

## November News

In some ways it is hard to believe that we are already to the end of the first quarter; but, on the other hand, the beginning of school seems ages ago. Was it only a few weeks ago that we were measuring our classrooms for social distancing, worrying about our student's adjustment to masks and digital formats and concerned that in the midst of all of these restrictions, they would still feel safe, loved and secure?

In many ways the planning for Covid Response has been much more difficult than the reality. Our students have adjusted well; they are happy, learning and adjusting extremely well to the new definitions of school. Our new protocols have become routine and now are just a normal part of our day.

I keep thinking that the positive side of all this seemingly chaotic time may be that we are teaching our children how to walk through adversity, be resilient, be flexible and work on changing the things we can while accepting the things over which we have no control. Can we do this and still maintain our independence, individuality and our hope? I believe we can and we do.

Please know that in the midst of this fluid Covid situation, we continue to be diligent in following our safety protocols. In some ways I do wish you could visit and see how well the students are doing. We maintain 6 ft. distance in the halls, classrooms, and walking in and out of school. Students have adjusted to wearing masks very well, with very limited reminders. Temperature scans upon entrance to the building are a daily routine. As we progress through the school year and the students adapt further to our new routines and a sense of normalcy settles in, that does not, however, relax our safety protocols. While we have some transitioning in classes, recess and lunch, students remain in small groups with limited contact to others in the building. Though this was a huge change for everyone, it has become ordinary practice. That is a credit to our entire school family, who work together and support all of these new realities.

As I have been observing and visiting classrooms, it has only deepened my respect and appreciation for the staff who interact with your children on a daily basis. I see innovation, enthusiasm, motivated and engaged students, strong relationships that display patience, caring and love. Our students are thriving more each day and blossoming. There is a sweetness in experiencing the resilience of our staff and students to ride out this storm so effectively and so graciously. Thank you for all you do to walk with us and support us daily.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Picture Retakes .....	2
Report Cards, RIMPS .....	2
Band & Testing .....	2
Parent Teacher Conferences...	3
Schedule Changes .....	3
Popcorn Party .....	3
Remote Work/Detention .....	4
Thanksgiving Break.....	4
Specials/Literacy .....	5
Science Materials .....	5
STUCO, Remote Practice.....	6
LIS Pantry.....	6





Picture Retakes  
November 16th-Scarlet  
November 17th-Gray

## BAND

Beginning with the second quarter on **November 2nd**, those students who signed up for band, were tested for a specific instrument and assigned by the band directors for band instruction, will begin small group instruction weekly during their scheduled special time.



## REPORT CARDS

The first quarter ends on **October 30th**. Reports will be sent home the following week on **Wednesday, November 4th** for the Scarlet Cohort and **Thursday, November 5th** for the Grey Cohort. Please sign and return the envelope to school indicating that you have reviewed your

child's grades for the first quarter.

**Early Release on  
October 30th at  
1:00.**

***FYI-Interims for the second quarter will be sent home December 2, 2020.***

### 3rd Grade RIMPS

**2 Copies of a letter concerning the 3rd grade reading guarantee, which indicated whether or not your 3rd grade student was on track were sent home with every student and required a parent/guardian signature. Your brown envelope may also have contained a copy of the RIMP (Reading Improvement Plan), which also requires a signature. If you have not returned the contents of that brown envelope, please sign the required papers and return ASAP.**

### ELA THIRD GRADE TESTING!

Beginning on October 19th, we began our 3rd Grade fall testing for all 3rd Grade Students. Thank you so much to our scarlet and gray cohort families for making sure that our students were in attendance so that we could complete our testing in a very timely manner.

**A special thank you also to our 100% remote students who made arrangements to bring their children for the required testing! We appreciate so much your cooperation in this matter.**

**Thank you to Mrs. DeArmitt for all her work in contacting the families and scheduling our remote testing. Her efforts are so much appreciated.**

# November 2nd

## Schedule Change

Notification was sent home via email and video concerning the schedule change for 3rd grade students beginning on November 2nd, which is the beginning of the second quarter.

After tracking and analyzing our enrollment over the last two months of school, considering the protocols for social distancing, the assessment data from our beginning of the year diagnostics, and the educational needs of our students, the decision was made to bring our gray and scarlet cohorts together everyday for daily direct instruction. The combined enrollment numbers of our 3rd grade cohorts are still small and well within the capacity we have in the classroom. The six feet social distancing protocols and all other Covid protocols remain in place for the continued safety of our students and staff.

At the end of the semester, when the enrollment numbers may increase with returning 100% remote students, we may have to return to the current hybrid model. Even one quarter of direct instruction will have a tremendous positive impact on student learning.

### DIGITAL SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FAMILIES WHO SUPPORTED THE ONLINE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR. WHILE IT WAS NOT AS SUCCESSFUL AS WE HAD HOPED, WE APPRECIATE ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS,

Thank you to **Mrs. Char Brandt** who volunteered to be our Popcorn Lady, and came two days to help us provide an end of the quarter treat for our students in both cohorts. Students enjoyed some harvest activities along with popcorn party and a drink . Thank you also to the teachers for planning enjoyable activities for our students. I also want to thank Mrs. Brandt for helping us do our benchmarking at the beginning of the year.



Parent Teacher Conferences were digital for the first round!

Thank you to all our teachers and parents for your flexibility in making the parent-teacher conferences such a success!

Communication between home and school is ongoing so please continue to check Progress Report, email and our Remind App for solid communication between home and school.

Conferences are not limited to our two scheduled times a year, they can be scheduled anytime and are much more easy to arrange quickly, especially now with the convenience of technology.



## DETENTION

**DETENTION IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY MORNINGS BEGINNING AT 7:30 AM.**

**STUDENTS SHOULD ENTER THE FRONT DOORS BY THE OFFICE & THE DETENTION TEACHER WILL MEET THEM THERE.**

**STUDENTS WILL BE WORKING ON ANY MAKEUP WORK THEY HAVE OR BE MONITORED ON THE COMPUTER WHILE WORKING ON LEXIA OR REFLEX PROGRAMS,**

**YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES IS IMPORTANT IN ADDRESSING AND IMPACTING STUDENT CHOICES FOR BEHAVIOR AND REMOTE WORK!**

**BY FAR, THE BIGGEST ISSUE IS STUDENTS CHOOSING NOT TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK ON REMOTE DAYS.**

## REMOTE DAYS– ACCOUNTABILITY

The first quarter certainly was a transition time between our chaotic ending of school last year and finding a new normal. It is clear that students have had a great deal of training and reinforcement as to the expectations and process for completing remote work.

The time required for completing work on remote days is considerably less than what is expected in school (a minimal requirement) and less than what other districts require.

We cannot stress enough how important it is for students to be engaged at home. We have gaps to fill and new standards to teach. We cannot do it without your help. We can control

what happens here but we cannot supervise students at home. This partnership is critical in moving forward. Everything the students are required to do—they should be able to complete independently. Please be careful the balance between helping and supporting your child while they are doing remote work and doing it for them. It is a red flag when the remote work appears to be mastered and student's can then not demonstrate it in school.

The standard for completing work is that it ALL must be done. They cannot just pick and choose what they want to do—all work must be checked off or it is considered incomplete and the requirements not met.



**Thanksgiving Break**

**November 25-29**

**Monday, November 30th**

**School Resumes with the Scarlet Cohort**

Specials (Art, Music, PE, Gym) will change with the second quarter. The students will have 2 different specials for the second quarter. It will finish the rotation of four different classes. By the end of the semester, students will have completed a cycle of Art, Music, Physical Education and Technology.

The second semester these 4 subjects will be cycled through again.

### Literacy Committee Meetings

LIS and Bascom personnel continue to partner to review, plan and discuss our literacy plan for LaBrae Schools. With our support from TCESC, our county educational service center, School Board Members and Mr. Calderone, we are moving forward to analyze our current instruction, diagnostic analytical trends, and resources to align our educational programs and resources with current research based recommendations for instruction. This is an exciting time of collaboration and cooperation between our buildings as we plan for future growth and success for our students in the English Language Arts curriculum. Thank you to all our staff and support personnel that are working together to bring about positive and lasting change in our district.

**As a part of our literacy initiative, we will be scheduling Staff Development Days on November 20th and December 11th for staff. There will be NO School for students in Grades K-5 on those days. Although they are both the gray cohort, we do have 2 extra gray days overall in the school calendar.**

Free Breakfast & Lunch has been extended until the end of the year. Students have also been receiving a daily snack of vegetables or fruit.



**100% Remote Students**

**Science Lab Materials have been delivered for 4th and 5th grade students,**

**You can pick them up during regular school hours,**

**Thank you for your cooperation in picking up your materials in a timely manner.**



**(LIS) LABRAE  
INTERMEDIATE  
SCHOOL**

**LaBrae Intermediate  
School is part of the  
LaBrae School Complex  
for grades 3-5**

**Principal:**

**Mrs. Kay Suzelis**

**Secretary:**

**Mrs. Carrie Guesman**

**School Counselor:**

**Mr. Jason Diaz**



**Contact Information  
LaBrae Intermediate  
School**

**1001 N Leavitt Rd  
Leavittsburg, OH**

**44430-9644**

**330-898-0800**



## LIS PANTRY

Our Pantry Continues to be available for our families. Please let us know by filling out the Viking Pantry Form on our website (see the illustrations to the left) how we can meet your needs. We can send food home in your child's bookbag or make arrangements for you pick up items privately. Our shelves are stocked and ready for distribution.

We also have clothing, coats, gloves, hats, bookbags, lunchboxes and other school supplies that have been donated to our school families.

We want to say thank you to Walmart on Elm Road for the flatbed donations of school supplies.

Please let us know of any way we can help and support your and your children with these supplies.

Quick Links	Contact Us
Cafeteria Accounts/Fee Payments	
Cafeteria Menus	
District Newsletters	
Employment Opportunities	
Final Forms	
ParentAccess	
ParentAccess Instructions	
TimeClock Plus	
Viking Nation	
Viking Pantry	

### Viking Pantry

In November 2018, LaBrae Local Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley moved to the Complex.

LaBrae is appreciative of everyone who helps off at Bascom or the Main Complex. Contact [amy.frederick@labrae.school](mailto:amy.frederick@labrae.school)

[Viking Pantry Referral Form](#)

**Student Council-Like many things this year, student council will take on a new format. We will have few members elected to the council, limiting the representation and trimming back the number of officers as well. It will be a small group that we believe will work very effectively to plan and execute activities for our student body. Mrs. Wevers has been organizing the campaign that will take place on election day.**

**Prep Bowl: We are in the planning stages of Prep Bowl and will be sending out invitations to students to take the qualifying test. Following that we will be forming teams and practicing will begin after school the week of November 2nd. Some of the practice sessions will be in Google Meet.**

### *Direct Instruction and Distance Learning:*

Your students may be coming home and share with you that they are experiencing direct instruction on Google Meet here at school or they may be starting to login in at home to join a class in session here at school. While we are practicing and experimenting with different formats of direct instruction remotely, the premise is that we are preparing our students for whatever format is required in the future. If it became mandated that we needed to all go 100% remote, I want our students to be prepared and ready to receive direct instruction from the teachers. As we have learned from experience, that requires repeated practice to navigate successfully. I've been observing that in progress in several grade levels and the students have been very excited about this experience. I applaud our staff for their innovation and risk-taking so that are students are prepared for any and all digital platforms that may be necessary in the future.