

Lewiston–Altura Public School District
100 County Road 25
Lewiston, MN 55952
www.lewalt.k12.mn.us
(507) 523-2191

Gwen Porter, Superintendent
Dave Riebel, PreKdg – 5 Principal
Cory Hanson, 6-12 Principal

Belief Statements (internal operations- beliefs to drive decisions):

- **LIFELONG LEARNERS:** We believe in the value of education for all ages.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We believe we are accountable for our actions and outcomes.
- **COMMUNITY CENTERED:** We believe our schools are the central hub of our community and essential for building strong communities.
- **ADAPTABLE:** We believe in being responsive to an ever-changing world.
- **RESPECTFUL:** We believe in everyone’s right to safety, respect, and dignity in our schools.
- **DIVERSE:** We believe in fostering the value of each other’s individual differences, perspectives, and life experiences.
- **STUDENT FOCUSED:** We believe that we are all responsible for the success of students.

Goals

1. **STUDENT SUCCESS:** Provide all students with the education they need for success: academically, emotionally, and socially.
2. **EFFECTIVE STAFFING:** Hire, maintain, train and support staff to be as effective as possible.
3. **FINANCE:** Be financially healthy and sustainable.
4. **FACILITIES:** Have facilities that are safe, modern and conducive to 21st century education.
5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Engage with parents, community members and business owners.

Superintendent’s Report to the School Board
Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Porter
March 9, 2026

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

Financial Comparisons to Similar Sized Districts/2026-2027 Budget Discussion There will be discussion on next year’s budget. I have requested updated financial comparisons to similar sized from by Dr. Ryan Laager and if I receive them prior to the meeting, I will also share those.

2026-2027 Superintendent Position Updates The district received three applications for the 0.5 position. At the meeting the details for interviews on March 16th will be discussed.

Memorandum of Agreement/Teacher on Special Assignment Agreement As we have discussed, there is intent to have a Teacher on Special Assignment position in 2026-2027 to be a ‘Dean of Special Education.’ In general, this position would support/assist the principals and special education teachers on needs specific to special education service implementation and support of students with IEPs. This position requires a MOA with the teachers’ union because the position would be part of the Master Agreement with

unique/nonadministrative responsibilities. The attached MOA is generic, pending the hiring to fill the position. A job description for the position is also attached.

Multilingual Learner Program Handbook Dr. Hanson will present this Handbook as he has participated in the Project Momentum administration training, and has worked with Ms. Stark, our English Learner Education Program Coordinator.

Pickle Ball Court Repairs Community Fund Raiser Our pickle ball courts located at the high school are in poor condition. The courts are used by several community members who have expressed interest in having the courts repaired. The courts are also used occasionally by students in PE classes.

We have several repair/maintenance needs in our athletic outdoor facilities. The most expensive need is to repair/resurface our track which has been quoted at \$80,000 if done the summer of 2026. If we prioritize district use, the track is a higher priority than the pickle ball courts. Therefore, I am seeking approval to work with community members to lead an effort to raise the needed \$45,000. Hopefully, the funds can be raised so the repairs can be done late summer/early fall 2026. Nothing will begin until we have 1-2 individuals committed to leading this effort. If sufficient funds are not raised this summer, the fund raising could continue for possibly having the work done in the summer of 2027 but likely the cost would increase.

We will be discussing the track repairs at the March Finance Committee meeting.

Additional Updates

Dental Clinics: Thank you to School Nurse Michelle MacPherson for facilitating dental clinics for students at the elementary and high school. 19 elementary students received cleanings, exams, and fluoride. They also received 30 sealants. 12 high school students received exams, cleanings, and fluoride. They also had 43 sealants. Most of these students either do not have dental insurance, or have insurance that is not accepted at most places. This dental work was done at no cost by dental hygienists from the MN School Sealant Program. They provide clinics for schools all over MN. This is the 5th year our district has hosted them.

HVED/Member District Task Force: I am working with HVED Director Deb Marcotte on facilitating an important and complex task force to discuss the process for transitioning students from district schools to the Setting IV programs now located in the recently remodeled Winona Mall location. This process has been confusing and frustrating for many member districts. Seven elementary and high school principals volunteered to be on the Task Force. We will have our second meeting in late March.

Summer School Board Meetings: I have reserved the City of Lewiston Council Meeting Room for summer school board meetings due to the construction and that the HS Library will generally be inaccessible to the public. The summer meeting dates are June 8th, July 13 and August 10th.

MN Bus Driver Appreciation Day On February 18th, the principals and I provided morning treats to our drivers. I also enjoyed riding the morning route with Nick Haag. Thank you to our drivers who keep our students safe on their rides to and from school every day! (In the photo, you can see the new van.)



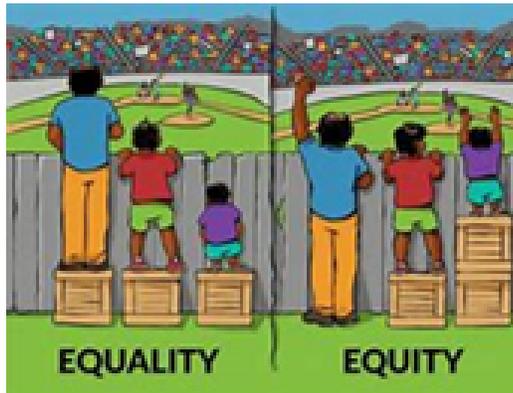
Read Across America Month Thank you to Sharon Manley and the elementary staff for organizing several activities to celebrate reading. On March 3rd, I enjoyed reading to Ms. Mehling's, Ms. Falkowski's and Ms. Puetz's classrooms.



November 2026 School Board Elections: The School District will have school board elections on November 3, 2026. Three current members' (Baer, Daley, Kreidermacher) four-year term ends this year. The filing period (re-election or for new candidates) will be July 14 – July 28th. I will have the resolution calling for the election on the May Agenda and do the other associated legal tasks that I can do prior to June 30th. There will be additional ones to do before and after the election. I have reached out to MSBA to get clarity on options since we will have a temporary office in a classroom in the HS during the filing period.

Enrollment

Grade Level	May 29, 2025	Sept 4, 2025	February 1, 2026	March 1, 2026	Anticipated Sept 14, 2026	Estimate Sept 2027
Kdg	38	29	27	27	22	39
1st	26	39	38	38	27	22
2nd	36	28	28	28	38	27
3rd	38	36	36	36	28	38
4th	25	41	40	40	36	28
5th	39	29	26	26	40	36
6th	38	44	44	43	29 (+3)	42 (+2)
7th	38	36	36	36	43	29
8th	37	39	38	38	36	43
9th	55	45	43	43	49 (+11)	39 (+3)
10th	58	55	52	52	43	49
11th	48	58	58	58	52	43
12th	56	48	48	49	58	52
Total	532	527	514	514	501	487



Equity is important in all of our decision making.