

**Dr. Anthony Berthiaume**  
**Superintendent**  
**New Lothrop Area Public Schools**

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the New Lothrop Area Public Schools staff and Board of Education! Our holiday break starts Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and students will be returning to school on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. We hope you and your children enjoy this well-deserved break.

As we turn our attention to academics, our high school semester exams will be completed before the start of holiday break this year. First semester exams will take place December 18<sup>th</sup> through December 20<sup>th</sup> (the schedule will be posted on the high school's web page). It is important that 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade students take advantage of our free after school tutoring Monday through Thursday for English, Math, Science and Social Studies in preparation for their exams. Report cards will be mailed out by the second week of January. If you have any questions or concerns about your student's final grades, please start by contacting the individual teacher of the class. Seniors, please make sure you have passed all of your classes. It is imperative that you stay on track to graduate this upcoming June!

Next, I would like to remind the community that we will be using our SchoolMessenger notification system to update parents of any school closings, delays, events, or bussing issues that may arise. This is not meant to be an annoyance of over-communication, but a more efficient manner of letting parents know what is going on in the district. If you are not set up with SchoolMessenger or would like to stop receiving communications, please contact our Technology Director, Richard O'Connor, at 810-638-5091, extension 2227. SchoolMessenger is an essential tool in our communication process so please take time to sign up for this service if you have not already done so. I encourage you to contact Mary Johnson, our Transportation Director, at (810) 638-5400 for any transportation questions or concerns you may have.

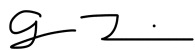
As we have seen already, it is that time of the year when we experience inclement weather including snow, ice and extreme low temperatures. Student safety is always a priority, as is balancing the instructional consistency of our students' education. Recently, we had a snow day due to the secondary road conditions (i.e. gravel or back roads). After further consideration and reviewing what other districts do in these situations, we are implementing a "Paved Roads Only" option moving forward. "Paved Roads Only" means parents would be responsible for getting their child to the nearest paved road bus stop on their bus route or parents would be responsible for driving their child to school, if able to do so. As always, the parent makes the final determination if they feel comfortable sending their child to school in inclement weather conditions.

Furthermore, we will continue to implement the option of a 2-hour delay for inclement weather when deemed appropriate. School start times would be 9:50 a.m. for the elementary and 10:00 a.m. for the high school. School will end at our regularly scheduled time with an abbreviated bell schedule for both buildings. Instead of taking a full day off from school, this option allows our buses and families extra time to get students to school in the morning as conditions improve. If the conditions remain stagnant throughout the morning, we would possibly make the decision to cancel school for the entire day.

In addition to communicating school closings and delays through SchoolMessenger, the information will be available via television and radio broadcasts. Parents, please use this information to plan ahead and think about arrangements for your children in these types of situations. I will be in contact with other superintendents from our county and neighboring school districts when making these decisions and will continue to monitor the weather and road conditions. These are decisions I take seriously as they affect the safety of our students, staff, and community.

We appreciate your continued support and value your suggestions as we continually strive to improve as a district. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My office phone number is 810-638-5091.

Sincerely,



Anthony Berthiaume, Ph.D.  
Superintendent