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August 29, 2022

### Little Wound School Adopting 4-Day Week for Students

Dear Little Wound School Community,

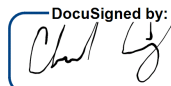
For the 2022–2023 school year, Little Wound School is adopting a new weekly schedule for students and staff members. The primary change impacting students is that classes will now take place four days per week (Monday through Thursday). Additionally, the length of the school day is expanding to ensure adequate educational time for students during the academic year.

This decision was not made lightly, though we do understand it is an adjustment. Our board and administration came to this decision through conversation, review of research, and in response to changing contextual circumstances. We hope to share some of our reasons for making this decision with the community of parents and families.

- Extended professional development opportunities for staff. Two Fridays per month our staff will gather to engage in professional development and common planning time to support student learning. This time is essential to ensure staff are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to benefit students. The updated schedule creates larger, dedicated blocks of time to engage in this critical activity.
- The impact of inflation. Federal funding for tribal schools, already insufficient, is not tied to inflation. Year-over-year funding increases are not rising as quickly as costs. One example is student transportation. Each year our school buses travel more than 500,000 miles, and fuel costs have risen by more than a third. Changing to four day weeks increases our ability to invest in programming during school days.
- Research. Recent studies confirm that absolute measures of student proficiency are not impacted by whether a school week is four or five days. More than 600 districts nationwide have adopted a four-day schedule, and we believe that our students' grades and assessment scores will not be negatively impacted by this change.
- LWS Thursday Food Bag: On Thursday afternoons LWS will make available a take home food sack with non perishable items to supplement students meals for Fridays this distribution will begin Thursday September 1, 2022.

Every decision the school board makes is done in the best interest of students and the school, and this decision aligns with that priority. We remain committed to our mission to “provide a sacred environment for students to achieve academic and Lakota language and cultural excellence,” and we appreciate the support of the community in the pursuit of this important work.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Charles Cuny, Jr.  
Superintendent, Little Wound School