

LABRAE LOCAL SCHOOLS

2021 Community Newsletter

2021-2022 School Calendar

August 26 th -30 th	Teacher Professional Days
August 31 st	Student First Day
September 6 th	Labor Day-No School
October 7 th	Parent Conferences {Early Release}
October 8 th	NEOEA Day-No School
November 24 th	Thanksgiving Break Begins {No School}
November 29 th	Classes Resume
December 22 nd	Christmas Break-No School
January 3 rd	Classes Resume
January 17 th	MLK Jr. Day-No School
January 21 st	End of First Semester {Early Release}
February 17 th	Parent Conferences {Early Release}
February 18 th	No School
February 21 st	Presidents' Day-No School
April 15 th	Easter Recess-No School
April 19 th	Classes Resume
May 27 th	Graduation {Packard Music Hall}
May 31 st	Last Day for Students {Early Release}
June 1 st	Teacher Professional Day

For more information on the school calendar, visit LaBrae's website. For detailed information by building, please view the Calendar of Events link on the LaBrae Local Schools' website.

From the Superintendent

by Anthony J. Calderone

Last school year confronted all of us with tremendous and unforeseen challenges. I want to commend our students, families, and staff for the manner in which everyone handled the trials and tribulations brought on by the pandemic. The coming school year will not be without its own special set of challenges, as our community is not quite out of the proverbial woods.

LaBrae staff have been working diligently to ready our buildings for the return of students. Additionally, our teachers heading up our summer programming have been busy preparing for our extended learning opportunities for students. We are excited about a return to some level of normalcy, but understand that this year will be one where some of the COVID protocols and practices from last year will remain in effect in some fashion. In the near future, communication will go out to our parents providing information on our district practices for the 2021-2022 school year.

One very important summer development occurred with the passage of the new state budget. The enactment of the Fair School Funding Formula offers a lot of promise for public school funding. Not only is this funding good for schools as it makes Ohio's funding system constitutional, but it is also beneficial to property owners as the funding formula should stabilize school revenues from the state, and lessen the frequent requests from schools for additional revenue. Without it, LaBrae would likely have had to go back to our voters with a levy request in the near future, but with the new formula, LaBrae's finances are more stable for the near term, which will eliminate a need for a levy request in the immediate future. Despite the new formula, advocates will have to work to ensure it becomes a permanent funding fixture as the State has only committed to the new formula for two years.

I look forward to a great school year and the partnership with our families to be the best we can be for our students. When we work Together, Everyone Achieves More!

LaBrae Camp Returns

The LaBrae 6th grade camp has been a storied tradition for students since 1953. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented LaBrae from conducting camp in 2020, but through the commitment of faculty camp advisors and the board of education, LaBrae was able to ensure last year's 6th graders didn't miss out on this wonderful outdoor education experience.

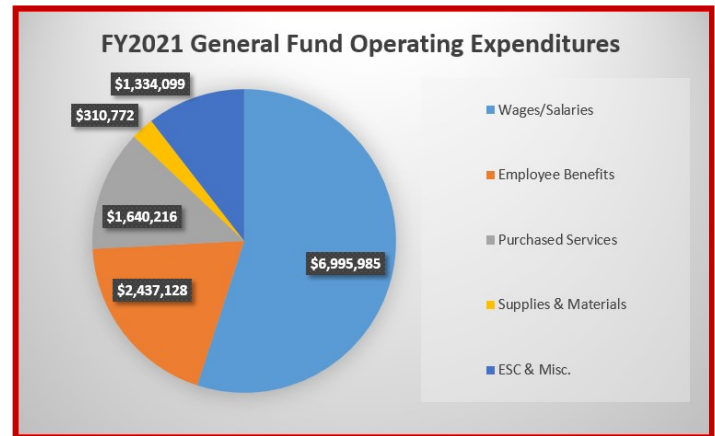
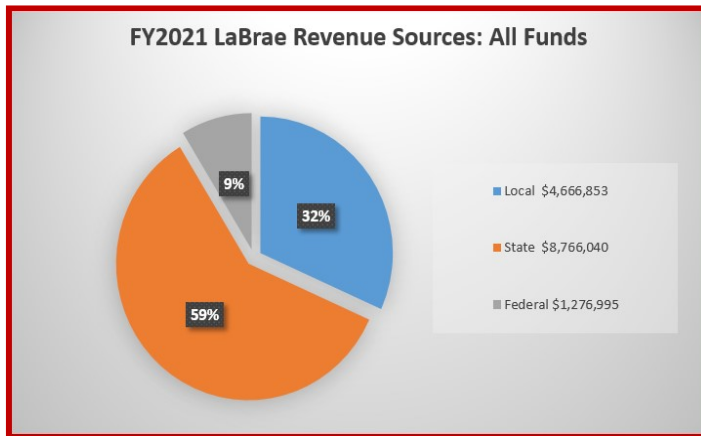
In fact, in the spring of 2021, LaBrae conducted two separate camps back to back, one for the 6th grade class of 2020-2021 and one for the 7th grade class who missed out in 2020.

The LaBrae camp is held in Conneaut, Ohio, and it engages students through diverse activities in an attempt to nurture students and broaden their horizons through an outdoor education experience.



News from the Treasurer's Office

LaBrae FY2021 Financial Summary



LaBrae School Funding

Over the last two fiscal years, LaBrae finances in the general fund have been burdened by decreasing state funds and increased expenditures in benefits and special education costs. FY2021 closed on June 30th, and LaBrae was able to close out the year with a \$74,180 budget surplus for the year, which was a reversal of the previous two years where the district had run significant deficits.

The change in trend can be attributed to expenditures being significantly less than originally forecasted, and most importantly, the positive financial impact of federal stimulus dollars to schools for the purpose of maintaining operations. The additional federal stimulus dollars passed in the spring of 2021, and Ohio's adoption of the Fair School Funding Formula will stabilize the district's general fund for the near future as budget surpluses are forecasted for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

LaBrae Bond Debt Update

Taxpayers should be aware that the bond debt used to fund the construction of our LaBrae School Complex will be paid off in 2024. Additionally, when the bond levy expires, the .5 mill maintenance levy coupled with the bond levy will also expire. For 2021, the tax millage for the bond levy was reduced for the third year in a row. The 2021 taxation level for the construction bond is 4.4 mills, which was reduced from 4.5 mills in 2020. LaBrae will continue to use remaining unused principal to pay down the debt on schedule. The District is using the unused principal to fund the reduction in millage rates for our property owners. LaBrae has approximately \$500,000 to use toward debt repayment and anticipates lowering bond rates further by the time the debt is retired in 2024.

Currently, among Trumbull County schools, LaBrae has the eighth highest level of school taxation totaling 55.2 mills. However, once the construction debt is retired in December of 2024, the total millage will be reduced to 50.3 mills which would make LaBrae the sixth lowest millage level among Trumbull County Schools.

LaBrae Extends Shared Service Agreement with Mathews Local Schools

In June, the boards of education for Mathews Local and LaBrae Local finalized an agreement to continue to share a school treasurer for the next three fiscal years. Mr. Brad Panak, the current treasurer at Mathews Local, will continue to serve as the treasurer for both school districts through July 31, 2024. The continuation of this shared services arrangement denotes the Board's attentive eye on fiscal stewardship, as the Board is committed to this innovative opportunity in an effort to maximize the effectiveness of tax revenue. Mr. Panak's full cost of employment in the current fiscal year, which includes insurance and benefits, is \$117,827.67. The employment cost is split by the districts in a 50-50 cost sharing model.

Over the course of the three year agreement, and based upon the employment costs for a treasurer in 2019-2020, LaBrae anticipates saving a total of \$136,828.



Academic Recovery Plan

LaBrae Local Schools has started implementing its academic recovery plan this summer. In June, the Board of Education sponsored Camp Invention. LaBrae teachers and student counselors provided a rewarding experience for forty-five LaBrae students. Camp Invention provides students an enrichment opportunity to extend their learning beyond the scope of the school year. The camp places emphasis on nurturing student inquiry and innovative thinking through project based learning.

Another initiative is the Bounce Into Bascom kindergarten readiness program. Bounce Into Bascom serves approximately two dozen students prior to their entry into kindergarten and prepares students for the routines of school, but most importantly, the program attempts to introduce or reinforce foundational beginning learning skills.

LaBrae is also conducting a learning recovery program this August for students in grades one through five. The LaBrae Summer Safari is a two week early school start program conducted daily for four hours. Teachers in the program will identify learning gaps induced by the pandemic and work with students to begin closing the gaps prior to the start of school.

Later this fall, LaBrae will begin an after-school intervention program for all grade levels as another initiative to address learning loss. Information on the after school programming will be forthcoming to parents in September.



Camp Invention Inventors at work!



Miss Christy reads a story to Bounce Into Bascom participants.



Camp Invention participants experimenting with their product designs.

LaBrae Food Services Update

by Sally Deeher, Food Services Director

As the 2020-2021 school year began we were wading through unfamiliar waters. With every wave we faced, our food services staff banded together to overcome the crashing blows. We were able to successfully navigate the challenges before us and accomplish our goal of providing students with delicious, healthy meals through the entire school year, keeping our heads above the wake while we went. As many others fell under and closed their doors, TNG and our LaBrae Food Services Team kept treading. Even when our students had to be placed on virtual learning, we kept swimming. Our food program continued and the staff came to work every day to prepare nearly 700 meals that were delivered daily to our hungry students learning from home. The determination and perseverance displayed by our staff has made me proud to be part of LaBrae Local School District.

The 2020-2021 year is behind us, but I'm sure we'll be discussing it for many years to come. For now, it is time to focus on the future. The USDA has extended nutrition waivers through the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This means students can eat breakfast and lunch, for FREE, all year long! We cannot wait to amaze our students when they return this Fall. Our professional team at The Nutrition Group has been spending their time revitalizing and coming up with new, fun ways to provide healthy and nutritious choices in the lunchroom. Keep your eyes open for new recipes and items such as our Chipotle Chicken Flatbread and Pepperoni & Cheese Calzone Stuffers.

Also, our keystone programs, Wellness Wednesday, Food Fusion, Recipe of the Month, and Nutrition Education in the Classroom, will be returning with a new look. This year we hope to get students more excited than ever about school meals and we are anxious to get back out in the lunchroom to share in new experiences with our students!

As we reflect on last school year, it is worth mentioning that we gained many valuable tools to take with us into the future. We learned how we could utilize technology to digitize our operations, because student and parent interactions were limited. Our online surveys became one of the most effective tools at highlighting what is working and what needs to be changed within our lunchrooms. Now, moving forward, we hope to continue the same desire to listen and better understand our students and what they crave in the lunchroom!





LaBrae Local Schools
1001 N. Leavitt Rd.
Leavittsburg, Ohio 44430
<https://labrae.school>

LaBrae COVID Related Plans for Review and Feedback

LaBrae has developed two distinct plans, which are posted to our district website for stakeholder review. The plans also offer a link for stakeholders to offer feedback or input. Use the link herein to access the plans:

[LaBrae Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan](#)

[LaBrae Continuity of Services Plan](#)

Note: This edition of the community newsletter is only offered digitally. The District decision to forego the printing and mailing of the newsletter was made to reduce expenditures and save money.

LaBrae Local Schools' Directory

Main District Phone Number: 330.898.0800

Main District Address:

1001 N. Leavitt Rd.

Leavittsburg, Ohio 44430

(Address for: BOE, LaBrae HS, LaBrae MS, & LaBrae Intermediate School)

Board of Education Offices:

Superintendent's Office: 330.898.1393

Treasurer's Office: 330.898.2408

Fax: 330.898.6112

Bascom Elementary: 330.898.3041; 330.898.1448 (F)

1015 N. Leavitt Rd.

Leavittsburg, Ohio 44430

LaBrae Intermediate School: 330.898.4569; 330.898.7808 (F)

LaBrae Middle School: 330.898.8599; 330.898.7808 (F)

LaBrae High School: 330.898.2721; 330.898.7808 (F)

LaBrae Transportation Department: 330.989.0231

LaBrae Food Services Department: 330.898.5863

2021 LaBrae Board of Education

Mr. Russell Sewell, President

Email: rusty.sewell@labrae.school

Mrs. Karen Ancell

Email: karen.ancell@labrae.school

Mrs. Diane Duncan

Email: diane.duncan@labrae.school

Mr. Tim Gibson, Vice President

Email: tim.gibson@labrae.school

Mr. Gary Morton

Email: gary.morton@labrae.school

Connect with LaBrae Schools On Twitter

LaBrae Schools: [@LaBraeSchools](https://twitter.com/LaBraeSchools)

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LaBrae MS: [@LaBraeMS](https://twitter.com/LaBraeMS)

LaBrae Intermediate: [@LaBraeIntSchool](https://twitter.com/LaBraeIntSchool)

Bascom Elementary: [@LaBraeBascom](https://twitter.com/LaBraeBascom)

LaBrae Athletics: [@LaBraeAthletics](https://twitter.com/LaBraeAthletics)

Guidance Department: [@LaBraeGuidance](https://twitter.com/LaBraeGuidance)

Food Services: [@LaBraeCafe](https://twitter.com/LaBraeCafe)



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keep up with news from LaBrae.*

