

SENIOR DINNER

More than 65 area seniors came together on Dec. 7 at the Senior Dinner. A high school musical performance entertained the seniors, as well as a hearty meal and good conversation. DID YOU KNOW: This meal is FREE to area seniors and funded entirely by Lewiston-Altura Public Schools?





CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:			
David Baer	dbaer@lewalt.k12.mn.us	Brein Maki	bmaki@lewalt.k12.mn.us
Sara Daley	sdaley@lewalt.k12.mn.us	Dave Pringle.....	dpringle@lewalt.k12.mn.us
Jenny Koverman	jkoverma@lewalt.k12.mn.us	Sarah Sommer	ssommer@lewalt.k12.mn.us
Daniel Kreidermacher.....	dkreidermacher@lewalt.k12.mn.us		



Calendar of Events

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

January 29 - First day of Semester 2/ Quarter 3
February 13 - NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
February 19 - NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day
February 20 & 22 - K-5 Conferences
March 14 - HS Conferences
March 26th - Last day of Quarter 3
March 28-April 1 - Spring Break
April 2 - First day of Quarter 4
May 14 - HS Conferences
May 27th - NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day
May 30th - Last day of Semester 2/Quarter 4
May 31st - NO SCHOOL, Graduation @ 7pm

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL HOME GAMES

Jan 25th, Jan 30th, Feb 2nd, Feb 6th, Feb 13th

VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL HOME GAMES

Jan 27th, Feb 2nd, Feb 8th, Feb 9th, Feb 15th

BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY HOME GAMES

Jan 25th

GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY HOME GAMES

Jan 27th

VARSITY WRESTLING MEET

Feb 9th - Home Triangular

DANCE

Feb 10th Sections at Lake City



Lewiston-Altura Public Schools ISD 857

News from the Nest

January 2024

Cardinals

CONTACT INFORMATION

KEY OFFICES AND STAFF

Superintendent
Ms. Gwen Carman

PK-5 Principal
Mr. Dave Riebel

High School Principal 6-12
Dr. Cory Hanson

HS Activities Director/Dean of Students
Mr. Ryan Eppen

Healthy Schools Coordinator/School Nurse
Ms. Michelle MacPherson

Technology Coordinator
Mr. Jeff Oian

Early Childhood Education & Cardinal Care

Coordinator
Ms. Vicky Greden

Youth and Adult Education and Activities
Ms. Britney Sula

Business Manager
Ms. Jennifer Wilbur

Food Service Director
Ms. Vickie Speltz

Transportation Director
Mr. Kevin Ziebell

Facility & Grounds Director
Mr. Dan Buege
Dashir Management Service

TELEPHONE CONTACT INFORMATION

507-523-2191

Press 1: Elementary Office
Press 3: High School Office
Press 4: District Office

SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION

Kevin Ziebell & Linda Leibfried
Scheduling: 507-522-3210
Bus Garage: 507-523-2767 or 507-429-0917

ALL STAFF HAVE SCHOOL EMAILS

First Initial/Last Name @lewalt.k12.mn.us
e.g., gcarman@lewalt.k12.mn.us

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Gwen Carman, Superintendent

Eyes on the Future to Ensure Fiscal Responsibility & Strong Schools

Lewiston-Altura Parents and Community Members,

The new calendar year 2024 is underway and everyone is working hard in Lewiston-Altura Public Schools to live our vision, “Growing A Respectful Community of Learners”. While the school district referendum questions were defeated at the polls on Election Day, a tremendous amount of support for our schools was shown by the voters. Whether you cast a Yes Vote or a No Vote, I see your investment in our schools and in our community. Now it is our job to better inform all voters about the operating and facility needs districtwide and set a course for the future learning of all students.

We recently completed a post-referendum survey to gather feedback. Results will be presented to the school board in February. A Facilities Taskforce will convene in February and community engagement sessions will be held in March in both Lewiston and Altura. The school board has not set a date for a future referendum election.

More than \$600,000 in Budget Adjustments Needed for 2024

With the failure of the operating levy, L-A Schools is facing a significant budget deficit for the 2024-25 school year. School board members and district administrators are reviewing data and making plans for more than \$600,000 in budget adjustments. Adjustments will likely be made by reducing staff, increasing class size, reducing and eliminating programs, and increasing fees.

I presented a budget update at the December 18, 2023, School Board Meeting as part of the Truth in Taxation presentation. You can view the presentation slide deck at www.lewalt.k12.mn.us/budget.

In late December, the school district implemented a ticket price increase for athletic contests to begin addressing the deficit. District administration is looking for other cost-savings measures to implement yet this school year.

Discussions about the budget, as well as future operating and bond referendums continues at school board meetings. All are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend. You can also stay connected to the latest news at L-A schools by visiting the school district website at www.lewalt.k12.mn.us and follow the district on Facebook at Lewiston - Altura School District.

Lewiston-Altura Schools: Building a Caring, Adaptable, Respectful, Determined, Successful Community

100 County Road 25 • Lewiston, MN 55952 • 507-523-2191 • www.lewalt.k12.mn.us

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Dave Riebel, PK-5 Elementary School Principal

Keep reading a part of your winter season!

As we start the new year, many families have new games and toys that arrived during the holidays providing lots of fun for kids. While those items will continue to provide entertainment, this message asks that families continue to make home reading practice a priority at your household.

As we know - and research confirms - daily reading practice produces higher reading skills. Even if your child cannot read yet, carving out time to read to them will engrain the skills of reading and start the family habit. Some ideas to begin or continue for beginning readers are to read a recipe and cook something together, play board games that require reading and putting your child in charge of choosing what to read. Remember that repeated readings promote fluency, so choosing the same book helps their skills. Talk about the story that you read together with prompts about what was read and about what might happen next. For more advanced readers, developing the habit of before bedtime reading, either with them or letting them read on their own, followed by story discussions builds both comprehension skills and wonderful family routines. Thank you for keeping your reading routines and growing readers!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Dr. Cory Hanson, Grades 6-12 High School Principal

The year started with an extremely positive transition of 6th graders into the building. As new students, the 6th graders have had multiple field trip experiences to local businesses and to local universities and have been great ambassadors of LAHS.

Our students continue to amaze me with their generosity. Our NHS students visited and received a tour of the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester as we had the largest 'small' school donation they have received. Student council sponsored our 10 Days of Giving, which for the third consecutive year eclipsed 4,000 items donated. Our community should be incredibly proud of the students and these accomplishments.

For a third consecutive year, we have expanded our college and career readiness opportunities. Students are now able to earn college credits in Choir, Algebra II, Animal Science and Crop Science. Many students are taking advantage of earning these FREE college credits from our high school staff in addition to our continued offerings in Language Arts in 11th and 12th grades. Our students consistently demonstrate the value of a well-rounded education not just in our school community but the community at large.



EARLY CHILDHOOD & CARDINAL CLUB

Vicky Greden, Early Childhood Educations Coordinator

Our School Readiness program is a mixed-aged preschool with extended care. If you would like to enroll your child this winter, please call Nancy in the Elementary office 507-523-2191, option 1, or email Vicky at vgreden@lewalt.k12.mn.us.

Our team would like to express appreciation to all the L-A staff, students, families, and community members that helped decorate or stopped by our annual December event. We had over 50 children visit Santa. Cookies and milk were provided by the Retha Finger Memorial Fund.

Look for these upcoming events; Drop-in Daycare days begin in January, Preschool Registration begins in March, and the 2nd Annual ECFE Shopping Event scheduled for this spring. Registration for summer care (33mo and up) begins in March, watch for info in the Elementary newsletter.

Vicky Greden
Early Childhood Coordinator/Teacher

Cardinal Club Child Care

Monday - Friday

Early Childhood Education During the School Day
(Age 30 months - Kindergarten Entry)

AND

Before School and After School Care (PK- Grade 5)

New Changes to Enhance Quality, Continuity
and Flexibility!

We offer before school care (6:00 a.m. start) and after
school care (until 5:30 p.m.) for preschool
and school age students.

We are also open on most non-school days.

Cost: \$5.00 for before or after school.

Questions about early childhood classes or child care?
Contact Vicky Greden, vgreden@lewalt.k12.mn.us
or 507-522-3245

CARDINAL ACTIVITIES

Ryan Eppen, HS Activities Director/Dean of Students

New Athletic Event Admission Fees Generate Revenue to Support District Budget

Starting January 8, the school district implemented a new admission fee structure for those attending home boys or girls junior varsity or varsity basketball games. The district made the change to increase revenue as it is facing a significant budget deficit this year and going forward.

NEW Admission Fees:

Adults & Senior Citizens: \$6.00

Booster Club (Adults & Senior Citizens): \$4.00

Students: \$4.00

Season passes are still valid. Students with Gold Cards are FREE. Pre-K children attending with a paid adult are FREE.

The district is considering admission fees for Spring events, options for additional fee increases for 2024-25, and charging for remote viewing of athletic events via Hudl. More information will be shared with parents and the community.

THE CARDINAL CAFE

Vickie Speltz, Food Service Director

FREE MEALS Continue – Breakfast & Lunch Available for Every Student

As the 2023-24 school year continues, a reminder that FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH is available daily (when school is in session) for each student, regardless of family income. The Minnesota legislature implemented this program to ease stress on parents and help reduce childhood poverty and “food insecurity” in Minnesota. Save time and money and your children can receive two healthy meals daily! Start today!

ALL FAMILIES: Please complete the Federal School Meals Program Application

Even though free meals are provided by the State of Minnesota, the federal school meals program identifies students who are eligible for free- or reduced-price meals. This designation provides additional federal dollars to be allocated to Lewiston-Altura Public Schools for educational programs and services.

The school district needs your help to ensure it is receiving maximum funding.