

# October Newsletter



## News from Mrs. Elias, Superintendent

What a great start to the school year! It has been great talking with the students about their summer fun and meeting our kindergarten and new students! I am looking forward to another awesome year!!

Check out our website for current happenings here at Lisbon at [www.lisbon.k12.il.us](http://www.lisbon.k12.il.us) ! You can find the school calendar of events, lunch menus, sports schedules and more!

We sent out school directories with the youngest student in the family. If you did not receive one, please call the office.

I look forward to seeing you all during Parent/Teacher Conferences October 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>!

### Reminders:

- I am still looking for a bus driver. The position can be one route, either the morning or afternoon route, or both routes if you prefer. It can even be as little as just being a substitute driver! One of our drivers is looking to split the routes or even take over driving the bus on a permanent basis. Each route lasts at most an hour but you are paid for two. Paid training! Please contact me for more information! Please pass the word around.
- If you drop off your child in the morning after 8:20 A.M., you must come into the office and sign him/her in. It is very important that the teachers and the office have consistent information so that our records are accurate.
- Parents, when you come to school to drop off items, or to pick up your student, please stop in the office and check in. Our staff will be happy to deliver the items or to page your student.
- Please be aware that our staff strives to make the school and the school grounds as hazard free as possible. As part of this effort, the local fire and police departments will spend a morning here on October 10<sup>th</sup>, reviewing the building and safety procedures in case of a fire or intruder. Students will spend time listening to and asking questions of the firefighters and police about safety issues here at school and also at home. In addition, we will have a fire and intruder drill so students/staff can practice in the event there is an emergency situation at school.
- If you know your child/children will be missing school due to an appointment, sending a note prior to that day will help in classroom scheduling. Also, please review the parent/student handbook for guidelines for homework makeup.



- All staff personnel have an email address. It is their first initial, last name @lisbon.k12.il.us (example: [melias@lisbon.k12.il.us](mailto:melias@lisbon.k12.il.us)). We are attaching a listing of staff email addresses to this newsletter.
- If your child is sick please call the school office prior to 9:00 A.M. the day of the absence so the school can have an accurate record of attendance and lunch count. You may also leave a message if you are calling outside of school hours.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents have access to Information Now, which is our online portal for parents to view attendance and grades. Letters went home recently to set up your account or a "how to access your account" reminder if you already have an account. If you did not receive this letter or have any questions, please call the school office.
- Blackboard Connect is our automated messaging system to notify families of school events. If you have not received a message via text or phone call yet, please call the school office so we may verify your information. There have been a few sent out already since the beginning of the school year regarding early dismissals, sporting event changes, picture day, etc.

### News from Coach McKinney

Welcome back!!! Hope everyone had a great summer!! Can't believe it is over and the new school year has begun.

We started the year with our fitness testing. Everyone did a great job and worked hard on all the tests! After completing our soccer unit, where the students learned the basic skills of the soccer game and did a great job. We are currently enjoying our football unit. Students are having fun learning the basic skills of throwing and catching a football!

In health, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade is looking forward to Red Ribbon Week. It will take place the week of Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. Be looking for more details.

Both of the volleyball teams are finishing their Great Seasons!!!! Good Luck to the A team as they play in the conference tournament Oct. 10-16!! Congrats to the B team on a fun season!

The soccer team is finishing up a great season as well! The conference tournament for the soccer team begins on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to all and FINISH STRONG!

GO LIONS!!!

Coach McKinney



### Music Notes

Please mark your calendars for the annual Christmas Concert. We will be performing December 12th, at 6:30, in the school gymnasium.



Students are asked to be in their classrooms at 6:10. Concert attire is nice, dressy clothing. Please, no hats or jeans. We look forward to singing for you!

Musically,  
Mrs. Pfizenmaier

### Bus Notes/Student Absences

**Reminder:** If your child is not riding the bus in the morning. Please call or text your child's driver (Cary Lieser 815-617-2468 or Emma Smith 815-252-4499) or the school and we will inform the drivers. If your child is not riding the usual bus or not riding at all in the evening, please call or send a note to the office so we can notify the drivers/teachers.

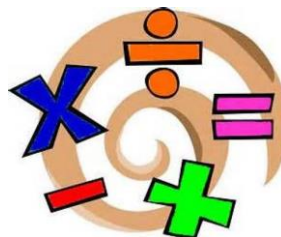
### Millbrook Daddy Daughter Dance

Mark your calendar! Newark is having their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Daddy Daughter Dance. The date is Saturday, March 7, 2020. It will again be at the Millbrook Junior High with a Hawaiian Luau theme. They have a Facebook page dedicated to the dance if you would like to follow it. It is Newark/Millbrook PTO's Daddy Daughter Dance.

### SUMMER MATH CHALLENGE

LGS students participated in the seventh annual *Summer Math Challenge*. Here are some impressive numbers:

- 41 students participated...approximately 41% of the school
- 16,807 questions were answered
- The three classes with the highest percentage of student participation were...
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade with 67%
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with 53%
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade with 42%



Students who completed at least 500 questions received a sweet treat this week. Also, a special prize was given for the student in each

class that accumulated the most correct responses. Thank you to LOOP for funding the program.

Congratulations to everyone who took the Challenge!!

### Vision & Hearing Screening

School health personnel perform vision and hearing screening of students. The parents of a child may request a screening at any time. Vision screenings will be done as mandated, on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, for kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 8th grade students; special education students; teacher referrals; and new students. Hearing screening will also be done, as mandated, the same day, for kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade students; special education students; teacher referrals; and new students. If your student needs to be rescreened a letter will go home and the re-screening will be done later in October.

**Vision and hearing screening is not an option. If a vision or hearing examination report is not on file at the school for your child, and your child is in the mandated age, grade, or group they will be screened.**

### Recycle Opportunities

**Paper Bin:** Don't forget we have a paper recycle bin school.



**Clothes:** We accept clothes in our UsAgain clothing recycle bin also behind the school.

**Cans:** We are collecting pop cans to recycle. If you have cans that you would like to donate to the school, we will gladly accept them in a trash bag or other leak-proof container.

**All proceeds go to the end of year Character Counts assembly. Thank you for any items donated to any of our recycle opportunities. Not only do they help the school, they are also helping the environment.**



### Cheerleading News

Cheerleading will be starting soon. We will begin practicing on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. A schedule will come home with your child soon.

This season, we will be creating a routine to perform when we host Newark at the high school on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

I am looking forward to another great season. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.



Thank you,

Karin Myre ☺

[kmyre@lisbon.k12.il.us](mailto:kmyre@lisbon.k12.il.us)



### News from LOOP

LOOP has been busy gearing up for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Walk-A-Thon!! It is set to take place this Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:30 pm. We welcome family and friends to join us, and take part in helping us achieve our school goal of raising \$5,000. This event has proved to be tremendous fun with a fantastic outcome that directly benefits all students. We thank you for your support!

✓ **Don't forget pledge sheets are due in the school office by**

**Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Reminder that LOOP is still collecting Box Tops. Please continue to send these in with your student as they have helped provide playground equipment for the students at recess.

Our next meeting will be October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM in the school library. Hope to see you there!

### Library Birthday Books



Celebrate your child's birthday by donating a new book to the library! This is neat for the kids because the library will put their name on a card in the book. It also helps volunteers in the library to know what kind of books the students are interested in. It is a wonderful way to add new books to the library!

### News from the Library



Our Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Club will be starting this month. This is a program geared toward students who enjoy reading in grades 4-8. The award is named in honor of Rebecca Caudill who lived and wrote in Urbana, Illinois for nearly fifty years. Our students have participated in this program for the last several years and have really enjoyed getting together in the spring to discuss the books they have read. If they read at least three of the nominated books, they will be qualified to vote for what they considered the best book. They just have to fill out a brief form and turn it into Mrs. Rehberg. The program usually runs through February. We have received most of the 2019-2020 selection of books in our library so the students can start reading them at any time!

This year we are excited to be participating in the Monarch Award program again, this is an Illinois K-3 Readers' Choice Award. The name Monarch was chosen because of its familiarity to K-3 and to symbolize the growth, change and freedom that becoming a reader brings. The Monarch is designed to encourage children to read critically and become familiar with children's books, authors and illustrators. The program is open to all K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade children in Illinois. This program will be starting soon, with at least 5 of the books being read aloud in class. Most of the chosen books will be available to check out in the library, when not being used in a classroom. Voting for any students K-3 that have read or listened to at least 5 of the books will take place the first week of March.



Our first book fair this year will be just in time for Christmas gifts. The fair will be running the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>. Start thinking of the great books you can pick up for the holidays! If you are interested in helping please call the office and they will put you in contact with the volunteers.

Lisbon Library Volunteers



The kindergarten class has had a great start to the school year! We have 19 students - 11 girls and 8 boys! We have had fun getting to know each other in the first month of school. They have adjusted well to the routines of each day. Each day is filled with exciting activities and lessons. Be sure to ask your child about his/her day!

We have started Foundations. This program is a multi-sensory method of teaching reading and writing skills. The class is becoming familiar with the letters and the sounds they make. We are learning to write the letters of the alphabet and using proper placement on the lines. The children have been working on their names and have done a wonderful job!

In Math, we have been working on counting, comparing, and recognizing numbers to 10. Next, we will continue on with numbers to 20.

In Reading, we have read some great books: The Little School Bus, We Are So Proud, Plaidypus Lost, Miss Bindergarten Takes a Field Trip, and Smash! Crash! The students have found that the rhyming and repetition make it easy to read along. For each story, we have vocabulary and sight words that are introduced and practiced in class. Parents, any books that come home with your child should be practiced over and over again! Reading at home with your child will enable him/her to become a more fluent and confident reader!

In the month of October, we will be talking about community helpers. We hope to have some visitors coming in to tell us about their jobs! If you would like to come tell us about your job, please call me to set up a time!

Our class will participate in Book-It! Students will read books at home and keep track of minutes on a calendar. If they meet the expected goals each month, they will receive a certificate to earn a free pizza from Pizza Hut! Any students who meet the requirements for all six months will earn a pizza party in April!

We look forward to our class parties. Our first party is our Halloween party. Thank you to the parents who will be providing food and games for our parties!

I hope your child is enjoying their kindergarten year! Please let me know if you have any questions about what your child is doing in class. I look forward to meeting with all of the parents at Parent/Teacher conferences this month! This is a great time to learn about your child's progress.

Happy Fall!

Mrs. Dike



## 1st Grade News

Happy October!

In first grade we have been busy getting ourselves organized in our new desks, fitting everything in it and keeping it clean. We have so many books!

Our first few weeks we were learning the routine, schedule and getting to know each other. We have 8 students in first grade. There are 2 boys and 6 girls.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade has Library on Monday mornings. Each child is allowed to check out two books and keep them for the week. The following week they must return their two books to be able to get two new books. We have already started taking some AR tests. Your child can take those tests during library or computer time.

Ask your first grader about Daily 5 Centers, DOJO points and homework tickets! These are all new things for your first grader this year. We will begin Book-It October 1<sup>st</sup>, an informational note will be coming home soon!

Please sign up for the Seesaw app, if you have not done so already. It's great for communication and to watch your child progress and learn throughout the year. Keep up the hard work first graders! I am excited to have your child in my class. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to talk to me.



Mrs. Jacobson

## Second Grade News

September has flown by. Students are starting to get used to the routine of our second grade classroom. We are ready for some fall weather. It has been a sweaty start of the school year! We have a total of fifteen students in our class. This year we have a high school intern, Lexi Long, who will be assisting our class throughout the year. She is considering pursuing a career in education. Miss Long is a past student of mine, and I am excited to have her in our classroom.

Please remember that we will be having a reading selection test and a spelling test almost every Friday. In reading we have five stories in a unit. On the sixth week we will have a unit test. On that particular week we will not have a selection test or a spelling test. In reading we are talking about exploring. We have explored space, the country, the city, and the desert without having to leave the classroom!

On Mondays we go to the library for computers. On Fridays we visit the library. Please try to send back library books on Fridays. I try to make sure the students are picking out library books that are within their reading level. While we are in the library on Mondays and Fridays we will be doing the math IXL program, practicing keyboarding skills, and taking A.R. tests. Using the IXL math site is a good way to review the particular math skills that we are working on. I hope that you are encouraging your child to use the site at home. Second grade is such a formative year for developing math skills. Ideally I would like the kids to use the site at home each day. However, I realize that everyone is busy. I would like the students to utilize IXL at home at least a couple of times during the week. If your child does not have access to a computer at home please see if it is possible to use a relative's computer. I get a report at the end of each week indicating the minutes each child spent on the site and the skills utilized. The student who has completed the most problems on IXL each week gets a yellow slip for the character counts program. The kids have so much fun on the site. They don't realize that they are doing math work!

Leveled readers should be coming home most weeks except unit test weeks. Please try to send them back on Fridays. I would like the students to read the leveled readers out loud to a parent or other adult at least two times through during the week. I will try to send the reading books home on Thursdays so students can reread our weekly story to prepare for our selection tests.

Our Halloween party will be on October 31<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Aimee Howe is our party chairman. Jen Chelsen will provide our games. Crystal Monsess will send paper products, and drinks will be provided by David Hernandez. Joan Sterling, Sarah Friestad, and Lori Hatteberg are in charge of food for the party. Treat bags will be prepared by Aimee Berg. Thank you in advance to everyone who will be furnishing items for our party!

Please encourage your child to read at home. We will start the Book-It program this month. This information will be coming home soon. I would love to see everyone participate!

Please remember to look over tests, sign, and return them. In addition, while I appreciate parents helping students with their homework, I do ask that parents not write on the homework pages. The writing on the homework pages must totally be the work of the students. My email address is sreberg@lisbon.k12.il.us, should you need to contact me.



Thank you for all that you do!  
Mrs.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News

We have had a great start to the year. We have been busy learning too. We are finishing our first unit in reading. We read about ways to make and save money. We will be starting our second novel. I am really excited to be reading more chapter books as a class. The Family Times will come home it has our vocabulary words and skills we are working on that week. Please keep encouraging your student to read 20 minutes a night. We are working on addition and subtraction in math. Next we will be doing multiplication. Flash cards and IXL are great ways to review math facts. Just a reminder if your child has homework it will be written in their assignment notebook. Highlighted assignments are homework. We are learning about plants and animals in Science. We are learning about communities in Social Studies.

Thursday is our library day. Please make sure books are returned on Thursday. Books may be checked out again if the student is still reading it. "Book It" will be starting in October.

The requirements for third grade are 6 books a month and 2 must be chapter books. I also will have a special reward for the students who read 1 chapter book a week and pass the AR test with

a 70% or better each month.

Our Halloween party will be on Thursday, October 31<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM. Mrs. Friestad and Mrs. Seiberlich will be attending our party. All other parents may attend the costume parade. Mrs. Friestad is our chairperson and will be contacting you to remind you what to send that day. Thank you to all parents for helping with our classroom parties.

Thanks

to all our parents,

Mrs. Doorn

### News from 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Welcome to a wonderful new school year! The fourth graders are working very hard in class. They have done a nice job transitioning to fourth grade and I am proud of them. Please be sure to sign their assignment notebook each night. By signing it, you are stating that they have completed all of their assigned homework. Please check that they are completing the assignments so that they don't lose recess time. We have been doing pretty good with completing our homework, but still continue to follow up with your child to help them learn how to be a successful fourth grader.

AR is up and running for this year. At the beginning of the year, I sent out a goal that I would like your student to attain for this quarter. We are more than halfway through the quarter so they should be halfway through their goal. Please encourage them to read each and every night. The best way to become a better reader is to read, read, and read some more.

Also, Book-It begins this month. Each fourth grader will need to read three or more chapter books that contain at least 100 pages each. AR books can also count for Book-It. This will help them meet their AR goal and the Book-It goal by reading the same books. Book-It is a wonderful program that rewards children with free personal pan pizzas when they reach their monthly goal. Yum...books and pizza!

We will continue to work on study skills to help with test taking. A study guide is sent home before Social Studies and Science tests. We go over these in class together. Please spend time working with your fourth grader so they learn the best way to study. Re-reading the chapter, including the captions, is a great help. You can take turns by each reading a page. Be sure you sign the study guide so they can earn two bonus points.

As you know, there are no hard cover math books. Each student has a math folder for them to keep all of their math pages from the chapter. Please continue to keep them in this folder until we are done with the chapter. They are very useful when it comes to

studying and reviewing. Don't forget to practice multiplication facts. This is a quick activity that can be done while in the car or waiting in line. You can even make a game out of it. We will begin multiplication in math soon and knowing the basic facts will help make math go more smoothly. We will soon be starting something called Otter Creek which helps them practice their multiplication facts. These are one minute timed tests that will progress them to different levels as they complete the facts. Practice, practice, practice.

The Halloween party is soon approaching. It will be on Thursday, October 31 from 2:00-3:00. The two parent volunteers that will attend the party are Emily Friestad (chairperson) and Natalie Wallin (games). If you are a helper for this party, you will be contacted by the chairperson as the date approaches. Thank you for your help making this a great party.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am here to help your child succeed, so let's work together.



Mrs. Myre ☺

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News

Pumpkins, apple cider, caramel apples...these are what we think of when we are dreaming of fall days. Down here in our little corner of the school, we are going to use the fall theme to kick off our writing and reading activities for the month of October!

We are just finishing our first Reading unit. We've read stories with the same theme- Challenges. Each character in our stories faced a challenge of his/her own. We will be writing a narrative about facing our own challenge during the first week of October. We cannot wait to share them with you during parent/teacher conferences!

\*\*Just a reminder: your student will need to take 2 AR tests per quarter. These count as test grades.

In Social Studies, our first lengthy chapter was about the United States. It was a great way to study our nation. We've moved on to studying Early Americans. During the chapter, students will be responsible for memorizing anywhere from 20-30 vocabulary words. We will then have a vocabulary test on all of them in addition to a chapter test. Each test will be announced at least 5 days in advance.

In English/ Spelling we will continue to build on our skills of learning how to spell and sound out words along with writing good/ better/ best sentences. We also keep a writing journal where we take notes on different types of writing and how to write and choose words.

In math, we are learning about exponents and how to use them. It's a tricky skill to learn, but we are slowly mastering it.

In Science, we've been studying matter/ elements/ compounds/ molecules. We learned about the Periodic Table of Elements. Exciting, right?? We are also learning how to study with a

checklist. Study skills are very important as your student advances to junior high.

We will be kicking off Book-It soon. It begins October 1<sup>st</sup>. You should have received information. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, the reading requirement is 300 minutes a month. That's only 20 minutes a day!

Thank you to our party volunteers! I've sent home a party organizer. Before every party, I will send home a reminder. We cannot do it without your help! ;)

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

Mrs. DeGraaf

### News from Mrs. Scott's Room

We are off to a good start! In Reading, we are discussing stories that focus on various characters "Moments of Truth." We have been learning about internal and external conflicts within these stories. We have also been working on several different types of writing in our daily journal prompts. It is fun to see everyone learn to write with creativity and then share their ideas with the class! In Science, we have been studying about topography and the different ways to map the Earth's surface. In Geography, we will continue learning about the United States and Canada, along with filling in a United States map with states and capitals.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, we are learning about the first civilizations of the Americas, Native American cultures and early trade routes. In our next chapter, we will be learning about the first colony at Jamestown. Students will be discussing various rules that were established by the House of Burgesses and how those first "laws" have been modified over the years!

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, we have learned about Indians of the Great Plains, industrial growth through railroads and inventions and the growth of cities. We also discussed early public education and American culture. Make sure and ask your students about our in-class demonstration regarding early school discipline and obedience!

Please feel free to call or email if you ever have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support!

Mrs. Scott



Miss Zielske's Room

I can't believe how fast this quarter is going. In English, we have been reviewing parts of speech and paragraph writing. In addition, the sixth graders have been working hard on their All About Me books. The seventh graders have worked on different types of prompts and had some very interesting ideas on one assignment where they had to create rules for using cell phones. The eighth graders have learned how to use dashes, parentheses, and the ellipsis to show pauses in their writing. They also created their own restaurants and made menus to practice the parts of speech and descriptive word choices. In Reading, both the seventh and eighth graders have finished Unit 1, which focused on plot development and are now on Unit 2, which focuses on point of view and character development.

Students in grades 6-8 work on a spelling unit for two weeks. Spelling assignments are always graded on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and students are encouraged to work or study ahead if they know they will be busy with extra-curricular activities. A ten word test is given every Friday. Please make sure your child is studying at home.

The AR program is off to a great start. Quite a few students have earned their first prize. All students must have two books read by October 16<sup>th</sup>. Students may read more than two books to earn extra credit.

Book orders will continue to come home every month. If you would rather place an order online, go to [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs). Our classroom code is L7RLL.

Miss Zielske

### News from Mrs. Heap

It has been a fabulous start to the school year! In the junior high we have been working hard to help students find ways to stay organized. With so many of our students in sports and other activities, it is important for them to use their time wisely. Utilizing the student planner is a great way to keep track of assignments and due dates for upcoming tests and projects.

Math classes are off to an exciting beginning. Sixth grade is becoming fluent calculating with fractions and decimals and will move onto evaluating algebraic expressions. Seventh grade has started solving multistep equations with rational numbers, and eighth grade is graphing and solving linear equations.

The entire school is practicing math on IXL.com. LGS purchased a license for this school year. Students can log into the website anywhere there is an internet connection. Teachers can track student progress and note areas requiring additional work while students receive digital "rewards" for reaching goals. Please contact me or the classroom teachers with questions about the program.

Science classes are learning about ecology and technology. Seventh grade is half way through our unit on ecology. So far, we have

## Band Noteworthy News

learned about populations and communities, ecosystems and biomes, and resources and living things. We will finish up our unit by studying about air, water, land, and energy resources. Eighth grade is completing a unit on technology in science about scientific inquiry, tools in science, and interaction and impact society. We will finish up this unit by designing and conducting an experiment.

### A Few Reminders:

#### INSTRUMENT RENTALS

If our child uses a NHS-owned instrument, the annual fee is \$100. Please, please return the payment & the pink rental form to Ms. Chase a.s.a.p. This \$100 goes directly to the repair fund. If you paid \$35, remember the balance is due on our Christmas Concert day, December 16!

#### BAND SUPPLIES-REEDS & OIL

Reeds, Valve Oil, & Instrument supplies: It is the responsibility of the student/parent to purchase necessary supplies for your instrument. Reeds, Valve oil, cork grease etc. are always available for purchase. Tell Ms. Chase, she orders, you pay, it gets delivered to the student every Wednesday. Please help me cut down the cost of "Free" supplies.

#### 2019-2020 Concert Dates

Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7 pm

Monday, May 11 @ 7 pm

#### A.M. Combine Schedule for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade BAND:

Friday, November 22 (6th-8th)

Thursday, December 5 (6th-8th)

Friday, December 13 (6th-8th)

# welcome

To Band!

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great start!

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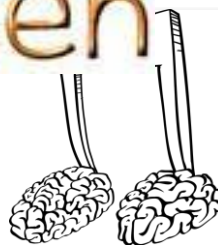
# Happy Halloween

MUSIC MAKES OUR BRAINS SMARTER!!!

[www.chaseourband.com](http://www.chaseourband.com)

How to Contact Ms. Chase

e-mail: [mchase@nchs18.org](mailto:mchase@nchs18.org)



Remind Texting (just join the class) at NHS by phone: 815-695-5164 x292

## **Lisbon Grade School District #90 E - Learning Day Plan**

Lisbon Grade School is planning an innovative approach to dealing with inclement weather and emergency days. School Code Section 10-20.56 created guidelines in the definition of an E-Learning Day.

In the past, if a snow day was called, an "Emergency Day" was tacked on to the end of the school year. This extended the school year and often caused problems with scheduling because of our desire to firmly schedule testing, end of the year activities, graduation ceremonies, and other end of year events. After discussing this with our staff, we felt an Alternative Learning Day (E-Learning Day) integrated during the year could be more effective than an additional

day at the end of the year for many of our students. Unpredictable circumstances may still require us to use "Emergency Days" that will be added to the end of the year.

**What is an Alternative Learning Day??**

An Alternative Learning Day approach allows us to provide an "instructional day" even if our building is not open due to weather/road conditions/etc. On these days, teachers will send home assignments, lessons, and enrichment activities for students to complete. There may also be links established by teachers that allow for students to complete work online at home. Teachers will be available via e-mail to answer questions - Teachers will be available from 8:00am-3:00pm. Teachers will respond within a reasonable amount of time to parent requests. Assignments and assignment sheets are due the day we return, signed by a parent or guardian, in order for students to be counted as "present". If internet is available, students are required to also log into IXL and complete assignment provided by their classroom teacher. This will also be a means for tracking student attendance. Teachers have shared information with students regarding the assignments and expectations.

**Won't this look different at each grade level?**

Each grade level looks uniquely different every day, so yes this Alternative Learning Day may look different. Our teachers have collaborated and will continue to collaborate to collectively develop lessons that are grade level appropriate and a continuation of what has been happening in the classroom.

**Will students that cannot complete the work online be penalized?**

Absolutely not! We understand that internet and digital access may not be available to everyone, and that some students may not be able to complete all online tasks assigned by teachers.

We also want to be clear, not all activities will need the internet to be completed. These days are meant to enhance learning and be formative in nature. However, to be counted as a day of attendance, the assignment sheets must be signed by an adult along with completed paperwork the day we return.

As always if you have questions, comments, or concerns please don't hesitate to email or call. Please stay warm this week and safe travels if you do have to be out in these conditions.

Melanie Elias, Superintendent

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