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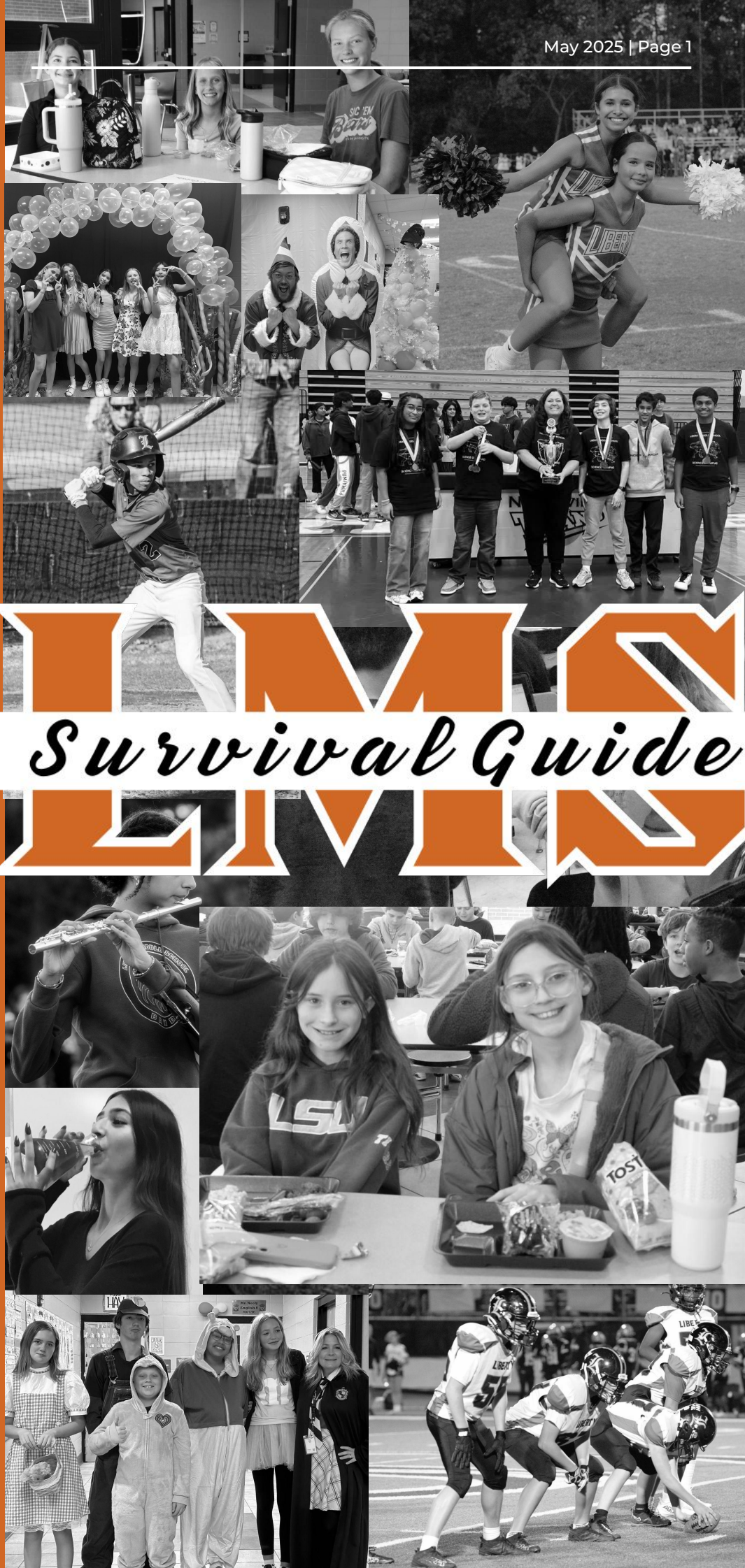
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# Survival Guide



# WELCOME TO Liberty



**Shannon Brown**  
Liberty Middle School Principal

## HOME OF the LIONS

Our school holds grades 6th through 8th. We have fantastic teachers that teach core classes and fun electives. One thing that makes LMS unique is that we have many electives for students to choose from. There are short, 9-week electives (like Introduction to Art, Survey of Foreign Languages, and Beginning Theater to name a few) to year-long electives (like Band or Choir). These electives can range from improving your social skills in Introduction to Public Speaking, to combining math and art in Math Meets Art.

Our school's vision is empowering all students for global success, and our mission is to create a safe, supportive, and equitable school environment where all students are inspired to meet their fullest potential academically, emotionally, and socially. Remember, Liberty Middle School is here for you, and we will help you open doors to the future!



## WORDS FROM the PRINCIPAL

*Welcome to Liberty Middle School!*

*Our school is a wonderful place that can truly feel like home to you. We have an amazing environment here—one that's supportive, respectful, and full of opportunities to learn and grow.*

*I want you to know that I have high expectations for all of our students—but I also believe in being fair and consistent. My goal is to help each of you succeed, not just in your classes, but in becoming the best version of yourself.*

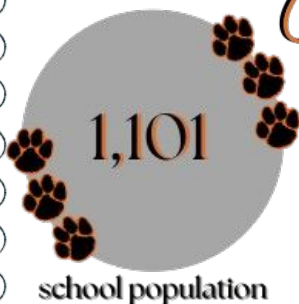
*Get involved! Join a club, participate in sports, or lend a hand at school events. The more you engage, the more connected and confident you'll feel.*

*Also, be sure you understand how to use a computer—it's crucial for communication and will help you as you learn to navigate the school. From checking assignments to reaching out to teachers, technology will be a big part of your success.*

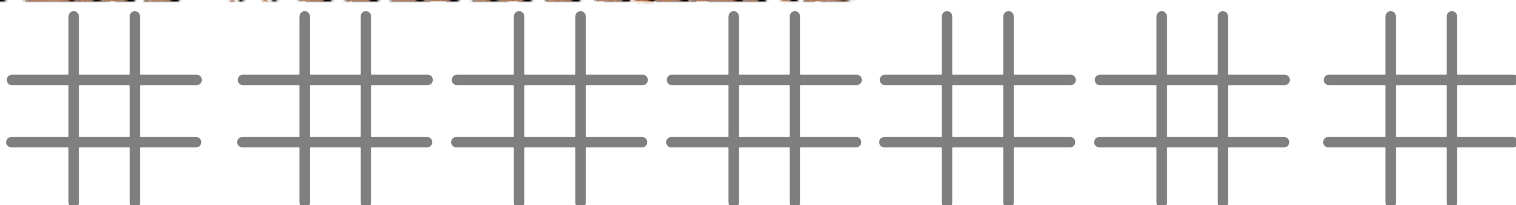
*And finally, never hesitate to ask questions. If you're unsure about something, just ask. We're all here to help you thrive.*

*Let's make this year something special!*

## WATCH US Grow



## PLAY WITH A FRIEND





# Liberty Administration



Liberty Middle School has wonderful administration that helps us around the school everyday. We asked the admin team these two questions: What is your favorite part about working at LMS? What should every LMS student remember?



Mr. Brown-402

[sdbrown@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:sdbrown@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

Mr. Swearingen-108

[cbswearingen@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:cbswearingen@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

Dr. Hamilton-421

[ajhamilton@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:ajhamilton@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

Ms. Young-123

[adyoung@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:adyoung@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

*“What makes Liberty so unique is everyone is willing to help each other so they can be the best that they can be.”-Mr. Brown*

*“My advice to students is that there is someone in this building that can help you no matter what! The key is to ask. Finally, keep your hands to yourself.”  
-Mr.Swearingen*

*“You matter here. At Liberty, you’re part of a community that believes in you, supports you, and wants to see you grow — not just in school, but as a person too.” -Dr. Hamilton*

*“Students should know that when you consistently do the right things, the right opportunities will find you—right on time. Every day is an interview for a job you didn’t know you wanted or needed.” -Ms. Young*





# — People to — Know



Nurse Tunstill's office



Front Office



Media Center

It is important to know people around the school. Everyone here is willing to assist you whenever they can. Some examples are the nurse, the front office ladies, the support staff, the librarians, and of course our teachers.

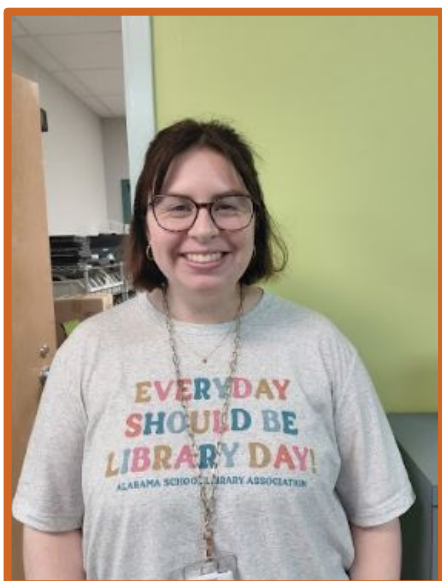
It is vital information to know where these people are located. The librarian, Ms. Singley, is located in the Media Center/Library in Center Pod.

In the Media Center/Library, students can check out books, complete puzzles, create crafts in the Makerspace, or print assignments.

The school nurse, Nurse Tunstill, is located behind the front office.

If you cannot find her, Mrs. Robbins and Mrs. Mayfield will help you out. These ladies work hard to check students in and out, collect student items, and many other important things for our school. They are located by the main doors at the front of the school.

Finally, our teachers are located all around the school and are always available if you need help. All adults in the building are happy to aid you, so don't be afraid to ask if you need some assistance!

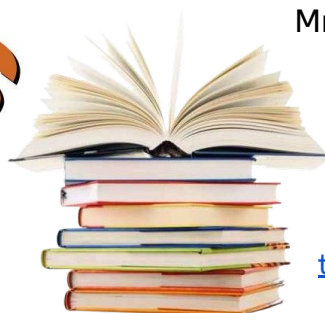


"Here at LMS I recommend library books for students, and I also have lessons with students about technology."  
— MS. SINGLEY





# Resources for Students



## School Counselors:

We have three counselors at LMS: Mrs. Kimberly, Mrs. Brogden, and Mr. Barnett.

-Mrs. Brogden is located in yellow pod (room 217) between Ms. Veizer and Mr. Ball. She serves students with the last names **A-H**.

[tkbrogden2@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:tkbrogden2@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

-Mr. Barnett is located in red pod (room 245) between Mrs. House and Ms. Tolleson. He serves students with the last names **I-M**.

[jjbarnett@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:jjbarnett@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

-Mrs. Kimberly is located in blue pod (room 234) between Mr. York and Mrs. Harvey. She serves students with the last names **N-Z**.

[jskimberly2@madisoncity.k12.al.us](mailto:jskimberly2@madisoncity.k12.al.us)

They can help you with a majority of concerns, including stress, anxiety, school concerns, organization problems, home issues, peer or social concerns, and career questions.

Self Referral Form:

[Student Self Referral Form](#)

## School SRO:

Officer Bullington and his office is located in blue pod (room 233) between Mrs. McConnell's and Miss Mayfield's rooms. He is here to provide safety to our students and staff as well as provide comfort and protection.



*"My role as a SRO is to ensure that students and teachers have a safe learning environment. I also get to teach and build relationships with students."*



LIBERTY MIDDLE  
SCHOOL



HOME OF THE  
LIONS

There are many resources that are here for you at Liberty. These resources include our school SRO, our counselors, and our school library.

## Media Center:

The school library is located in center pod above the front office. It holds hundreds of books available for students to check out. It acts as a study hall every morning before school, and it has a printer for students to print from. There is space for club meetings along with Makerspace in the back.



# WAYS TO GET AROUND LMS



**What is something you like about one-way traffic?**

One thing I like about one-way traffic is I don't get bumped into as much and it's easier to get to class.

-Elizabeth Paine

## What are pods?

Pods are groups of classrooms. They are colored so you can find your class more easily. Each pod is generally one or two subjects or grades.

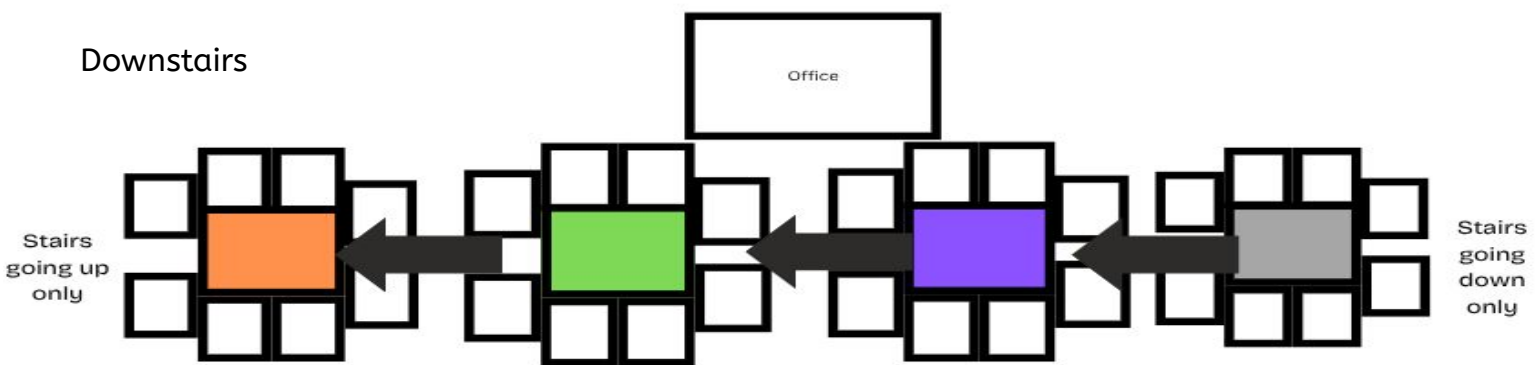
## Which way do I go?

At Liberty we have one-way traffic flow during class change, so everyone goes the same way. This helps with the flow of traffic because the halls are so congested. There are also designated stairs to go up and down.

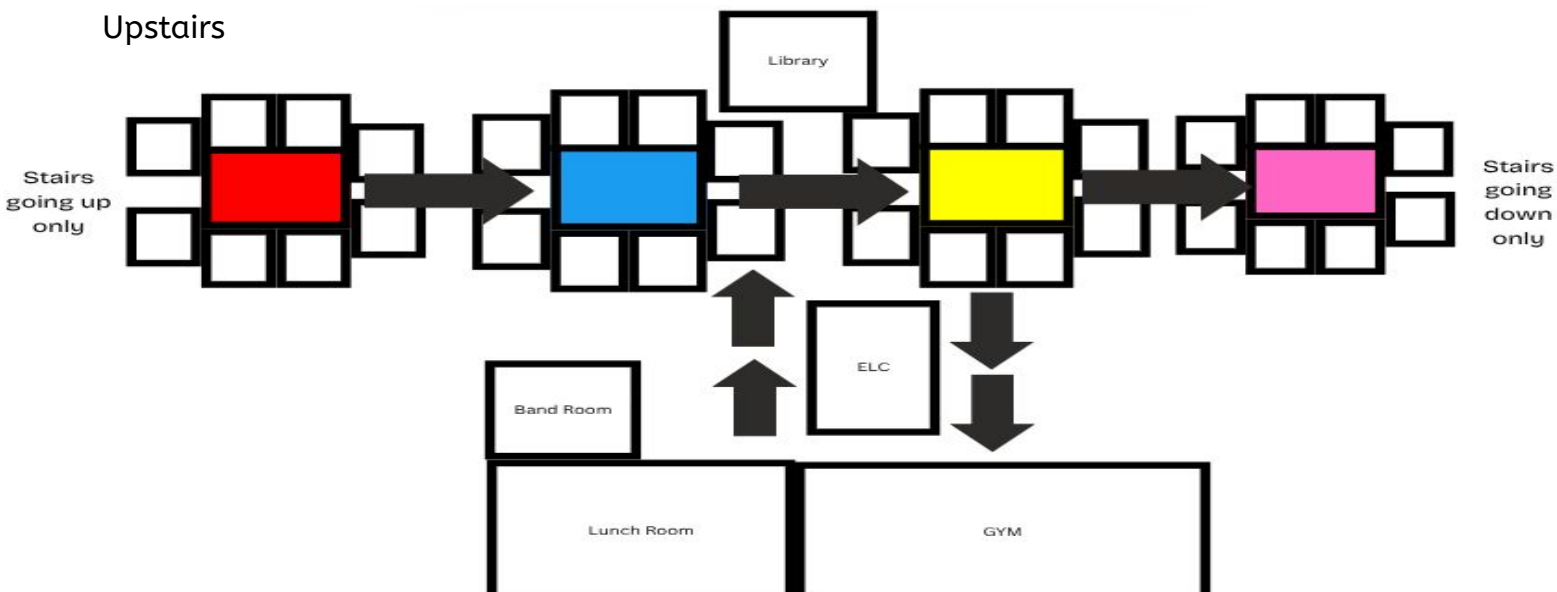
## How do I get to class?

When you get your schedule, memorize the teacher and pod location for each block. Remember, your schedule is listed in Powerschool. Then, when it is time to change classes, take a minute to stop and think about which pod you are going to next. Make sure you ask if you don't know where to go! Follow the one-way traffic flow and get there as quickly as you can. You have 5 minutes to get to class, so make sure you get to class on time.

### Downstairs



### Upstairs





# Schedule Rotation and Advisory

The classes at Liberty are 75 minutes long. They are referred to as A block, B block, etc. A block is the 1st class you have in the 1st rotation, and so forth. When the quarters (9 weeks) change, some of the classes change as well (year long and semester long classes don't change yet), but the blocks are still referred to as A block, B block, etc. Sometimes, the schedule changes due to school events, but it remains the same pretty much every day.

The only day that has an exception is on Tuesdays.

On Tuesdays, we have advisory, which is pretty much like homeroom, but it is a class that teaches mental and social health education. We have interviewed Ms. Young, the assistant principal, to gain more insight on the purpose of advisory and how it helps students:

## Q: What is the purpose of advisory?

A: The purpose of advisory in middle school is to support students' academic, social, and emotional development in a structured, intentional way. It serves as a consistent time during the week where students build relationships with a trusted adult and a small peer group, helping create a sense of belonging and connectedness within the school community. The other purpose to advisory is a chance to be able to directly teach character education.

## Q: How does advisory help students?

A: Advisory helps students connect with an adult/teacher in the building. Students have the same advisory teacher from 6th to 8th grade. This group provides consistency and community. Also, character education helps you learn how to make good choices, treat others with respect, and be responsible. Talking about these things each week helps you grow into a kind, confident, and thoughtful person.

The weekly schedule changes every week to prevent students from missing the same classes if they need to check out from school. It can be confusing at first, but as you progress throughout the year, you get the hang of it.

## Advisory Schedule (Tuesday)

When you are first coming to Liberty, the different transitions can be confusing. However, this section of the guide will break it down for you!

Advisory- 8:15 - 8:45

Transition: 5 mins.

A- 8:50 - 9:55

Transition: 5 mins.

B- 10:00 - 11:10

Transition: 5 mins

C- 11:15 - 1:00

Transition: 5 mins

D- 1:05 - 2:10

Transition: 5 mins

E- 2:15-3:20

Dismissal

## Daily Rotation Schedule:

A- 8:15 - 9:30

Transition: 5 mins.

B- 9:35 - 10:50

Transition: 5 mins.

C- 10:55 - 12:40

Transition: 5 mins

D- 12:45 - 2:00

Transition: 5 mins

E- 2:05 - 3:20

Dismissal

## Weekly Rotations:

Rotation 1: ABCDE

Rotation 2: EDCBA

Rotation 3: BACED

Rotation 4: DECAB



# Liberty SPORTS

At Liberty Middle School, athletics are a big part of who we are. Our sports teams are built on the value of teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship. Whether you're making your first catch on the football field, perfecting your serve in volleyball, or hitting your first stunt in cheer, you'll learn valuable skills and build your confidence in a fun and supportive environment. You'll also be able to make new friends and get better at many exciting skills. With experienced coaches and a culture that celebrates achievements big and small, any sports team at Liberty prepares you for success on and off the field. Check out the sports below to learn more about what it means to be a part of one.



*"When joining a sport, be prepared and be ready to be coached."*

*-Coach Tremaine Edwards*

## FOOTBALL

Liberty Football is a very popular sport at Liberty Middle School. There are 2 teams, 7th grade and 8th grade. They play from August to Mid October, representing our school through teamwork, courage, and resilience. They compete in the county championship in Mid October, which 8th grade has won the past 3 years in a row. Liberty Football is open for registration in mid-April, with spring training starting in Late April. Football is a great way to be a part of something at Liberty while representing your school.



## BASKETBALL



Liberty Basketball is composed of 4 teams: 7th Girl, 8th Girls, 7th Boys, and 8th Boys. They play in late October to early February, competing in many games, including the county championship. Basketball is open to any upcoming 7th and/or 8th grader looking to support Liberty Middle School while being a part of a great and supporting group of students.



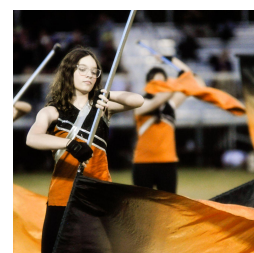
## VOLLEYBALL

Liberty Volleyball is a group of students that show the power of teamwork each time they play. With 2 teams, 7th grade and 8th grade, Volleyball plays from August to Fall Break, showing the true spirit of a lion through grit, determination, and enthusiasm. Volleyball competes in the County Championship in late September each year. Tryouts for Volleyball are at the end of March, and both teams do workouts throughout the summer. Volleyball is open to any rising 7th and/or 8th grader looking to join a fun and competitive sport and become a part of a great group of students.



## COLORGUARD

Liberty Color Guard is a group of students that perform at football games. Their intricate routines are performed with poms, flags and rifles that they twirl and move to music. Color Guard performs next to Pep Band at football games and during halftime. Tryouts are held in Mid April and Color Guard is open to any rising 7th and/or 8th grader looking to join a great group of students. After football season, Winter Guard begins practice after winter break and competes in competitions throughout the spring. Tryouts for Winter Guard are in November, and are open to any current Color Guard member.



## CHEER



The Liberty Lionettes Dance Team is a group of students that also perform at football games. Through artistic movements, the team creates a well-choreographed, eye-catching performance and shows team spirit for all who attend the games. The Lionettes go to competitions in Orlando, Florida and perform poms, hip hop and jazz routines. Tryouts are held in late March, and Dance Team is open to any upcoming 7th and/or 8th grader looking to join a challenging and exciting sport.



## BASKETBALL CHEER



Liberty Basketball Cheer is a group of students that cheer during home and away basketball games. They perform numerous well choreographed cheers from the right side of the bleachers and also perform during halftime at home games. Tryouts are held at the beginning of April, and Basketball Cheer is open to any upcoming 7th and/or 8th grader looking to support fellow students while being a part of a great group of people.



# Liberty SPORTS

As athletes look ahead to the spring semester, the excitement of baseball is in the air as Coach Wes Hopper and Coach Darius Brewton take the reins to coach the 7th and 8th grade teams. The girls softball team, under the guidance of coaches Brooke Pooler and Antwon Bradley, has plenty of opportunity for the young athletes to showcase their skills. Additionally, the girls soccer team will be led by coaches Robin McConnell and Julie Meggs, while the boys' soccer team will be under the direction of Coach Casey Smith. These two teams had a strong finish to the season last year and look forward to another successful season. It's shaping up to be an action-packed season for all!

## BASEBALL



## GIRLS SOCCER



The Liberty Girls Soccer Team is a dedicated group of 7th and 8th grade girls who love soccer. Our season runs from January to April, emphasizing excellence, teamwork, and sportsmanship. We encourage each member to give their best in practices and games, fostering a supportive team culture. Players will improve their skills and learn valuable lessons in perseverance and leadership.

## SOFTBALL



The Liberty softball program is made up of one team of 7th and 8th grade girls. Tryouts typically occur in May for the following school year. These athletes demonstrate grit, dedication, and resilience both on and off the field. Each year, these girls show their skill and their team spirit in practice and in games.

The Liberty baseball program has two teams for 7th and 8th grade student-athletes, structured as "A and B" teams to maximize playing opportunities. There are two tryouts each year: a multi-day evaluation in the fall and a one-day tryout in late January for new players. Players participate in mandatory conditioning during the fall and begin partial practices after the Christmas break, with full practices starting in January. The season runs from President's Day to mid-April, allowing for 24 games against North Alabama schools. Membership is a privilege, and players must maintain high academic and behavioral standards.

## BOYS SOCCER



The Liberty Boys Soccer Team, comprised of 7th and 8th graders, competes from January to April. We hold high expectations for our players, including giving their best effort both on the field and in the classroom, maintaining a positive attitude towards everyone involved, keeping a minimum C average in all classes, and staying physically fit throughout the season.





# The Arts at Liberty Middle School



## Choir



Choir is available for all grades here at Liberty. The course is all-year long, and auditions are held during the Fall semester.

Beginning choir is for 6th grade students, where

students will learn the fundamentals of singing and music theory.

The two other choirs- treble chorus (for 7th/8th grade female students) and tenor/bass chorus (for 7th/8th grade male students) are the next levels of choir.

## THE BANDS AT LIBERTY

The Liberty Middle School bands are split into 4 groups, with 2 extracurricular groups.

These groups are the Beginner Band, for beginner students with little to no band experience; the Intermediate Band, for lower-intermediate band students; the Concert Band, for upper-intermediate band students; and the Symphonic Band, for the school's most advanced band students.

The extracurricular groups are the Jazz Band, which is

open to members of the advanced (Intermediate, Concert, and Symphonic) bands, and the Percussion Ensemble, which is open to all advanced band percussion students.

None of these bands play with any stringed instruments.

In Beginner Band, you will learn how to play your instrument and play at a few concerts later in the year. In the advanced bands, you will refine your musicality and prepare for several performances, including



multiple pep band performances. You will also have the option of going on a band trip, which requires preparing for widely known competitions.



# Liberty Middle School Art



There are many art classes here at LMS. For example, we have Intro to Visual Art, Visual Art, Advanced Art, and Sculpting/3D Art. Also, we have an active Art Club led by one of the Art teachers.

**Intro to Visual Art-** is a 9 week long class open to all students. It is designed to give students a simple understanding of different types of art. This includes art history and art criticism.

**Intermediate Art-** is a 9 week long class, which can be taken by students who have already taken Intro to Visual Arts. In this class, the students will learn a wide variety of art media and styles, like drawing, painting, and printmaking.

**Sculpture-** is a 9 week long course which focuses on 3D art. It is offered to only 7th and 8th grade students, and there is no needed class to take prior to it. The students get to use a variety of materials in this course, like clay, paper mache, and metal.

**Advanced Art-** is a semester long class offered to 7th and 8th graders who auditioned. Students work on improving their technical art skills and realism by using a wide variety of media and art techniques.



# Liberty Middle School Theatre

The LMS theatre is a great way to introduce yourself to the many aspects of theatre. There are 3 levels of theatre: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced.

**Beginning Theatre** - This is a 9 week class that provides students a basic foundation to different theatre skills. Students learn about the history of theatre, pantomiming, tableaux, improvisation, and more things surrounding theatre. At the end of the 9 weeks, students work to perform a small, in-class production. This class is a great introduction if you're still finding your place, or just want to improve your theatre skills. It is open to all grades, 6-8.

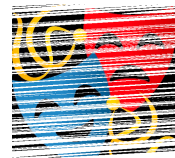
**Intermediate Theatre** - This course is semester long for 7th and 8th graders and requires the Beginning Theatre course as a prerequisite.

In this class, students will review the basics, learn about fairytales, perform a puppet show, and then practice and rehearse to conclude the semester with a one-act play production. This course has a \$50 fee.

**Advanced Theatre** - The advanced theatre is a course designed to help students build their vocal, kinesthetic, emotional, analytical, and intellectual elements of theatrical training through activities in class, focused on developing such skills.

This class will perform one major production at the end of the year. To join, students must audition and be approved with a 1-minute monologue or obtain instructor approval. After school rehearsals and productions take place at the high school and will be mandatory to attend. This class is open to 6th-8th grades, and the class has a \$50 fee.

**Junior Thespian Society** - This is an honor society for theatre students.





# Clubs and Extracurriculars at LMS

LMS has a variety of clubs that students can choose from.



Don't be afraid to try new things - make sure to join some school clubs! Don't worry, there is definitely something that will interest you. There are a variety of different clubs at LMS!

These clubs range from academic to artistic, and athletic to community service-oriented. Some clubs meet in the morning, but most clubs meet in the afternoon.

You can go on to the Liberty webpage to learn more about these clubs (when to meet, who the sponsor is, what you do, etc.).



## WHAT CLUBS ARE AVAILABLE AT LMS?

Some popular ones include 4-H Club, Anime and Manga Club, Art Club, Beta Club, Chess Club, Debate Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), First Priority, Girls Who Code, Green Power Team, Madison City Friends, Newspaper Club, Robotics, RPG Club, Scholars Bowl, Step Club, Student2Student (S2S), and Technology Student Association (TSA).

Some of these do require students to apply or attend an interest meeting.

Some organizations meet during the day as classes. You must register for these when you register for all other classes, so be sure to register for these ahead of time if you are interested. These include Yearbook, Digicom, Band, and Choir.

Along with clubs, you can also join sports! These sports include archery, baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, dance, competition cheer, basketball cheer, color guard, and volleyball. Most of these sports will require tryouts before, so watch out for emails or flyers regarding these sports. Sixth graders can't join teams, but they can become team managers.

# Clubs and Extracurriculars at LMS

LMS has a variety of clubs that students can choose from.



LMS Step Club performs their routine.

Clubs range from science, to art, to games, and more. Here are some details about clubs in various categories.

One of the most common art-related clubs is actually just called Art Club. They meet in Mrs. Smith's room and create various art pieces like clay and oil pastel drawings.

One of the popular science clubs is TSA, or Technology Student Association. They meet in Mrs. Herrington's room and do STEM and science-related projects and competitions.

Finally, one unique gaming club is RPG club. They do role-playing games with imaginary characters and other students.

Remember, to find out more about the different student clubs at Liberty, make sure to visit the LMS website and get involved!



Robotics Club members showing off their creations.



DigiCom students filming a broadcast.



# Cafeteria CRITERIA

Being respectful in the cafeteria is essential for creating a positive environment. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

Be mindful of the space you occupy.

Always clean up after yourself by throwing away trash and wiping tables.

Use polite language like "please" and "thank you" when interacting with staff and peers.

If you see someone sitting alone, invite them to join you.

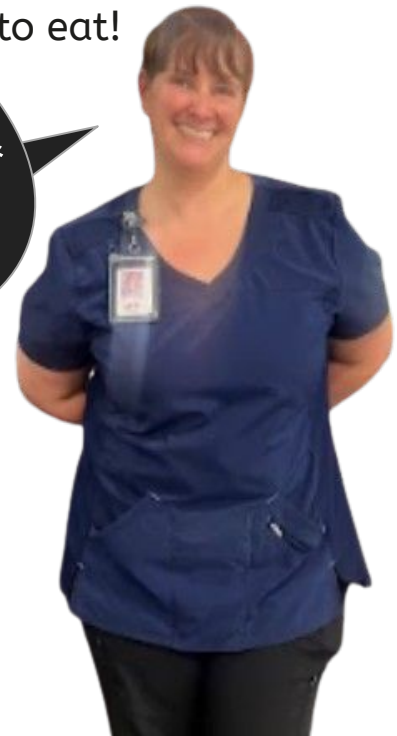
Following these simple tips can help make the cafeteria a welcoming place for everyone!

In a middle school cafeteria, it's all about respect, responsibility, and good vibes. Keep your voice at a reasonable level, wait your turn in line, and be polite to the staff. One big difference from elementary school is that you have free seating in the cafeteria.

When navigating the middle school cafeteria, it's important to be friendly and respectful. Start by finding a table where you feel comfortable and can make new friends. Make sure that once you find your seat you don't wander around, because you only have 20 minutes to eat!



*"My best advice is put the phones away and always have a positive attitude."  
-Rachel Fentress*





# TIPS FOR STUDENTS



## THINGS TO KNOW

As you prepare to come to Liberty, you may still have some questions about what to expect. We asked current students to reflect on their time at Liberty and share some tips that have helped them be successful here.

Eighth grader Makayla Mann shared, “Do not be afraid to branch out and ask questions, especially on the first day. It can be very confusing, but all you have to do is ask a teacher and they will point you in the right direction.”

Lydia Madi, another eighth grader, stated, “I would definitely recommend taking advantage of your free time to complete work from other classes. This helps to decrease your amount of homework, and really relieves stress (especially if you do extracurricular activities). I would also recommend on your first day to ask people for directions and guidance. Don’t be afraid to ask for help! It really helps you get used to the new environment faster.”

Consider these tips to help start your amazing year at Liberty!

## Myths vs. Reality: LMS Edition



### Myths



### Reality



The weekly schedule rotations are very confusing.

You should get the hang of it after a week or two. Tip: Check your schedule in PowerSchool!!

The teachers are really mean and scary.

All of the staff members at LMS are really nice and are always happy to answer any questions.

You can’t eat in any classes, and the teachers are really mean about it.

It really depends on the teacher and their rules for their classroom, but many allow you to eat a snack in class as long as you clean up after yourself.





## Contributors

Charlotte Bembry  
Claire Bowen  
Lilah Bryant  
Cici Chen  
Abby Courtney  
John Ellis Clements  
Anne Dickson  
Tanvi Gaikwad  
Eliza Jane Harrison  
Abigail Hester  
Jaci Jolley  
Chloe Kim  
Dylan Lobaugh

Avey Morman  
Charlotte O'Donnell  
Caroline Pasho  
Makenzie Reynolds  
Emery Rhode  
Hailey Salvail  
Brooklyn Smith  
Toryn Smith  
Brooklyn Steinert  
Jessica Syrratt  
Addyson Turner  
Alivia Turner  
Rachel Zhang

*This project is a student-created collaboration between the  
LMS Newspaper Club and Yearbook Staff.*