

# *Vikes News and Views*

Leipsic Local Schools

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## Math & Science June JUMP START Set

Leipsic math and science teachers will be offering *JUMP START 2008* during the first two weeks in June for students who may have struggled with these two content areas this school year.

Students who will be 7<sup>th</sup> graders when school opens next fall have Math *JUMP START* classes planned for June 2 through June 6 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Students who will be 9<sup>th</sup> graders have Science *JUMP START* classes during this same time period.

During the week of June 9 through June 13 from 8:30-11:30 a.m., there will be Math *JUMP START* classes for students who will be 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall.

All students at these grade levels are encouraged to attend these learning opportunities. It is especially important that students who have struggled in either or both math and science attend the *JUMP START* classes. Additional information about the Summer *JUMP START* will be sent home in May, and we ask parents to read it carefully and make an effort to send your children to this extra learning opportunity. We believe this may give them the hands-on experience that will help them at the next grade level.

Funds for *JUMP START 2008* are provided by the Ohio CORE grant.

## *Calendar of Special Events*

**Thurs., May 1** Junior High Band/Choir Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Gymnasium;

**Sat., May 3** LHS Junior/Senior Prom at 8:00 p.m. in the School Auditoria;

**Sun., May 4** Putnam County Art Show at 2:00 p.m. at Ft. Jennings Local School;

**Tues., May 6** Elementary Spring Art and Music Program for grades 4,5,6 in the High School Gymnasium;

**Wed., May 7** Community Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library;

**Mon., May 12** May School Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library;

**Tues., May 13** HOST Brunch at 9:15 a.m. in the Auditoria;

**Thurs., May 15** Elementary Awards Night at 6:30 and 7:15 p.m. in the Auditoria;

**Fri., May 16** LHS Senior Awards at 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium;

**Sun., May 18** Graduation for the Class of 2008 in the High School Gymnasium at 2:00 p.m.;

**Thurs., May 22** Last Day of School for Students;

**Mon., May 26** Memorial Day;

**Tues., June 3** Community Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

# *Community Meeting Planned for May 7*

## *Possible CFAP Construction Could Start in 2009*

The Leipsic Board of Education will host its first fact-finding Community Meeting for the next phase of the Leipsic Local School District Building project on Wednesday, May 7, 2008. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library, and everyone in the District is encouraged to attend.

The Leipsic Local Board of Education has been contacted by the Ohio School Facility Commission (OSFC) to complete the school district's facility master plan through OSFC's Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP). The OSFC's master plan for Leipsic includes an 112,000 ft<sup>2</sup> K-12 facility with a total budget of \$22.6 million. The master plan total budget costs would be shared with the State providing \$14.7 million (65%) and the school district's local share of \$7.9 million (35%).

Residents will remember that the Leipsic Board of Education held four Facility Focus Group Meetings in 2001-2002 inviting the community to participate in the facility master plan planning process. These focus group meetings produced a consensus on several items related to the master plan including building a new facility versus renovating the existing facility; building on the current site versus a new site; keeping the current football field and relocating the baseball field; and trying to retain portions of the current facility (gymnasium and auditorium).

After these meetings the Board voted to start on the district's master plan by participating in the OSFC's Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP). This allowed the district to build a portion of their master plan with local dollars and get credit for it when the master plan is completed with State support.

In November 2003, the citizens of this school district approved a \$4.8 million bond issue that assisted in building a 35,236 ft<sup>2</sup> addition at a cost of \$5.65 million. For this addition, the school district will receive a \$5.3 million credit toward their \$7.9 million local share for the entire master plan. The ELPP addition opened to students and staff in the fall of 2006. This was the first new construction in the District since 1970.

The Board has held multiple work sessions in the past few months to match the school's facility needs with responsible money-management. The purpose of the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting is to explain the choices that are now available and the pros and cons of those choices. In addition, the Board will offer options for funding the remaining \$2.6 million.

This is an opportunity for community members to offer suggestions on this phase of the building project. A second community meeting is planned for Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

## Exciting Opportunities for Students Available for All Students

Leipsic Local Schools will institute some new programs when school starts in late August.

Based on findings from successful programs across the state and the nation, Leipsic Elementary School will be offering all-day kindergarten for the first time in the fall.

There are several reasons for the change. First, many kindergarten students are starting school with at least one year of half-day pre-school experience. These youngsters are really ready for a longer school day with a variety of activities.

For the children who have had no pre-school experience, the all-day approach will give them the opportunity to catch up with their classmates. That is more difficult to accomplish in a half day program.

Much material has been added to the Ohio kindergarten curriculum standards. Students are expected to know more than five year olds of ten years ago. It is our hope that Leipsic students will benefit from this change and be better prepared when they go into first grade.

At the end of next school year, teachers, parents, and administrators will look at student progress throughout the school year and then determine if they wish to continue the all-day program.

Leipsic is home to a large Hispanic population, and while most students are fluent in English when they come to school, there are several who have had little or no experience with English in the home.

Since it is required by federal law, Leipsic has provided an English as a Second Language program (ESL) to its students who qualify. Those services have been provided by our high school Spanish instructor during one period of her teaching day in addition to a bilingual aide in some of the elementary classrooms.

While these individuals have done a great job, students need more intense instruction than our current personnel can provide.

An ESL teacher will be working not only with this population, but also with all students to expose them to some basic beginning skills in Spanish and with some exposure to the heritage and culture of the Spanish language.

## Dual Enrollment Comes to LHS

Plans are being finalized to give LHS students the opportunity to take classes at Leipsic High School that will count for both high school and college-level credit.

Bluffton University will be partnering with high school Spanish teacher Sue El-Hefnawy to offer Spanish IV and intermediate college Spanish for those students who meet the college-level qualifications.

United States History also will be offered to those students who meet the qualifications for high school and college credit. Russ Wenzinger will be teaching that course in conjunction with the University of Findlay.

In addition, there is a possibility that LHS will offer dual enrollment for physics with the University of Findlay. Robb Cupp will teach that class if it is given final approval.

Rhodes Community College will be offering a one-hour credit Post-Secondary Enrollment class each semester of next school year. Russ Wenzinger will be the instructor for Rhodes, and the class will encompass the knowledge and skills needed to make the transition from high school to the college environment. This class will be valuable to any student who plans to attend a two-year or four-year program on any campus.