

LABRAE LOCAL SCHOOLS

2018 Community Newsletter

2018-2019 School Calendar

August 24 th -27 th	Teacher Professional Days
August 28 th	School Starts
September 3 rd	Labor Day-No School
September 10 th	Teacher Professional Day {Grades K-5 Not in Session}
September 17 th	Teacher Professional Day {Grades 6-12 Not in Session}
October 11 th	Parent Conferences {Early Release}
October 12 th	NEOEA Day-No School
November 6 th	Teacher Professional Day {No School}
November 21 st	Thanksgiving Break No School
November 26 th	Classes Resume
December 24 th	Christmas Break-No School
January 7 th	Classes Resume
January 18 th	End of First Semester {Early Release}
January 21 st	MLK Jr. Day-No School
February 14 th	Parent Conferences {Early Release}
February 15 th	No School
February 18 th	Presidents' Day-No School
April 19 th	Easter Recess No School
April 23 rd	Classes Resume
May 24 th	Graduation {Packard Music Hall}
May 27 th	Memorial Day-No School
May 31 st	Last Day for Students {Early Release}
June 3 rd	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

In the fall of 2017, the LaBrae Board of Education adopted a strategic plan in which goals and strategies were identified. One important goal in the area of communication was to develop a medium by which the Board could inform the broader public about the school district. This community newsletter is our effort to enhance our communication with our community so that people are more aware of the happenings at LaBrae Local Schools.

While we work to enhance our communication with our community, our main focus remains student achievement. Our dedicated staff continues to adapt to the challenges of changing standards and assessments during Ohio's academic transition. Our goals remain steadfast, to ensure that our services provide every learner the opportunity to be college or career ready when they graduate from LaBrae Local Schools.

LaBrae Local Schools continue to demonstrate improvement as assessed by Ohio's school report card system. Testing results from the 2017-2018 school year are being finalized, and initial indications validate the expected growth and improvement of our students. LaBrae's 2018 report card, expected to be released in September, will demonstrate marked improvement and consistency in many of the accountability components.

This summer we are diligently working to ready for the coming year. This work includes maintaining and improving upon our facilities, making academic preparations, and exploring securing security services with the Warren Township Police Department.

I thank you for your continued interest and support of LaBrae Local Schools, and I want you to know that my office will always welcome your feedback as we work to effectively serve the LaBrae community.

The Future of Bascom Elementary

by Anthony J. Calderone

The Board of Education has partnered with the Ohio Facility Construction Commission, or OFCC, to study student enrollment and a potential remodeling project to the LaBrae Complex, which houses grades 3-12. With continued enrollment decline, LaBrae is exploring the possible inclusion of grades Pre-K through second grade, which are currently housed at Bascom, into the LaBrae Complex. This cannot be achieved without some level of building reconfiguration and remodeling.

At this time, there is no decision to move forward with a remodeling project. The Board of Education is simply gathering information and evaluating options. However, considering the enrollment trends, and the need to be fiscally responsible, it appears as though building consolidation could be in our District's future. As clarity on this issue is achieved, the Board of Education will engage our residents to communicate its findings and determination on how to proceed.

Congrats to our AAC Varsity Champs!

2017 Boys Cross Country

2018 Boys Basketball

2018 Girls Track



News from the Treasurer's Office by Carol J. Jones

Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Outlook

June 30th marked the close of the 2018 fiscal year for LaBrae Schools. The year was financially challenging for the District as LaBrae received \$422,280 less in state funding than in the previous fiscal year. This reduction in state aid is primarily due to the continued decrease in student enrollment. Additionally, expenses for FY2018 were \$158,000 greater than FY2017 expenses. Despite these challenges, LaBrae's relative health over the last few years, coupled with a reduction in staffing achieved through attrition, has positioned the District to adapt to these challenges and maintain fiscal stability in the near term.

Renewal Levy

LaBrae is seeking a renewal of a 3 mill permanent improvement levy on November 6, 2018. The revenue from this levy is used for renovating, repairing, improving and equipping our school facilities. The money from this levy is prohibited by law from being used to pay salaries and wages. The levy was originally passed in 1984, and it generates approximately \$225,000 per year. This levy WILL NOT increase your property taxes.

PaySchools Central

Beginning next school year, LaBrae will be offering parents the opportunity to pay their students' fees and fund lunch accounts using PaySchools Central, an online processing vendor commonly used by school districts. Payments can be made using debit cards, electronic checks, or credit cards. Parents can expect further details to be forthcoming in August.

Donations to LaBrae

Through the years, LaBrae has been the benefactor of many generous donations. While we will always accept donations in the traditional methods of cash or check, we now offer the opportunity to submit electronic donations via the use of PayPal. Anyone wishing to donate to our academic and athletic programs can do so using PayPal and can access this feature via the "Donate" button on our website. LaBrae is forever grateful to all of those individuals and families who have faithfully supported our students and programs.

LaBrae Food Services Update by Alisa Propri, Food Services Director

With a focus on health and wellness – and the added benefits of technology – The Nutrition Group is set to revolutionize school lunch.

I am thrilled to be a part of Viking Nation! This year the food services department implemented a variety of changes, added some new recipes to menus, and started some fun programs in the cafeterias.

At the elementary level:

- Our monthly Wellness Wednesday Program was initiated this school year. This program is designed to introduce students to new menu ideas through monthly tastings. Once students have tried the new item they receive a colorful sticker saying "I tried Something New Today".
- The cafeteria is offering Munchables, which are like Lunchables but with significantly less sodium, fat and calories. All Munchables are served with a fruit, vegetable and a milk .

At the Secondary level:

- The cafeteria placed greater emphasis on making homemade pizzas rather than the typical heat and serve frozen pizzas.
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable self-serve bars were implemented and available to students each day
- Recipe of the Month, Chef created monthly specials

One very useful feature implemented this year was the Nutrislice software program. Nutrislice is your live source for our school menus, and it can be accessed using the "menu" link on our website. One very useful feature of the program allows parents to see the nutritional information for each menu offering. The Nutrislice app is available for download to your smart device from your respective app store. During the school year, Youth Advisory Council, or YAC, meetings were held with students. YAC meetings allows the cafeteria to meet with a group of students to get their input on breakfast and lunch menu items. Their input has been an invaluable source of feedback that has enhanced planning and preparation for the cafeteria staff.

As the Food Service Director, I will continue to try new recipes and concepts, as we create a nutritious and fun atmosphere for the students. The Nutrition Group has many nutritious and delicious programs available that I look forward to implementing at LaBrae.



Bounce Into Bascom Enters Third Year

by Maggie Kowach



Bascom Elementary is the recipient of a 2018 grant for \$2,686 from the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley. This grant was made possible from the Kennedy Family Fund. Coupled with an \$8,000 donation from a private donor, these funds directly fund the summer Bounce into Bascom program. Bascom Elementary is entering its third year of conducting this kinder-

garten transition program for students who enter kindergarten in the fall. The program helps students with an early start in developing academic, social, and emotional skills needed to be successful in kindergarten.

Students in the program are transported to school in early August where they attend this three week, half-day program. Instruction will be provided to thirty students by two Bascom elementary teachers.



Call Before You Dig Program at Bascom

April was Call Before You Dig Safety Month sponsored by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, or PUCO. In recognition of the initiative, and in a partnership to educate students about digging safety, Bascom students attended an educational programming assembly sponsored by PUCO, and then first graders took part in planting three new trees on school grounds thanks to the generous donations from the Eastern Ohio Damage Protection Counsel. The program was very fun, and most importantly, very informative for our Bascom students.

First Book Provides Books for Bascom

The non-profit organization, First Book, which aims to provide educational resources for students in need, partnered with Tata Steel to provide over 1,000 new books to the students of Bascom Elementary. The students got to keep the books to add to their own personal collection. Volunteers from Tata Steel visited Bascom in the spring to present the books, and to read to students. Bascom Elementary has a student population that is 62% economically disadvantaged, which makes the school eligible for this program. This year is the second year of Bascom's partnership with First Book.



Bascom Book Fair Promotes Literacy

In the fall of 2017 Bascom Elementary conducted its annual book fair to promote literacy among our students. The Saddle Up and Read Book Fair was a huge success! The library was transformed into the Western Town of Reading Springs and a record number of donations were received from parents and community businesses to support our All for Books campaign. Jungle Terry came to Bascom to support the Book Fair & Family Literacy Night. Noah Lipinsky, Aubrey Duffey & Hunter Charvat read the most minutes in their grade



level to win the reading contest. Mrs. Biery was awarded the 2017 Excellence In Education "Reading Rocks" Award by the Eastern Ohio Education Partnership for her efforts with the Book Fair.



Elementary Staff Trained in Behavioral Support

by Mila Harkabus

K-5 teachers and instructional support staff participated in professional development for a program called The PAX Good Behavior Game. PAX is a program that teaches students self-regulation, self-control, and self-management in context of collaborating with others for peace, productivity, health and happiness. Teachers, who underwent the training in January, used new strategies from the program during the spring in some form or fashion. They may have been seen using things like a harmonica to gain attention, sticks to randomly call on students, a timer to help speed up transitions, and wacky prizes as an incentive for improved behavior. This program, with a fully array of behavioral strategies, will be fully implemented in the coming 2018-2019 school year.



Trumbull United Way Sponsors Ready Set Go



The LaBrae Local School District has been awarded a grant from the United Way of

Trumbull County through their Reading Great by 8 Literacy Initiative called, Ready, Set, Go. The two-week summer intervention program is designed to provide literacy support with a classroom teacher and an aide. Reading instruction is provided to help students improve their reading skills with the hope of getting children reading at grade level.

One of the main objectives of the program is to help the students meet the requirements of Ohio's 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee. The students are identified for participation by teachers at the end of the second grade. This summer's program, which will be conducted in early August, marks LaBrae's third year partnering with the United Way.



L.I.S. students raised \$1,300 for the American Heart Association by participating in the Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser.

Invention Convention Held at L.I.S.

In March, Mrs. Morgan's gifted class students in grades 3-5, were involved in the Invention Convention School Level Competition.

Participants are encouraged to identify a need or to solve a problem by following the same steps and patent application procedures that an inventor would follow in patenting an invention. Once a need or a problem has been identified, students are directed to use problem-solving and creative-thinking skills to invent a product or process that would fill the need or overcome the problem. Communication and research skills are also greatly enhanced throughout the invention procedure.

Congratulations are deserving of the top three scoring students who were invited to participate in the state level competition in late July at the Ohio State Fair:

- 1st Place: 5th Grade: Sam Watkins: "Delta Suit"
- 2nd Place: 4th Grade: Austin Rowe: "Catchers Hydration"
- 3rd Place: 5th Grade: Charlotte Guesman: "Dance Socs"



L.I.S. students learn the value of community service by hosting a food drive in December.



LaBrae Middle School Nurturing Writing through Power of the Pen

by Jodi Pleacher, Advisor

The Power of the Pen is a leading interscholastic program in written expression and includes tournament competitions for young writers throughout Ohio. Power of the Pen provides an opportunity to meet and compete in three levels of formal competition. These competitions include a district, regional, and state level. It is designed for writers at the seventh and eighth grade levels.

Pen Ohio hosted the writing tournament this year in April at Kent State University main campus. LaBrae Middle School had twelve writers from 7th and 8th grade compete. Our 7th grade writers included Jasmine Ha, Madyson King, Alayna Ford, Eric Heeter, Madison Bates, and Kaden Lippert. Our 8th grade writers included Hannah McCartney, Tiffani King, Connor Natali, Ethan Davis,

Cynthia McKnight, and Andria Bockelman. Overall, the tournament included six counties, 277 attendees, and 152 writers competing. Our Viking writers were successful at their first tournament of the season. Seven LaBrae writers qualified to compete at the state tournament competition. Our LMS state qualifiers included Ethan Davis, Cynthia McKnight, Connor Natali, Tiffani King, Madison Bates, Jasmine Ha, and Alayna Ford. The state tournament took place on May 25th at the College of Wooster. We are extremely proud of our Viking writers as they represented our school at the State Finals of Power of the Pen.

Everyone has the talent to pursue creative writing. Power of the Pen is dedicated in helping young people find a creative voice that is uniquely their

own. It has become the organization's mission to inspire writers to embrace the art of creative expression through writing as a life skill. All students entering 7th and 8th grade have an opportunity to tryout for the 2018-2019 Power of the Pen season. Information will be announced in October during middle school morning announcements.



Right: Campers learning science standards in a soil activity.

CAMP



LaBrae M.S. Celebrates its 65th Year of Outdoor Education

by Mrs. Margie Adair, Camp Director

From setting tables to exploring the rocky shoreline, the sixth grade camp enables LaBrae students to explore many standards of the curriculum outside of the classroom. The outdoor educational program concluded it's 65th year of service to LaBrae students. The experience covers various avenues that are social and academic. The camp creates an environment where students will learn more and do more while having fun. This camp is a great experience for our students as it helps to develop their interpersonal and teamwork skills. They will leave learning disciplines that will help assist them in their future careers.

Camp is held in May at Sheldon Calvary Camp on the shores of Lake Erie in Ashtabula County.



Above: LaBrae campers getting a lesson on water safety.



RoboVikes Excel in Robotics Competition by Joe Slifka, RoboVikes Advisor

This year marked the twenty-first annual Northeast Ohio Robotics Education Program (NEOREP) competition, and it featured twenty nine teams represented by eighteen schools. The competition was held on the campus of Youngstown State University.

This year, our middle school team was led by 8th graders Riley and Sam while the remaining five students were rookie 7th graders, who all plan to return for the 2018-2019 season. We had

twenty students on the high school squad this year, so the decision was made to divide the team up evenly into two separate teams, designated LaBrae Red and LaBrae Gray.

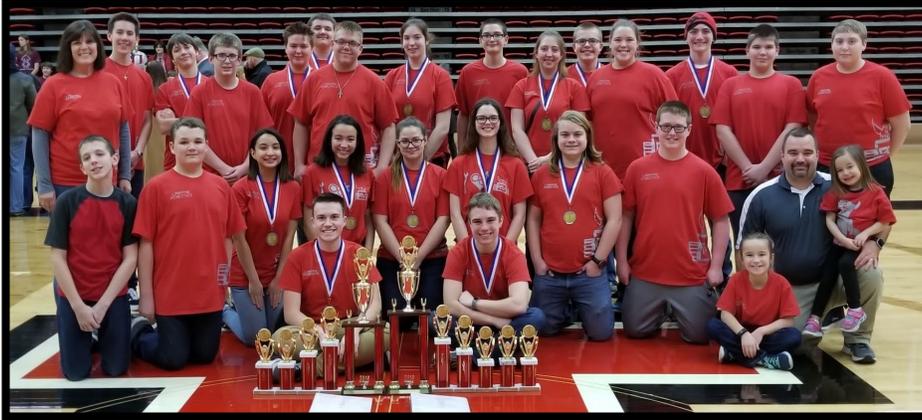
The theme this year was Mission to Mars and featured five events; Vehicle Design, a Technical Journal, Team Presentations, and two floor games. Game 1 consisted of the robot beginning in the Start Zone and traveling through a maze, ending in the Mars Landing Zone, Game 2 dictated that robots had to deliver a flag to the Mars Landing Zone then pick up and deliver a rock to the Mars Lab Zone, and finally Game 3 delivered the same flag to the

Mars Landing Zone followed by the robots then firing six ping pong balls through a 12" hoop on the opposite side of the game board. Middle School teams were assigned Games 1 & 2, the high school competed in Games 2 & 3.

This was by and far the most challenging NEOREP competition we've been to in our four year tenure. Looking back, I realize many of the difficulties we had on the high school teams were related to programming issues. The inconsistencies in sensor readings plagued our team once again this year, leading us to pursue an alternate program-

ming software to be used in the 2018-2019 season.

While the competition presented its own set of challenges, outside factors like team members not being able to attend practice due to other commitments also caused some obstacles for the teams.



Coach Farone and I have spoken extensively about these topics and feel that our proposed solutions will be far more beneficial for the RoboVikes as the program

continues to thrive.

I am extremely proud to announce that of the sixteen high school teams competing, LaBrae earned 1st and 2nd places over-all! Below are the complete results from the competition.

LaBrae Middle School
Best Robot Design —1st place

LaBrae HS Gray Team
Best Technical Journal —1st place

Best Robot Design —3rd place

Game #2 —2nd place

Game #3 —2nd place

Overall Team Score — 1st place

LaBrae HS Red Team
Best Technical Journal — 3rd place

Best Presentation — 3rd place

Game #2 — 3rd place

Game #3 — 3rd place

Overall Team Score — 2nd place



Industrial Arts Helps Habitat

Students in the Industrial Arts Wood classes participated in Habitat for Humanity of Ma-honing Valley in Struthers this past school year. Habitat is a



global non-profit organization whose objective it is to provide people with a decent place to live. Their projects range from home remodeling projects to new construction projects.

The volunteer project in Struthers was a house remodel project of an existing home structure. While volunteering, students hung drywall and painted walls. The experience was one where the students worked hard, applied skills they have



learned in class, and provided an opportunity to learn new skills from other tradesmen on site. In short, it was an excellent culminating real world experience that provided practical application of classroom learning.

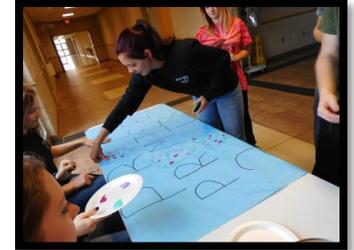
The students involved were: Reece Carwithen, Logan Kiser, Broghan Hyland, Rory McClellan, Nick McClellan, Adam Nottingham, Quintan Perry, and Noah Golembowski.

2018 YSU English Festival

Approximately sixteen LaBrae High School students participated in the YSU English Festival this spring. The English Festival is an annual program that promotes and cultivates reading and writing. Participants listen to a noted author or authors of some of the books they have read, write impromptu essays, collaborate on workshop activities, attend dramatic or artistic performances, participate in “insight” book discussions, and try their skills at language games and “not-so-trivial pursuit” competitions.

SADD Promotes Good Decisions

LaBrae H.S. SADD participated in a week long event in an effort to encourage positive decision-making before, during, and after prom. Students signed the prom promise pledge during lunch, daily announcements were read regarding statistics and encouragements, students participated in the Grim Reaper event, the silencing students that become victims of alcohol or drug related accidents, which is meant to symbolize what it is like to lose someone close to you. Also, obituaries were read in every HS class, letters to lost loved ones were read over the intercom, and parents/guardians of the Grim Reaper’s victims attended at the end of the day. Students held signs saying, "These tragedies could've been prevented. Drive Safe!" and parents held their child's obituary as high school students exited the building at the end of the school day.



Writing Games Winner: Cayle Fussleman

English Festival Results

Impromptu Placings:

- Emma Winkleman, Honorable Mention
- Sydney Pearce, Honorable Mention

Not-So-Trivial Pursuit Placings:

- Carragan Timko, 2nd Place
- Monika Neal, 3rd Place
- Casey Hauk, 3rd Place



I Love Limericks Winner: Olivia Ancell

All-American Conference Adjusts Ticket Prices for Varsity Sports by Todd Rowe, Athletic Director

The All-American Athletic Conference has approved an increase in adult ticket prices beginning with the coming 2018 fall sports season. Adult tickets prices for varsity football and varsity basketball games are being increased from \$6 to \$7. All other varsity ticket prices will remain at \$6 for an adult ticket. All student tickets remain the same at \$4. Tickets to junior high contests remain \$4 for adults, and \$2 for students.

Additionally, the LaBrae Athletic Department will now charge \$10 for the Red Card. Anyone presenting a Red Card can purchase a student ticket at the gate for entrance into a contest, with the exception of varsity football. All varsity football tickets sold for the student price must be purchased pre-sale at the high school. Lastly, any LaBrae resident who is 65 years of age or older can receive a Red Card for free. The free Red Card can be picked up at the athletic office when school resumes.





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

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

2018 LaBrae Board of Education

Mr. Russell Sewell, President

Email: rusty.sewell@labrae.school

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Email: Virginia.blaney@labrae.school

Mrs. Diane Duncan

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Mr. Tim Gibson

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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)

The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expenses of it. There should not be a district of one mile square, without a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual, but maintained at the public expense of the people themselves.

~John Adams, September 10, 1785~

