

Weather Cancellations Force Make-Up Days

Leipsic Local School District used its sixth calamity day during the last winter blast on Feb. 26th. As a result, **students and staff will be in classes the Monday after Easter, March 24.** The school will not be in session on Good Friday, March 21st.

If additional calamity days are needed, those days will be added at the end of the school year. State law now requires that all districts provide specific dates for make-up days as part of their school calendars. There are always rumors and speculations that the state will grant additional calamity days; however, it does not appear that will happen.

Besides the six calamity days, Leipsic Local School District has had a two-hour delayed opening on eleven different mornings this year.

Parent/Teacher Conferences Planned

Just a reminder that parent/teacher conferences are planned for Monday, March 10 from 3:15-7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 12 from 3:15-7:15 p.m. Teachers and administrators urge all parents to take advantage of this opportunity to talk about educational progress of Leipsic students.

Please feel free to call the elementary and high school offices to schedule appointments. You may also come to conferences without appointments if you are willing to wait to speak to teachers as necessary.

Kindergarten Registration Under-Way

Kindergarten registration for the 2008-09 school year is taking place right now. Specific kindergarten screening dates are planned for April. If you or someone you know has a child who will be five before September 30, 2008, please complete a registration form and return it to the elementary office as soon as possible.

Registration is necessary in order to plan for the number of sections needed for next school year.

Leipsic Board Will Meet March 11

Leipsic Local School Board of Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11 in the high school library conference room. Meeting time is 6:00 p.m. All interested parties are invited to attend.

New Diamond To Be Ready in '09

If all goes as planned, the high school baseball team will open its 2008-09 season on the new diamond located in the Charlie Bennett Athletic Complex.

This is a joint venture on the part of the school and the village to provide new athletic facilities. Long range plans also call for a high school softball diamond and a track.

Vikes News and Views

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HOST Volunteers Make a Difference for Kids

Our elementary HOSTS program offers outstanding reading support for young students who need some extra help in reading. It is only made possible because of Leipsic community members who are willing to take the time to mentor these youngsters.

While the academic help is very important, the relationship between the student and their mentor is also a critical key. Thank you, mentors, for taking the time to make the difference in the life of a child!

Hats Off to the Lady Vikes!!

Congratulations to Varsity Girls Basketball Team and Coach Kreinbrink and his assistants! It was a great season and exciting tournament action!

Leipsic Students Begin OGT March 10th

Sophomores and some juniors and seniors across the state of Ohio will be taking the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) during the week of March 10 thru March 14. Ohio students must pass all portions of the test by March of their senior year to qualify for high school graduation. Leipsic Board policy does not permit seniors to participate in the graduation ceremony if they have not met the OGT standards.

Students whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) excuses them from the consequence of having to pass the OGT may be awarded a diploma; however, students with IEPs must still take all portions of the test.

Specific test-taking times vary from school –to-school; however, all students take the same content test on the same day. That schedule includes: Monday, reading; Tuesday, math; Wednesday, writing; Thursday, science; and Friday, social studies. Students who are absent on the day of a specific test will take that test sometime during the week of March 17th. Scheduling for make-up tests will be done through the guidance office.

Students have up to two and one-half hours to take each of the tests. There are approximately 35 multiple-choice questions and up to eight written response items.

Teachers provided after-school help for all students Monday thru Thursday.

Parents who have children scheduled to take the OGT can help them be successful by making sure that they get plenty of sleep each day of the week along with providing a healthy breakfast to get the day started right. Resources for the OGT are available in the guidance office and on the Ohio Department of Education website.

First State of Leipsic Schools Presented to the Board of Education

This School District has accomplished a great deal in the past decade; however, education is constantly changing and if we are to provide our students with the tools needed for success, this District must continuously assess our strengths and weaknesses and make the changes needed to meet the demands not only of today, but also those of tomorrow.

Our success is documented annually in the Ohio Local District Report Card, and we have to monitor our progress in meeting the state benchmarks; however, we must also craft an academic program that reaches above and beyond the state expectations and suits the specific and unique needs of our District.

This is the first annual review of the academic program at Leipsic Local Schools prepared by the superintendent for the Leipsic Board of Education. Its purpose is to provide the Board with a vision for the future of the District supported by an analysis of our current academic program and recommendations to make that vision a reality. During the next few months, a similar analysis will be completed for other District components such as facilities, transportation, technology, etc.

ACADEMIC VISION FOR LEIPSIC LOCAL SCHOOLS

Leipsic Local Schools will be one of the educational leaders in developing a rigorous Kindergarten through 16 school setting.

Rationale: We are not adding additional years to any child's education but rather increasing the depth and quality of the existing academic program to encompass beginning college-level courses. We need to set higher expectations for all students and then provide the support to reach those expectations.

Leipsic Local Schools will do its best to see that every student leaves the district with a career pathway.

Rationale: Starting in the junior high levels, we will work with students and their parents in setting a definite educational plan for each child throughout their high school career. No longer is it acceptable to graduate without any idea about future goals and objectives. Students will become familiar with the college-prep programs such as High School of Business or math/science concentration, the Tech Prep classes such as Ag Business, and the Millstream opportunities.

Leipsic Local Schools will integrate technology across the curriculum.

Rationale: We need to better utilize technology into our content areas and shift away from the out-dated belief that technology is a content area in itself. Students and teachers must understand that technology is a learning tool for content areas to be used across the curriculum.

Leipsic Local Schools will better bridge the differences academically and culturally of its diverse population.

Rationale: We have not adequately focused on the how the individual child learns (learning styles) and what teaching methods (differentiated instruction) we might use to meet the needs of all children. This includes breaking down language as well as socio-economic barriers.

Leipsic students, staff and community will reflect a greater sense of pride and success in being part of this school system.

Rationale: The school is a vital part of this community and at times there seems to be little pride in who we are and what we accomplish. It is reflected in our actions, in our demeanor, and in our attitudes.