



Jason LeMay - District Administrator

1700 EDGEWOOD AVENUE EAST

LADYSMITH, WI 54848

ph: 715-532-5277 | fax: 715-532-7445 | [SDLWI.ORG](http://SDLWI.ORG)

January 13, 2025

Dear Ladysmith Lumberjacks,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025! As we step into the second half of the school year, I'm excited about the opportunities ahead. Over the next few months, our students will engage in a variety of activities, from mid-year assessments to upcoming events and extracurricular opportunities. January and February bring us the chance to focus on growth, both academically and personally, and we are eager to support each student's journey. As always, we appreciate your partnership in making this a successful year for all. Together, let's look forward to the great things to come in the months ahead!

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

#### [4K Registration & Screening](#)

We are excited to announce that 4K registration and screening for the 2025-2026 school year will be taking place soon! This is an important step in ensuring that our youngest learners are ready for a successful start to their educational journey. Families with children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2025 are encouraged to register and participate in the screening process, which helps us assess each child's individual needs and ensure they are placed in the most supportive learning environment. More information about the registration process, dates, and location will be shared soon. We look forward to welcoming our future students and supporting them as they begin their path to learning!

#### [School Safety and Bullying Prevention](#)

As an additional attachment to this communication you will find a newsletter regarding current measures and resources the school district has in place for bullying prevention. This includes Speak Up, Speak Out, an online reporting system that is available on the school website. To read the document you can click [HERE](#) or read the attachment emailed to you.

We understand that concerns about bullying prevention are important to many of our families, and we take these concerns seriously. As a district, we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive environment where all students feel respected and supported. While we have systems in place, we also acknowledge that there is always room for improvement. We are continuing to strengthen our bullying prevention programs, incorporating more proactive measures, and working on providing additional training for staff and students. We are also increasing awareness of available resources for students and families who may need support. Our goal is to foster a culture of kindness and respect, and we will continue to work alongside our families to ensure that all students feel safe and valued. Thank you for your partnership in this ongoing effort.

After reading the materials and if you have any additional questions, or concerns please reach out to any of the building administrators (Mr. Gago ([tgago@sdlwi.org](mailto:tgago@sdlwi.org)) at the elementary and Mr. Posewitz ([gposewitz@sdlwi.org](mailto:gposewitz@sdlwi.org)) or Mr. Yudes ([kyudes@sdlwi.org](mailto:kyudes@sdlwi.org)) at the middle/high school and they will gladly discuss any situation with you.

### **Blood Donation Drive**

Mark your calendars for January 29, 2025 when Ladysmith Student Council and Ladysmith Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) for the Ladysmith High School Blood Drive! The event will take place from 9 AM - 2 PM at Ladysmith High School. All donors must be 17 years old (16 with parental consent) and sign up for a time ([LINK](#)). More information you can go [HERE](#).

### **Reminder on Winter School Closings**

This information appeared in the December District Administrator Update, but just a reminder about Winter School Closings:

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.

The decision to close, or have a late start, and messaging tries to be shared no later than 5:30 AM, with 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.

**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.

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

### **Reminder About Summer EBT Program**

The Summer Electronic Benefit (EBT) program helps families buy food while school is out during the summer and nutritious school meals may not be available. Through Summer EBT, families can get one payment per summer for each eligible child in their household. For the 2024-25 school year, Summer EBT benefits will be sent to families with eligible children starting in May 2025.

**Your child will automatically qualify for Summer EBT if your household gets FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits, or participates in certain income-based Medicaid programs.** If your household does not participate in one of these programs, there are actions you can take to see if your child can qualify before Summer EBT benefits are sent out for Summer 2025.

- **You can apply to participate in one of the qualifying state benefit programs.**  
If you apply and are approved for FoodShare, W-2 Cash Benefits, FDPIR, or certain

income-based Medicaid Programs before the end of Summer 2025, then your child who attends the School District of Ladysmith will be eligible for Summer EBT for 2025. To learn more about applying for any of these state benefits you can call 211, visit [access.wi.gov](https://access.wi.gov), or contact your local or tribal agency. Visit [dhs.wi.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/index.htm](https://dhs.wi.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/index.htm) to find the agency based on where you live who will help you apply or enroll for programs.

- **You can apply directly for Summer EBT.** You can apply on <https://wisconsin.summerebtapp.com> for Summer EBT. When applying for Summer EBT for your child(ren) who attend the School District of Ladysmith, you will need to show that your household meets the income requirements for the program. The Summer EBT webpage at [dhs.wi.gov/sebt](https://dhs.wi.gov/sebt) has more information on what these income requirements are.

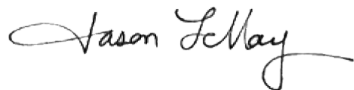
**Note:** This information is for children that attend the School District of Ladysmith. If you have another child that goes to a different school, the steps here might not be the right ones for them to qualify for Summer EBT and they may get a different letter explaining how they would qualify. You can visit [dhs.wi.gov/sebt](https://dhs.wi.gov/sebt) to learn more.

Getting Summer EBT does not affect whether your child can get other benefits, such as meals offered through the Summer Food Service Program (SFS) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO). To learn more about SFSP or SSO meal sites near you, visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/sfsp/find-summer-meals-site> or call 211. You can also text 'food' to 304-304. Getting Summer EBT also does not affect your child's or family's immigration status.

If you have other questions about the Summer EBT program, please visit the Summer EBT webpage at [dhs.wi.gov/sebt](https://dhs.wi.gov/sebt). You can also email your questions to [dhssebt-support@wi.gov](mailto:dhssebt-support@wi.gov).

I hope everyone has a wonderful January and has had a great start to 2025! It's always a great day to be a Ladysmith Lumberjack! #GoLadysmith!

Partners in the Future,



Jason LeMay  
District Administrator