



# LAWTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lawton Community Schools  
101 Primary Way (Mailing)  
100 Primary Way (Shipping)  
Lawton, MI 49065

Principal  
Christopher J. Rice

Superintendent  
Joseph Trimboli

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Counselor  
Laura Woodruff

June 16, 2008,

Dear Lawton Elementary School Parents,

On behalf of the Board of Education and Superintendent Joseph Trimboli, we are very excited to announce that we will be offering free, full day, everyday kindergarten and young fives for the upcoming 2008-09 school year.

Research supporting the benefits of full day kindergarten is extensive. Students who have participated in full day kindergarten programs are better prepared academically, socially, and emotionally. The Board, administration and staff understand the importance of extended learning time and are prepared to provide our kindergarten students with an outstanding educational experience. The list below details some of the benefits of full day kindergarten.

- Increased School Readiness – students in full day kindergarten are better prepared academically and socially for the demands of the primary grades.
- Increased Achievement – studies show that students in full day programs perform better on standardized assessments and these results last over time.
- Improved Attendance – while kindergarten attendance is not yet mandatory, studies show that attendance does improve for students in full day programs.
- Greater Literacy and Language Development – this is especially important for children from homes where English is a second language or where children are not exposed to quality early childhood learning experiences.
- Decreased Retention Rates – additional instructional time allows more children to master grade level curriculum expectations thereby reducing the number of children considered for grade level retention and subsequently decreasing high school drop out rates.
- Deeper Learning – full day instruction allows topics to be studied in greater depth thus promoting transfer and increasing student engagement.
- Increased Remediation Options – increased instructional time allows the teacher to become more aware of the needs of each individual and to create learning experiences that address those needs.

Based on current enrollment projections, we plan to have (3) sections of full day kindergarten. The teachers for these sections will be Mrs. Dietrich, Mrs. Barkovich and a teacher yet to be determined. The young fives class will spend the afternoon with a certified teacher. The morning will be spent in a free, wrap around classroom that will provide a balance of academic support and developmentally appropriate activities. Transportation will continue to be provided at the beginning and end of the school day. Students will have the option of eating hot lunch or bringing their own lunch. A regular schedule of related arts (specials) will also be provided.

The teachers are excited to begin their preparation and look forward to your support as we initiate this exciting new program.

Sincerely,

Chris Rice

*Helping Each Child Along The Road To Success*

Principal  
Lawton Elementary School