

OHSAA Encourages Positive and Respectful Fan Involvement at all Athletic Events

Special Note: Thank you to all the fans who are supporting our teams. We can all feel the enthusiasm throughout the gym. This is just a reminder from the Ohio High School Athletic Association of how important that kind of positive support really is.

One of the missions of extracurricular school activities is to serve as an extension of the classroom. There are strong lessons to be learned in athletics. One of those lessons is to set and maintain high standards for sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in our schools and our society. It is up to us to provide the direction and constant vigilance under which good sportsmanship can prosper and have a positive impact on our children, the leaders of tomorrow, and ourselves.

We are continuing our efforts in the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Ethics and Integrity Program sponsored by the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Sportsmanship Committee. This has been a successful program statewide which reinforces and rewards the need for sportsmanship as one of the values taught through athletics.

The value of the lessons learned by exhibiting good sportsmanship will last a lifetime. If we ever lose sight of that, then athletics, or any extracurricular activity, is not worth sponsoring. The positive actions of a coach, athlete, or spectator at an event can influence how our school is perceived in our own community and the communities of those schools we meet on the field of play.

Sportsmanship, quite simply, translates to citizenship for our young men and women and all those involved with the interscholastic program. Through our programs young people learn and practice RESPECT...respect for self and respect for others. You are encouraged to be the leaders in our community and help rekindle the spirit of citizenship through athletics.

We are asking for your support in this effort by emphasizing to your son or daughter what is expected of them at an athletic event as a competitor or spectator. After all, such events are an extension of the school day, and we should expect the same type of respectful behavior exhibited in the athletic arena as we do in the classroom. We urge you to ask your children to demonstrate self-control and self-discipline and at the same time, enjoy the game.

Everyone represents our school at an athletic event. One act of sportsmanlike, or unsportsmanlike, behavior by even one person paints a picture of how we are perceived by neighboring communities, schools and the media. Maintaining the proper perspective about school sports will help us in our quest for good sportsmanship, show what is good about our school district and remind us that school sports are to educate students, and be FUN!

Vikes News and Views

Leipsic Local Schools

232 Oak Street

Leipsic, Ohio 45856

Phone: 419-943-2165

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Year's End Allows Time for Reflection

As 2007 draws to a close, this is an excellent time to look at the positive events that are impacting this school district, its students, and its staff.

For the third consecutive year, our school has earned an "Excellent" rating on the state-required Local Report Card. It takes hard-working students, dedicated teachers, and supportive parents to earn that honor. A heart-felt thanks for everyone's efforts; however, we realize that there is still much to be accomplished if Leipsic students are to compete in a global economy. We want our kids to be successful.

As the result of a partnership with the school district and the Village of Leipsic, our students will have a new baseball diamond to use beginning with the 2009 baseball season. Preliminary plans are underway for an OHSAA-regulation track and ultimately we hope to have a softball field in the athletic complex as well. It will take time and dollars to make all of this a reality. Our school board and our village leaders have the vision for serving both the needs of the community and the school.

During the past several months some of the groundwork for Phase Two of the OSFC building project has been put in place. The Board passed a resolution to move forward with the project, an environment assessment required by the OSFC has taken place, and our current enrollment data has been submitted. At a minimum we are projecting it will be two years before the first spade of ground is broken for Phase Two. Much planning lies ahead, and the in-pur from this community is essential.

When January 1, 2008 arrives, we will all be ready to face the challenges and changes of these exciting times. Best Wishes for 2008!

Calendar of Viking Events

Wed., Jan 2: Classes Resume

Wed., Jan 9: Semester Exams

Wed., Jan 9: Board Organizational Meeting at 5:00 p.m. followed by regular Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library

Thurs., Jan. 10: Open House for POET Leipsic

Fri., Jan 11: Semester Exams

Monday, Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Day--No School

Tues., Jan.22: Make-up Varsity Boys Basketball Game with Patrick-Henry at 6:00 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 23: High School of Business Steering Committee Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Meaningful Homework Has Major Impact on Learning; Parents' Help Needed for Student Success

Homework. Many students try to avoid it, but teaching and learning research indicates that children who spend more time on regularly assigned, meaningful homework, on average, do better in school, and that the academic benefits of homework increase as children move into the upper grades.

Parents and families play an important role in the process. Together, families and teachers can help children develop good study habits and attitudes to become lifelong learners.

Why do teachers give homework?

Teachers use homework:

- to help students understand and review the work that has been covered in class
- to see whether students understand the lesson
- to help students learn how to find and use more information on a subject.

Homework is also the link between school and home that shows what children are studying.

Research shows that when homework is turned in to the teacher, graded, and discussed with students, it can improve students' grades and understanding of their schoolwork.

How much time should my children spend each night on homework?

Most educators agree that:

- for children in grades K-2, homework is more effective when it does not exceed 10-20 minutes each school day
- older children, in grades 3-6, can handle 30-60 minutes a day
- in junior and senior high school, the amount of homework will vary by subject. Most older students will also have homework projects, such as research papers and oral reports, that may have deadlines weeks away. They may need help organizing assignments and planning work times to make sure homework is ready to turn in on time.

Your children's teachers can tell you how much time they expect students to spend on homework. Place most concern on whether the homework is meaningful and whether over a period homework is assigned in all of the student's subjects.

There are several ways in which you can help:

- Send your children to school each day, well-rested, fed and with a positive outlook.

- Take an active interest in your children's schooling. Ask specific questions about what happens at school each day and how your children feel about it.

- Try not to let any of your own negative experiences keep you from supporting and encouraging your children's learning. Let them know how much you care about education by continuing your own learning both informally and formally, to impress its importance upon them.

- If possible, set up a quiet, comfortable study area with good lighting and the school supplies that your children need. This can be almost anyplace in your home; you don't need a special room.

- Set a family "quiet time" where you and your children can work together on homework, reading, letter writing and playing games.

- Allow your children to study in the way each of them learns best. For example, some children work best when they're lying on the floor with background music playing.

Make homework a daily activity and help your children develop good homework habits.

Leipscic Schools October 2007 Enrollment

Kindergarten	39	Seventh	50
First	67	Eighth	47
Second	58	Ninth	67
Third	44	Tenth	51
Fourth	33	Eleventh	79
Fifth	35	Twelfth	68
Sixth	38	Total Enrollment	676