

# *Vikes News and Views*

Leipsic Local Schools

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## High School of Business Brings New Opportunities

Leipsic High School was recently awarded a \$5,000.00 High School of Business start-up grant from the Ohio Dept. of Education. The High School of Business program will prepare students to excel in college business administration programs. It gives students the opportunity to explore college-level topics and projects while still in high school.

Throughout the remainder of the school year, a steering committee which will include teachers, guidance counselor, principal, higher education representatives, and local business leaders will meet to plan for the 2008-09 implementation of the program. It will require three years before the full curriculum is in place.

During the next several months students and parents will have more opportunities to learn about this outstanding, exciting new High School of Business.

## Leipsic School Makes Changes Needed to Insure Safety and Security for Students

Leipsic School, along with districts nationwide, has taken numerous measures to make sure that our school building is safe and secure. A revised Crisis Management Plan was adopted by the Board in the late spring and implemented for the 2007-08 school year. Teachers were given the opportunity to discuss key elements of the plan with the building principals. Our state-mandated lock-down drill has been completed along with monthly fire drills.

All doors with the exception of the main entrance to the high school, the main entrance to the elementary, and the administration entrance are to be locked throughout the school day. We know that students will occasionally prop a door open, but we try to monitor that as carefully as possible.

All visitors to the building are required to go to any of the offices and check in with one of the secretaries. A visitor's badge is issued to each person who visits the building and must be worn throughout their stay. School employees are asked to watch for individuals in the building and report any that might not have the required badge.

While we believe that the acts of school violence that have impacted schools across the country would never happen in Leipsic, every school must make sure that the building and staff are prepared in the event of an emergency.

## Course Selection Critical Key to Quality Education

How many times have you heard, or have you possibly said... "when I was in school...? A public school education is something that every one of us has experienced, and as a result, we have some strong feelings about those years we spent as a student.

Today's student, however, is facing some opportunities and challenges that probably go beyond what was expected of any of us, and more than ever before, Leipsic Local School District must provide students with the tools to be successful in a global workplace.

Our intention is to begin the class selection process for the 2008-09 school year in January so that both parents and students can work with school officials to carefully select classes that suit student interests and abilities. This is important for every high school student, but especially for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as they look at a four-year education plan.

It is a partnership among the student, parent, and the school, and our primary mission to guarantee that all students have taken relevant classes with rigor that prepare them for the future.

## *Vikings See Opening Action Thanksgiving Weekend*

Ottawa-Glandorf native Scott Maag will be leading the high school boys' basketball program during the 2007-08 season. Scott is a teacher at O-G and comes to Leipsic with years of experience in the Titan basketball program.

His assistant is Keith Utendorf. Chris Kuhlman is the junior varsity coach while Kaleb Kuhlman will be coaching the freshman boys' team.

The season home opener for the Vikes is Friday, Nov. 23. Junior varsity action with the Holgate Tigers will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The Lady Vikes with head coach Gary Kreinbrink will have their first start of the season at Pandora-Gilboa on Saturday, Nov. 24. Junior Varsity tip-off time with the Rockets is 1:00 p.m. Jim Hazelton is the assistant varsity coach while Dennis Warnecke will coach the JV team.

## *Mark Your Calendars for December Holiday Concerts*

**Tuesday, Dec. 4** Kindergarten thru Grade 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditoria

**Tuesday, Dec. 11** Grades 5 thru 8 Band and Choir Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the auditoria

**Monday, Dec. 17** High School Band and Choir Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the auditoria

Everyone throughout the community is invited to attend these Holiday presentations.

## Community Involvement Critical to Success of Leipsic Building Project

Officials at Leipsic Local School District were notified in early July by the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) that this district is now eligible for state funding for school facilities construction. Gov. Ted Strickland's tobacco securitization initiative has made funding available earlier than anticipated.

During the next several months, there will be a number of meetings to discuss long-range planning for the project. The Board of Education and the school administration certainly encourages community participation at the meetings. In addition, we will be using the newsletter as vehicle to keep you informed about the project as it unfolds.

At this point we are waiting to have the October enrollment data finalized before setting meeting dates. It might be beneficial, however, that the stakeholders in the community learn some of the key vocabulary involved with OSFC projects. Some of those terms and their definitions are listed below.

**Assessment:** The process of evaluating all aspects of the current facilities in a district. Each building is evaluated based on specific criteria to determine what portions need repaired or replaced. The assessment becomes the basis for formulating a master facility plan.

**Average Daily Membership (ADM):** Average number of students present and absent in a school district during a school day or other specified period of time.

**Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP):** This is the main program through which districts are funded for renovation or replacement of school buildings.

**Discrete Portion:** The portion of the master plan a district agrees to build using local funds as part of their Expedited Local Partnership Program agreement.

**Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP):** A program that allows districts to begin their facilities project with local dollars instead of waiting for state dollars to become available.

**LFI:** Locally funded initiative; items not provided as an OSFC project.

**Local Share:** The percentage of the total project budget that the district is responsible for securing.

**Maintenance Plan:** A comprehensive plan for the long-term care and upkeep of every building in the school district. This is a requirement for all districts participating in OSFC programs.

**Master Facility Plan:** The comprehensive plan for repairing and/or replacing the educational facilities of a district.

**Ohio School Design Manual (OSDM):** An extensive document that sets construction standards for all OSFC projects to insure statewide equity and quality of school facilities.

**Phase I Environmental Assessment:** An assessment of an existing or proposed building site by a qualified professional identifies any environmental liabilities or issues of concern on the site. Items to be investigated include, but are not limited to current and past uses of the property, whether underground storage tanks are present, and existence of contaminants. A Phase I assessment is required as part of the district's due diligence in selecting a "buildable" site.

**Square Foot Allowance:** The Ohio School Design Manual specifies the amount of square footage that will be co-funded for each type of space. Additional square footage is counted as a locally funded initiative.

**Variance:** A request for use of materials and systems not specified in the Design Manual.

The recently completed auditoria/gymnasium addition was completed through an ELPP. Our Local Share is locked in at 35% with the state providing the other 65% of the building project fund.

We certainly want each of you to be a part of the planning in the months ahead. Watch *News and Views* for details and meeting dates.