

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to reach out to you with updates from our district's crisis team. First and foremost, our hearts go out to the Lewiston community and surrounding areas. While events such as these are sadly becoming a part of our reality, they are horrible and traumatic for students, staff, and communities. With this in mind, I just want to assure you that our number one priority is always the safety of all students and staff. When decisions about the potential closing of a school for a day have to be made (for any reason), there are many factors that are considered and we reach out to many resources for input before determining the best course of action that will provide safety, stability, and allow us to continue to educate our students.

While the decision was made to operate schools as normal today in RSU 3, I also just want to remind all families that we always have several safety measures in place, every day, and today we will implement a few extra precautions just in an overabundance of caution. We will also continue to monitor the situation closely. Please review the following notes from our district crisis team meeting:

Our District Crisis Team met at 8:15 to discuss and determined the following:

- Based on information we have received from Waldo County EMA and Waldo County Sheriff's Office At this time, there is no credible threat to the school community of RSU 3. If that changes we will certainly respond appropriately. You should know that the Crisis Team is composed of professionals with specific training and district responsibilities and we will make the best decisions possible with the facts of the situation and with school community safety as a priority.
- However, we recognize community concerns and we will be attentive of our surroundings at all times. We understand that the school community is on high alert and that is accompanied by a feeling of uncertainty. We respect and understand this as a normal reaction to a crisis. The Crisis Team is sensitive to those real feelings. The Crisis Team was established to provide a level of confidence and safety to the school community during unsettling events. It is our goal to provide the school community a response that accounts for the facts and credibility of the situation presented.
- The Crisis Team is requesting that students stay in the building for recess today as an additional precaution.
- The superintendent will utilize ThrillShare to provide the school community with a list of professional support resources that will be provided by a clinical professional.
- During any crisis event, we will evaluate the situation based on the facts that are available to guide our decisions.
- The Crisis Team will meet at 2pm to review any additional information

Again, I want to assure you that your child(rens) teachers are spending the day teaching and following our normal routines. They are also prepared to validate students' feelings about things they may have heard and provide support for any individual students who may need a little extra support.

I encourage every family to make decisions that are best for your family and I respect your decisions. As always, please reach out with questions or concerns and stay tuned for additional updates from the district.

Thank you,
Lisa Roux, Principal