

THE  
VIKING VOICE  
PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pelican Rapids School  
District #548  
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**THIS IS ABOUT OUR FUTURE.**  
A future that starts with us.  
A future that starts today.  
And we'll do it ... **TOGETHER.**

POSITIVE, UPBEAT, AND DIVERSE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS

It is with great pride that I write to you as the superintendent of Pelican Rapids Schools. Our school district is a positive, upbeat, and diverse community that is committed to providing an excellent education for all our students.



Written by  
Brian Korf,  
Superintendent

One of the things that makes Pelican Rapids Schools so special is our rich and unique culture. Our students and staff come from different backgrounds, bringing with them a wide range of experiences and perspectives. We believe that this diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and we work hard to create an environment that is welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

But it's not just our culture that sets us apart. There are also many great things happening in our school district that we are excited to share with you. Our students are achieving great things in the classroom and beyond, from our strong academic programs to excelling in sports and the arts. Our teachers and staff are also doing incredible work, going above and beyond to support our students and create engaging and meaningful learning experiences for all students.

This past fall, our school offered a musical that was truly a school and community event. The production involved not only our talented students, but also members of the community who came together to create an unforgettable experience for the audience and for all involved in the musical. Rehearsals were for weeks, and it's clear that everyone involved put in an enormous amount of effort to make this show a success. The musical was carefully crafted to showcase the best of what our school and community have to offer. Whether you're a parent, a student, or community member who enjoys the arts, this was an event that students, parents and community members will always remember.

As we move forward, we are committed to continuing to provide the highest quality education to our students, and to working with our community to ensure that all our students have the support and resources they need to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support of Pelican Rapids Schools. We look forward to sharing more of our great stories in the future.

TIME, ENERGY, AND SYNERGY BRING IDEAS TO LIFE

So many wonderful ideas have come to life as we enter a season focused on giving, sharing, and togetherness. All of the time and resources shared have created opportunities for magical moments and memories. The feeling of togetherness, no longer taken for granted, reminds how fortunate we are to be in such a caring and supportive community. Our parents and students are surrounded by a community who genuinely cares about each and every student and wants to be sure they have everything they need to be successful in school and in life. As you read about the great things happening at our schools, we want to acknowledge the valuable role that our community plays in supporting our schools and our families.



Thanks to the numerous and generous donations of time and resources Peteyville lights up the town!



The school and community performances of Meredith Willson's "THE MUSIC MAN" were a result of tremendous time, resources, and talent!



A great reminder on the first day of school to: be the light...see the good...make a difference...work for amazing!



The desire to honor those who have served and continue to serve resulted in a Veterans' Day Program.



The Pelican Rapids Parks Department in collaboration with the Art Department at Viking Elementary received a grant for over \$11,000 from the Lake Region Arts Council.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Viking Preschool
- Early Childhood Family Education Winter Classes (ECFE)
- Instilling a Love of Learning at VES
- PRHS Graduates Leave with a Plan
- Preparing Our Students for Success
- District Employment Opportunities
- Important Dates



EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION



Terra Fitzsimmons  
Viking Preschool/ECFE Coordinator

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is Pelican Rapids' birth through kindergarten entry that provides outreach, support, and education to families. The program is based on the recognition that children's learning begins at birth. Therefore, the parent is the child's first and most influential teacher; the home, their first learning environment. Our classes meet weekly to learn and grow together. Come join us!

ECFE Classes:

Magical Mondays

- Ages 0-5
- Weekly parent/child class
- 5:30-6:45pm

Arty Smarty class

- Ages 3-5
- Weekly class February-March
- Includes parent discussion group & book for each child

Family Open Gym Nights

- Ages 3-5 with parents
- 2-3 sessions in January-March

Rootin' Tootin' Toddlers

- Ages 0-2
- 5 session class April-May
- Play, music, dance

Family Field Trips

- Holiday Make 'N Take



THE VIKING PROMISE

- I WILL speak up instead of acting as a bystander.
- I CHOOSE to participate in activities that don't involve hazing.
- I FORGIVE others if they make poor choices.
- I MODEL good behavior.
- I ACCEPT others for their differences.
- I INCLUDE others in group situations.
- I WILL talk to an adult when there is a problem I cannot manage on my own.
- I AM powerful in making a difference in my school.

**WCMCA Head Start**  
Preschool Program for 3-4 year-olds  
Early Head Start Program for 0-3 year-olds.

**What does Head Start Preschool Offer?**  
We offer a variety of Preschool Class options to best fit your family's needs!  
(All classes meet 4 days a week)  
We offer 2 options:  
•Monday - Thursday: ½ Day PM Class  
•Monday - Thursday: Full Day Class  
•Located at Pelican Rapids Viking Elementary School

**What does Early Head Start Offer?**  
EHS home-based services offer home visits and group socialization activities for parents and their children providing child development and parent support services.

Call for more information!  
Preschool: Carrie - 218-770-9232 or Deb - 218-770-8858  
Early Head Start: Bonnie - 218-770-9231

Or Apply Online:



Located in Viking Elementary, the Viking Preschool program offers FREE educational programs to district residents ages 3-5. Our licensed teachers engage students through age-appropriate skills and hands-on activities. We are committed to preparing all children for success as they enter kindergarten.

# FREE VIKING PRESCHOOL

3-4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL

Each week, students ages 3 and 4 enjoy two half-days of hands-on activities that teach math, literacy, art, social, play, and fine motor skills development.

Class Offerings:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Eligibility: Students must be 3 by September 1, 2023 for the 2023-24 school year

4-5 YEAR OLD PRE-KINDERGARTEN VPK

Each week, students ages 4 and 5 prepare for kindergarten with five half-days using curriculum correlating to Viking Elementary K-6 models.

Class Offerings:

- Monday - Friday
- Mornings\* 8:00am-11:15am OR Afternoons 11:45-3:00pm  
\*includes breakfast

Eligibility: Students must be 4 by September 1, 2023 for the 2023-24 school year. Students are eligible for one-way busing, bus buddy required

The early years of a child's life are crucial in creating a foundation for lifelong learning and success. Our teachers are prepared to support and respond to the wide range of student experiences and competencies. Our mission at Viking Elementary is to create a community of learners dedicated to improving our world. A student's day is structured to allow for growth in academic and social skills.

# YOU BELONG HERE

**FREE VIKING PRESCHOOL & PRE-K**  
Licensed teachers provide skills for academic, social, and emotional development  
Preschool: 2 Half Days  
Pre-Kindergarten: 5 Half Days

## PRESCHOOL BOOK PROGRAM

Research shows the importance and lifelong impact of parents reading to their children.

The Preschool Book Program gifts families of newborns a book and a Viking Pride item.

The program continues to send books to all preschoolers ages 1-5 in the district.

Questions: Terra Fitzsimmons, ECFE/Viking Preschool Coordinator at [tfitzsim@vikes.us](mailto:tfitzsim@vikes.us) or 218-863-5910 x5393

**STAY CONNECTED**  
Viking Preschool and ECFE

**STAY CONNECTED**  
Club Vikes

## FUN, FRIENDS, AND MEMORIES AT CLUB VIKES!

Club Vikes School-Age Childcare, located at Viking Elementary, is a safe and fun place for children in grades K-6 to go before and after school, on non-school days, and during the summer.

**SCHOOL YEAR SCHEDULE**

Monday - Friday

- 7-8:00am (before school)
- 3:05-6:00pm (after school)

Children engage in various activities including games, reading, outside play time, and crafts.



**QUESTIONS?** Contact Tonya Honrud, Club Vikes Coordinator at [thonrud@vikes.us](mailto:thonrud@vikes.us) or 218-863-5910 extension 5022



# VIKING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Named a Minnesota School of Excellence, Viking Elementary staff work hard for each and every student. We provide opportunities for young learners to problem solve, explore new interests, and establish and maintain friendships in a respectful, nurturing environment.

## INSTILLING A LOVE OF LEARNING



Several juniors helped create a bat cave in Mrs. Syverson's kindergarten classroom. Lights off, headlamps on, and the room came to life for learning. Sharing our students with the elementary is great way to let our students lead.



First grade had Miss Claudia come in and talk about the process of making salsa. She made salsa and then the first graders were able to eat it! What a great experience for Hispanic Heritage Month! Thank you, Miss Claudia!



Forty K-6 kids and twenty-three parents enjoyed an evening of bingo, books, and prizes! The Family Book Bingo Night annual event is sponsored by Title I.



Thea Axness was the leader of the week in Mrs. Gottenborg's 6th grade class. She showed the class her Angus Calf, Ella. Thea explained what the calf eats, what's next for the calf, and that she showed it at the fair. Thanks for sharing your greatness Thea!!



Approximately 30 students participated in the Fall K-6 Run Club! There will be a spring session in May!

## HERE ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE TO PRE-K-6 STUDENTS

### BASKETBALL

- Saturday mornings-Grades PreK-2, winter months
- Summer camp-Grades 1-6

### RUN CLUB

- Grades K-6, Fall (late Sept-Oct), Spring (May)

### SOCCER

- After school-April & May (boys & girls)

## IMPROVING OUR WORLD

The Pelican Rapids Parks Department in collaboration with the Art Department at Viking Elementary received a grant for over \$11,000 from the Lake Region Arts Council. This grant gives our 6th grade artists an opportunity to collaborate with mural artist Paul Johnson to design a mural for the side of Rehab Plus in downtown Pelican Rapids.



Thank you to the Lake Region Arts Council for this wonderful opportunity for our student artists! This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from Lake Region Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

### American Heart Association (AMA) KIDS HEART CHALLENGE



Students in grades 3-6 may volunteer to help raise money for the AHA. This year our KIDS HEART CHALLENGE goal is to raise \$1,500.00 or more from November 20-30. Visit the AMA website for more information: [www2.heart.org](http://www2.heart.org) (under KIDS HEART CHALLENGE).



'SAMTASTIC DAY' was on October 18. This year's theme was BIGFOOT (fondly known as HARRY at Pelican Rapids Schools). All proceeds benefit the Samtastic Scholarship Fund awarded to a PRHS graduating senior who intends to pursue a degree in Education, Special Education, Physical, Occupational or Speech Therapy. Our mission is to help students who wish to make a difference in the lives of individuals with special needs.

Students build a foundation of academic, social, and life skills that will continue to grow and evolve throughout their Viking voyage. Our small class sizes create an engaging, personalized experience that builds a foundation of academic, social, and life skills that continue to grow and evolve for each student during their educational voyage.



**VES IS AN ENCOURAGING AND RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT PROVIDES A FOUNDATION FOR STUDENTS TO BUILD ACADEMIC SKILLS WHILE DEVELOPING THEIR INTERESTS**



## VIKING ELEMENTARY

Written by Derrick Nelson  
Elementary Principal



The Pelican Rapids High School has challenged Viking Elementary School again this year to see who can raise the most money for the Pelican Rapids Food Shelf and the Viking Butikk. Last year VES soundly defeated PRHS in the contest, but the real winners were the Pelican Rapids Food Shelf and all the donations that they received. Thanks to everyone for your donations to this great cause.

We had another great turnout for Parent/Teacher Conference this fall with 94% of VES parents attending. Thank you to all the parents who turned out for Conferences on November 13. Showing your interest in your children's education is one of the most important things you can do for your child. Thank you again for your support and showing your child that they matter by attending conferences.

With the weather turning to winter here are some reminders for students. When there is snow on the ground ALL students need to have a coat, snowpants, gloves, hat, and boots for recess. If your student does not have any of these items, please contact the Elementary Office as the Viking Butikk (in-school student store) has a variety of items on hand for students in need at no cost to the students. Thank you to everyone who has donated items or money for the Viking Butikk.

The staff at Viking Elementary would also like to thank everyone for keeping our students safe before school and after school by not driving in the front of the school when the buses are at the school. The buses drop off students between 8:00-8:10 am and pick up students at 3:00-3:10 pm. If you are dropping off or picking up students between these times please use the parking lot south of Viking Elementary located by the baseball field.

Preschool parents are reminded to please park in the parking lot when dropping off students or picking them. If you need to enter the building, please do not park and leave your vehicle in the driveway.

Congratulations to our Students, Parents, Teachers, and Staff as Viking Elementary School was placed among the top 40% of elementary schools in the state of Minnesota. This ranking makes Viking Elementary a U.S. News Best Elementary School.

You can go to the following website to learn more about the criteria used for this selection: <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/minnesota/school-209853>.



Congratulations to these VES Band Students for representing Pelican Rapids at the Mahnommen Junior High Level Honor Band! They spent the day rehearsing with director Keith Wander and then performed a very fun concert in the evening.





Stong academics, dynamic art programs, and competitive athletic teams offer activities for all backgrounds, interests, and abilities to succeed in life, education, and future careers. Our unique academic offerings provide students the ability to explore their interests without leaving campus.

# PELICAN RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL

## BE THE LIGHT: SEE THE GOOD. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WORK FOR AMAZING.

Written by Laura Januszewski, Secondary Principal



We are off to a great start this school year. Continuing to carry Mr. Syverson’s light, Pelican Rapids High School strives to see the good, make a difference, and work for amazing. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for their time, energy, and dedication to making Pelican Rapids a wonderful place for students to learn the skills needed to be successful today and in the future. As a staff, we work to provide unique academic offerings that give students the ability to explore their interests without leaving campus. We continue to update curriculum and add new curriculum to match the skills, standards, and demands of today’s world. With seven new courses, two of those in career and technical education including cosmetology and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), students are developing career-related skills and earning certifications in high-demand career fields.

It is a partnership between schools, community, and families that create the best possible outcomes for our students. Many of these new courses are

a result of partnerships between local businesses and our staff to create innovative and meaningful experiences for students. Some of these experiences include facility tours, classroom speakers, and business-sponsored courses. Pelican Rapids is fortunate to have a community that supports our students in and out of the classroom and in extracurricular opportunities. Our recent fall musical, “The Music Man”, was a testament to the power of collaboration and community spirit in Pelican Rapids. It brought together community members and students of all ages and created a performance that packed the Fine Arts Auditorium three nights in a row.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child’s education. Keeping your student engaged, motivated, and responsible for school work is crucial for success. Additionally, attendance plays a vital role in progress. Please ensure your student regularly attends school. Encourage your student to get involved in school activities, athletics, and events. Every opportunity for growth and connection is valuable. Together, we can help all Vikings succeed.

I look forward to continued success in the 2023-24 school year.

### BEGINNING WITH THE END IN MIND



8th grade students in Mrs. Holl’s Digital Portfolio Class presented the websites they created about a specific career interest. After taking an interest inventory and researching careers, their website included a job description, working conditions, educational requirements, salary, project reflection, and source credits. Many of the students enjoyed the project, appreciated that they got to learn to build a website and present in front of others. The careers presented were video editing, anesthesiologist, dentist, real estate agent, animal care, glass blower, forensic crime scene technician, mechanic, and special effects artist/ animator.

### BACKPACK BUDDIES PROGRAM: FOOD FOR STUDENTS IN NEED

Help fight hunger in our community by sponsoring a child! Backpack Buddies supplies hungry children in Pelican Rapids with food for the weekend. The Pelican Rapids school district and Food Shelf provide a bag of foods such as cereal, fruit cups, pudding, juice boxes, peanut butter & crackers, granola bars, ramen noodles, and other easy meals. The program is partially funded by United Way and through community support. Any donation would be appreciated. Questions? contact Jackie Larson 218-329-5752 or [larsonjb@umn.edu](mailto:larsonjb@umn.edu) Willing to donate? contact Sue Bruggeman 218-329-8626



Freshman Ag Class at the Regional Future Farmers of America (FFA) Fall Rally at Norman County Fairgrounds. Workshops Attended: What is FFA? Leadership, College/Career Fair, BIG - Best Informed Greenhand. The FFA students were also able to participate in a service learning project.



Poultry Judging Team – Placed 3rd as a team and advance to the Minnesota State FFA Convention. Jack Bergquist placed 10th and Ean Bakken place 9th individually. Livestock Judging Team – Just missed a state trip as a team after losing on a tie breaker. Theo Olson tied for 5th place as an individual.

THE BOX TOPS APP  
MAKES FALL GIVING  
**EASY.**

**JOIN US**  
AS WE SUPPORT  
OUR SCHOOL

BUY SCAN EARN

Join us in earning cash for our school by using the Box Tops app. It’s an easy way to make a difference. All you have to do is buy Box Tops participating products (like Cheerios!) and scan your grocery receipt. Box Tops are worth \$.10 each and they add up fast! Twice a year, our school receives a check to help pay for whatever we need - equipment, supplies or experiences the kids love! Use this referral code V2G-J8T6N when you sign up and you’ll get 25 Bonus Box Tops when you scan your first receipt now through 05/31/2024, while supplies last! Download the Box Tops for Education app here: [https://btfe.smart.link/c2jjdifkw?referral\\_code=V2GJ8T6N](https://btfe.smart.link/c2jjdifkw?referral_code=V2GJ8T6N)

### 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE®

- HABIT 1: Be Proactive
- HABIT 2: Begin with the End in Mind
- HABIT 3: Put First Things First
- HABIT 4: Think Win-Win
- HABIT 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood
- HABIT 6: Synergize
- HABIT 7: Sharpen the Saw

### BE A “DO-ER”

Written by Doug Bruggeman, Dean of Students

As our seventh graders enter their high school years, they are inundated with numerous staff members encouraging them to “get involved”!

“What are you good at?” “What do you really enjoy doing?” or “What are your hobbies?” These questions are asked often in an effort to help them figure out how they can use their talents and/or passions to be a part of a group, club, or team.



This does not stop in seventh grade. Our students will be constantly encouraged, over the course of their high school career, to do more and be more than just a student. To be a part of at least one of the many activities or groups we have at Pelican Rapids High School.

The more involved a student becomes, the more pride they take in themselves and in the school. This pride motivates them to do better and be better. The more students we get to be “do-ers” the better our chances are of our students helping create a more positive school environment.

“Do-ers” make stronger connections with others. They get the opportunities to share the ups and downs of life with a group. These moments create an automatic bond between those working towards a common goal.

“Do-ers” learn more about life and grow deeper understandings. They basically give themselves “bonus experiences”. They see what it takes to be successful. They learn the sacrifices that need to be made if they want to make a difference. They are pushed to want more and expect more from themselves.

“Do-ers” find the reward in the journey. A big part of that reward is the joy they experience by choosing to do something with their talents. There is a sport saying that goes something like, “the hardest worker is having the most fun!” This is true in life as well.

Whether in athletics, music, art or academic groups found in school or family, church, community groups, etc. . . in life, choose to be a “do-er” not just a “viewer”.

### LIFE SKILLS

#### #1 = Show Up

On Time

To School

To Class

#### #2 = Do the Work

Be Focused

DO YOUR BEST

Be Determined

#### #3 = Be Helpful

Be Helpful ... Not Hurtful!



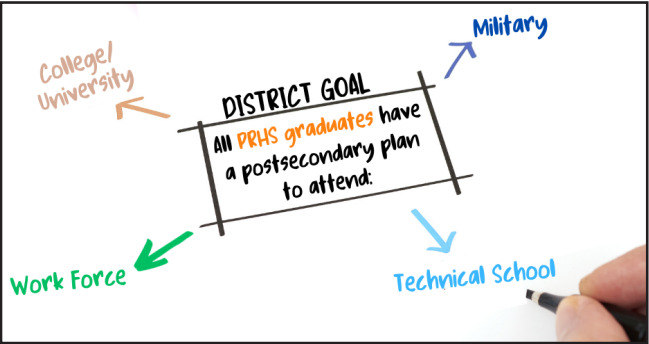
# PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Our goal is that 100% of students graduating from PRHS have a plan to attend postsecondary education, military or work force.

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

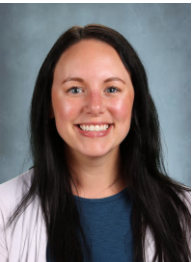
Written by  
Kelsey Lage, High School Counselor

Our goal is that 100% of students leaving Pelican Rapids High School have a plan to attend post secondary education (2 year Associate's Degree or 4 year Bachelor's degree) military or work force.



Here is how we support those goals for everyone:

- Career Panel for juniors and seniors to hear from local business professionals on their different paths in November
- Career Expo for sophomores at the FargoDome in November
- Career Expo for juniors in October in Fergus Falls
- Post Secondary Planning Meeting for the graduating class in the Auditorium with Mrs. Lage
- Individual Senior Planning Meeting with Mrs. Lage
- Guest speakers throughout the year
- Rural MN CEP guest speaker for juniors and sophomores in November



Here is how we support each of those paths:

- Post-secondary education
- Offer classes for college credit in high school (for free)
- Post Secondary Enrollment options to earn more college credit (for free)
- College Representative Visits throughout the year from various 2 year and 4 year schools
- Students can be excused from school 3 times for college visits
- ACT testing for free in the spring
- PSAT testing for juniors in October
- Fee application waived for students who qualify for college applications

### Military

- ASVAB testing offered at the high school
- Opportunity to meet with a recruiter
- Veterans Appreciation Day
- Recruiter visits during lunch throughout the year

### Work Force/Technical training

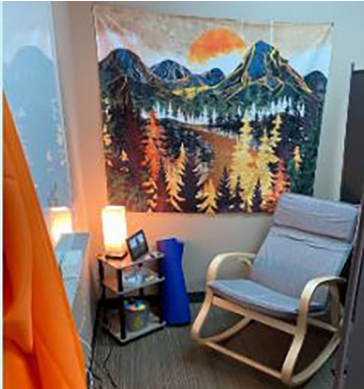
- Ag Occupations class with Mr. Larsen
- Field trips
- Hands on classes (Welding, CNA, EMT, Small Engines, Electricity, Accounting, CAD, Cosmetology, Digital photography, Wood working)
- Future Farmers of America

This is not an exhaustive list. As your student's school counselor I support each student in the following ways:

- Academics-Credit tracking, class registration, schedule creation, in-school school support referrals
- Personal/Social-Help manage emotions/stress, provide grieving support, brief counseling
- Post-Secondary Planning-College application assistance, answer questions, provide scholarship assistance.

## CHILL ZONE: SUPPORTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

The chill zone is a safe place where students can take a break. They can come in and relax and take some time to use coping skills to get themselves regulated again so that they may return to class. It gives students a chance to re-engage and rest.



These funds are used for senior scholarships awarded each spring. Donations for the class of 2024 must be made by May 1. Use the QR code below or link <https://www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us/Page/3262>.

Visit my High School Counselor webpage for important updates and information about scholarships, FAFSA, and much more!  
<https://www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us/domain/208>

## INDUSTRY TOURS AND VISITS



All junior & senior students rotated through a Local Business Professional Career Panel held at PRHS in late November. Students had a chance to hear about career paths including medical, banking, real estate, animal care, and more.



Computer Applications students toured Hillbilly Laser and learned all about being a locally owned small business in the design world! Lana is a PRHS graduate who shared with students her educational background, how she got started, and the favorite parts of her job. She gave great perspective on small business ownership, how she has grown over the years and what her future plans look like. Thank you Lana and Hillbilly Laser for sharing your expertise with our students!



The Tech Ed and Agriculture classes toured NDSCS and the Bobcat facility on Wednesday, November 8th. The NDSCS tour included the Diesel Mechanics, Power Sports, Automotive, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Carpentry, and CAD programs. The Bobcat tour included a tour of the facility, career information, and a presentation of the overall operation.



# IT ALL STARTS HERE

**PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BUILD ACADEMIC SKILLS • EXPAND CREATIVE INTERESTS • EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS**

**EARN CREDITS & CERTIFICATIONS • ACQUIRE UP TO 40 COLLEGE CREDITS • BE PART OF A TEAM**

## EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS

Accounting // Ag Occupations // CAD // Computer Applications  
Cosmetology I & II // Digital Photography // Intro to Coaching/Officiating  
Marketing // Personal Finance // Robotics // Small Engines // Video Production  
Viking News Network // Welding // Woods

## ACQUIRE UP TO 40 COLLEGE CREDITS

Advanced Algebra // AP Art // AP Music // Calculus // College English  
College Public Speaking // Child Development: Intro to Early Childhood  
Intro to Education // Pre-calculus // Spanish 4 // Statistics

## EARN CREDITS AND CERTIFICATIONS

CNA Certification // EMT Certification // Driver's Education // Credit Recovery

## EXPAND CREATIVE INTERESTS

Ceramics & Sculpture // Concert and Pep Bands // Drawing // Leadership  
Lifetime Fitness // Music Production and Songwriting // Painting  
Viking Choir & Chamber // Unified PE // Yearbook





FALL SPORTS RECAP

Team photos courtesy of From Where I Come Photography



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

- Team Academic-Silver Award 3.576 GPA
- Charlie Larson (All-State Academic, All-Section, Section 8A Individual Champion, All-Conference)
- Heart O’ Lakes Conference - 6th Place
- Section 8A - 6th Place

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

- Team All-Academic Gold Award
- HOL Conference: 5/6, Sections 13/13, No state qualifiers



FOOTBALL

- 9-2
- All district Team: Timmy Guler, Jack Kapenga, Justin Jacobson, Jarett Stetz, Jack Paulson.
- All-Section Team: Guler, Kapenga, Jacobson, Paulson, Treyvon Benson
- District MVP & QB of the year Guler
- District LB of the Year Jack Kapenga; District DL of the Year Justin Jacobson
- Section Runner Up



BOYS SOCCER

- 6-6-2
- Section semi-final vs. Hillcrest Lutheran Academy (lost in overtime)
- The Vikings finished 3rd in the Lakes to Prairie Conference
- Four all-conference selections: Hamse Mohamed, Abdirahman Khalif, Sidiq Farah and Abdinasir Omar

GIRLS SOCCER

- 4 Wins, 6 loses, 2 Ties
- Sadie Funk with first Hat-Trick (3 goals in one game) ever in program history.
- Sadie Funk with 14 goals for the season most in program history.
- Ellie Carlson had 6 assists this season, the most in program history.



VOLLEYBALL

- 17-11 overall record 4-4 section record 2-4 conference record
- All state academic: Ellie Welch, Marie Backstrom, Torie Jugovich, and Claudia Gurath
- Team also received All State Academic GOLD award
- HOL All Conference: Morgan Korf and Anna Roisum
- HOL All conference Honorable Mention: Ellie Welch and Claudia Gurath
- 1st place in Pelican Rapids tournament, 1st place in Bronze division of Fergus Falls Tournament
- Received 7th seed out of 14 and got home playoff and beat Barnesville to advance.
- Morgan Korf earned 1,000 dig
- Best record we have had since 2019.
- Great group of girls with amazing work ethic, grit, and team chemistry. Showed great improvement and came from behind in many games to battle back for the win!

ARTS & ACADEMICS



Meredith Willson’s “THE MUSIC MAN” was performed on November 9-11 in the Pelican Rapids Fine Arts Auditorium for approximately 1,200 attendees.



The musical was directed by Nadine Brown, who, with husband David, have professional theater background and have been involved in numerous theatrical productions, in Pelican Rapids and elsewhere. “75% of this cast had never performed in a musical or play before so it was a steep learning curve for all,” said Nadine. “It was a success because they were able to have fun on stage. They conquered any stage fright fears with hard work, determination and a new-found belief in themselves and their abilities. David and I led them to opening night, but the cast and crew certainly took the show and made it fly. We are so proud of them! We are also thankful to the Pelican Rapids community for such tremendous support.”

Over 100 students, staff, and community members contributed behind and on the stage to make the musical a success! A special thank you to Nadine and David Brown for sharing their many talents and creating this amazing production that provided a memorable experience for all!



THE MUSIC MAN WAS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS WERE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. WWW.MTISHOWS.COM

HOMECOMING COURT 2023



CONGRATULATIONS



Thanks to the Video Production crew who have made home viewership possible!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



The 40th Annual CROP Hunger Walk was a HUGE success! Thank you to all the students from the Viking Elementary School, Volleyball team, and Minnesota Honor Society for walking to raise money for local and world hunger. There were more students than adults this year. The Minnesota Honor Society (MHS) would like to thank all those who gave the gift of life by donating blood at our Fall Blood Drive. We were able to collect 27 pints which can save up to 81 lives! MHS students also helped serve at the Veterans’ Day Program. The PRHS Viking Butikk, an in-school store for students in need, is another project that the MHS helps with.



A huge THANK YOU to the Pelican Rapids schools and community for supporting ‘Bucks for Bradyn’ at a designated volleyball game. It’s great when communities can come together to support one another! The volleyball team also supported the food shelf by collecting donations of money and food from our community!



Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) has done a number of projects including: sharing about SADD and Driving Safety Tips at Driver’s Training Class; Rock the Belt/Be a Lifesaver Campaign; Volunteering at Lake Region Electric Coop’s Boo Bash; Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free Red Ribbon Campaign; World Kindness Day-notes on student lockers. On-going community service projects: Aluminum tabs for Ronald McDonald House and Little Library Books.



**Post Prom Party**

Calling all sophomore, junior, and senior parents!

**We need your help!**

Fundraising Man power at a few events  
Hosting the post prom party

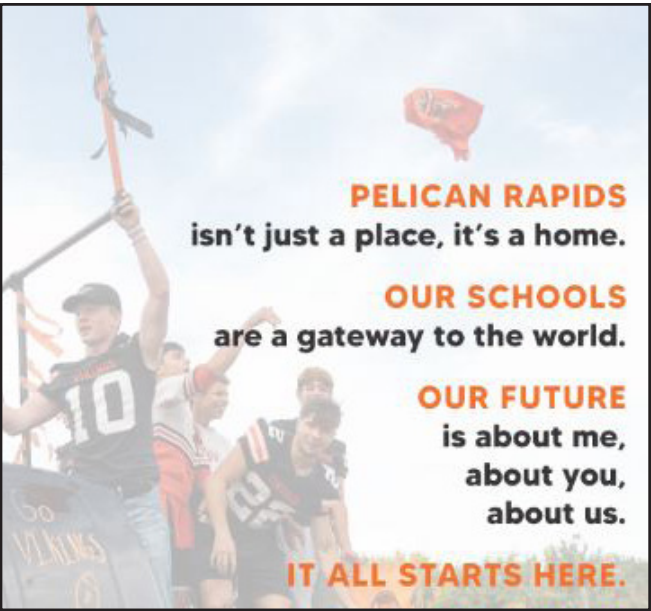
Fundraising events include pizza sales, youth basketball tourney shakes, half-time court shots, Adult Prom, local restaurant sponsor sales, and selling flowers

**More information:**

- Follow Pelican Rapids Post Prom Committee Facebook page
- Reach out to Jessica Fahje at [jmfahje@yahoo.com](mailto:jmfahje@yahoo.com) or 218-234-0550

Prom planning has started! This year’s prom supper and dance will be at The Barn at Dunvilla on Saturday, May 4. Theme to be decided after the new year.

Last spring the school received a Local Foods for Schools grant to feature locally grown food on the school lunch menu. The PRHS cafeteria was able to serve Ottertail 23 Bison Burgers one day this fall and is excited to be able to serve them again this year after receiving great feedback on the taste!



PRHS Spanish students read alphabet books to first graders.



LAKE AREA ADULT EDUCATION

Pelican Rapids Class Days/Times

Monday - Thursday

- 11:00 - 4:00 pm for all students
- 4:00 - 5:00pm for GED/Adult Diploma students

It is an open classroom (there are not specific times or appointments).

Location: Pelican Rapids Public Library, 25 W Mill

Instructor: Terri Buerkle

Call 218-844-5760 with questions and to determine eligibility

WE OFFER ASSISTANCE IN SEVERAL AREAS:

- English as a Second Language
  - Studying for US Citizenship
  - Earn your GED® (High School Equivalency)
  - Improve reading, writing, and math
  - Earn Adult High School Diploma
  - Help with college prep entry exam
  - Help with career planning and job skills
  - ServSafe Certification
  - Learn computer related skills
  - Drivers License Exam Prep
- Find us on Facebook: Lakes Area Adult Education
- A proud partner of the American Job Center Network
- A grateful recipient of a United Way of Becker County

SHOWING HONOR AND APPRECIATION

As many of you know, the Pelican Rapids community lost a teacher, coach and friend this past August to brain cancer. On September 15, the football game began with a moment of silence in memory of Ryan Syverson, long time Pelican Rapids Elementary Teacher and football coach.



At half-time, his wife Dana, daughter Abby and son Brody, were presented with a plaque that read: “A coach’s worth isn’t found in their win-loss record or their resume. But on the impact made in the lives of their athletes.”

Long time Head Football Coach Dave Haugen was unable to be there but he sent the following message: “Ryan loved Pelican Rapids; the community, the schools and its sports teams. He had great pride in living here and never missed an opportunity to tell others that they too should live here and send their children to Pelican Rapids schools. Ryan also loved to compete and he loved to win, but he didn’t need to win in order to enjoy what he was doing. As we move forward and look to honor the memory of Ryan Syverson it doesn’t require our team to win, but it does require us to prepare well, play by the rules, take ownership of our mistakes, compete as hard as possible and to the fullest extent of your ability... and then accept the results whatever they may be. Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat, and wear your orange and black with pride.”



As balloons were released in Ryan’s honor, his vision of being the light, seeing the good, making a difference and working for amazing still shines. As a community and as a school, we will continue to share his valuable legacy with others.



Armed forces veterans and spouses, numbering nearly 60, were honored at a Veterans’ Day Program at PRHS on November 10. After being served breakfast, the PRHS band and choir students performed a patriotic selection of songs. Guest speaker Jim Clemenson, a Vietnam-era veteran, concluded the program by sharing ‘what it means to be a veteran’ with humorous and solemn passages about life as a soldier. Despite the hardships, most veterans would “do it all over again in a heartbeat...because you deeply love this country of ours and you’re very proud of it...our past, present, and future military members and all the sacrifices that have been made by them and their families for us to live in this great country. Veterans make these ultimate sacrifices. We must remember them,” concluded Clemenson.





# DISTRICT

Pelican Rapids Public Schools is committed to every student. Our staff embraces each student’s unique talents, background, and needs. We thrive on Viking Pride and believe our high academic standards, award-winning arts and academics, rich cultural diversity, and state-of-the-art facilities enable our students to leave prepared for success in future education, careers, and life!


## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

**2023-24 School Year**

**PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS:**

**SUBS NEEDED:**

- PARAPROFESSIONAL
- SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION
- FOOD SERVICE
- CUSTODIAL




www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

To view current job openings and begin the on-line application process visit our [district website](#) or use the QR Code below.

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Emily Evenson  
HR Manager & Executive Administrative Assistant  
218-863-5910 ext. 4445 or [eevenson@vikes.us](mailto:eevenson@vikes.us)



**The Makings of a Great Life**

To be a part of the Viking work family means showing up and giving your best in service to others. You not only have talents, strengths, and unique abilities but you are choosing to offer the best you have for the sake of something greater! That “something greater” are the hundreds of young people we work with at Pelican Rapids schools. Be Proud!



Pelican Rapids Schools

**Viking Butikk**

In-school student stores for students in need of clothes, shoes, winter gear, hygiene items, food, and more. All items are free of charge to the students.

**CURRENT NEEDS @ PRHS**

**TEEN STYLES WINTER GEAR:**

- hats
- mittens/gloves
- boots
- coats/jackets

**CURRENT NEEDS @ VES**

- boys winter coats
- winter waterproof mittens/gloves
- pants (athletic, yoga, sweat, joggers, leggings, etc.)



IT ALL STARTS HERE



**OH WHAT FUN**

IT IS TO BE A VIKING

- BUILD ACADEMIC SKILLS
- LEARN 7 HABITS® WITH HARRY
- EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS
- ACQUIRE UP TO 40 COLLEGE CREDITS
- EARN CREDITS & CERTIFICATIONS
- EXPAND CREATIVE INTERESTS
- JOIN A TEAM OR ACTIVITY

## THANK YOU TO AREA TOWNSHIPS

The administration, school board, and Superintendent Korf would like to thank you for giving us time to share about our schools and hear your feedback and ideas. We enjoyed talking with you at your meetings and look forward to visiting again sometime in the future.

**SCHOOL SCHEDULES**

**Viking Elementary** 8:15am - 3:05pm

**Pelican Rapids High School** 8:25am - 3:15pm


**ISD 548 SCHOOL BOARD**

- Staci Allmaras
- Greg Larson
- Jon Karger

- Brenda Olson
- Anne Peterson
- Molly Welch

Student Representatives:

- Eduardo Sanchez
- Ellie Welch



**NEW TO THE AREA?**


**WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY OF PELICAN RAPIDS AND TO OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT! WE WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN TOUCH!**

If you recently moved to Pelican Rapids or added to your family, we would love to add you to our School Census.

This ensures that we can you send important information about preschool screenings, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), and kindergarten registration.

Having your child(ren)s information gives us the opportunity to share a book each school year with children ages 0-5 residing in our district.

Please use the QR code below or contact Cherie Lynnes at 218-863-5910 ext. 4354 or [clynnes@vikes.us](mailto:clynnes@vikes.us)



**STAY CONNECTED**

 [www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us](http://www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us)

 Pelican Rapids Public Schools

START WITH **FREE PRESCHOOL**

FINISH WITH A **FUTURE**



**PELICAN RAPIDS VIKINGS**

**SCAN TO WATCH**



**IT ALL STARTS HERE.**

# IMPORTANT DATES

FIRST 2 SNOW DAYS ARE BUILT INTO CALENDAR; DAYS 3-7 WILL BE E-LEARNING DAYS.

DECEMBER 2023				
M	T	W	Th	F
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

December 22 - January 1 NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)

JANUARY 2024				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

January 2 School Resumes  
January 15 NO SCHOOL (Teacher Workshop)

FEBRUARY 2024				
M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

February 16 NO SCHOOL  
February 19 Parent-Teacher Conferences NO SCHOOL

MARCH 2024				
M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

March 18 NO SCHOOL (District Workshop)  
March 29 NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

APRIL 2024				
M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

April 1 NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

MAY 2024				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24

May 4 Prom  
May 22 Last day of School  
May 23 NO SCHOOL (Teacher Workshop)  
May 24 Graduation 7:00pm