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Date: 1/12/21

To La Grande Virtual Learning Academy (LVLA) students and parents,

There has been some confusion about when the last day of the semester is for LVLA students and families. The purpose of this letter is to resolve this issue and eliminate stress for students and their families.

LVLA contracts with IMESD to provide our current Acellus and Google Classroom offerings across our K-12 program. IMESD classes are offered to students across the 18 districts in the IMESD region. The 18 district of the IMESD region all have different school calendars, and, as a result, IMESD staff have tried to find a middle ground between the wide-range of calendars used in our region. This is why LVLA classes started later than traditional classes this year and why some have received communication from IMESD Online teachers that the semester ends January 14, 2021.

Many districts in our region were upset with this end date to the semester so we worked with IMESD to create an extended window after January 14th for students to access their classes and earn credits. **This agreement and window makes the January 14th date a non-issue. LVLA will collect grades from IMESD on January 25th and printing report cards shortly thereafter. LVLA students will have the same Semester 1 deadlines as their peers. Students will retain the ability to access Semester 1 classes and continue to work in them until January 25th.**

Additionally, students in Acellus or Google Classroom classes will have access to Semester 2 classes on January 19th. However, students can wait until January 25 – 29 (Week 1 of Semester 2) to start on these classes. We have already worked with IMESD staff to resolve the end of year calendar issues and classes will remain open through the end of our school year/calendar. We will not have to navigate this calendaring issue again this year and we are continuing to work with IMESD staff to resolve it fully for next year.

Lastly, thank you for your patience with IMESD classes (Acellus or Google Classroom). This was our first attempt at an 18 district K-12 online collaborative to provide expanded online options for students. I appreciate your patience as we navigate the growing pains we have experienced in this first year. However, by using a larger pool of regional teachers to provide online, LVLA has been able to grow from 69 students to 235 (our highest enrollment) this year. We would not have been able to handle this enrollment load without this IMESD partnership. We know there is still significant work to do to make this option better in Semester 2 and in years to come and are continuing to work with IMESD staff to make improvements as we become aware.

Sincerely,

Scott Carpenter
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OPPORTUNITY & EXCELLENCE

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