

# LABRAE LOCAL SCHOOLS

2019 Community Newsletter

## 2019-2020 School Calendar

|   |  |
|---|--|
| August 23 <sup>rd</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> | Teacher Professional Days                |
| August 27 <sup>th</sup>                   | School Starts                            |
| September 2 <sup>nd</sup>                 | Labor Day-No School                      |
| October 3 <sup>rd</sup>                   | Teacher Professional Day<br>{No School}  |
| October 10 <sup>th</sup>                  | Parent Conferences<br>{Early Release}    |
| October 11 <sup>th</sup>                  | NEOE Day-No School                       |
| November 5 <sup>th</sup>                  | Teacher Professional Day<br>{No School}  |
| November 27 <sup>th</sup>                 | Thanksgiving Break<br>{No School}        |
| December 2 <sup>nd</sup>                  | Classes Resume                           |
| December 23 <sup>rd</sup>                 | Christmas Break-No School                |
| January 6 <sup>th</sup>                   | Classes Resume                           |
| January 20 <sup>th</sup>                  | MLK Jr. Day-No School                    |
| January 24 <sup>th</sup>                  | End of First Semester<br>{Early Release} |
| February 13 <sup>th</sup>                 | Parent Conferences<br>{Early Release}    |
| February 14 <sup>th</sup>                 | No School                                |
| February 17 <sup>th</sup>                 | Presidents' Day-No School                |
| April 10 <sup>th</sup>                    | Easter Recess-No School                  |
| April 14 <sup>th</sup>                    | Classes Resume                           |
| May 22 <sup>nd</sup>                      | Graduation {Packard Music Hall}          |
| May 25 <sup>th</sup>                      | Memorial Day-No School                   |
| May 29 <sup>th</sup>                      | Last Day for Students<br>{Early Release} |
| June 1 <sup>st</sup>                      | 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

The LaBrae Board of Education continues to rely on its strategic plan, which was adopted in 2017, to guide decision making. One important component of the plan is communication. Last year's initial community newsletter was an effort to enhance our communication with our community so that people are more informed about LaBrae Schools. Additionally, we took another step this spring by creating a district Facebook page as another measure to improve our school-community communications.

While productive communication is paramount, our primary focus remains partnering with families to educate our youth. 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 2018-2019 school year are being finalized, and initial indications validate the expected growth and improvement of our students. LaBrae's 2019 report card, expected to be released in September, will demonstrate marked improvement and consistency in many of the accountability components.

Our teachers and building administration work to be excellent in all areas, but we've paid particular attention to special education and literacy over the last year, and these areas will be an area of focus as we move forward in the coming school year.

Our custodial staff and maintenance team have been busy readying our facilities for the return of students and staff in August. Our facilities are a gift from our community, and we work diligently to keep them in optimal condition.

We expect many exciting things for our students this year, and we hope you'll have the opportunity support them by attending a game, a concert or other student activity.

On behalf of LaBrae, I thank you for your continued support of our students and our educational mission! Public education is an awesome American institution, and it wouldn't be possible without your valued support.

## LaBrae Planning for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

LaBrae Local Schools will be turning 50 in 2020. 1970 marked the year that the consolidation of Braceville Township Schools and Warren Township Schools became effective, and the 1970-1971 school year was the first year of existence for LaBrae Local Schools.

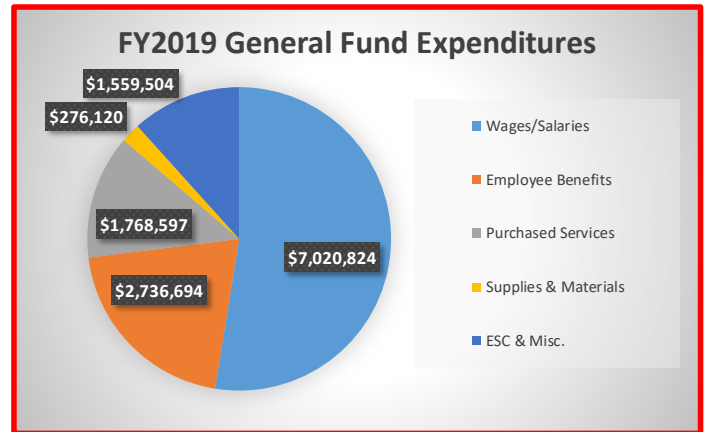
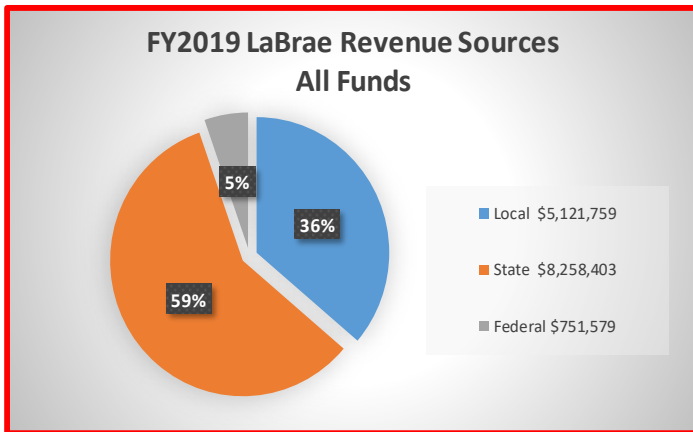
Efforts are underway to celebrate this significant milestone in our community's history. A committee of alumni and community members have been convened to plan for celebratory activities. The committee is co-chaired by Linda Morton Cowin and Jinni Blaney. As activities are finalized, they will be communicated on the District website and Facebook page. LaBrae hopes that you'll join in celebrating a strong community and our rich heritage!

<https://labrae.school>



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

### LaBrae FY2019 Financial Summary



### LaBrae Bond Debt

Taxpayers should be aware that 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. In 2019, the current millage for the bond levy is 5.0 mills. For the last three years, LaBrae has been able to maintain the reduced millage level from the previous level of 5.7 mills in 2016, and we've expended unused principal from the bond, coupled with the savings from our 2011 debt refinancing, to make up the difference from the reduced millage. We will continue to use remaining principal and interest savings to pay down the debt and keep the rate as low as possible until the debt is expired in 2024.

Currently, among Trumbull County schools, LaBrae has the eighth highest level of taxation totaling 55.8 mills. However, once the 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 Food Services Update by Autumn Vay, Food Services Director

This year, LaBrae was chosen by The Nutrition Group as one of five out of over 200 school districts to participate in new recipe and product taste testing for the 2019-2020 school year! Five students were chosen from each building to sample and vote for potential items that will be added to breakfast and lunch menus in our cafeterias, and in other school districts. We are busy adding their favorite items to next year's menus, and we are excited that LaBrae students were able to use their voice and let us know what they're hungry for!

We are continuing to roll out new concepts that focus on nutrition, wellness, a fun atmosphere, and even convenience. At the secondary level, we have started serving Bistro Boxes as a new lunch choice, and will continue to offer different varieties next school year. Each box contains a protein-rich selection as well as fresh veggies and/or fruit, is under 500 calories and meets at least 3 of the 5 required components of the National School Lunch Program. Some of our delicious combinations include our wildly popular hummus and pita combo, or creamy cottage cheese with fresh sliced peppers. Bistro Boxes are a great option for busy students, as well as teachers and administrators on the go!

Another fun program that we implemented this year is Food Fusion. Pop-up restaurants and food trucks are in high demand today, but how can that excitement translate to our cafeteria? We've got the answer: Food Fusion! Food Fusion merges classics, such as Grilled Cheese Sandwiches and Macaroni & Cheese into one tasty and incredibly noteworthy recipe. These chef-crafted entrées not only taste delicious, but help raise participation and create a buzz around our cafeteria.

At the elementary level, we are continuing to host special themes in the cafeteria, and programs to get students excited about school meals, such as Blast Off with Breakfast and Wellness Wednesday. Wellness Wednesday encourages students to sample new and exciting foods in delicious combinations. Each recipe is carefully crafted and features healthy vegetables, legumes and seasonings. Even the choosiest eaters are eager to sample these exciting new dishes at our special table during Wellness Wednesday, especially when they receive a colorful sticker that says "I Tried Something New Today!"

It brings us all great joy to serve LaBrae students delicious and healthy meals in our cafeteria, and we look forward to a great year ahead!



## Bascom Elementary Update



Enrollment projections and a building analysis was completed last fall on the viability of consolidating Bascom Elementary into the LaBrae 3-12 Complex. The Ohio Facility Construction Commission, or OFCC, determined that it would not allocate state funds to assist LaBrae in any reconfiguration of the grades 3-12 complex to facilitate building consolidation. The OFCC concluded that there is enough space in the Complex to facilitate consolidation without additional construction. In short, any consolidation efforts resulting in remodeling would have to be funded completely by our community.

In light of these developments, the Board of Education gave consideration to how to proceed, and the Board determined that Bascom Elementary remains a viable asset to the district and foresees Bascom remaining economically viable for several years.

Subsequently, the Board has decided to move forward with investments in Bascom Elementary. An LED lighting project is currently underway at Bascom, which will save the district approximately \$11,000 in energy costs per year. Also, plans are being designed to improve the security of the building, which includes upgrades to many exterior doors, as well as a redesign of the office and main entrance to better control how visitors enter and exit Bascom.

## Viking Pantry Serves Students

LaBrae opened the Viking Pantry in November of 2018 to better support our students. The pantry is under the direction of Mrs. Amy Frederick, LaBrae's Director of Pupil Services. To stock the pantry, LaBrae partners with the Second Harvest Foodbank of the Mahoning Valley. In addition to Second Harvest, the district has been the beneficiary of the generosity of local churches and their congregants through the donation of many thousands of pounds of food and toiletry supplies. The pantry served over 1,900 visitors during the 18-19 school year, and supported dozens of families during our summer food give-aways. LaBrae will advance our partnership with our community benefactors so that LaBrae can continue to provide this valuable service to our students and families.

## LaBrae Day a Unifying Event

Last fall the LaBrae school counselors coordinated the first LaBrae Day for our student body. The goal of the day was to bring together all LaBrae students and staff in an effort to build a stronger sense of school and community spirit.

Our younger students heard first hand from student leaders about the impact LaBrae and our school community has had in their growth. Also, our student leaders shared what it meant to be a Viking. The event was a spirited exercise and a big success in strengthening our school community.



## LaBrae Local Schools to Join the Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference

As membership of the All-American Athletic Conference, or AAC, has dwindled over the last two years, the small schools in the Blue Tier, of which LaBrae is a member, have searched for the most viable athletic alliance that met the interests of all members in the Tier. A decision was made this spring by the Blue Tier schools to withdraw from the AAC upon accepting the invitation from the Mahoning Valley Athletic Conference, or MVAC, to join the league as a separate division. The coming school year is the last year of membership in the AAC for the Blue Tier Schools.

In the 2020-2021 school year, LaBrae, along with Brookfield, Campbell, Champion, Crestview, Liberty, and Newton Falls, will begin competition in the MVAC, which is currently comprised of Jackson Milton, Lowellville, McDonald, Mineral Ridge, Sebring, Springfield, Waterloo, and Western Reserve. The current MVAC and the incoming schools will compete in separate divisions for league titles and post-season honors. Cross-over games will be permitted, but will not be required. The MVAC offers LaBrae and its Blue Tier allies, wonderful opportunities for nurturing regional rivalries and resolving many scheduling issues.







**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

### **2019 LaBrae Board of Education**

Mr. Russell Sewell, President

Email: [rusty.sewell@labrae.school](mailto:rusty.sewell@labrae.school)

Mrs. Virginia Blaney, Vice President

Email: [Virginia.blaney@labrae.school](mailto:Virginia.blaney@labrae.school)

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Email: [tim.gibson@labrae.school](mailto:tim.gibson@labrae.school)

Mr. Gary Morton

Email: [gary.morton@labrae.school](mailto:gary.morton@labrae.school)

### **Connect with LaBrae Schools On Twitter**

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

LaBrae HS: [@LaBraeHS](https://twitter.com/LaBraeHS)

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)



In an effort to better connect with our community, LaBrae Local Schools joined Facebook in the spring. Please visit our page [@LaBraeSchools](https://www.facebook.com/LaBraeSchools), and give us a follow to keep up with news from LaBrae.

