

**Student
and
Family
Handbook
2021
2022**



OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Liberty
Elementary**

Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) is being implemented in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs.

We believe...

We cannot “make” students learn or behave.

But we CAN create environments to increase the likelihood that students learn and behave.

We CAN create environments to increase the likelihood of positive behaviors occurring.

These environments are guided by a set of standardized practices implemented with consistency and fidelity.

MTSS-B is a problem-solving framework for teaching desired behaviors in each school. MTSS-B utilizes consistent practices that have tiers of increasingly intensive supports to increase the likelihood students are academically, emotionally, behaviorally and socially successful.

With consistent implementation, Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavior

- Improves the school climate
- Reduces aggressive behaviors
- Reduces major disciplinary infractions such as suspensions
- Improves concentration, positive social behavior, and emotional regulation
- Improves academic achievement.

If you would like more information about how MTSS-B is implemented in your school, contact the building principal.



Liberty Elementary

Student and Family Handbook 2021-2022

2021 St. Mary's Avenue / Omaha, NE 68102-2415
531-299-1740 / liberty.ops.org

This handbook is prepared to serve as a guide to Liberty Elementary students. In it you will find the policies and procedures that are followed at Liberty. We hope that you will find this handbook a convenient reference during the school year.



Mission Statement

Omaha Public Schools prepares all students to excel in college, career, and life.

Vision Statement

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

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Welcome from Principal

This handbook has been prepared for the parents and students at LIBERTY ELEMENTARY. It presents guidelines and directions, which will help to answer some questions the reader may have regarding our school. Please read the information carefully and keep this booklet as a reference. The practices and procedures outlined are presented in the best interest of all members of our Liberty family.

Philosophy

Liberty will provide a positive learning environment that allows for each student to develop his/her academic and individual potential. The school will strive to promote a genuine appreciation of human worth and dignity as well as creating an atmosphere where one's contributions are recognized and rewarded.

It will be our continuing aim to foster respect for home and family, a pride in one's cultural heritage and personal independence. Children will be continually asked to accept responsibility for their actions and encouraged to use sound judgment in making decisions appropriate for their age levels. Truth and honesty will be priorities in character development.

Liberty Elementary Collective Commitments

1. We will provide a welcoming and safe environment for all students, parents, staff and community members.
2. We will teach students using a challenging and rigorous developmentally appropriate curriculum.
3. We will model and encourage lifelong learning by collaborating and participating in professional development.
4. We will encourage parental involvement by sponsoring opportunities for parents to be involved in their students' education.
5. We will monitor student learning and growth to ensure academic success

Schedule

School hours:	8:50 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.
Office hours:	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Breakfast:	Grab and Go breakfast from 8:25 a.m.

Students should NOT be dropped off before 8:25 a.m. Students in grades KG – 6th grade may proceed to their classrooms at 8:25 a.m. **Students may not go to their classrooms before that time as teachers are not on duty until 8:25 a.m.** Students are to line up in the breakfast line before that time, even if they do not wish to eat breakfast. Students may proceed to their classrooms from the line at 8:25 a.m.

Lunch: Available in the café 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (see grade level schedule).

Students may purchase a hot lunch or bring a cold lunch. Lunch boxes should be marked with the child's name and room number. Please do not include candy or pop in a lunch packed from home. Students may not bring chips, candy, gym or pop to school.

Foods in competition with the National School Breakfast and School Lunch Programs are prohibited by the United States Department of Agriculture. This applies to foods such as pizza, hamburgers, etc. that are brought in during the meal service times. Omaha Public Schools could lose reimbursement money if we are found in violation of this policy.

Field Trip Procedures

Field trips are pre-planned and are designed to provide an educational experience. Students must be courteous, be able to follow directions and be cooperative during the field trips.

Permission slips or written permission must be returned to the teachers by the deadline or the student will not be able to attend the field trip.

Transportation to and from the field trips is usually provided by commercial bus companies and occasionally by staff. Due to liability concerns, we ask that all parents drive themselves to and from the field trip.

Traffic Safety

Safety is our greatest concern. Be an example of courtesy and care to our children. Please drive slowly. Do not leave your car unattended unless in a proper parking space.

Drop off students in the **driveway only, NEVER** at the curb in traffic. The east side of the building is reserved for buses only. When traffic in the driveway comes to a stop, please have your student(s) get out of the vehicle on the school side of the driveway and walk directly to the sidewalk. Do not wait to drop your student(s) at the front door as this delays the flow of traffic.

School dismissal takes 10-15 minutes. Again, please use the driveway only. If you are walking, or choose to park at the Children's Museum, you must use the crosswalk at 20th and St. Mary's Ave. or at 22nd and St. Mary's Ave.

Student Planner

Planners are used by students in grades Early Childhood-6. The Planners are our best communication tool. Assignment Planners help families stay informed about daily work and school events. Please review and sign your child's Planner each day.

Homework

Students are encouraged to read each evening at home. Parents are encouraged to read to or with their children. When a student has work to do at home, it will be to practice or review skills learned at school.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences are held during the first and third quarters. Parents are invited to sign up for a conference time at Open House at the beginning of the year. We will reserve that same time for third-quarter conferences but can adjust as necessary as schedules do change. Communication is the key to a successful school. Open communication should be on-going throughout the school year.

Liberty Expectations

1. Follow all directions promptly
2. Speak and listen respectfully
3. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
4. Take responsibility for your actions
5. Treat your school and property with respect
6. Walk quietly, go directly to your destination and through the proper door
7. Use playground equipment properly
8. Play in designated areas
9. Rough play and throwing objects are not allowed
10. Use restrooms properly and leave them clean and litter free.

Liberty Elementary Schoolwide Plan

A vital part of education is learning positive social skills. We will spend time during the first few weeks of school and throughout the year discussing your child's responsibility for following routines and procedures established by the school. Appropriate behavior in our schools is a responsibility to be shared by students, parents, and school staff. ***We will encourage our students to be safe, be thoughtful and be determined in all that they do.***

In addition to routines and procedures, reasonable guidelines for student behavior have been established by the Omaha Public Schools to help students develop an increasing amount of self-discipline. The guidelines apply in the classroom, in the school building, on the school grounds, at all school functions and on buses and vans.

All students have the right to pursue an education in an environment conducive to learning. Therefore, all students are expected to act in a way that does not distract from another student's right to learn. All students are expected to know and follow the school rules.

The staff at Liberty Elementary believes that learning positive social skills is an ongoing teaching process that

fosters respect and dignity for all individuals. It is proactive, developmentally informed, culturally and gender sensitive. It stresses growth, individual responsibility and problem solving in a collaborative effort among students, parents, educators and the community.

Toys, Games, Cell Phones and Hoodies

All school supplies are furnished to students. Toys, games, balls, pets, electronic equipment and other items should not be brought from home. Cell phones and other electronic devices distract students from learning. Emergency messages can be delivered to students through the office. With parental permission, cell phones may be brought to school but must immediately be given to the classroom teacher. The cell phone will be returned at dismissal each day. Students wearing hoodies must keep the hood off their head while inside the school for safety reasons. If the hood becomes an issue, students will be asked to store their hoodie in their locker.

Community Partners

The following organizations are Community Partners with Liberty Elementary:

AIM Institute	Hilton Omaha
Buffett Early Childhood Institute	Omaha Children's Museum
College of St. Mary	One World – School Based Health Center
Completely Kids	Rose Theater
Creighton University	Urban Abbey
Gallup	YMCA

Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism,
He learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility,
He learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule,
He learns to be shy.
If a child lives with jealousy,
He learns to feel guilt.
If a child lives with tolerance,
He learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise,
He learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice.
If a child lives with security,
He learns to have faith.
If a child lives with approval,
He learns to love himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world.

Parents make the difference at Liberty Elementary!

Omaha Public Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Omaha Public Schools intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, *Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.*

In General

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.

- Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with their child's school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities.
- Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.
- Parents of participating children will be provided timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand.
- Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Last Reviewed: February 9, 2021

Parent Right To Know Clause

At the beginning of the school year, any District that accepts Title I, Part A funding must notify parents that they can request information regarding their child's teacher and his/her qualifications, including certification and endorsements. Parents can also request information about paraprofessionals working with their children.

Omaha Public Schools 2021-2022 Calendar

**Omaha Public Schools
Board of Education**



Shavonna L. Holman, *President*
Jane Erdenberger, *Vice President*
Tracy Casady
Spencer Head
Nancy Kratky
Ricky Smith
Kimara Z. Snipes
Marque A. Snow
Nick Thielen
Cheryl J. Logan, *Superintendent*

Next Level Learning - June 2-30 & July 1, 5-23
Independence Day - July 5

First Semester 2021-2022 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Senior High Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of October 4	Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of October 11	Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of October 18
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New Teacher Days - August 3-6
Building Planning - Inservice/Teacher Work Days - August 9-13

Staggered School Start

- August 16 -Elementary Student Start Day
- August 16 - Secondary Teacher Work Day / no secondary students
- August 17 - Entry Level Middle and Senior High Student Start Day
- August 18 - All Other Middle and Senior High Student Start Day
- August 19 - Early Childhood Classes Start

Labor Day - September 6
Curriculum Day - October 1
No school for all students
Senior High Conferences - October 7
No school for high school students
Senior High Teacher Planning Day - October 8
No school for high school students
Elementary Teacher Team Planning Day - October 8
No school for elementary school students
First Quarter Ends - October 8
Second Quarter Begins - October 11
Middle School Conferences - October 14
No school for middle school students
Middle School Teacher Planning Day - October 15
No school for middle school students
Elementary Teacher Planning Day/Conferences - October 21
No school for elementary students
Elementary Teacher Planning Day - October 22
No school for elementary students
Thanksgiving Recess - November 22-26
Second Quarter Ends - December 17
Winter Recess - December 20-January 3

Second Semester 2021-2022 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Senior High Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of February 14	Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of February 22	Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of February 28
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Teacher Planning/Professional Development Day - January 4
No school for all students
Third Quarter Begins - January 5
Martin Luther King Day - January 17
Senior High Conferences - February 17
No school for high school students
Senior High Teacher Planning Day - February 18
No school for high school students
Presidents' Day - February 21
Middle School Conferences - February 24
No school for middle school students
Middle School Teacher Planning Day - February 25
No school for middle school students
Elementary Teacher Planning Day/Conferences - March 3
No school for elementary students
Elementary Teacher Planning Day - March 4
No school for elementary students
Third Quarter Ends - March 4
Fourth Quarter Begins - March 7
Spring Recess - March 14-18
Professional Development - April 15
No school for all students
Fourth Quarter Ends - Last student day - May 27
Memorial Day - May 30
Professional Development/Teacher Planning Days - May 31-June 1
Next Level Learning - June 8-30 & July 1, 6-22
Independence Day - July 4-5

June 2021							January 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5							1	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
27	28	29	30				23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
							30	31						
July 2021							February 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1	2	3				1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	27	28						
August 2021							March 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31					27	28	29	30	31			
September 2021							April 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4						1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
October 2021							May 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					
31														
November 2021							June 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30			
December 2021							July 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4						1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	31		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
							31							

Elementary 8:50 a.m. to 4:05 p.m.
Middle School 7:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
High School 7:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.
At Kennedy, Lewis & Clark, Wakonda and Wilson — check with the school regarding start & end times.

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Parent
Voice
Feedback
Survey

