



March 15, 2024

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

Please see below for important dates and events:



March 16, 2024, Lamoille Union Middle School Theater Department Bottle Drive, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, LUMS parking lot

March 18, 2024, LNSU/LNMUUSD Special Board Meeting, 6:00 pm, GMTCC

March 20, 2024, Cambridge Elementary School, “Ready, Tech, Go”, 5:30-7:30 pm

**Please make sure you check for updated changes or additions to dates of events listed on your school(s) website. Your school website is updated daily.*



The School Board met this week to begin preliminary discussions of revisions to the LNMUUSD elementary budget and will meet again to make some decisions at a special board meeting on **Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm at GMTCC**. As you are aware, although all other budgets passed, the LNMUUSD elementary budget was defeated by a small margin of 37 votes. The LNMUUSD Board has asked the administration to make \$500,000 in reductions from the original budget with an explanation of what that would mean for our schools and what the impact would be on our students. The final amount could be less than \$500,000.

We acknowledge that property taxes are a concern, and rightly so; however, we still need to run school systems. Whether property taxes are high or low, there’s always going to be a school system to run, and we have to do what is right for our children. We know that Vermont is an aging state and we need to think about who will live in Vermont in the future. We want our students to do well, and to live here and to be able to find jobs that provide them with a living wage, and therefore need to support them in achieving those goals. We continue to affirm that our budgets are driven by student need; we have not added any new services to this budget. We are simply continuing programming that is necessary for our students.



In other school news, we are so excited and proud to announce that Mary Anderson, Principal of Cambridge Elementary School, has been nominated as this year’s Elementary Principal of the Year by the Vermont Principal’s Association. See the press release [HERE](#). Mary will be honored by colleagues from across Vermont at the Leadership Academy in Killington in July. Mary brings years of expertise to Vermont and the Cambridge community and we are thrilled that she is being honored for her exemplary leadership. Congratulations, Mary!



In news from GMTCC, our team of Joe Ward and Zach Shortsleeve, both students in Dennis Mercier’s Automotive Technology Program, came in first place at the Heritage Automotive Challenge! Part of the challenge involved rotating through different stations to diagnose, measure and inspect various auto components. Participants were selected by a test administered by Heritage at CTE centers. Scores from the test determined which schools and participants would be invited. Congratulations to our team!



In addition, our very own GMTCC Allied Health Students competed in the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) State Competition recently with 10 other CTE and high school programs. We are proud to announce that we had 11 medalists! Of those 11, six won gold medals and will be traveling to Houston, Texas, in June to compete in the International Competition. The Gold Medalists are: Laura Aponte; Emma LaRock; Brooke Therrien; Kyleigh Philip;

Ayden Laundry; and Baylie Christensen. Ila Bullard was also selected as a State Officer for the 2024-2025 school year. All medalists will be able to apply for the many scholarships HOSA offers. We congratulate our outstanding Allied Health program, all the students, and Heidi Richard, the program instructor!



In more school news, each year our Curriculum Committee has the exciting job of approving new courses at the secondary level for our students for the following school year. All new courses presented to the committee for the 2024-2025 school year were approved and include the following: Television and Video Production; AP Environmental Science; AP Physics with an emphasis on Calculus; AP General Physics 1 & 2; AP United States History; AP Statistics; Robotics; American Sign Language; and Fantasy Literature. These courses are engaging, interest-based, and rigorous. We are thrilled for our students to have these opportunities!

Lastly, I continue to be so grateful for our Lamoille North community members and the strong relationships we have built together. We appreciate your support for our work with your children and youth. Thank you again for your collaboration, compassion and dedication to the wellbeing of our students, staff and families. I hope all of you have a wonderful weekend!

Very truly yours,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
Lamoille North Supervisory Union