

THE VIKING VOICE

PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pelican Rapids School
 District #548
 PO Box 642
 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
 Permit #8
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WE ARE DEDICATED TO MAKING SURE EVERY STUDENT HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE SUCCESSFUL



As we reach the midpoint of the 2024-25 school year, it's a great opportunity to reflect on our progress and celebrate the accomplishments within our school district. Our dedicated educators and staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that every student has access to high-quality education and support to meet the needs of all our students at Pelican Rapids Schools.

One significant achievement this year is the successful progress made with the Read Act training by our elementary and high school teachers. This professional development initiative is designed to enhance our teachers' abilities to deliver effective reading instruction and supports our goal of improving literacy outcomes for all students.

The Read Act training provides tools for our teachers with evidence-based strategies to identify and address reading challenges early on. By implementing these strategies, we are confident in our ability to create a love of reading and ensure that all students, regardless of their starting point, can achieve literacy proficiency.

In addition to our focus on literacy, we remain committed to meeting the diverse needs of our student body. Our schools offer a range of programs and services to support students academically, socially, and emotionally. We understand that each student is unique, and we strive to provide personalized learning experiences that help them be successful.

Our educators are continuously researching and learning innovative ways to engage students and adapt to their individual learning styles. Whether through differentiated instruction, technology integration, or personalized learning plans, we are dedicated to making sure every student has the opportunity to be successful.

As we look forward to the second half of the school year, I encourage our community to continue supporting our schools and students. Your involvement is crucial to their success, and together, we can achieve amazing things.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and partnership. Let's make the rest of the school year as successful and enriching as the first half of the school year.

PRHS GRADUATES - WE'D LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY!

We would love to hear how your educational experience at Pelican Rapids Schools helped shape your career and life choices!

It is always interesting to hear the different ways that PRHS prepared students for post-secondary paths and careers. Many graduates have moved back after post-secondary schooling to live and work in our community.

Please use the QR code on the right to begin sharing your story!



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- Viking Preschool & ECFE Classes
- Viking Elementary News
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- District News & Information
- Important Dates

ACADEMICS
PRESCHOOL
 Free Preschool & Pre-K
 Free Transportation

ELEMENTARY
 Academic foundation
 Leader in Me® learning
 Small class sizes
 Art, Phy Ed, Music

HIGH SCHOOL
 40 college credits
 Driver's Education
 CTE Courses
 Certifications: CDL, CNA, EMT, Early Childhood

STUDENT ACTIVITIES
 Fall Play/Musical
 Band
 Choir
 16 Student Groups
 17 Sports

PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STRONG ACADEMICS, DYNAMIC ART PROGRAMS, AND COMPETITIVE ATHLETIC TEAMS OFFER STUDENTS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS, INTERESTS, AND ABILITIES OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS, ACQUIRE COLLEGE CREDITS, EARN CERTIFICATIONS AND COMPLETE CREDIT RECOVERY WITHOUT LEAVING CAMPUS.

EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS

- Accounting
- Ag Occupations
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Career & College Prep
- Coaching & Officiating
- Computer Applications
- Content Creation & Storytelling
- Cosmetology
- Digital Photography
- Marketing
- Personal Finance
- Robotics
- Small Engines
- Video Productions
- Welding
- Woods



ACQUIRE UP TO 40 COLLEGE CREDITS

EARN CERTIFICATIONS & CREDITS

- Advanced Algebra
- AP Art
- Calculus
- College English
- College Public Speaking
- Early Childhood Education
- Intro to Education
- Precalculus
- Spanish III
- Statistics
- Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Theory Training Course
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Early Childhood Education
- Driver's Education



PELICAN RAPIDS STUDENTS MEET STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Article excerpts & photo courtesy of The Pelican Rapids Press

Minnesota State Representatives Jeff Backer, Tom Murphy and Senator Jordan Rasmusson (via Zoom) were special guests at the December 18 school board meeting.

The special meeting was both a showcase of Pelican Rapids School's qualities and an opportunity to discuss public education trends and concerns with the legislators.

Student school board representatives Eduardo Sanchez and Maclain Hovland along with PRHS student Anna Roisum shared about the good things happening at our schools with the legislators. This included free meals for kids and our Career and Technical Education (CTE) program courses including certification and licensing opportunities in Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and many more.

Increased opportunities for students in academics, arts, and athletics were also cited as benefits of living in a smaller community. Many PRHS students are multi-sport athletes and also participate in the arts, including band and choir. Student groups also have leadership opportunities with younger students and in our community.

The value of our rich cultural diversity was cited as another positive attribute of our schools. Small class sizes enable different kinds of kids with different backgrounds to really get to know each other and learn more about the world around us.

The school board members discussed some of the challenges facing public education including teacher pay, implementation of the state READ Act Initiative, and state aid and inflation.

We appreciate the legislators taking time out of their busy schedules to spend time with us.

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

VIKING PRESCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

READY FOR PRESCHOOL

PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Two Half Days Preschool
Five Half Days Pre-K
No cost for district residents
Free mid-day transportation

LEARN MORE ABOUT VIKING PRESCHOOL

Viking Preschool

Located in Viking Elementary and taught by licensed teachers, Viking Preschool is a Four-Star Parent Aware program offered at no cost to Pelican Rapids District residents. Our program now includes free mid-day transportation to some local licensed daycares.

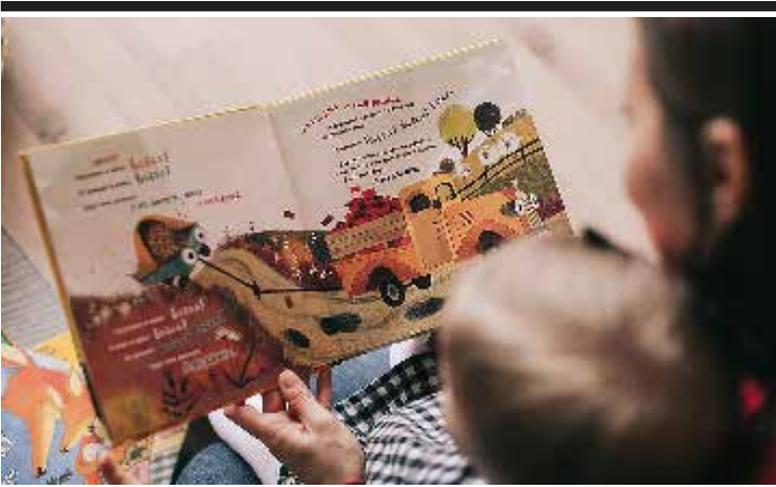
AGES 3 - 4 PRESCHOOL

Two Half Days:
Tuesday/Thursday
OR Wednesday/Friday
8:00 - 11:15am or 11:45 - 3:00pm

AGES 4-5 PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Five Half Days:
Monday - Friday
8:00 - 11:15am or 11:45 - 3:00pm

WATCH US LEARN AND PLAY!



WCMCA Head Start

Preschool Program for 3-5-year-olds
Early Head Start Program for 0-3-year-olds

Head Start Preschool
(All classes meet 4 days a week)
We offer 2 options:

- ½ Day PM Class: Monday - Thursday
- Full Day Class: Monday - Thursday

• Located at Pelican Rapids Viking Elementary School
For more information on Head Start Preschool
Contact: Carrie - 218-770-9232 or Deb - 218-770-8858

Early Head Start
EHS home-based services offers weekly home visits and group socialization activities for parents and their children providing child development and parent support services.
For more information on Early Head Start
Contact: Bonnie - 218-770-9231

Or Apply Online:

“Creating, celebrating, and supporting...these are the program goals of Viking Preschool and Early Childhood Family Education.”

CREATING JOYFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES Parents and children have opportunities to share in interactive play-based activities. Engaging in art projects, music and movement activities, sensory play, and storytelling CREATE shared fun and connection for individual families and within the larger group.

CELEBRATING MILESTONES We get to witness the growth and development of young children with our families. It is so incredibly rewarding. We get to share the privilege of celebrating milestones, both big and small, from a child's first steps to their first words, friendships, favorite songs to dance together, and pre-literacy skills like reading their name at circle time.

SUPPORTING THE PARENTING JOURNEY We have the chance to support parents on their journey through parenthood, offering guidance, reassurance, and practical strategies for navigating the joys and challenges of raising young children. Being able to empower parents and see them grow in confidence and competence is immensely gratifying.

Working with young families allows us to form meaningful relationships with parents and children alike. These connections often extend beyond the classroom, fostering a community and support among families who share similar experiences and challenges.

I love families with young children! I'm so lucky to have the opportunity to work with them every day at Viking Elementary. Come and join us, we would love you to be part of our Viking Preschool & ECFE family!



Terra Fitzsimmons
ECFE/Preschool
Teacher/Coordinator

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Magical Mondays 5:30-7:00pm
Parent and Child Class - Ages 0-5

Field trips & other activities throughout the year!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
FOR ALL CLASSES, FIELD TRIPS & ACTIVITIES
CONTACT TERRA @ 701-212-8696 OR tfitzsim@vikas.us

STAY CONNECTED > Facebook: Viking Preschool and ECFE Website:



READING IS VITAL TO CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Reading to children offers numerous benefits, contributing to their cognitive, emotional, and social development. Here are the key advantages:

Cognitive Benefits

Language Development

- Enhances vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills.
- Helps children recognize sounds, words, and sentence structures.

Improved Literacy Skills

- Builds foundational reading and writing abilities.
- Strengthens comprehension and critical thinking.

Increased Knowledge

- Exposes children to new concepts, cultures, and perspectives.
- Sparks curiosity and a love of learning.

Enhanced Brain Development

- Stimulates areas of the brain associated with language processing and imagination.
- Strengthens neural connections that support learning.

Preparation for Academic Success

- Familiarizes children with books and storytelling, setting them up for success in school.
- Develops focus, memory, and attention span.

Emotional and Social Benefits

Bonding Time

- Creates a shared experience and strengthens the parent-child relationship.
- Fosters a sense of security and comfort.

Emotional Intelligence

- Introduces children to different emotions and how to express them.
- Helps them develop empathy by seeing the world through characters' perspectives.

Stress Reduction

- Offers a calming, soothing activity that can reduce anxiety and promote relaxation.
- Establishes a comforting bedtime routine.

Developmental Benefits

Imagination and Creativity

- Encourages creative thinking and the ability to

visualize stories.

- Inspires problem-solving and innovation.

Improved Listening Skills

- Teaches children to focus and process spoken words.
- Helps them develop patience and attention to detail.

Better Communication

- Encourages two-way dialogue, where children can ask questions and express opinions about the story.
- Builds confidence in expressing thoughts.

Long-Term Benefits

Lifelong Love of Reading

- Cultivates a habit of reading for enjoyment and learning.
- Increases the likelihood of academic and professional success.

Cultural Awareness

- Provides exposure to diverse stories, languages, and traditions.
- Encourages open-mindedness and appreciation for diversity.

Self-Confidence

- Builds a child's self-esteem as they master new words and concepts.
- Helps them feel prepared for school and social interactions.

Tips to Maximize the Benefits

Choose Age-Appropriate Books

- Pick stories that match your child's interests and developmental level.

Be Consistent

- Read daily, even if it's just for a few minutes.

Interactive Reading

- Encourage your child to ask questions, predict outcomes, and discuss characters.

Make It Fun

- Use voices, expressions, and props to bring the story to life.

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO BE SUCCESSFUL

What are a couple of ways that parents can help their children be successful not only in school but in life? Research shows that one of the biggest things that parents can do for their children is to read to them every day starting at birth. A few of the benefits of reading to your child are that it helps develop their language skills, exposes them to new words, and helps you connect with your child.



Derrick Nelson
Elementary Principal

The second area that parents can help their child is to make sure that they are getting the proper amount of sleep each night. Each day we see several students that have trouble completing the daily routine, because they are too tired. Elementary students should sleep for 9-12 hours per night.

The last thing that parents can do to help their child is to make sure that they are in school. Students who have better attendance also do much better in school than students who miss more days of school. If your child is sick please keep them at home, otherwise students need to be in school to help them achieve their maximum potential.

Parent teacher conferences are coming up on February 17 from 12:00-6:00pm. Teachers sent out a Calendly invite in early February for parents to sign up. Last fall we had 95% of parents show up for conferences. Great job parents and THANK YOU for taking the time to come in for conferences.

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 front of the school when the buses are at the school. The buses drop off students between 8:00-8:10am and pick up students at 3:00-3:10pm. 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 up. If you need to enter the building, please do not park and leave your vehicle in the driveway.



Using our new Bridges math curriculum, 2nd grade students measured items around our school using "teacher feet" and "giant feet" and "Principal Nelson feet"!



Viking Elementary students showing their Viking Pride during homecoming week!

Celebrating Our Community Performance



The 1st and 6th graders have been busy working together to prepare for their upcoming performance titled Celebrating Our Community. It is a collaborative performance between art, music, band, and physical education class. This performance will be held in the high school fine arts auditorium Friday Feb. 21st at 2:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

WORDS WITH FRIENDS FAMILY NIGHT AT VES



Approximately 80 students and parents attended a family game night at Viking Elementary on November 14 which included a giveaway, goodie bags and a snack. Another awesome event, also sponsored by Title I, will be offered to elementary students and families in the spring.



Second grade students went to MSUM to visit the oceanarium and see the play "Gerda and the Snow Queen's Spell".

At Viking Elementary our small class sizes create an engaging, personalized experience that helps our students build a foundation of academic, social, and life skills that will continue to grow and evolve throughout their education. Our teachers are prepared to support and respond to a wide range of experiences and competencies as we create a community of learners dedicated to improving our world.



Students in grades 4-6 enjoyed a day on the slopes at Andes Tower Hills on December 13.

Activities for Elementary Students



Saturday morning boys and girls basketball was well attended this winter. Additional extra-curricular activities for students in grades Pre-K-12 are listed below.

- ART CLUB grades 5-6, Feb-March
- BASKETBALL grades Pre-K-3 & grades 3-6 Jan-Feb; grades 1-6 summer camp
- TRACK & FIELD CLUB grades K-6, Sept-Oct & April-May
- SOCCER April & May (boys & girls)



- February 14** No school (teacher workshop)
- February 17** Parent-Teacher conferences
VES: 12-6:00pm / PRHS: 1-7:00pm
- February 21** Celebrating our Community 2:00pm
- March 17** No School (district workshop)
- April 3** Elementary Choir & Band Concert 6:30pm
- April 18-21** No School (spring break)
- April 24** VES Art Party 3:30-6:00pm
- April 25** Celebrating our Uniqueness 2:00pm
- May 2** Superheros for the Earth 2:00pm
- May 22** No School (teacher workshop)

Dates & times subject to change. Check school website or Facebook page for updates

COMMUNITY



THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS & GENEROSITY!

A group of residents at Pelican Valley Senior Living hosted a rummage sale and lunch on August 24 with proceeds from the event being donated to the Pelican Rapids Schools to help purchase classroom supplies. The giant check for \$660 was received by school representatives Brian Korf, Doug Bruggeman, Lisa Petznick, Pam Eiden, and Angie Westby. Photo courtesy of the Pelican Rapids Press



PRHS Student Council sponsored an event where students created crafts for residents of local care facilities. Students wrote messages of gratitude and encouragement on small rocks and created festive turkey



door hangers to wish the residents a happy Thanksgiving. Student Council members were able to deliver the gifts to residents and share some messages of thanks and gratitude.



Backpack Buddies supplies hungry children in Pelican Rapids with food for the weekend



The Pelican Rapids school district and Food Shelf partner to provide a bag of

food 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

Willing to donate? contact Sue Bruggeman 218.329.8626



HONORING OUR VETERANS

The Veteran's Day Breakfast and Program on November 8 was a special gathering of veterans and their families, students, and staff at PRHS. The veterans were honored with touching words as well as patriotic music performed by the PRHS band and choir. Six veterans from the area were presented with handcrafted quilts by the area "Quilts of Valor" organization.

SCAN TO VIEW



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

THE BIG FOOT RACE

A TOTAL OF
\$1,594

WAS RAISED FOR
THE PELICAN RAPIDS
FOOD SHELF

PRHS-\$800
VES-\$794

American Red Cross Babysitting Course

American Red Cross

This class is for kids ages 12 years and older

Class topics include:

- Diapering & dressing
- Preparing simple meals
- Handling emergencies
- Focusing on safe care of infants & children



Instructor: Mary Johnson
American Heart Association Certified
Dates: Tuesday, April 22 & Thursday, April 24
Time: 3:30-6:30pm
Location: PRHS Media Center (west door 8)
Fee: \$30
Limit: 20 participants
Registration deadline: April 15

This class is sponsored by Pelican Rapids Community Education.
Questions: contact Cary Haugrud at 218-863-5910 x4300 or chaugrud@vikes.us

THIS AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS AND AMERICAN HEART COURSE HELPS PREPARE YOU FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BABYSITTING INFANTS THROUGH SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) members and Viking Elementary first grade students enjoyed assembling and decorating gingerbread houses together in December.

The SADD group also sponsored a reindeer candy cane craft project at school and then distributed them to residents of the Pelican Valley Senior Living facilities.

Additional projects are done throughout the school year including celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Day, collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and more!



Pelican Rapids Community Education is partnering with M State to offer

COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE (CDL) THEORY TRAINING COURSE

This self-paced, online course is offered year-round through M State and can be started at any time.



Minnesota State
Community and Technical College
Workforce Development Solutions
a national workforce partner



PELICAN RAPIDS SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR USE OF A TEXTBOOK AND A LAPTOP

START YOUR PATH TO A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE TODAY!



OPEN SKATING

All ages welcome!

- KIDS 4TH GRADE & UNDER REQUIRE ADULT SUPERVISION
- SKATES AVAILABLE FOR USE



WARMING HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED IF TEMP 18 - 10 DEGREES OR COLDER OR 32 DEGREES OR WARMER

Open Rink & Warming House Schedule

- Monday-Thursday 3:30-7:30pm
- Friday 3:30-8:00pm
- Saturday-Sunday 12:00-8:00pm

QUESTIONS: CONTACT CARY HAUGRUD 218-205-5745 OR CHAUGRUD@VIKES.US
Sponsored by Community Education

OPEN PICKLEBALL

MONDAY NIGHTS
6:30 - 8:00 PM

ADULTS ONLY
(HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES & OLDER)

Legends Gym
Enter east door 3

NO FEES OR REGISTRATION
EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE IF NEEDED

NO PICKLEBALL: JAN. 27, FEB. 3, FEB. 17



SUNDAYS

JANUARY 5 - FEBRUARY 23, 2025

OPEN GYM
1:00-3:00 PM

OPEN WALKING TRACK
& OPEN WEIGHTROOM
1:00-7:30 PM

- NO FEES OR REGISTRATION
- AL SIEGLE ACTIVITY CENTER - ENTER WEST DOOR 7
- WALKING TRACK: WEAR INDOOR SHOES, WATER ONLY (NO FOOD)
- KIDS AGES 12 & UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT





Control What You Can Control



Doug Bruggeman
Dean of Students

Helping our students latch onto and use the philosophy of the "Circle of Control" is a life skill that will benefit them in all areas of their life. This philosophy comes from Habit 1 of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People® by Stephen Covey. Habit 1 is the habit that focuses on the power each and every one of us has to choose how we go about our lives. The idea of the "Circle of Control" is that we tend to spend way too much time outside our own circle and not enough time focusing on what will really make a difference in our lives.

This idea is not just for our students to embrace. We want everyone throughout the school system, from cooks to teachers to our superintendent to get in the habit of stepping back and constantly asking themselves, "what can I do to help myself as well as the situation?"

What we all need to understand: First, you actually do have a lot of control over your life and how you choose to handle each and every situation. But, just as important to realize, is that there are also a lot of things that we cannot control. Habit 1 explains that we are best off if we create a habit of proactivity. We all should be "concerned" about the things outside of our control but we are best off if we really stay focused on the ways that we handle who we are and what we do. In the process of controlling our circle we hopefully will be also able to influence things outside of our control.

Maybe the fact that I started every year of my teaching career reading "Attitude" by Charles Swindoll is a big reason why I am a strong believer in the circles of control. In his "Attitude" message one of the lines states:

"It (attitude) is more important than what others think, say or do."

In the world of teenagers, where the deep importance of being a part of the group is at its strongest, what other people think, say or do is a major obstacle to their happiness and effectiveness. This desire to be accepted is a major aspect of our students' lives and for a majority of adults. It is not easy to deal with people who have negative thoughts about you, who say hurtful things to you and/or say negative things about you to others. (This is where social media really enhances all of these fears). Charles Swindoll says the key is the attitude you embrace. How you go about handling a situation is the key to effectiveness and happiness. This does not mean you have to ignore and "just be happy". Instead, what we are asked to do is to take a big step back and look at how we can best go about dealing with tough moments in life. The most effective people among us focus on what they can control! So it can be with you. You are in charge of your responses.



Juniors and seniors rotated through four career panels where students

heard about career paths, opportunities, and advice from the local business professionals. Thank you to the Pelican Rapids Rotary Club for organizing this event.

Throughout this school year, we have focused on a theme, gROW, emphasizing three key pillars that shape our experiences and work together: Rigor, Opportunities, and Wellness. These are crucial to ensuring that our students thrive academically and develop as well-rounded individuals ready to take on the challenges of the future.

Rigor: Embracing Challenges for Growth Our first pillar, Rigor, is about pushing ourselves to do our very best, even when it feels difficult. We know that true growth happens when we stretch ourselves beyond our comfort zones. Embrace rigorous tasks – tackle a complex math problem, dive deep into a piece of literature, or conduct a science experiment – and develop critical thinking, resilience, and a strong work ethic.

Opportunities: Opening Doors to New Experiences The second pillar, Opportunities, is about making the most of the many avenues for learning and self-discovery available to our students. Explore something new. Join a club, participate in a new sports activity, or attend a school event. These opportunities are valuable times to develop leadership skills, discover new passions, and make lasting friendships.

Wellness: Fostering a Balanced Life The final pillar, Wellness, focuses on the importance of mental and physical health in achieving success. We recognize that academic achievement and personal growth go hand in hand with well-being. It's essential for students to prioritize self-care, manage stress, and maintain balance in their lives. The opportunities we offer throughout the year, whether it's through sports, the arts, or wellness programs, provide students with outlets to reduce stress, stay active, and recharge. When we take care of ourselves, we can focus, stay motivated, and approach challenges with a positive mindset. Encourage your student to maintain healthy habits and build strong support networks within our school community.

Remember, growth happens when we challenge ourselves, seek out new opportunities, and nurture our well-being. Let's continue to make this 2024-25 school year a memorable one by fully embracing the theme of gROW and committing ourselves to a balanced, fulfilling journey of learning and personal development.



Laura Januszewski
High School Principal

HELPING 100% OF PRHS STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH A PLAN



Kelsey Lage
High School Counselor



As your student's school counselor I support each student in the following ways:

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

An important part of post-secondary planning is helping our students meet our goal of 100% of students leaving PRHS with a plan to attend post secondary education (2 year Associate's Degree or 4 year Bachelor's degree) military or work force.



9th grade students began their journey to discover a possible future career at the Detroit Lakes career day.



Students had the opportunity to listen to Army Recruiters about enlistment options, and career and advancement opportunities. There was also a Military Education and Career Exploration Event on February 4 with booths of representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Air Guard. Active and retired members of the military and their families were honored at the boys basketball game that evening.

READY TO LEAD. TO EXCEL.

Class of 2024

PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

100% OF PRHS GRADUATES HAVE A PLAN FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, MILITARY SERVICE, OR ENTERING THE WORKFORCE.

<p>POST-SECONDARY 4 YEAR DEGREE</p> <p>48% Students with plan to earn a bachelor's degree or higher.</p> <p>COLLEGE IN THE SCHOOLS (CIS)</p> <p>56% Students who earned college credits while meeting high school requirements.</p> <p>COLLEGE CREDITS UP TO 40 COLLEGE CREDITS OFFERED AT PRHS</p> <p>18 Students who earned 3 - 15 college credits.</p> <p>16 Students who earned 16 - 30 college credits.</p> <p>8 Students who earned 31 or more college credits.</p> <p>POST-SECONDARY 2 YEAR DEGREE</p> <p>8% Students with plan to earn an associate's degree.</p> <p>GAP YEAR</p> <p>8% Students with plan to enroll in post-secondary education in the future.</p> <p>CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION</p> <p>78% Students who participated in 2 or more of the 30+ co-curricular opportunities available at PRHS including sports teams, student groups, art and music, and organized activities.</p> <p>2.5 GPA OR ABOVE</p> <p>85% Students who earned a GPA of 2.5 or above.</p>	<p>TECHNICAL SCHOOL/TRADE PROGRAM</p> <p>14% Students with plan to attend technical school or a trade program.</p> <p>WORKFORCE</p> <p>22% Students with plan to enter the workforce.</p> <p>CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION</p> <p>139 Total number of CTE classes taken.</p> <p>Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Courses: Agribusiness Occupations, Ag Science 9, Ag Science, Environmental Science, Electricity, Welding, Small Engines, Ag Leadership</p> <p>Industrial Technology Courses: Industrial Technology 7, 8 & 9, CAD, Wood, Robotics, Digital Photography</p> <p>Computer and Business Courses: Computer 7, 8 & 9, Computer Applications, Accounting, Personal Finance, Intro to Business</p> <p>Family and Consumer Science, Cosmetology Courses: Living Skills, Cosmetology</p> <p>Other Courses: EMT, CNA, CDL</p> <p>18 Students who are certified as CNAs, 16 with CNA jobs.</p> <p>13 Students who completed Cosmetology classes, 2 going on to Cosmetology school.</p> <p>5 Students who are certified as EMTs, 1 with EMT job.</p> <p>1 Student who completed CDL course, earned scholarship.</p> <p>SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED</p> <p>180 Thanks to generous business and community members, 50 seniors were presented with \$80,000 in scholarships!</p>
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Here is how we support those goals for everyone:

- Career panel of local business professionals
- Career expos
- Post-secondary group planning meeting
- Individual senior planning meetings
- Guest speakers

Here is how we support each of those paths:

- POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**
- Offer classes for college credit in high school
 - Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)
 - College representative visits
 - College visits
 - ACT & PSAT testing
 - College application fees waived for qualifying students

- MILITARY**
- ASVAB testing offered at the high school
 - Opportunity to meet with a recruiter
 - Military Education and Career Exploration Event
 - Recruiter visits

- WORK FORCE**
- Work Force/Technical training
 - Ag Occupations class
 - Field trips to area businesses and industries
 - CTE classes: Welding, CNA, EMT, Small Engines, CAD, Electricity, Accounting, Cosmetology, Digital Photography, Wood Working
 - Future Farmers of America

Visit my High School Counselor web page for important updates and information or contact me at klage@vikes.us or (218) 863-5910.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT



BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

- Section 8A Academic Excellence Team Gold Award: (3.97 GPA)
- Heart O' Lakes Conference: 4th place
- Section 8A: 3rd place
- Academic All-State, All-State, All-Section, All-Conference, Section 8A Individual Champion: Charlie Larson
- Academic All-State, All-Section, All-Conference: Jack Welch

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

- Section 8A Academic Excellence Team Gold Award: (3.94 GPA)
- Heart O' Lakes Conference: 10th place
- Section 8A: 13th place
- Commitment to cross country and track & field at Concordia College: Aftyn Hahn



VOLLEYBALL

- Academic All-State Team Gold Award: (GPA 3.75 or higher)
- Academic All-State: Anna Roisum, Grace Backstrom, Hazel Haugrud (GPA 3.8 or higher)
- HOL All-Conference: Morgan Korf
- HOL All-Conference Honorable Mention: Hazel Haugrud
- All-time Career Leader of Digs - 1,783: Morgan Korf
- Career Leader of Aces - 143: Morgan Korf
- Most Valuable Players: Anna Roisum and Morgan Korf
- Commitment to play volleyball at Valley City State University: Anna Roisum



BOYS SOCCER

- Record: 8-5-0
- Lakes to Prairie Conference: 2nd place
- Section 8A (northern half): #1 Seed
- All-State (2nd team): Sidiq Farah
- All-Conference: Sidiq Farah, Kenerth Carrasco, Mohamed Abdi, Carlos Moreno, Tyler Porto

READY FOR ORANGE. FOR BLACK.



ACADEMICS, ARTS AND ATHLETICS AWARD CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TRIPLE A RECIPIENTS!



Grace Backstrom

- Art-drawing & clay skills
- Music-digital ensemble, piano, ukulele & French horn
- 3 Sport athlete-track & field, basketball & volleyball
- Commitment to track at Valley City State University



Charlie Larson

The Triple 'A' Award, honors high school seniors throughout the state who have a 3.0 or higher grade point average and who participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities.

- Varsity Math team
- Percussion PRHS band & Band of Faith
- 4 Sport athlete-cross-country, basketball, baseball, and track & field
- No college commitment at this time



FOOTBALL

- Varsity Record: 8-2
- JV Record: 6-1
- All-District Players: Treyvon Benson, Channing Russman, Jack Kapenga, Grady Larson, Willem Pesch
- All-District Honorable Mention: Ethan Isaman, Mark Kapenga, Austin Kleinschmidt
- All-District Wide Receiver of the Year: Treyvon Benson
- All-District Defensive Back of the year: Ethan Isaman
- All-District Academic: 19 Students (3.7 GPA or higher)
- Record over the Last 4 Seasons: 31-9



GIRLS SOCCER

- Record: 7-2-6 (best record since program started)
- Section 8A North: 2nd place
- Lakes to Prairie Conference: 3rd place
- All-Conference Athletes: Brooklyn Scoplitte, Ellie Carlson, Sadie Funk
- Honorable Mention All-Conference Athletes: Ikraan Mohamed, Hailey Zavala, Hamda Ibrahim
- Section Quarter Finals (first time team advanced to)
- All-time Leader of Shut-out Games as Goalie - 3: Antonia Banton
- All-time Leader of Goals in Season -15: Sadie Funk
- All-time Leader in Assists in Season - 6: Ellie Carlson
- All-time Leader of Hat-tricks - 2: Sadie Funk
- First Junior Varsity Hat-trick-1: Bella Miller
- All-time Leader of Goals - 36: Sadie Funk

'The Wizard of Oz'

The theatrical production of "The Wizard of Oz" in November was enjoyed by many, including thirty elementary students who loved it so much they attended both performances!

In addition to acting, behind-the-scene roles created numerous opportunities for students to learn lighting, sound, stage & props, set design & construction, coaching, hair & make-up, costumes, scheduling, advertising, sales, and more.

This theatrical production was directed by Ms. Amber Wang, vocal teacher at PRHS and music teacher for grades 5-6.



Follow the yellow brick road...





The gymnasium was transformed into bowling lanes for the K-12 Special Olympic Bowling event. "It was a delightful time of friendship, competition, laughs, high fives and hugs!" said Sheri Meester, Viking Elementary PE Instructor.



The Pelican Rapids Speech team traveled to Fergus Falls on Saturday, January 25, 2025. Participating in Dramatic Interpretation was Julianna Borgen, Kloie Nordick, and Willa Munick. In Humorous Interpretation was Andy Roesch. Placing 7th place in Original Oratory was Daisy Holl. Way to start the season Vikings!

PRHS ACTIVITIES

CONGRATS DYLAN HOADLEY

PLACED 2ND AT REGIONAL PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING LEADERSHIP EVENT

TOPIC: GENOME EDITING INVOLVING LIVESTOCK

PELICAN RAPIDS FFA

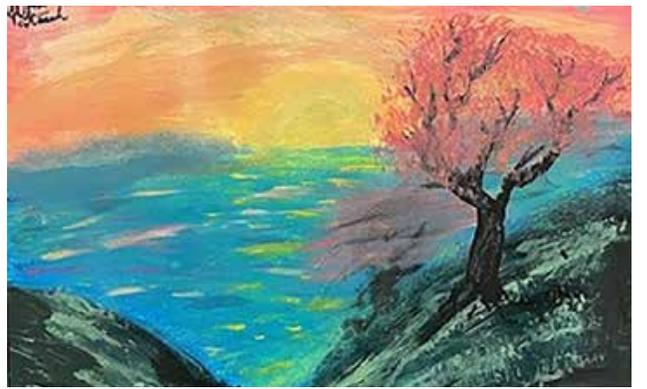
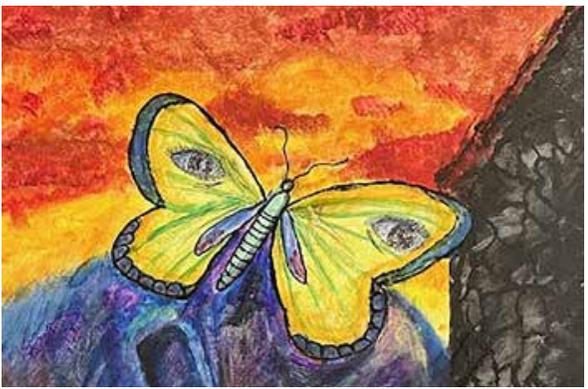
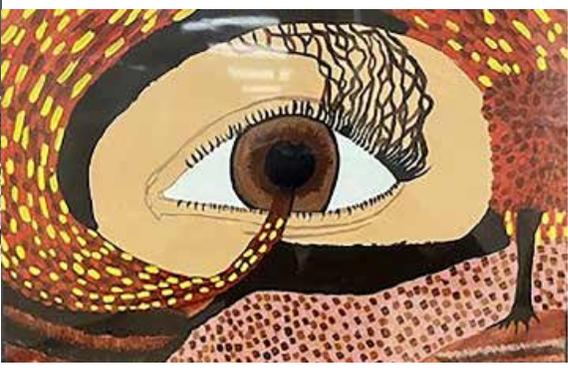
Girlhood Summit 2024

Girls in grades 7-12 attended this event on November 2 at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul

Event Highlights Included:

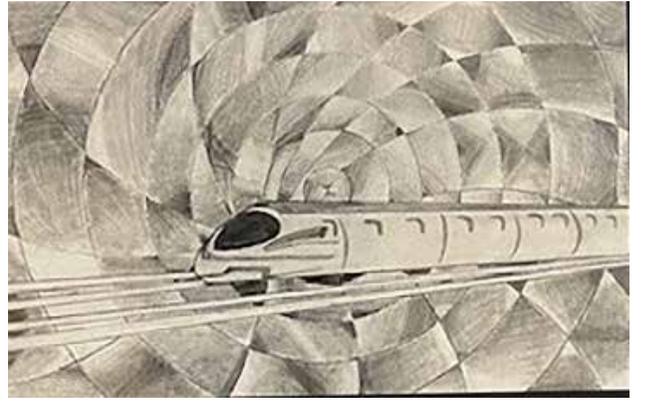
- Keynotes by trailblazing women who are leading the way in various fields.
- Participation in hands-on sessions focused on career exploration, personal finance, mental health, STEM education, and entrepreneurial design thinking.
- Inspiration by youth leaders who shared their visions for a brighter future.
- Experiencing the Smithsonian's "Girlhood (It's Complicated)" exhibit about what it means to grow up as a girl in the United States.

PRHS ARTWORK

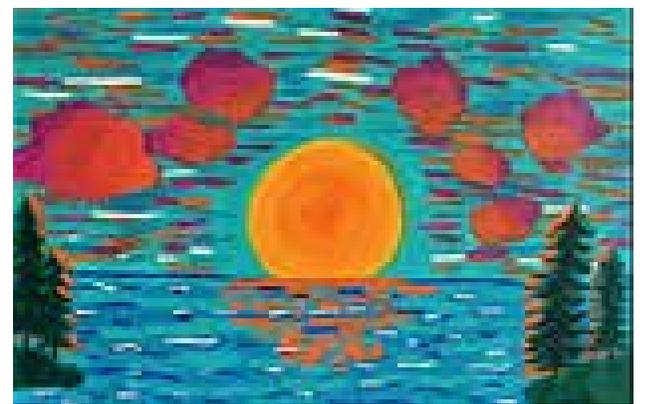


BENEFITS OF BEING INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Academic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Academic Performance • Enhanced Learning Opportunities • College Preparation | <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teamwork and Collaboration • Building Relationships • Networking Opportunities | <p>Cultural and Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity and Inclusion • Community Engagement |
| <p>Physical and Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Fitness • Mental Health Improvement • Cognitive Benefits | <p>Character/Personal Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discipline and Time Management • Leadership Skills • Resilience and Perseverance • Goal Setting | <p>Career-Related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill Development • Exploring Interests <p>Life Enrichment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Confidence • Memorable Experiences |



The PRHS junior high math team recently concluded their season for Minnesota State Junior High School Mathematics League. The Pelican Rapids Vikings team claimed the second-place trophy for the year. Earning medals for top-10 individuals were McKennah Norton in third place and Zayne Schulte in sixth place for the year. Kinzley McKeag is also listed among the top 25 competitors. Others competing for Pelican Rapids this season include Zoey Johnson, Drew Holt, Dominic Herdan, Lyla Seifert, Winsdae Dalman, Carter Anderson, Ben Honrud, Alayna Schlieman, and Faith Fiedler.



The Mathematical Association of America administers challenging math competitions each year, with over 150,000 participants worldwide. PRHS hosted the annual American Mathematics Competition (AMC) for students in grades 8-12. The AMC, designed to challenge the highest academic performers, poses a wide range of 25 problem-solving tasks.

The AMC-8 was given to selected seventh and eighth graders in January. The top score from Pelican Rapids was Lyla Seifert with 12 points, Kinzley McKeag earned 2nd place with 11 points, and Carter Anderson earned 3rd place locally with 10 points.

The AMC-10 tested 20 invited students in grades 9-10. Alondra Diaz claimed 1st place with 51 points, Grady Larson earned 2nd place with 49.5 points, and Emma Hanson secured 3rd place with 43.5 points.

The AMC-12 was taken by 20 invited students in grades 11-12. Azra Gunes (exchange student from Turkey) got 1st place with 64.5 points, Oliver Snaveley earned 2nd place with 51 points and Charlie Larson finished 3rd place with 43.5 points.



DISTRICT



We are in the first year of using the Multi-Use Chauncey Martin Building located on the edge of the outdoor athletic complex. The building was finished in the spring of 2024 and ready for the spring sports season, with baseball and softball being the first usage. We also hosted a large track meet with 14 schools and hundreds of athletes and spectators and the building worked great. The new larger bathrooms accommodated the large crowd and a larger concession area kept customers moving.

Summer brought tennis and pickleball players along with those using the Heart of the Lakes Trail which kept the area busy. Football games brought large crowds to the area in the fall, and now those participating in winter activities such as skating, snow shoeing, and sledding on "Paul's Hill" are able to use the warming house.

This building has been a much needed improvement to our facilities. Get out and enjoy winter.



Trevor Steeves
Building & Grounds
Superintendent



2024 FACILITIES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Gary Kowalski on receiving the 2024 Facilities Award of Excellence from The Minnesota Educational Facilities Management Professionals Association (MASMS).

Gary was nominated by Trevor Steeves for the award which is based on seven criteria:

- exemplary work ethic
- stewardship of school property
- brings joy!
- creative and takes initiative
- promotion of sustainability methods
- mentors others
- represents the community in a positive manner



MASMS is a professional organization committed to promoting excellence in the operation and care of educational facilities. It is a group of over 900 individuals in the areas of facilities/grounds/health & safety/operations for Minnesota K-12 and Higher Education organizations.

ENROLLMENT

- 900 students Pre-school-12th grade

LEADERSHIP PLATFORM

- Franklin Covey's Leader In Me® and 7 Habits of Highly Effective People/Teens®

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Free Preschool
- Free mid-day transportation to and from local licensed daycares

VIKING ELEMENTARY

- Named a Minnesota School of Excellence
- Average class size 18
- Year round school aged childcare K-6

PELICAN RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL

- Earn up to 40 college credits
- Certifications in: CDL, CNA, EMT, Early Childhood Education
- CTE courses: Business, Industrial Technology, Agriculture, Cosmetology

PROGRAMS

- Art, band & choir classes for K-12 students
- School-within-a-school ALC: Targeted Services, Mid-Level reading & math, credit recovery programs
- On-site school-linked behavioral health services
- Driver's Education & Behind the Wheel

FACILITIES

- Fine Arts Auditorium (seating for 500)
- Activities Center
- Outdoor lighted complexes for baseball, football and soccer fields; track
- Multi-Use Trail Head Building with warming house, bike repair, concessions



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 MEMBERS WHO WERE INDUCTED INTO THE VIKINGS HALL OF FAME ON OCTOBER 5, 2024 AT THE ANNUAL VIKING GALA CELEBRATION EVENT!

VIKINGS HALL OF FAME

- Zandra Bina
- Rachel Longfors-Radic
- Glenn Moerke
- Jessica (Longfors) Rider
- Judy Siegle Aamodt

STAFF HONOR ROLL

- Marlys Ebersviller
- Kathy Knuteson-Olson
- Chuck Sorum

SCAN TO VIEW



VIKINGS HALL OF FAME

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We recently asked our staff what their favorite thing about working at Pelican Rapids Schools is and this is what they said:

"The welcoming co-workers who are all putting our students and their needs first."

"The respect and support of administration makes me feel valued!"

"The people - both staff and students! There are so many people here that genuinely care for you."

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED:

- > PARAPROFESSIONALS
- > TEACHERS
- > FOOD SERVICE
- > CUSTODIAL
- > TRANSPORTATION

SCAN to apply



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

QUESTIONS?

Contact Emily Evenson
HR Manager & Executive Administrative Assistant
218-863-5910 ext. 4445 or eevenson@vikes.us

Looking Ahead

- February 14** No school (teacher workshop)
- February 17** Parent-Teacher conferences
VES: 12-6:00pm / PRHS: 1-7:00pm
- February 20** PRHS Band Concert 7:30pm
- February 24** PRHS Choir Concert 7:00pm
*rescheduled from March 3
- March 17** No School (district workshop)
- March 23-30** PRHS Band Trip to NYC
- April 18-21** No School (spring break)
- May 8** PRHS Band Concert 7:30pm
- May 12** PRHS Choir Concert 7:30pm
- May 22** No School (teacher workshop)
- May 23** Graduation 7:00pm

Dates & times subject to change
Visit school website or Facebook for updates



pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us



Pelican Rapids Public Schools

PELICAN RAPIDS SCHOOLS ARE 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 & ATHLETICS, UNIQUE COURSE OFFERINGS, RICH CULTURAL DIVERSITY, AND STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES ENABLE OUR STUDENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR SUCCESS IN FUTURE EDUCATION, CAREERS, AND LIFE!

READY TO LEAD. TO EXCEL.

2025 TERM CHANGES FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #548 BOARD

Andrew Sorum - Incoming

We appreciate your willingness to serve this community and our schools as we continue to create innovative and quality education opportunities for all students.



Front Row: Greg Larson, Brian Korf (Superintendent), Jon Karger, Andrew Sorum

Back Row: Molly Welch, Brenda Olson, Staci Allmaras

Anne Peterson - Outgoing

Thank you for sharing your skills, knowledge, and passion for children and education! Your enthusiasm and dedication over the last 8 years have inspired students and staff.

