

Report to the School Board

January 11, 2021

By Elementary / Intermediate School Principal Dave Riebel

GOAL 1: THE DISTRICT WILL STRIVE TO PROVIDE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

- Excited and grateful to return:

On Wednesday, January 6, our PK-6 students and staff returned to our In person model with the hybrid safety protocols in place that we have had since the beginning of the school year. Students and staff alike noted that it definitely felt like the first day of school...again. There were speed bumps to overcome throughout the day and week, but as we have all year, staff worked to address and overcome.



- Distance Learners in K-6

The chart below indicates the percentage of students whose parents chose full time distance learning in November, prior to the distance learning for all and in our return to in person learning model on Jan. 6.

The “short term DL” column represents families that have either:

- chosen distance learning for their child, but are monitoring and planning to return to in-person.
- are in a quarantine situation for a short period of time.

	November Distance Learners	January Distance Learners	January Short Term DL
Elementary K-4	8%	11%	3%
Intermediate 5-6	15%	20%	4%
K-6 Total	12%	16%	3%

- Modified schedule for Distance Learners in Kindergarten – Grade 2

Our Elementary School staff made a purposeful adjustment to the schedule for Distance Learner students in our youngest grade levels. While we were in Distance Learning for all, our K-2 school staff responded to difficulties of having our youngest students maintain a full school day on a device. The teachers purposely set to adjusting their class schedules to shorten the time on screen each day for students in grades K-2. We hope that those efforts were beneficial to all distance learners.

As a staff, we also learned about our instruction during our time from September to November, the time when we were in person with students in the classroom as well as simultaneously having some distance learners online. Our staff learned that it is difficult to both maintain instruction and meaningful interaction with students who were live in class and those who are online in Distance Learning. Meeting the needs for an entire school day schedule is taxing for students, for teachers and for you as parents at home.

In order to address both of these difficult situations, Lewiston-Altura Elementary K-2 staff will begin January 6th with a modified schedule for Distance Learners. Our staff will be placing emphasis on reading and math instruction. We will be setting up for our Distance Learners to log onto class schedules for **only** instruction in math and language arts. We hope that this plan addresses the both the shortening of the online day for students and also lessens the difficulties of simultaneous live and online instruction and interaction.

GOAL 2: THE DISTRICT WILL STRIVE TO HIRE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE STAFF.

- Thank you Michelle Marxhausen

A heartfelt thank you and best wishes go out to Michelle Marxhausen. Michelle has worked for 12 years in the Elementary office as administrative assistant, district special education liaison and district transportation scheduler. Michelle recently accepted a position outside of the district with her last day of Dec. 23. We wish Michelle all the best in her new endeavor.

- Welcome Linda Leibfried

Entering into the position vacated by Michelle will be Linda Leibfried. Linda has worked for many years in various positions at the Elementary School. Please join in welcoming Linda to the Elementary office administrative assistant and transportation scheduler.

- Jan. 4-5 work days

Staff utilized the work days required via executive order to prepare for the upcoming in person/hybrid instruction. All grade levels have some Distance Learners to prepare materials for disbursement to families.

GOAL 3: THE DISTRICT WILL STRIVE TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE EMOTIONAL AND SAFE CLIMATE FOR LEARNERS AND STAFF.

- Ten Days of Giving total.

Even though the pandemic had the effect of not allowing us to collect food while in school, the Elementary and Intermediate School still had a very impressive Ten Days of Giving drive. Our schools presented \$1,568 and a couple of boxes of non perishable food items to the Merchants Bank staff. Wow. Very impressive during these difficult times. Ms. Daley's class claimed the Golden Can at the Elementary with Mr. Stokke's class winning at the Intermediate.

- Dec. 21 Late Start

In an effort to assist with the social emotional well being of our entire staff, PK-6 site staff development purchased books entitled The Well-Balanced Teacher for staff members to read and discuss during the scheduled late start dates via a book study. Zoom meetings contained breakout sessions for staff to discuss the Ch. 1, The Importance of Balancing Stress and Ch. 2, Meeting our Most Basic Needs.

- First Day of School revisited

Every January, when returning from the holiday break, emphasis is placed on reviewing and re-emphasizing the processes and procedures with students to refresh the safety steps and expectations of our schools. Obviously, with the return to schools after our time in Distance Learning for all, this was a point of special emphasis for our students and staff. All safety protocols that were enacted at the beginning of the school year are still in place and utilized upon our return on Jan. 6.

- Next steps

We will begin to look at moving towards a return to regular processes over time. We have already determined a way for physical education classes to resume in the gym spaces at both the elementary and intermediate. We have the space in our begin to have our elementary music classes in the elementary cafeteria, but do not have the physical space for music classes at the intermediate.

GOAL 4: THE DISTRICT WILL STRIVE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

Thank you to parents and students for the return of all school materials on January 4,5 and 6. The iPads, laptops, textbooks and supplies that were in use at the home classrooms now return to our school classrooms. We are hoping that they will stay for the remainder of the school year!