

Lorna Byrne Middle School is off to a great start this year already. Students are settling into their perspective schedules and routines. Teachers have systems in place that are well practiced and maximize the learning time for all students. Our classified crew is talented and trained and along with our teaching staff, have huge hearts for kids.

We are very fortunate to have been able to hire Mrs. Sarah McNamara as our Dean of Students/Athletic Director. Mrs. McNamara has adjusted nicely to working at Lorna Byrne after moving from the administrative position at SunnyWolf Charter School.

Two other “new” staff members have joined our LBMS family. Mrs. Julie Barnes who started at LBMS has returned to our building after teaching for several years at Fleming MS. Mrs. Barnes will teach 6th grade ELA and Social Studies this year. Additionally, Mr. Sean McKee has become a full time Lorna Byrne Band/Choir teacher. Mr. McKee was previously half time at Illinois Valley High School, half LBMS. We are very happy to have both of these people at our building.

Our 6th graders and new students started on Tuesday and were able to get used to all the new processes prior to 7th and 8th graders showing up. This really helped our first day with all the students go smoothly. Sixth graders and new students ended their day with a celebration activity outside. It was extremely warm day, so serving them a frozen treat was a big hit.

Outdoor school is starting the week of September 15-19. We are so eager for this year’s sixth graders to have the opportunity to experience outdoor education. Lorna Byrne teachers, along with the Siskiyou Field Institute educators have worked together to provide a unique educational experience starting their first year of middle school. The curriculum has been custom-written for our region, exceeds state standards, and makes excellent use of our natural resources. This program provides unique opportunities through interactive classes in the great outdoors, team building challenges, and fun campfire time that students will talk about for years to come

LBMS students are being rewarded for exemplary behavior. Our school has multiple systems in place to recognize a job well done. Student of the Month, Gold Card, Fast Pass, Positive Referrals are just a few of the many ways our staff lets students know that we appreciate their hard work.

The football and Volleyball team are planning on bagging groceries this October 17th and 18th as a service fundraiser for their teams. This will be a great way for our students to thank the community for the support over the years, and to make a few dollars in tips for the sport they love.

The Studio to School Grant is starting to take shape. LBMS along with community partners IRVAC (Illinois River Valley Arts Council) and Local Community Business (Dance Farm) have teamed up to provide Arts through the curriculum by having Art Educators help core teachers provide students an enriching and engaging experience in the classroom. The goal is to give students a rewarding experience, in art, while at the same time learn the necessary core standards. Furthermore, Studio to School is committed to offer dance and drama as after school programs, giving students a chance to experience performing arts.