

Liberty Bell News September 2011

**Open House
September 28, 2011
7 p.m.**

**A publication of:
Liberty Bell Jr./Sr. High School
18 Twin Lakes Road
Winthrop, WA 98862
Editors: Sharlene Cardoza
Cody Cupp**



proud that our students take advantage of the education we offer which gives our students the opportunity to compete in a diverse and changing world.

If there is anything we can do to help your child, please do not hesitate to call. The unvoiced problem cannot be resolved, as the missed opportunity rarely offers itself again. Our goal remains to provide the best possible education of each student.

We trust that your experience with our school will enhance your faith in public education and that your will find in this school an education for your children that is worthy of your love and care for them. Thank you for letting us be a part of their lives.

Sincerely,

Deborah DeKalb

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the new school year. A warm welcome is extended to our new students and their families, our returning students, our new staff and our returning staff. Our new staff members include Lori Patrick, teaching video productions and she will join Sara Mounsey and Paul Gitchos as co-teachers at the Independent Learning Center. We are offering a welding class at Twisp Works under the tutelage of Barry Stromberger. A student survey and a pilot program revealed that students would like to learn welding and with the help of the community and school district we will now offer this class.

Our school's reputation and success rest, in large part, on parental involvement and concern. We seek to offer each student the opportunity to foster their innate abilities and challenge themselves to a degree that will prompt a love of learning. This is no easy task. We need your cooperation and understanding to provide a meaningful and satisfying experience for your child. Our school emphasizes academic excellence for all and we will do what it takes to make sure all students reach this goal. It takes all of us to make this happen and we look forward to a positive partnership with all stakeholders in accomplishing this endeavor.

Our school is proud of its highly qualified and dedicated faculty. These educators appreciate your concern and view education as a partnership between home and school. We see our students striving to be all they can be and challenging themselves to reach their potential. These are very important years and we are

COLLEGE FAIR!

Wed. October 5

6:30-8:00 pm

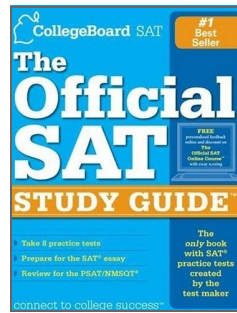
Liberty Bell HS Commons

College admission advisors from around the state will share their knowledge and answer your questions.

This a great opportunity for students and their families to become better informed about post-secondary education. Technical schools, community and four year colleges will all be represented.



Counselor's Corner



Make sure you put your best effort into your classes from day one. All your high school grades are on your transcript and sent to colleges when you apply. A great resource for college information is

www.collegeboard.com.



The SAT, ACT and other College Board tests are offered several times a year. Most students first take the SAT and the ACT during the spring of their junior year and the second time during the fall of their senior year. Students may choose to take these tests as many times as wanted. The PSAT, an SAT prep test, is given to 10th and 11th graders.

The ACT is a set of four multiple-choice tests that cover English, math, reading and science. The ACT also has an optional writing test. It is said that the ACT measures what a student has learned in

school more than the analytical skills stressed by the SAT. The SAT tests a student's knowledge of reading, writing, and math. There are also SAT Subject Tests available.

The SAT and ACT are significantly different tests, and in many ways, they measure different skills. So depending on your particular strengths and weaknesses, you may perform much better on one test than the other. As a result, many students embarking on the admissions process are now considering both the SAT and ACT--to figure out which test provides a better showcase for their abilities.

Seniors

The SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject tests will be given at Liberty Bell on Saturday, **Oct. 1**. If you want to wait and take the SAT Reasoning Tests or Subject tests in November, the test date is **Nov. 5**, and the registration deadline is **October 7**. On that day, the test is *not given at Liberty Bell*. The closest test center is Brewster High School.

The ACT will be given at Liberty Bell on **Dec. 10**. Registration deadline is **November 4**. Please register for the ACT test at www.actstudent.org.

If you have any questions, please see Ms. Cardoza.

Juniors

To register for the PSAT, sign up in the office. The cost is \$14.00. The PSAT test is given at Liberty Bell on **Oct. 12, at 8:25am**. This is an important practice for the SAT test later in the year. It is also the test for the Junior National Merit Scholarship Program. There will be practice test booklets handed out the week of September 26. There are PSAT fee waivers at the high school office for juniors who qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Sophomores

It is highly recommended that all sophomores take the PSAT test as well. It is a great chance to practice and learn what the SAT test will be like. The more practice you get, the better your skills are. Register for the PSAT at the office. The test is at Liberty Bell on **Oct. 12, at 8:25am**.

Freshmen

Be sure to get off to a great start this year as your grades will be posted to your transcript and will be sent to colleges in four years! If you have any questions or concerns about a certain class, check in with your teachers as soon as possible.

Fee waivers for the SAT and ACT are available for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. See Ms. Cardoza if you are eligible.

Standards-based Grading 2011-2012

This summer, Mark Wenzel, Deborah DeKalb, Jane Orme, Dani Golden, Carrie Fink, Robin Nelson Wicks and Laurie Ulmer were fortunate enough to attend a workshop presented by Rick Wormelli. He is a thirty year national board certified teacher who has written numerous educational resources, including *Fair Isn't Always Equal* and *Differentiated Instruction and Grading*. His presentation reaffirmed our commitment to standards-based grading.

We are now using the Skyward standards-based grading program. With your username and password, you can view your students' progress. Scores are posted on a regular basis.

The increments are:

- o 4
- o 3.5
- o 3
- o 2.5
- o 2
- o 1.5
- o 1

The numbers stand for:

- o 4 - Exemplary
- o 3 - Proficient
- o 2 - Developing
- o 1 - Not There Yet

Grade reports at the quarter and semester will be translated into letter grades. The semester grades will be posted on transcripts and factor into the students' cumulative GPA.

Students are assessed a number of ways. Sometimes the assessment is informal and other times it is a more formal activity using a scoring rubric or an end of unit test. As part of the practice using a standards-based grading system, a student may retake or redo an assessment provided that additional work/study can be shown.

While standards-based grading remains relatively new at Liberty Bell, our teachers are excited about its potential to make teaching and learning more intentional and meaningful.



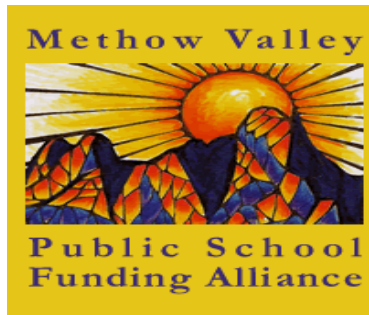
AVID Offered for 7th Through 10th Grade Students

AVID is in its second year for junior high students and its first year for 9th and 10th graders. These classes are taught by Melody Beavon and Jane Orme, respectively. AVID is an acronym for Advancement Via Individual Determinism. This is an elective course for targeted students that prepares them for entrance into colleges and universities and provides the framework to reach scholastic goals at Liberty Bell. There is an emphasis on analytical reading and writing, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, study skills and test taking, note-taking, research, and organizational skills. In addition, AVID stresses the importance of reading and writing as tools for learning. This strategy forms the basis of all assignments.

Students also work with tutors in small groups on questions that students bring from their core classes. Students are required to take notes during tutorials and use class and textbook notes to enhance their discussions. Tutors help students with the process of learning through inquiry, rather than giving students answers to their questions.

Motivational activities and field trips to colleges as well as learning from college and career outreach speakers are part of the course. These activities provide students with the resources they need to learn about the many opportunities available to them in the community and beyond that will impact their future.





Expanding Horizons for Every Student

College advising, the junior class Close-Up trip to Washington D.C., book review projects, writing workshops, new library books, PSAT fees, environmental education field trips -- these are among the enriching opportunities for Liberty Bell Junior/Senior High School students supported by Public School Funding Alliance (PSFA).

PSFA is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 to enhance education for Methow Valley public school students. PSFA returns community donations to the public schools, funding more than \$450,000 in educational programs and materials over the past eight years. Donations to PSFA double the amount of money available for academic enrichment in our school district.

PSFA-funded programs reach more than 500 students every year, from kindergarten through graduation. PSFA grants expand opportunities in science, art, languages, literature, math, music, and outdoor education with field trips, academic programs and new materials.

Our annual fundraising campaign is underway. Please consider donating to Public School Funding Alliance to support Methow Valley students!!

Applications for funding are available online at www.methowvalleypsfa.org. We encourage teachers, staff, students, and community members to apply. The deadline for our fall application review is October 1, 2011. For more information, to contribute or to get involved, visit our website at www.methowvalleypsfa.org.



Intent to Home School

Parents of home school students or students who attend a non-accredited private school must complete a Declaration of Intent for Home-based Instruction each year. Forms are available at the Methow Valley School District superintendent's office (996-9205). Students in the District-sponsored Alternative Learning Experience program through the Methow Valley Independent learning center are not included.

Military Information

Each year Liberty Bell High School is mandated to allow recruiters from the U.S. Armed Services and the Washington National Guard access to the names and addresses of juniors and seniors so that students may receive information on career options and education opportunities. Parents who do not want the school to release that information about their student must notify the school by October 24.

IMPORTANT!
A bus note is required for your student to get off the bus at a stop different from their regular bus stop.



In Lieu of Transportation

Parents who live two or more miles from the nearest school bus stop are entitled to reimbursement for the cost of transporting their student(s) to and from the nearest bus stop. Parents must apply at the Methow Valley School District superintendent's office on Twin Lakes Rd. before September 30. This applies to both new and returning students, and applies as well to parents who must drive kindergarten students to or from a bus stop or school at midday. The state provides part of the funding for this transportation, and the District must provide an exact count in order to receive reimbursement. Parents who apply will need to provide a legal address and state the mileage driven daily.



Parents:
We have a *closed* campus policy except for seniors during lunchtime.
Thank you for reminding your student!