



July 23, 2026

Dear New Lothrop Families and Community Members,

I hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer and finding time to relax with family and friends. Although our classrooms have been quiet, summer has been an incredibly productive season across New Lothrop Area Public Schools. As we prepare to welcome students back for the 2026-2027 school year, I wanted to share an update on the important work that has taken place and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

A Vision for the Future

One of the most significant accomplishments this past year was the adoption of our new dynamic [Strategic Plan](#). This plan represents the voices of our staff, students, families, community members, and Board of Education, all working together to define a shared vision for the future of New Lothrop Area Public Schools.

Through this process, we reaffirmed who we are and what we value by adopting our new mission:

Be EPIC! Excellence in All, Pride in Doing, Integrity in Action, Community Focused.

Our vision, **Educating, Empowering, and Inspiring Students for Lifelong Success**, will guide our decisions and priorities over the next five years as we continue building upon the strong traditions that make New Lothrop such a special place.

Planning for Tomorrow

Preparing our students for the future also means preparing our facilities for the future.

This summer, our architectural and construction partners, TowerPinkster and RC Hendrick, completed comprehensive assessments of each district building and our overall infrastructure. These evaluations provide valuable information that will help us prioritize future facility needs.

This fall, we will continue engaging staff, parents, and community members to gather input regarding facility, capital, and infrastructure priorities. Your feedback will play an important role in shaping the district's long-term plans.

That work may ultimately lead to a zero-mill increase bond proposal. Simply stated, a zero-mill increase bond would allow the district to invest in critical facility improvements without increasing the current debt millage rate paid by local taxpayers. While no decisions have been made, our goal is to explore opportunities that responsibly address our district's long-term needs while remaining fiscally responsible to our community.

Responsible Stewardship of Taxpayer Resources

Being good stewards of taxpayer dollars remains one of our highest priorities.

This summer, the district refinanced the remaining debt from the 2014 bond issue. Through favorable financing terms, this refinancing saved our taxpayers approximately \$115,000 over the remaining life of the debt.

We have also taken an important step toward reducing future operating costs by purchasing three new school buses through a lease-to-purchase program. Over time, this transition from leased buses to district-owned buses will reduce annual transportation expenses and allow more General Fund resources to be directed toward student learning and classroom instruction.

These decisions reflect our commitment to maximizing every taxpayer dollar while investing wisely in the future of our district.

Investing in Our Schools

Several improvement projects are also underway across our campus this summer.

Recent improvements include:

- Completion of the Junior/Senior High School hallway ceiling tile replacement project.
- Completion of the softball infield and baseball mound and home plate resurfacing.
- Electrical infrastructure improvements serving the FFA barn and the new baseball and softball pavilion to be completed soon.
- Continued planning for the installation of a new HVAC system in the High School gymnasium, pending final State of Michigan approval.
- Evaluation and planning for long-term drainage improvements to the baseball outfield to improve field conditions and protect future investments.

While many of these projects occur behind the scenes, each one contributes to providing safe, functional, and welcoming learning environments for our students, staff, and community.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare to welcome students back on Monday, August 24, for the first day of the 2026-2027 school year, I am incredibly excited about what lies ahead. There is tremendous momentum across our district, and I firmly believe our best days are still ahead.

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and support of New Lothrop Area Public Schools. Strong schools are built through strong communities, and I am grateful to be part of one that consistently places students first.

I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the coming school year and celebrating the continued success of our students and our district.

Have a wonderful remainder of your summer and Go Hornets!

Best,



Jay Larner
Superintendent
New Lothrop Area Public Schools