



LAKE OF THE WOODS
School

PO Box 310 • 236 15th Ave. SW • Baudette, MN 56623 • 218-634-2510 • Fax: 218-634-2750
Jeff Nelson, Superintendent

A Message from Superintendent Nelson

September 14, 2020

Kudos to the Lake of the Woods School Community for a great first week of school. I have been so impressed with the positive attitude and cooperation demonstrated by students, staff, and parents as we begin what will certainly be a unique school year. I am anticipating some challenges in the coming months, but know that the resilience and determination of our students, staff, and community members will get us through those challenges and we will come out stronger and better as a school and community.

As we move forward with the school year, we need to keep in mind how fluid the situation is and that we may need to adjust our school program as conditions change. I want to briefly share how the district will make decisions regarding our learning models throughout this school year.

There are many variables and data points that we must take into consideration. We will use local, regional, and statewide data; which will be sorted by age, demographics, population, zip codes, etc. We will consider local metrics such as social distancing, masking habits, student and staff attendance and illness numbers, building and classroom space capacities, transportation capabilities and other data specific to our local community and school district. We will confer with local decision teams, local public health, our regional support team. The regional support team is facilitated by the Northwest Service Cooperative and includes two epidemiologists and a COVID testing coordinator appointed by the Minnesota Department of Health. These data points and teams will help school administration in making a local determination to monitor, adapt, or adjust our learning plans as needed throughout the school year. In the end, our primary goal is to keep our students, staff, and community safe. Our other goal, of course, is to continue to deliver a world-class education to our students.

Here are a few other important items I'd like to share with you:

- **Free school meals!** The USDA has announced that it will be expanding its Summer Foods Program to provide free school meals to students through the end of December, 2020; or until funding runs out. Lake of the Woods School will begin free meal service on September 14, 2020. Free meals will be provided to students attending in-person or through distance learning. Information has been sent out to families. Contact Cece at extension 1504 if you have any questions.
- **Save \$ on taxes by saving receipts for school supplies!** Minnesota Revenue offers two valuable tax benefits for parents who purchase school supplies for their K-12 students, the K-12 Education Credit and Subtraction. These benefits can reduce parents' taxes or increase their refund, but are only available for those who keep their receipts. Purchases



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for most school supplies, field trips, laptops and musical instruments for school band are eligible. Most Minnesota parents qualify for the K-12 subtraction, which reduces their taxable income. Parents under certain income limits may also qualify for the K-12 credit, which can refund up to 75% of their costs – even for parents who don't owe any taxes. Visit the Minnesota Revenue website for details (mnrevenue@public.govdelivery.com).

Please make sure to visit our school website at www.lakeofthewoodsschool.org for the most up-to-date information for Lake of the Woods ISD 390.