

VIKES NEWS AND VIEWS

School Opens August 24

Leipsic Local School will open its doors for the 2009-10 school year on Monday, August 24. Staff members are looking forward to the many challenges and the outstanding learning opportunities that our students will have in the months ahead.

We welcome the Leipsic community into the school building not only for open house on Thursday, August 20 beginning at 6:00 p.m., but also any time there are activities taking place that involve members of the Leipsic School family.

New Teachers Join Staff

Three new teachers will be joining the staff at Leipsic Local School this fall. Ms. Traci Patton, a graduate of LHS and Bluffton University, will be teaching junior high math and Algebra I. This is Ms. Patton's first year as a classroom teacher.

Mrs. Elena Ybarra, also an LHS grad, will teach all levels of high school Spanish. A graduate of the University of Toledo and Marygrove College, Mrs. Ybarra taught Spanish for the Bluffton Exempted Village Schools for the past ten years.

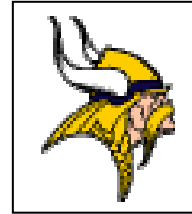
A final candidate has been selected for the English as a Second Language/migrant education teacher; however, Board of Education approval at the August 17 meeting is needed before releasing any additional information.

Students to be awarded High School credit by semesters

Leipsic Board of Education members voted to approve the recommendation of High School Principal Mike Bute to change the way credit is earned for high school students. Instead of one credit for a full-year class, students will earn one-half credit for each semester of a class. Students who do not pass either first or second semester must repeat that semester as soon as the class is offered again.

Mr. Bute will have a full explanation of the semester credit posted on the school website in August. In addition, Mr. Bute will schedule class meetings in the fall to explain the semester credit to students and answer any questions they might have.

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Technology for Parents

There are several new technology features that will be introduced in the upcoming school year. Because of a generous grant from Proctor and Gamble, parent company of Iams Co., Leipsic School will be instituting the "School Messenger" system.

This system will allow every family in the school district with a current land-line or cell phone number to receive instant notification regarding emergencies, school delays, and cancellations. It is critical that all students have accurate and current phone numbers reported to the school offices in order for "School Messenger" to function properly.

Progress Book will also be available to all Leipsic families this fall. Progress Book is an on-line grading system that allows parents to track their children's grades on a regular basis.

Log-in information for Progress Book, which can be accessed through the school website, will be provided to each family early in the fall.

Renovation and New Building Construction updates

Progress has continued during the past few months for both the scheduled renovations in the 1963 addition and the plans for the new K-12 classroom facility.

The '63 addition, which includes the varsity gym, girls' and boys' locker rooms, two full sets of restrooms, and several classrooms, is now a stand-alone facility as mandated by the Ohio School Facilities Commission if the Board wishes to retain the existing facility. Renovations include a new heating system, roof, and electrical system.

There have been no new updates to the interior or exterior part of the building, but future projects are being planned if and when funding is available.

Representatives from the Ohio School Facilities Commission, Beilharz Architects, R.L. Bowen and Associates, and the school district have met numerous times throughout the summer months. The floor plans for the two-story facility have been approved, and Beilharz Architects are meeting with board members to finalize the exterior design.

Our goal is to have the floor plans and exterior designs available on the school website in early September. The design schedule calls for building construction bids in the winter of 2010 with ground-breaking planned for the spring.

VIKING EXTRAVAGANZA
AUGUST 13, 2009 AT 6:00 P.M.
AUDITERIA AND AUXILIARY GYM

2009-10 School Calendar

August	20-	Open House (6-7:15 p.m.)
August	24-	First Day of School
September	7-	No School (Labor Day)
October	5-	Early Release at 1:45 p.m.
October	5-9-	Ohio Achievement Test–Gr. 3
October	26-30-	Ohio Graduation Test – Grades 11 & 12
November	4-	Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
November	5-	Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.
November	5-6-	No School
November	25-	Early Release at 1:45 p.m.
November	26-27-	No School (Thanksgiving)
December	22-	Early Release at 1:45 p.m.
December	23-31-	No School (Christmas Break)
January	1-	No School (Christmas Break)
January	18-	No School (MLK Day)
January	18-Mar. 12-	OTELA Test: Grades K-12
February	8-	Early Release at 1:45 p.m.
February	15-	No School (President’s Day)
March	15-19-	Ohio Graduation Tests – Grades 10-12
March	30-	Early Release at 1:45 p.m.
March	31-	No School (Spring Break)
April	1-5-	No School (Spring Break)
April	19-30-	Ohio Achievement Tests – Grades 3-8
May	6-	IEP Meetings
May	23-	Graduation
May	25-	Early Release at 1:45 p.m. – Last Day of School

<u>Grading Periods</u>		<u># of Days</u>
1 st	08/24/09 – 10/23/09	44
2 nd	10/26/09 – 01/15/10	48
3 rd	01/19/10 – 03/19/10	43
4 th	03/22/10 – 05/25/10	43
Student Days		178
Teacher Work Days		2
Parent/Teacher Conf.		2
Total		182

<u>Makeup Days</u>	
1 st	March 31, 2010
2 nd	April 1, 2010
3 rd	April 5, 2010
4 th	May 26, 2010
5 th	May 27, 2010

Leipsic Rated Excellent District

Leipsic Local Report Card will be released by the Ohio Department of Education in early August. Preliminary data indicates that Leipsic is ranked as an “Excellent” District in the 2008-09 school year. Congratulations to students and staff for this outstanding accomplishment!

Leipsic School District has been named Excellent three out of the last four years. Throughout the school year staff members will be looking at the Report Card data and making changes to insure continued success for our students.