

School

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Final drive-thru of the school year held at Sidway Elementary School



A sign greets vehicles in the front parking lot of Sidway Elementary School where parents picked up the contents of their children's locker and received a summer learning packet for their student. (Photos by Larry Austin)



LARRY AUSTIN

Island Dispatch Editor

Sidway Elementary School hosted a drive-thru summer sendoff to students this week in what amounted to the last day of school.

Parents, many with their children along for the ride, drove through the Sidway front parking lot for the final June pick-up of student belongings. Denise Dunbar, principal of Sidway Elementary School,

said when students stopped in the driveway at the Baseline Road school Tuesday and Wednesday, they received a summer packet of work as well as the contents of their lockers that they left behind when school stopped in March.

"Because when they walked out, they thought they were coming back, and they never did," Dunbar said. Rather than have parents in the building, the school bagged everything,

labeled it for return, and gave it to students at a makeshift drive-thru in the Sidway front parking lot facing Baseline Road. In addition, students received a yearbook that the PTA purchased for them.

"And then they're returning library books and classroom books if they have any," Dunbar said.

The school also used the final pickup to return field trip money to first-graders whose

trip to Explore and More in April was cancelled, Dunbar said.

Since they left school in March due to the pandemic, the students have seen their teachers "Only virtually," Dunbar said. "Nobody has seen anyone in person."

"A few who may have been here for packet distribution may have seen a quick glimpse, but for the most part they haven't seen each other."

Asked how the kindergarten and first-grade students have taken to remote learning in the virtual classroom, Dunbar said, "Not very well. It's very difficult because they're not one-on-one."

Dunbar said the learning experience is especially hard for those students who have to share one device with several siblings.

"I think in the beginning there's a little bit of a novelty

where kids like screen time," Dunbar said. "But then we saw a real decrease in the engagement. Little kids need that interaction, and you don't get that over a screen."

"Teaching is an interactive business."

Teachers produced four learning packets since schools were closed. "Every time the governor extended the shutdown, we did another packet in that period of time," Dunbar said.

Dunbar praised the parents of students for making the best of a tough situation.

"Parents are so appreciative," Dunbar said. "They're so appreciative and complimentary of the teachers and all that they're doing and everything that was put out, packets and communication. I have a lot of parents just really thankful. Some of them are crying today."



Convent 284-8273
Lewiston, N.Y. School 285-9257

Summer Camp

June 29th to July 30th 2020.
8:30 to 3:00 pm
Monday - Thursday
\$20.00 a day or \$80.00 a week
Present Pre-K 3yrs. to 5th grade.

Latch Key 3:30 - 5:00 @ \$5.00
an hour or any part of an hour.

Campers need: a lunch, snack, towel, bathing suit, helmet to ride the bike, a smock or old shirt for art, hand sanitizer & water bottle to be filled from fountain.

Music: Pre-K to 5th grade
Time arranged with the teacher during the summer.

Fee is \$20.00 per 1/2 hr. lesson.

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Mon. & Wed. for Math and
Tues. & Thur. for Reading.

The time will be 9:00 to 10:00 and
10:30 to 11:30 AM and the fee is
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