected in the 10th Round, 210th Overall, by the KansasCity Kings. Robert graduated from Iowa State University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.Sc.) in Sociology. He currently resides in Los Angeles, CA with his wife Helene. He is a security officer with Allied Universal.



Liberty High School Principal, Dr. April Adams, congratulates 2022 hall of fame inducted Chad Fleming on the field prior to the homecoming game on Friday night, September 30, 2022.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2022 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES. YOU MAKE LPS PROUD!

CHARACTER TRAITS RECOGNITION



SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

Back Row, Left to Right: Debra Doering (FastKick Martial Arts), Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts), Chavis Clawson (Alexander Doniphan), Ed Hughes (Northland Rolladium Skate Center), Nancy Bishop (Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce)

Middle Row, Left to Right: Abby Jewell (Alexander Doniphan), Karen Rogers (LPS Board of Education), Joyce Olson (Hy-Vee)

Front Row, Left to Right: Alex Carr (Alexander Doniphan), Greenly Perkins (Alexander Doniphan)



OCTOBER 14, 2022

Back Row (L-R): Joyce Olson (Hy-Vee), Drew Marriott (LPS Board of Education), Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts), Jeff Klein (ServPro), Ed Hughes (Northland Rolladium Skate Center)

Front Row (L-R) Kolton Williams (Shoal Creek), Easton Berry (Shoal Creek), Cayton Kennedy (Kellybrook), Penny Jenek (Kellybrook), Ayanna Garcia-Roja (Liberty Oaks), Giovanni Feliciano-Rosario (Liberty Oaks)

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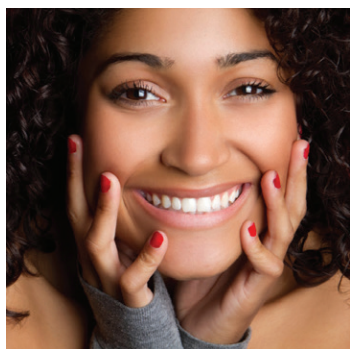
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