



Jason LeMay - District Administrator

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December 16, 2024

Dear Ladysmith Lumberjacks,

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your ongoing support and partnership in fostering a positive learning environment for our students. December is a time of reflection and celebration, and we are so proud of the progress our students have made this year. Whether through academic achievements, extracurricular involvement, or involvement in our community, our school community continues to shine brightly. On behalf of our entire staff, I wish you a great winter break and a wonderful start to the new year.

As we prepare to close out 2024 and welcome in 2025, I want to also share some updates and information with you.

#### **Winter Break and Winter School Closings**

The last day of school before Winter Break is this Friday, December 20. Classes will resume on January 2, 2025. Office hours across the school district will vary during our break.

Also, Wisconsin weather continues to be unpredictable. Like prior practice, weather decisions will be made as early as possible. School closures will be communicated via our typical methods, including news stations, social media, and SKYLERT, etc. *At this time we will continue with traditional snow days, followed by the option for virtual days or make-up days at the end of the school year if necessary.*

Making the decision to close school is difficult and challenging with many factors incorporated into that decision. Safety of students is of course the first priority in making such a decision. Other factors do impact the decision to close school: temperature, wind chill, snow fall, drifting/blowing snow, and whether or not temperatures and/or snowfall are expected to increase or decrease during the school day. The decision to close school is not taken lightly as it impacts student learning, parent schedules, child supervision, as well as our staff. In general, being in school is a priority.

With the decision to close school is so impactful to so many families, it is important the decision be made with the most current information available. Forecasts, while done with the best information available, can change quickly and may not always provide a true picture of what will actually happen in our specific area. In most cases the decision to close school will be made the morning of the closing. Using this information, consulting with our bus company, conferring with neighboring districts, and driving the routes helps develop the most informed decision possible. The decision to close, or have a late start, and messaging tries to be shared no later than 5:30 AM.

The primary way school closings will be communicated will be through the Skylert message. We will continue to notify people via the television and radio stations (WEAU, WAOW, WQOW FOX 25/48, WAXX, WJMC, etc.), but a Skylert is the fastest, most direct way to communicate a closing. Ideally the decision can be made the night before, but that is not always possible.

**As a reminder, if we have a two hour late start, we will not have 4K programming on that day.**

In the end, for some parents, families and situations the safest option is for their child to be in school while other families may decide that it is safest for their child to remain home. Parents have the discretion to keep their child home on days that they deem the weather unsafe for their child to attend school even if school is in session.

### **Regular Attendance Matters!**

Regular attendance is a crucial factor in student success, impacting both academic performance and personal development. Students who attend class consistently are more likely to grasp key concepts, participate actively in discussions, and stay organized with their work, leading to better grades and a deeper understanding of the material. Beyond academics, regular attendance helps students develop discipline, responsibility, and time-management skills that are vital for future success, both in the workplace and in life.

Attendance also fosters stronger relationships with teachers and peers, creating a supportive learning environment that encourages collaboration and emotional growth. Furthermore, consistent attendance is linked to higher graduation rates, as students who are present regularly are more likely to stay on track and complete their studies. Overall, prioritizing attendance supports not only academic achievement but also social, emotional, and career development, making it an essential component of student success.

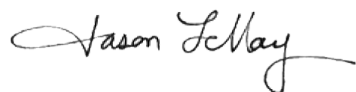
If you have any questions about attendance please contact the building your child attends.

### **Substitute Staff Needed**

Like most districts, we need additional substitute teachers, classroom aides, and custodians. The last few years put an immense strain on our system and several of our more active substitutes took other full-time positions or chose to fully retire. Therefore, I would encourage individuals who have interest in becoming a substitute you can contact Amy Rydlund at 715-532-5531 ext. 21400 or via email at [arydlund@sdlwi.org](mailto:arydlund@sdlwi.org). She will help answer questions and walk you through paperwork. This is a rewarding experience and an opportunity to earn additional income.

Enjoy this winter break and time with your family. Stay safe and we'll see you in the new year! It's always a great day to be a Ladysmith Lumberjack! **#GoLadysmith!**

Partners in the Future,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason LeMay".

Jason LeMay  
District Administrator