



**Independent School Dist. No. 857**  
**100 County Road 25**  
**Lewiston, MN 55952**  
**(507) 523-2191**

*Gwen Carman, Superintendent*

*Dave Riebel, Elementary/Intermediate Principal*

*Cory Hanson, High School Principal*

February 25, 2021

Dear Parents of Lewiston-Altura Students,

I am pleased to announce our plans for having all PK-12 students return to face-to-face instruction daily! We are making this change because of the continued decline in the local and county COVID-19 case rates and updated guidance from Governor Walz and the MN Department of Education. In addition, all staff who are choosing to be vaccinated have all received at least one COVID-19 vaccination and are scheduled to receive a second vaccination in the upcoming weeks. Thank you to Winona County Public Health for their work in making this possible.

I understand there is discussion comparing our district to other areas schools. Please understand that each district is responding to their individual district's situation, COVID-19 case rates in their county and school district, staff vaccination timelines and more. While we will continue to provide staff required days for additional preparation time, we are prioritizing face-to-face instruction five days per week.

Specifically, the schedule for Lewiston – Altura School District to return all students in the buildings is:

**Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students begin daily Face-to-Face Instruction. 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will remain on the hybrid schedule.**

**Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students begin daily Face-to-Face Instruction (All L-A PK-12 students in Face-to-Face Instruction.)**

PK-6 Elementary and Intermediate students will continue with our current, daily in-person learning model. We will continue with our safety protocols including smaller classes that remain in 'pods' throughout the day. We will be exploring options to modify some protocols in the upcoming weeks as health and safety circumstances warrant.

It is our sincere hope that we will be able to keep all students in our schools for the rest of the school year. However, please understand that this decision is subject to COVID-19 case rates and any significant impacts on staff and/or student absences.

Please note the following:

**Calendar** (Please look carefully at the calendar dates below. The MN Department of Education's Safe Learning Plan specifies that districts provide two previously scheduled instructional days for teacher planning if we have not yet implemented full-in person learning. There are also additional teacher preparation time requirements for the teachers to plan for distant learning instruction AND face to face or hybrid instruction. The upcoming weeks also have no school days for end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, a previously scheduled spring break day and Easter.)

**March 2021**

- **March 5<sup>th</sup>**: No School Students or Staff

- March 8<sup>th</sup>: Teacher Preparation Day/No school for students
- Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>: Student 2-hour late start
- **CHANGE: Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**: High School (Gr.7-12) Teacher Transition Planning Day (No school for Gr 7-12 students).
- **CHANGE: Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**: Districtwide PK-12 Preparation/Transition Day (No school for all students)
- Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: Teacher Preparation (No school for PK-12 students)

#### April 2021

- April 1<sup>st</sup>: Teacher Work Day/No school for students (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter ends)
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> - April 5<sup>th</sup>: Easter Break (No School Students or Staff)
- April 6<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter begins/Continue PK-12 Face to Face Instruction
- April 19<sup>th</sup>: Teacher preparation Day/No school for students

#### May 2021

- May 10<sup>th</sup>: Teacher Preparation Day/No school for students
- May 17<sup>th</sup>: Student 2-hour late start
- May 28<sup>th</sup>: Last day of school for seniors

June 4<sup>th</sup>: Last day of School, High School Commencement at 7:00pm

**Transportation:** With this change to our high school learning model, K-12 school buses will have more students riding than they have had this school year. Assigned seats will continue to be essential. We will be putting together the updated bus routes in the upcoming days. If you no longer wish to have your child ride the bus, please call Linda Leibfried at 507-522-3210.

**Masks:** Students and staff must continue to wear masks at school. Face shields and additional PPE may also be worn. Intentional or multiple violations with keeping a mask securely over the nose and mouth will continue to result in discipline, and the student may be required to resume distant learning only.

**Food Service** We will continue to provide meals for distant learners at the high school from 6:00-8:00am on school days. Also, free meals will be available for all students at each of our schools and the Stockton Community Center on **Thursday, March 4 from 3:00 – 5:00pm** for the March 5 - 8 long weekend.

**Quarantines:** Because of the increased crowding with all high school students in the building, if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in the school, the required quarantines may include a higher number of students and staff. Classroom seating charts will be required to aid in the contact tracing process. We are hopeful that with the overall decline in case rates, that this will not happen, but parents and students need to be aware of and understand this Minnesota Department of Health requirement.

**Recommend Student Testing for COVID-19:** The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is recommending that students routinely get tested for COVID-19 once they return to school, youth sports, and extracurricular activities - especially those ages 12-25. If you would like to have your child tested for COVID-19, please see our website for the list of testing locations. The most convenient option is to order an at home test kit, free of charge.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>

**Distant Learning Only:** Students may continue to receive only distant learning even if we are providing daily face-to-face instruction. There will not be an option for students to move in and out of distant learning unless there is a required quarantine situation in place.

**Students who are choosing daily distant learning on April 6<sup>th</sup> must stay in distant learning for the remainder of the school year.** The only exception to this will be principal recommendation due to circumstances unique to the student.

If your 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student is currently participating in 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade hybrid learning and you want to change your child's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter learning model TO daily distant learning, please call Shelly Pringle at 507-522-3231 by March 18<sup>th</sup>.

If your 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student is currently participating in distant learning only and you want to change your child's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter learning model TO face-to-face learning, please call Shelly Pringle at 507-522-3231 by March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**L-A High School Prom** Plans for a Junior-Senior Prom are underway. Students and parents will be notified of final plans as soon as possible. Please note that guidelines for a social event like Prom, must follow the state guidance for large group celebrations in indoor or outdoor settings, which are different than K-12 school guidance and restrictions.

**L-A High School Graduation** We are planning a traditional Commencement Ceremony for our graduates and their parents (only) in the L-A gym on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Please understand this is based on current state guidance and hoping that we will not be experiencing widespread quarantines that would make the ceremony impractical.

**Summer School** We understand that some students will benefit for additional instructional time and hope summer learning opportunities can be a start to help students be ready for the 2021-22 school year. Administration is currently working with teachers to finalize plans on what we will be offering. This programming will include reading and math intervention to address unfinished learning, credit recovery for students in grades 9-12 and extended school year services for eligible special education students. Details about summer opportunities will be coming out soon.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we continue to navigate the pandemic and providing our L-A students the best education possible. We want to keep students in our schools every day and so we all must continue to be diligent- especially with face coverings, frequent handwashing and avoiding large social gatherings.

This letter has LOTS of information. If you have any questions about any of these details, please contact any of our school offices (507-523-2191: Elementary: Option 1, Intermediate: Option 2, High School: Option 3). I can be reached at 507-522-3401 or [gcarman@lewalt.k12.mn.us](mailto:gcarman@lewalt.k12.mn.us).

As I begin my ninth month with the Lewiston-Altura School District, I am extremely proud of our staff who have persevered through so many changes. I am excited to finally see all of our schools full of students!

Sincerely,



Gwen Carman  
Superintendent

