

August 2017

Hello Parents/Guardians,

Liberty School District is excited to share a new results-oriented program that will benefit students by having PLC sessions for staff every Wednesday during the 2017-2018 school year.

**What is PLC?** PLC stands for Professional Learning Communities. It is a means for teachers and student support staff to talk collaboratively about a student's academic progress, behavior, social-emotional issues, and other items that can get in the way of a student learning. The goal is to provide intervention and support immediately BEFORE it gets out of hand. PLCs are a framework for providing systematic interventions to students who are struggling so as to receive **additional time and support** for learning in a timely and directed manner. A PLC meeting is also a time to establish **enrichment and rigorous learning opportunities** for those students who are ready, eager, and capable of taking on more learning.

PLC sessions must be held on a consistent basis in order to have the greatest impact on student achievement. There is extensive research on PLCs and establishing PLC meeting times in the most efficient manner. *Best practice* is to provide PLC time during the school day, otherwise it will likely not happen. Teachers and para-educators are pulled in many directions before and after school with faculty meetings, parent meetings, and training. Top-rated schools in Illinois have PLC time scheduled during the school day, which likely contributes to why they are a top performing school.

Therefore, this coming school year, Liberty School District is scheduling PLC sessions every Wednesday, which means **school will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. every Wednesday. Buses will run one hour early.** For **student athletes** who do not have a ride back to school on these days, a homework lab will be available for them to stay and complete assignments before their sports practice. They may not roam the school, however, but must remain in the homework lab the entire time while the staff meet.

**Please make the necessary arrangements for your child for a 2:00 dismissal each Wednesday.**

Thanks for supporting us in this move to make Liberty even greater!!!!