

Report to the School Board

August 17, 2026

By Elementary School Principal Dave Riebel

Strategic Priority 1: Student Success

Successful summer, amid construction

- Cardinal Club – A huge shout out goes to Ms. Leibfried and her Cardinal Club staff for having a successful summer of activities and high quality childcare amid the challenges and changes of our construction summer. The noise, the traffic the loss of playground didn't stop staff and students from a full schedule. Thank you for the
- Extended School Year summer school– We also need to thank Ms. O'Laughlin and Mr. Weniger for meeting students and finding a classroom to provide the needed summer support services for our district students. The 3rd-4th grade wing classrooms received their flooring in time for ESY classes, and students and staff overcame the challenges of construction.

Strategic Priority 2: Effective Staffing

- Welcome Ms. Woodard – Our Elementary School family welcomes Ms. Molly Woodard to our staff as Elementary Music Teacher. Molly joins us after teaching for eight years in South Dakota and Iowa. Her family recently moved to SE Mn and we welcome her to Lewiston. Thank you to Ms. Heftman, Ms. Falkowski and Mr. Hamilton for being a part of the interview team.
- We have current openings for Elementary paraprofessionals. Please direct interested individuals to our district website.
- Elementary School Homerooms

We begin the 2026-2027 school year with a couple of changes to our classroom teaching staff. Ms. Falkowski moves from 2nd grade to Kindergarten, Ms. Mehling moves from first grade to second grade, Mr. Schmaltz joins the fourth grade team and Mr. Buringa is part of the 5th grade team.

The following table highlights the homeroom classroom teachers:

Preschool	Kindergarten	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Courtney Fricke	Kate Falkowski	Ginny Reszka	Deb Heftman	Derek Ihrke	Liza Kennedy	Mike Buringa
Tina Sand	Suzanne Pilger		Natalie Mehling		Scott Schmaltz	Kiley Puetz

Strategic Priority 3: Finance

No report this month.

Strategic Priority 4: Facilities

- District Dashir team:

A big thank you to our district Dashir team for all of the extra efforts made this spring and summer. From a big move out, a move over and more moving yet to come, the team is helping wherever needed. Knowing their assistance is there eases the worries of the upcoming start to the school year.

- Construction update:

The recent work on the new sidewalk and parking lots highlight the outside progress. The new playground is due to arrive and be installed this coming week. The drywalling of the new office area and classrooms up and down the east and west hallways gives shape to what we are going to have to start the year. Progress is visible, but still much to do.

Strategic Priority 5: Community Engagement

- Mark calendars for the Welcome Back to School night at the Crossing Center on August 26.
- Annual Meet and Greet Conferences

Similar to previous years, Elementary School families will utilize the first two days of school to participate in a scheduled family and teacher Meet and Greet conference. Families will be able to see the updated buildings and grounds, meet teachers, drop of school supplies, fill out paperwork, set up accounts and build on the excitement of the new school year. These days are scheduled for Sept. 14-15, with the first day of in-person school for PK-5 on Sept. 16th.