



## From the Desk of Mr. Osborn, Superintendent

Each school year goals are established that will lead to higher student achievement. We collaborate as an administrative team to design the implementation. Each Principal takes these goals to their Building Leadership Teams and they design building goals that align with the district goals. The purpose of this process to create a learning organization that has clear targets for which we can evaluate our success and continue improving for the benefit of the children in our district. We want everyone in our organization to take an active ownership in our student success.

Goal 1: More Visibility Means More Value. Leaders are responsible for creating the best conditions for student learning. This goal will focus on the need for immediate feedback to keep students engaged in their learning.

Goal 2: Culture before Strategy: The focus of this goal is looking at every practice, policy, and procedure to make sure it is in the best interest of students. Everyone must monitor the results and determine if these results are meeting the needs of our children in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Goal 3: Ownership: Our goal is to create solutions to problems and not blame. No finger pointing at LU-T. We will hold ourselves accountable and continue working to meet the needs of children and build our student success.

If you can help us achieve our goals please feel free to make suggestions by sending me an email [osborntodd@libertyunion.org](mailto:osborntodd@libertyunion.org).

### A few housekeeping items:

Inclement Weather Hard to believe but we want to remind everyone, if school would be canceled due to inclement weather, the Liberty Union-Thurston district website will post the closing. [www.libertyunion.org](http://www.libertyunion.org)

We will continue to use of the automated communication tool called One Call Now. We will load the primary phone number you gave us at the beginning of the year and you should receive a phone call, informing you of the school closing. Feel free to call the Main Office of your child's school and make sure they have the proper phone number you want called.

If you do not receive a phone call, please contact the Main Office of your child's school, so your phone number will be updated in our system. The local television stations will also be notified to help communicate the closing of Liberty Union-Thurston Local Schools.

Principals will also use the One Call Now system to update programs, events and deadlines throughout the school year. We hope this system allows us to communicate more effectively and conveniently with all the parents in our district. One Call Now has some other features which include text and email updates that we plan to use in the near future. I will keep you informed of these new opportunities when we start using them.

Busing Students are not permitted to ride home on another student's bus without prior approval from the Building Principal or Transportation Director, **Mr. Kevin Mapes**. Our buses are filled to their legal limit and bus drivers are not permitted to allow extra riders. Feel free to call the office and speak to Mr. Mapes, 740-862-4171, or the building principal if an emergency should arise and transportation is an issue. We will help get the situation resolved.



## This month's Tech Teacher of the month is **Keith Robinson!**



He is doing some pretty cool things with his history class. He has taken over Room 19 (Studio 19) for his LU4U video production using a green screen. He is also all over social media with Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. He has his own YouTube channel as well. He was even *Skyping* another school in Oklahoma when we presented the trophy to him. He was nominated by not only students but his colleagues as well. I would like to

say **Congratulations!** and keep up the great work!

If you would like to nominate a teacher for this award you can find the link on the Intranet. Every teacher is eligible for the Tech Teacher of the Month and Quarter, with the Quarter winner receiving a monetary stipend for his or her classroom.

**Keith Scheidegger** (right), a Liberty Union senior, at the Fairfield Career Center in Auto Technologies was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



### 2015 - 2016 LU-T Events

Month	Date	Time	Bldg	Event
Oct	6	7:00	HS	Music Boosters (music room)
Oct	7	7:00	HS	Athletic Booster Mtg
Oct	8	7:00	Elem	Booster Meeting
Oct	12-16		All Bldgs	<b>NO SCHOOL - Fairfield County Fair</b>
Oct	17	7:00	HS	Music Boosters (music room)
Oct	22-24		Land Lab	Athletic Booster Field of Screams Haunted Forest
Oct	31	4:30	HS	Bingo
Nov	3	7:00	HS	Music Boosters
Nov	4	7:30	HS	Athletic Boosters
Nov	5	7:00	Elem	Booster Meeting
Nov	7	4:30	HS	Bingo
Nov	13		All Bldgs	<b>2-Hour Late Arrival</b>
Nov	13		All Bldgs	Interim Reports *
Nov	21	4:30	HS	Bingo
Nov	25-27		All Bldgs	<b>NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break</b>
Dec	1	6:30	Elem	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir @ Griley House
Dec	1	7:00	HS	Music Booster Meeting
Dec	2	7:30	HS	Athletic Booster (Café)
Dec	3	7:00	Elem	Booster Meeting
Dec	3	7:00	HS	Winter HS Concert
Dec	5	4:30	HS	Bingo
Dec	15	7:00	MS	Winter MS Concert
Dec	19	4:30	HS	Bingo
Dec	22		MS	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grading Period
Dec	23-31		All Bldgs	<b>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break</b>
Jan	1-4		All Bldgs	<b>NO SCHOOL - Winter Break Continues</b>
Jan	5		All Bldgs	School Resumes



## Welcome to Liberty Union High School



LUHS is off to a great start for the 2015-2016 school year.

The students and staff have directed their focus, dedication, and hard work toward our ultimate goal of **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**.

**Oh, the Places You'll Go.** . . . It is often said that you can't determine where you are going, until you understand where you have been. At the beginning of the school year, all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to tell the story of their life through technology. Through **Mrs. Driscoll's** English class, students discovered several multimedia tools, which then were incorporated into a presentation of their story. Students tied music and video clips into their projects that represented significant events of their past. The students gained public speaking, technology, and organization skills through this personalized project.

**And the Band Play On and On.** . . . The 2015 Marching Lions have taken to the streets and fields. Under the direction of **Mr. Gaskins**, the band started their pre-season camp with an intense week of training at the University of Rio Grande. Upon returning from camp, the band provided a showcase to families and friends who were waiting for their return. The Marching Lions have been extremely busy with daily practices, playing at the staff opening convocation, performing in the Baltimore and Sweetcorn Festival parades, exciting the fans at pep rallies and games, and focusing their vision on upcoming local and State competitions. The title of this year's show is "The Samurai and the Maiden." Come out and support our hand working Lions!

**Homecoming 2015** The festivities surrounding the 2015 LUHS Homecoming incorporated events for the entire community. The parade/bonfire/celebration was open to the public and offered games and food for all. Many thanks to the businesses who supported this amazing event. The annual Chicken BBQ dinner served 1155 dinners in which patrons commented on the hard work and tasty food prepared by the FFA students. **Kenlea Weaver** and **Adam Taylor** were crowned as the 2015 Homecoming Queen and King. The week long festivities concluded with the Homecoming Dance in the high school gym. Our students were dressed to impress as they danced the night away!



# Middle School Lion Pride

## Middle School Students Mastering Edotyping

All of the middle school students, grades 5 through 8 will receive training in the computer lab to master their typing skills. The students are using a program titled Edotyping which allows them to work at their own pace in learning the keyboard and correct fingering to increase typing accuracy and speed.



## Fifth Grade Math Project - TP

Students in the fifth grade are starting their toilet paper projects. This is a project-based learning activity that students complete throughout the year. The students first make math questions that they want to answer about a roll of toilet paper. After the questions are finalized, they begin solving problems that were taught in earlier grades, and as the fifth grade goes on, new topics are taught and solved throughout the year. They come up with different methods on how to solve each problem in small groups and explain the way they



thought was best in solving these problems. Mr. Bethel has seen improvement in thinking skills when doing these project-based activities.

## LU4U

Did you know Liberty Union Middle School has its own news broadcast? This year a group of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have created LU4U News: a bi-weekly news program that's written, directed, filmed and edited by students. The LU4U news team has interviewed teachers, coaches, athletes, and students who have remarkable, but sometimes unnoticed talents. As they get more accustomed to how running a news channel works, they plan to interview people within the greater-Baltimore community. These news casts are shown every-other Friday at lunch in the school's cafeteria. If you'd like to check out LU4U News for yourself, please subscribe to their YouTube channel by searching LU4U News, or go to the Middle School website and follow the link there.



Liberty Union Middle School Up-Coming Events:	
October 9	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks
October 9	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Yankee Candle Fundraiser Orders Due
October 12 - 16	NO SCHOOL - Fairfield County Fair
November 5	Parent / Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:00 pm
November 12	Parent / Teacher Conferences 4:30 - 8:00 pm
November 13	Interim Reports



*From the Desk of Mrs. Rainey . . . . .*

## Great Things Are Happening at the Elementary

Our school year is off to a good start. Our students and teachers are excited to get back to project-based activities, ST Math, educational field trips, book studies, and learning, learning, learning. Beginning almost immediately in August, every student was assessed to determine their current skill levels in reading, writing, and math. Goals have been set and instruction is aligned to individual student goals. (At right - See **Mrs. McCarthy's** class's "I Can" statements checked off after students had mastered the objectives.)



**R.I.M.Ps** By Ohio law, a R.I.M.P. (Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan) will be sent to the parents/guardian of every student who was determined to be "not on-track" for meeting end-of-grade level objectives in reading by the end of the school year based on assessment data. A RIMP is a flexible description (it can be adjusted at any time) of why your child is reading below level and how the school and parents can work together toward "on track" reading performance. If your child is on a R.I.M.P. this school year, your child's teacher will be contacting you in October to discuss it with you.



## Co-Teaching with C.O.S.I. Miss Lehman's and Mrs. Lauvray's classes

were lucky enough to be chosen to participate in a program with C.O.S.I. Students used inquiry-based learning to develop a deep understanding of science concepts. **Mrs. Lauvray's** class tested hypotheses on erosion and how it reshapes the earth's surface. In small groups, students developed questions and then designed models of

ivers. It was messy, but very effective! **Miss Lehman's** students designed questions about the effects of weight and design on flight. (Left: **Miss Lehman's** class testing their hypotheses with paper airplanes! Right: **Sage Hamilton** and **Landon Baughman** shared posters that include their data.)



**Constitution Day** Students in every class celebrated Constitution Day (September 17) in many ways. First and Second grade students worked in teams to develop rules for many locations in our school including the halls, the restrooms, and the cafeteria. Students placed posters around the school to help their fellow classmates understand the expectations. (Pictured are students from **Miss Ross's** class, who designed rules for the cafeteria.)



## Important High School Dates

October 6 - Curriculum Night (If you missed it, check with your child's teacher for any information given to parents.)

October 7 - Title 1 Meeting for parents of students who are served by our Title 1 (reading) teachers

October 12-16 - Fair Break-No School

November 10 and 12 - 4:30-8:00-Parent Teacher Conferences

November 30-December 3 - Book Fair

December 9 and 10 - Third Grade Testing (Please be sure to avoid appointments on these days.)

Follow us on Twitter at LUElementary



# Stay Connected and Informed

In a world filled with instant communication cycles, we feel like we are more "in the know" than ever before. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, websites, blogs, podcasts. . . I could go on and on. As the Information Age continues to progress, I wanted to make sure that you are connected to the variety of communication tools that Liberty Union-Thurston Local School District is using to keep you up to date and "in the know."

**Twitter:** Our schools, many teachers, the district office, and a variety of groups (such as sports teams and student groups) have Twitter accounts. Here are a few to get you started:

- LUT District @lutlions
- Curriculum Department @LU\_Curriculum
- Technology Department @LU\_Technology

**Facebook:** The official Facebook page for the LUT District is

<https://www.facebook.com/libertyunionthurstonlocalschools>

**District Website:** Your "go to" connection for information regarding LUT should be the district website.

Add it to your favorites! <http://www.libertyunion.org/> Also, stay in the loop and get email communications from LUT by signing up here: <http://www.libertyunion.org/Communication>

**One Call Now:** Make sure your contact information is up to date for our automated phone call service

<http://www.libertyunion.org/Content2/onecallnow>

**Ohio Department of Education:** The ODE has a new email delivery system that will contact you with alerts of new information related to the topics that you choose. Sign up today at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/OHED/subscriber/new>

At LUT we strive to communicate early and often with facts, details, and important information that affects your child's education. I hope that these communication tools will only help to further your connection with LUT!

If you have any questions related to LUT Curriculum, please contact me directly at 740-862-4171 or [blackstonej@libertyunion.org](mailto:blackstonej@libertyunion.org)

From the desk of *Jennifer Blackstone*, Curriculum Director

**INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (NOTIFICATION)** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) includes a requirement for all school districts to locate, identify and evaluate all students, below the age of twenty-two, who reside within the district and have a suspected or confirmed disability, in accordance with all Federal and State standards. The Liberty Union-Thurston Local School District is committed to fulfilling the intent of IDEA. The parent / guardian of any child who is suspected of having a disability, and is not currently identified, should contact the principal of the school of attendance, or 740-862-4171.

From the Desk of Sara Hayes, Student Services Coordinator

**2015 FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAIR LU BOOTH** The Fairfield County Fair is Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and the fair booth organizers are looking for volunteers to make this year successful! The booth is a big fundraiser for the Athletic Boosters, Music Boosters and the Junior Class. This is a great way to become involved with the kids, parents and community. If interested email Tera Jenkins or Keeley Hankinson at [lufair@columbus.rr.com](mailto:lufair@columbus.rr.com) to schedule a work-time. Thank-You for your continued support!

**PROGRESS BOOK** Parents wanting a Progress Book account for their child or having a problem with an existing account should email:

Grades 9-12 email Mr. Tom Duplinsky: [duplinskyt@libertyunion.org](mailto:duplinskyt@libertyunion.org)

Grades 5-8 email Mrs. Elisa Fouts: [foutse@libertyunion.org](mailto:foutse@libertyunion.org)

Grade4 email Mrs Linda Young: [lyoung@libertyunion.org](mailto:lyoung@libertyunion.org)

**Student** account information is available for students in grades 9-12 through **Mrs. Debbie Howdyshell** and grades 5-8 through **Mrs. Lisa Fouts**. Thank you for participating in your child's education.

**LIBERTY UNION SCHOOLS FOOD SERVICE** Breakfast is available each morning in the school cafeteria for approximately twenty minutes prior to the start of school. Many choices are offered each day and every meal includes 100% fruit juice and/or milk. Breakfast cost is \$1.10 and is free to those students who qualify for either free or reduced price meals.

USDA regulations require that each student have a fruit or vegetable as part of the reimbursable meal. As part of the offer vs serve option, students are offered the five food groups, students must choose three of the five, and at least one must be a fruit or vegetable. The food service employees must enforce these regulations in order for the school district to receive the Federal funding for reimbursable meals. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact Jan Friedrich, Food Service Supervisor at 740-862-4126.

The LU-T School District participates in the "National School Lunch" Program. Through this program, qualifying students receive free or reduced-price lunches. Parents will receive free or reduced-price lunch enrollment forms with start-school information. For additional information or an enrollment form, please contact **Mrs. Jan Friedrich**, Food Service Supervisor, at 862-4126.

**TALENTED AND GIFTED (TAG) REFERRALS** The Liberty Union-Thurston Local School District will begin the screening process for the identification of "gifted" students in grades K-12. The identification process and eligibility criteria for the program were established by the Ohio Department of Education in House Bill 282. "Gifted" refers to students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkable high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment. The district uses a three-part approach to screen students who perform or show potential for performing at high levels of accomplishment in the areas of superior cognitive ability, specific academic ability, (i.e., reading, writing, math, social studies, science,) and creative thinking.

We are accepting written referrals from parents who want their child to take part in the screening process for gifted education. If you believe your child is "gifted" in one or more of the areas and would like a referral form or information about the process, please contact your student's principal by October 30, 2015. In general, superior cognitive and creative thinking testing is scheduled in the fall, and specific academic testing is completed in the spring. Referrals for Visual Arts and Music may be submitted now, with evaluations to be completed later in the school year.

A district / school committee will meet to evaluate all referrals and select students, who will begin the screening process in October.

Districts in Ohio are mandated to identify "gifted" students in grades K-12, but no additional funding has been given to the districts to provide more gifted educational programs.

### **Liberty Union Information Technology**

John LaBelle - IT Director

Dirk Crist - Technology Asst.

Kelley Savage - Technology Coach

Many upgrades and advancements to the technology of Liberty Union have taken place over the summer and are continuing into the school year. Many projects included upgrading our phone system, increasing the speed of our network, and increasing the usage of the technology in our school buildings.

One of our summer projects included upgrading our switches in the elementary building. We replaced 32 switches with 16 newer switches making the network 10 times faster.

To help improve communication between staff members, students and parents, we upgraded our email and phone systems. The staff is now using an in-house email system that offers many more features such as calendaring, scheduling and of course email. Our new phone system is an automated system that includes new services, features, and phones.

## Liberty Union Information Technology Continued



Along with these upgrades, the IT Department's number one goal was to increase the use of the technology in our classrooms. Teachers are taking advantage of the technology LU has to offer by using a new service, Google Classroom and Gmail as their primary communication tool between students and teacher. Students are using their devices in class every day to complete assignments, communicate with teachers, and take tests. To help with the increase in usage, the High School has a student led Tech Shop and Cyber Lounge.

The Tech Shop and Cyber Lounge are located in the Library and students are performing the necessary tasks to trouble shoot and resolve issues that their fellow students bring to them. The students working in the tech shop receive 0.5 technology credit per semester. These students also receive training from the IT Department weekly after school. The students participating in the tech shop also learn about networking, computer hardware and software, and learn advanced information technology skills.

