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February 16, 2026

Dear Ladysmith Lumberjacks,

February is one of those months that seems short on the calendar but never feels that way when you're in the middle of it. Between the cold, the long stretch since winter break, and the push toward spring, it can be a challenging time, yet our students and staff continue to show up and do the work.

Below are some reminders and updates for you to review. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education.

It's always a great day to be a Ladysmith Lumberjack! **#GoLadysmith!**

Partners in the Future,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason LeMay'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Jason LeMay, PhD
District Administrator

Upcoming Dates to Know

With February already underway, it's a good time to look ahead at what's coming up on the school calendar. There are several important dates between now and spring break that are worth marking down, including the end of our second trimester and some scheduled days off. Here's a quick look at what's ahead:

- **February 20** — No School (Staff Professional Development)
- **March 4** — End of Second Trimester
- **March 5 & 6** — No School (Staff Work Day & Professional Development)
- **March 9** — Third Trimester Begins
- **March 30 – April 3** — Spring Break (No School)

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thank you to everyone who took the time to join us for parent-teacher conferences on February 11. We always appreciate the opportunity to connect with families and talk about how your child is doing. If you weren't able to attend but would still like to connect with your child's teacher, please don't hesitate to reach out to them directly. Those conversations are valuable at any point in the year, and our staff is happy to find a time that works for you.

ACT Preparation for Juniors

Junior families, please take note of some important upcoming ACT preparation opportunities. Starting February 17, juniors will have ACT prep sessions available every Tuesday and Thursday during BAI. These sessions are a great way for students to build familiarity with the test and sharpen their skills in the

weeks leading up to the exam. The ACT will be administered on **Tuesday, March 10**, so we encourage all juniors to take advantage of the prep time available to them between now and then.



ENROLL TODAY! 4K Pre-Registration and Open Enrollment

Now is the time to start thinking about enrollment for the 2026-27 school year. Whether you have a child who will be ready for 4-year-old Kindergarten or you are considering the School District of Ladysmith for a child currently enrolled elsewhere, we want to make sure you have the information you need.

4K Pre-Registration: If your child will be four years old by September 1, 2026, they are eligible for our 4-year-old Kindergarten program. Our 4K program runs **all day, five days a week**, and is a wonderful first step in your child's educational journey. 4K Pre-Registration Event will be held on **Thursday, March 5 from 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM at Ladysmith Elementary School**. Families can visit www.sdlwi.org to register for a time slot in advance. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Tami Moore at tmoore@sdlwi.org or 715-532-5434 ext. 11000.

USE THE QR CODE ABOVE TO ACCESS the 4K Pre-Registration materials or go to our school district website: sdlwi.org/families-students/4k-registration.cfm

Open Enrollment: Wisconsin's Public School Open Enrollment application period runs from now through April 30, 2025. Open enrollment allows students to apply to attend a public school district other than the one in which they live. If you have a child currently attending school outside of Ladysmith and would like to enroll them with us, we would love to welcome them. Parents may apply for open enrollment online at dpi.wi.gov/oe. For questions about the open enrollment process, please contact Carrie Becker at cbecker@sdlwi.org.

ParentSquare Has Arrived!

The district has introduced ParentSquare as a new digital tool to enhance how they distribute school news and emergency updates to families. For the duration of the current academic year, the school system will utilize both ParentSquare and Skyward simultaneously to ensure no critical information is missed. This dual-platform approach relies on accurate contact data, so parents are encouraged to verify their phone numbers and email addresses within their existing accounts. Keeping this information current is vital because the new software automatically retrieves its mailing lists from the Skyward database. If families encounter difficulties accessing their profiles, contact your student's school to provide technical support and guidance. Ultimately, this initiative aims to streamline school-to-home communication and keep every household properly informed.

You can access ParentSquare by going to parentsquare.com/signin

Please also check your email for a more detailed letter about ParentSquare that was sent previously from the district. That message includes additional information about the platform and how to make the most of it, including apps that you can download.

February is Career and Technical Education Month!

February is Career and Technical Education Month, and we're proud to highlight the outstanding CTE programs available to students at Ladysmith Middle-High School. CTE prepares students for life after graduation by emphasizing real-world skills, practical knowledge, and hands-on learning within a focused career pathway.

Our CTE departments cover a wide range of fields, including Agriculture & Natural Resources, Business & Information Technology, Family & Consumer Science, Health Science, and Technology & Engineering. Students in these programs take specialized courses alongside their required coursework and often have opportunities to participate in internships, work with mentors, and apply their learning through real

projects. Many courses also allow students to earn technical college credits through partnerships with local colleges — saving time and money on the path to a postsecondary degree.

Students who engage in CTE consistently report growth in problem-solving, communication, critical thinking, and time management — skills that are valuable in any career. Whether a student is headed to a technical college, a four-year university, or directly into the workforce, CTE helps open those doors.

For more information about CTE opportunities at Ladysmith, contact CTE Coordinator Kyle Jeffress.

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.

Dress for the Weather!

Dress for the weather! Students typically are outside when the temperatures and wind chill allow. Students need to have coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, snow pants, etc. If you are in need of winter clothing feel free to contact a building counselor or principal.

THANK YOU Counselors!

Last week, during National School Counselor Week, we celebrated and thanked Ms. Bunton and Ms. Jeffress, our amazing school counselors, for the care, compassion, and support each one provides to our students each and every day. We are grateful for the positive impact they make in our school community.

