

Liberty Minutemen News

October 22, 2013

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Liberty High School
bedfordlhs.sharpschool.net

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- ◆ October 22-23: Writing SOLs (term graduates)
- ◆ October 22: Rachel's Challenge Assembly
- ◆ October 26: ACT Administration
- ◆ November 2: SAT Administration
- ◆ November 5: Election Day/Conference Day-12-7 PM (school closed for students)
- ◆ November 5: Academic Awards Ceremony LHS Auditorium 7PM
- ◆ November 27: 2-hour Early Dismissal
- ◆ November 28-29: Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ December 2-13: SOL Retakes
- ◆ December 10: Class Ring Ceremony in LHS cafeteria 2:15 PM (balances due)
- ◆ December 14: ACT Administration
- ◆ December 17-20: Mid-term exams
- ◆ December 20: End of first semester
- ◆ December 21-January 5: Winter Break (schools/offices closed)
- ◆ January 13: Report cards go home

Principal's Message



With the early start of school this year, it is hard to believe that the first nine weeks is behind us this early in October. It is important that you sit down with your son/daughter to discuss their progress, celebrating academic successes and identifying goals and strategies for subjects where deficiencies are present.

A new grading policy went into effect this school year in Bedford County which focuses on assessment of student understanding.

Infosnap (Returning Student Information)

The 2013-14 school year brought about changes in the way that we collect forms for our students. Beginning this year, forms are now turned in through our online Returning Registration (INFOSNAP). This process replaces the paper forms sent home at the beginning of each school year. As we enter into the second nine weeks, this information still needs to be completed for many of our students.

A snapcode was available at Parent Orientation and was also sent home with your

student through homeroom during the first week of school. If you have not completed information for your student, please visit www.bedford.k12.va.us and click on the Registration link to update your student's information. If you do not have your snapcode, please contact our Registrar, Veronica Northrup, at 586-2541 ext. 718 to set up an appointment to pick up your code. You may also have your student pick up the code for you.

A computer is set up in the

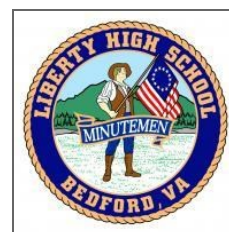
Student assignments are divided into two categories as follows: summative assessments (which make up 70% of the grade) and formative assessments (which make up 30% of the grade). If homework is given for a grade, it constitutes up to 10% of the formative portion of the grade. A 10-point grading scale for all courses also went into effect. If you have questions about how this affects your student, please feel free to contact the school.

I would like to remind you of the changes to the Thanksgiving Break for students in this year's calendar. Students will no longer be off for the entire week of Thanksgiving, but rather will get out of school two hours early on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and will be off Thursday and Friday. First semester exams will also take place prior to Christmas Break.

Tim Overstreet

Registrar's Office to help those who do not have a computer available or those who just need help with the process.

It is very important to have this information completed by each parent/guardian. If you have not done so, please take the time to go online and fill out the information for your student.



LHS FFA Is In the Spotlight



The Liberty FFA has been a very active Chapter this fall. Their first activity was participating in the Bedford Family Farm Tour at Hickory Hill Winery. Several members represented the Liberty FFA with an information booth regarding the Liberty FFA's activities and community involvement. Several new events were added to the Program of Activities for 2013-2014 such as FFA Member-Alumni Tailgates and selling FFA Mums at Minutemen home games.

The FFA had a lot more community interaction at the Sedalia County Fair and Centerfest this year. At the Sedalia Country Fair, FFA members sold mums to benefit their chapter, put together and ran a small Livestock Expo and helped the Farm Bureau Women's Association with children's races and activities. The chapter also helped support local Gross' Orchard by selling apples at Centerfest.

The newly installed Liberty FFA Chapter Officer Team gained leadership and teambuilding skills at the Southside Area C.O.L.T. at Buckingham High School. FFA members enjoyed an awesome dinner at the Liberty FFA Officer Induction and Awards Banquet which was held in September at Falling Creek Park. The Virginia State FFA President and Sentinel also attended the Awards Banquet making it a memorable event.

Several Liberty FFA members competed at State Fair of

Virginia on October 4th. Dylan Stanley and Scott Wood tirelessly competed in the Two Man Cross-cut Saw Competition. Sammy Windle had a great performance in the Bow Saw competition and Trenton Pizza threw a large log an astonishing 21 feet in the Log Throw contest. Kyle Rusher and Ryan Abbot represented LHS in the Log Roll and Jonathan Tinsley displayed worthy aim in the Water Accuracy contest.

Agriculture 3 and 4 students took part in a Forest Health Study at Claytor Nature Center while the Veterinary Science class traveled to the VDCAS Lab in Lynchburg. The Liberty FFA Forestry Team of Emily Barrett, Howard Renfro, Kayla Thompson and Kayla Nester had a good time hosting and competing at the HUB Federation Forestry Competition at Falling Creek Park. The Forestry Competition involves identifying different species of trees, forestry equipment identification, and compass reading as well as estimating board volume and value.

FFA members and Ag students have been building picnic tables and chicken coops and other wood projects as well as repairing lawn mowers for community members as well as for our Chapter. Currently, the Horse Judging, Ag Mechanics, and Small Engines Teams are practicing weekly, gearing up for their contests that occur over the next few months.

It is fruit sale time! The Liberty FFA members are taking orders now for their annual fruit sale and may be sponsoring a Virginia Tech sausage sale for the holidays in addition to the fruit sale. If you are interested in purchasing fruit, please contact Ms. Lindsay Tomlinson.

Off to a Roaring Start

Liberty High School's One-Act Play troupe is busy rehearsing their competition show, "Lip Service," by Bradley Hayward. A young couple goes to a fancy French restaurant. He has a plan to propose but everything goes awry, again and again. The troupe performs on November 2nd at Heritage High School. They will hold a public performance for the Liberty community on October 30th at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Admission is FREE! The Liberty forensics team is busy preparing for their first tournament of the year on October 22nd when they travel to E.C. Glass High School to compete with 15 other teams. The

team includes over 30 students this year and they are raring to go. Cade Skalka, Miranda Cramer, Dylan Toms, and Destiny James share the captain's chair for the team and are preparing to provide regular write-ups in the Bedford Bulletin as well as cheering on the newest members! History Day competition at Liberty is also off to a roaring start. There are 19 projects currently being researched. The theme this year is Rights and Responsibilities in History. It is not too late to join the History Day club. They meet on Mondays after school in the library until 5:30.

Sports Hall of Fame



LHS will debut its Athletic Hall of Fame in January. Basketball coach Jeff Monroe came up with the idea. "I knew that Liberty had a great tradition in sports and I thought it would be nice to recognize those individuals or teams who are a great part of that tradition," said Monroe. Coach Monroe is part of an 11 member committee which includes principal Tim Overstreet, athletic director Lori Mattson, former principals Steve Boyer and Bob Worrell, former AD Ricky Falls, former county school board representative Shirley McCabe, former coaches Jim Cutler and Sheila Turpin, head football coach Chris Watts, and county sports reporter Mike Forster. According to the guidelines established by the committee, "Membership in the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame will be comprised of outstanding athletes, coaches,

and contributors who have made significant contributions to Liberty High School. Candidates for the LHS Hall of Fame must meet a very high standard." Nominations for the LHS Hall of Fame are being accepted through October 28th. Former LHS athletes, coaches, and significant contributors to the LHS athletic program are eligible. However, the first groups of honorees must have played, coached, or supported athletics during the first 20 years of the school (1964-1984). After the inaugural class is established this year, nominees from all years will be considered. Those selected to the inaugural Hall of Fame will be recognized at a luncheon or dinner at the Elks Home on January 10th. On January 11th, the honorees will be recognized between the girls and boys basketball games.

Digital Sign Fundraiser Kicks Off

The SCA began collecting dollar bills from alumni on Friday, October 11th. Their goal is to raise enough money to purchase a digital sign for the front of the school. As alumni staff members donated their dollars to the cause, members of the SCA, cheerleaders, and school administration cheered them on. The SCA is asking that every LHS graduate, and every parent of an LHS grad-

uate, donate at least one dollar to help make this dream a reality. If you are interested in donating to this cause, there is a donation box set up in the main office. You may also mail donations to Liberty High School, 100 Liberty Minutemen Drive, Bedford, VA 24523. Please write "Attention Sign" on your letter and the memo of your check. Also note the year of your graduation be-

cause this fundraiser has quickly turned into a friendly class competition with the Class of 1980 currently in the lead. Please make your check out to Liberty High School. The estimated cost of the digital sign is between \$15,000-20,000. The goal is to have the sign in place before our May Golden Jubilee Graduation.



Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cherie Whitehurst makes her donation for the new digital sign.

SCA Sponsors Anti-Bullying Assembly

Did you know that each day, 160,000 students do not attend school because they are bullied, teased, and harassed? On October 22nd, LHS students will attend a SCA sponsored assembly on the effects of bullying. This assembly, "Rachel's Challenge," is "designed to help equip students and adults to combat bullying and allay feelings of isolation and despair by creating a culture of kindness and compassion." Rachel Scott was among the students killed during the Columbine High School shooting

in 1999. Darrell Scott, Rachel's father, established Rachel's Challenge to perpetuate his daughter's example and the two-page "Code of Ethics" she wrote a month before her death. The organization's mission statement is to "motivate, educate and bring positive change to many young people". The programs are based on the writings and life of 17 year-old Rachel Scott who was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999. "Rachel left a legacy of reaching out to those who

were different, who were picked on by others, and were new at her school." "Rachel's Challenge" has developed a team of 30 speakers addressing young people in schools and colleges worldwide about Rachel's example. Schools around the country have incorporated Rachel's challenge into their own clubs, bringing the message to their students. LHS is joining schools across the nation in the commitment to making our students aware of the effects of bullying and creating a safer

Library News



The Library Teen Advisory Board (TAB) has begun planning an after school event to celebrate the release of *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins. It's tentatively planned for Wednesday, November 20th. If you would like to help plan the event see Mrs. Schatz or a TAB member. If you want to participate mark the date on your calendar!!!

Several students have met to form student book clubs. The students in each club are deciding how to manage the club and what books to read. If you would like to join or need more information, see Mrs. Schatz.

Another book to movie release is *Ender's Game*. There are multiple copies available for checkout. The library is always getting new books in. Check them out at

destiny.Bedford.k12.va.us. Students are invited to add book reviews to the library catalog as well. They need to see Mrs. Schatz to set up their account.

The freshmen have been studying the research process each week in the library. They are reading, learning, and completing activities in order to strengthen their research skills. They are using Schoology, an online learning, classroom management platform. If you are the parent of a freshman, ask your student to show you the course and what they have been learning.

The LHS Library has a Facebook and Twitter account. visit them to get the latest news and books!!!

Musical Notes

LHS music students have been hard at work since the start of school, and even back into the summer! So far, the Marching Minutemen have performed at four football games and at two marching band festivals in our area. If you'd like to see the Marching Minutemen's field show "Sweet Land of Liberty" before our season ends, make sure to come to the Senior Night football game on Friday, November 1. The Marching Minutemen will perform on Saturday, December 7th at the Bedford Christmas Parade and on Sunday, December 8th at the Big Island Christmas Parade. Come see us then, too!

The bands, choir, and percussion have already performed their first concert of the year, and are beginning to prepare for our Winter Holiday Concert on Tuesday, December 10th at 7 PM in the LHS Auditorium. All Music Department performances are free for all audience members. Check out the LHS Music Department website by going to Mr. Satterwhite's page on the main LHS website.



Liberty High School

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Mrs. Kris Wingfield, Editor

CREATING A QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WHERE DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND TEAM WORK PREVAIL.



We're on the Web!
www.bedfordlhs.sharpschool.net

Yearbook News

The LHS yearbook staff is hard at work on the 2013-2014 *Heritage*. We are excited to spotlight LHS's 50th anniversary this year. Be on the lookout for an important yearbook mailing before our winter break. This mailing will contain important information about purchasing the 2013-2014 yearbook. The cost of the yearbook is \$60. We are also busy making plans for reinstating the **Winter Ball**. Be on the lookout for information about the time and date. Senior parents should have received a mailing regarding the order of **Senior Baby Ads**. We have extended our

Early Bird Special to December 20, 2013. Take advantage of this special pricing if you have not already done so. If your senior has not yet taken a formal picture for the yearbook, please contact Mrs. Wingfield. If we have enough students who need a picture we will schedule a final date with Lifetouch for senior pictures after winter break. If your senior is using a local photographer, please have your student bring either a digital copy or a hard copy of the portrait to Mrs. Wingfield by January 31, 2014 (digital copies are preferred).

From Your LHS Counseling Office

The Liberty High School Counseling Department is hard at work on communicating with families and students about upcoming opportunities. A web page on the school counseling page has been created with up to date information for all students. A senior webpage has also been created to announce scholarships and senior news: http://bedfordlhs.sharpschool.net/parents_students/seniors_class_of_2014.

Counselors have met with seniors and discussed graduation requirements. Students received information about required classes and SOLs and also discussed post-secondary plans. The paper copy of the interview form is in triplicate with hopes that each student shares the information with parents/guardians and returns one signed copy. Parents/guardians are encouraged to call their student's school counselor if they have any questions.

Lynchburg College and Radford University are offering on-site application opportunities for our students. What does that mean? Students apply and then meet with an admissions representative at Liberty High School and receive a decision "on the spot". Please encourage your student to read the senior web page for more information. If you have not submitted an email address to your student's counselor then you are missing out on some valuable scholarship information, please remind your student to turn that information in to his/her school counselor.

On October 25th, government classes will participate in the Reality Check Program at the high school. Seniors will meet with representatives from the community to learn about budgeting and will get to make real-world choices about everything from car repairs to taxes and see how far their dollar will stretch. Numerous volunteers from the community will be involved in this event. There will be a Financial Aid Workshop on December 9th at 6:00p.m. in the high school library. Parents of college bound seniors are urged to attend. We will review the

application process for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Students who have passed SOL tested classes but failed the SOL exam will have an opportunity to retest the SOL if it is still needed for graduation. Remediation opportunities are already taking place. Ms. Sandra Ludwig has been working with students in Reading and Writing during the school day using the Reading for Success SOL Program. If you and your student opted out of this remediation opportunity, you may want to reconsider and enroll your student for the upcoming Reading SOL. This remediation program has had a very high success rate. Remediation opportunities in math, social studies and science are being offered before and after school. A letter with an attached schedule will be mailed home to eligible students. Please encourage your son or daughter to take advantage of remediation opportunities.

On November 14th, all sophomores will board the school buses and visit Bedford Science and Technology Center to learn about the vocational and technical programs they can choose to enroll in for the 11th grade. Course registration is tentatively set for December for the 2014-2015 school year. Students will be bringing home a registration sheet for your review and signature. Representatives from the Central Virginia Governor's School, the STEM program and the Early College Program with CVCC will be hosting parent/student presentations in the near future. Please check the daily announcements and the School Counseling web page for times and dates. Applications for the 2014 Summer Residential Governor's School programs are available. Please check the School Counseling web page for additional information. Please be reminded that deadlines for these competitive programs are **not** flexible.

The school counselors urge you to take advantage of the Parent Portal tool to monitor your students' class grades. Parent portal login information for parents is available from Mrs. Wanda Goff in the Main Office.