

THE

VIKING VOICE

PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pelican Rapids School
District #548
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Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

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Innovative Pathways for Future-Ready Graduates

By Kelsey Lage, High School Counselor

We’re thrilled to share an exciting addition to our Career and Technical Education (CTE) offerings this year—our brand new **Early Childhood Education (ECE)** class!

This course is giving students a head start on their futures by allowing them to **earn college credit through M State** while still in high school.

I’m so proud of these seven young women for stepping up to be the first to take on this brand-new opportunity. For the seniors, they will bring 9 college credits with them to their next post secondary institution and a new set of skills for working with children. For the juniors, they will have the opportunity to take the class again next year to earn 9 more credits and complete the Early Childhood Certificate through M State. They’ve embraced the challenge of trying something never offered before, helping us navigate the logistics, work out the kinks, and pave the way for future students.

As part of the program, students are connecting with peers from **other area schools**, building a network of future educators and professionals. They are also gaining valuable real-world experience through **afternoon lab hours at our local preschool**, where they apply what they’ve learned in the classroom to support and enrich early learning in our community.

This initiative aligns with our district’s commitment to ensuring **every student has a plan for life after graduation**. Whether that includes college, a career, or both, we believe in providing hands-on opportunities that inspire students and set them on a path to success.



Above: Pelican Rapids ECE students with M State Instructor Christy Frigaard, collaborating with students in area schools who are also enrolled in the ECE class at M State.

Ally Birger, junior “ECE has been such a fun experience and has helped me learn that working with kids is something I would like to continue to do after I graduate high school.” Sadie Funk, senior, was a student aide in the preschool last year and has the opportunity this year to continue to serve in the preschool and earn college credit, says this has “helped me understand children and break down the way they react to things”.

This program truly represents the **best case scenario**—students are gaining real-life, career-building experience while giving back and serving their community in a meaningful way. We’re proud of the growth of our CTE programs and are always looking for new ways to **expand opportunities** for our students. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to build innovative pathways for future-ready graduates!

Pelican Rapids Schools: Nurturing Minds, Building Futures



Brian Korf
Superintendent



At Pelican Rapids Public Schools, our students are at the heart of everything we do. We are dedicated to providing high-quality educational experiences that promote academic, social, and emotional growth. Our dedicated staff, engaged families, and a community that truly values education make this possible.

Meeting Educational Standards

This school year, our teachers have been working hard to meet the new Minnesota Read Act requirements while managing their regular teaching duties. The goal of this legislation is for every Minnesota student to read at or above their grade level each year. It also aims to support multilingual learners and students with disabilities, helping them reach their personalized reading goals and achieve grade-level proficiency.

Looking to the Future

As we plan ahead, we want to share some insights about our district. We anticipate gradual changes in student enrollment over the coming years, a trend seen in many rural school districts across Minnesota. However, Pelican Rapids continues to thrive as a resilient community. While changes in enrollment may affect funding, we are confident that our strong community spirit and innovative approaches will help us adapt and continue offering excellent

educational opportunities for all students. Together, we will turn this challenge into an opportunity for growth and improvement. To continue providing the exceptional, personalized experiences our students deserve, we will begin discussions on "right-sizing" our budget over time. This does not mean compromising our standards or reducing our commitment to student success. Instead, it involves making thoughtful, proactive decisions to align our resources with our evolving needs.

Summer Activities

We are excited to offer a variety of summer activities for our elementary-aged students, designed to inspire and engage. Options include: Baseball, Golf, Soccer, Pickleball; Football, Basketball, Volleyball Camps; Theatre & STEAM Camps; Band & Choir. We are pleased to be offering the Free Summer Meals program again from May 27-August 22. All of our summer programs provide opportunities for fun and learning while building teamwork and leadership skills. Online registration links can be found on the school website to make this summer an unforgettable experience filled with growth, joy, and friendship!

Celebrating Achievements

Over the past eight months, our students have had numerous learning opportunities in the arts, academics, and athletics. As the school year comes to an end, we look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of the graduating Class of 2025. Commencement will be held in the Leaders Gymnasium at 7:00 p.m. on May 23, 2025. Congratulations to this year’s graduating class; we wish them the very best in their future endeavors!

Thank You for Your Support

Thank you for your on-going support of Pelican Rapids Public Schools. With your partnership, we are confident we will move forward together—stronger, smarter, and always student-centered. Your involvement is crucial as we strive to maintain the quality of education our students deserve, regardless of the challenges we face. Together, we can ensure that Pelican Rapids Public Schools remains a great place to learn and grow for all students.

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

ACQUIRE UP TO 40 COLLEGE CREDITS

- Advanced Algebra
- AP Art
- Calculus
- College English
- College Public Speaking
- Early Childhood Education
- Intro to Education
- Precalculus
- Spanish III
- Statistics

EARN CERTIFICATIONS & CREDITS

- Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Theory Training Course
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Driver’s Education - Classroom & Behind-the-Wheel
- Credit Recovery Program

CLUB VIKES KIDS HAVE FUN ALL YEAR!

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)

SUMMER SCHEDULE: Monday – Friday / 7:00am-6:00pm

Club Vikes staff is focused on making each day a fun-filled experience for your child!

A typical summer day can include the following:

- walking children to/from summer rec activities
- doing crafts (melty beads, shrinky dinks, yarn projects)
- reading to themselves or to a friend
- baking (with the help of staff)
- playing outside on the playground or a staff led game
- choosing free time activity (legos, barbies, animals, board & card games).

We also do special things such as:

- having themed activities such as track & field ‘Olympics’
- making games/crafts and having a mini carnival
- engaging in waterplay fun (sprinklers, slip & slides, water games)

There are also activities in our community that we enjoy doing including:

- the summer reading club at the public library
- participating in the minnow races
- playing board games/bingo with senior living residents
- going on field trips

Breakfast, lunch & afternoon snack provided each day.

Our staff is certified in CPR/ First Aid in addition to other state required classes.

If you are looking for a safe environment with staff who will keep your child engaged in a variety of fun and enriching activities, Club Vikes is the place to be!

QUESTIONS? Contact Tonya Honrud, Club Vikes Coordinator at thonrud@vikes.us or 218-863-5910 x5022

STAY CONNECTED CLUB



PELICAN RAPIDS

SUMMER

PROVIDING RECREATION

2025 SUMMER MEALS

3-31-25

Viking Elementary School

MAY 27 - AUGUST 22

Monday - Friday

BREAKFAST 7:45-8:30AM

LUNCH 11:30-12:30PM

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

FREE SUMMER MEALS

AVAILABLE TO ALL KIDS AGES 18 AND YOUNGER

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Pelican Rapids High School

JUNE 2-26, JULY 7-24, AUGUST 11-21

Monday - Thursday

BREAKFAST 8:00-9:30AM

LUNCH 11:00-12:30PM

NO MEALS ON: JUNE 6, JUNE 19, JULY 4

VIKING PRESCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

VIKINGS

theater

NOW SHOWING

POPPIN' PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

FREE PRESCHOOL

For District Residents

AGES 3-4 VIKING PRESCHOOL

Two Half Days

AGES 4-5 VIKING PRE-K

Five Half Days

FEATURING

- Licensed Teachers
- Free Mid-Day Transportation
- Math & Literacy Skills
- Fine & Gross Motor Skills
- Social & Emotional Learning

Creating, celebrating, and supporting 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 & ECCE family!

Terra Fitzsimmons
ECCE/Preschool
Teacher/Coordinator

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.

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:

2nd and 5th grade artist have "Art Pals" with senior residents in the Pelican Valley Senior Living facilities in Pelican Rapids. Throughout the school year, students create artwork and letters for their partner. Once received, senior residents send artwork and letters back to students. This partnership creates multigenerational friendships and opportunities for both students and seniors to share artwork with others in Pelican Rapids.

Artist Paul Johnson presented to and created with our 3rd-6th grade artists in the Elementary Art room. Together they worked on his large piece of art reflecting the diverse faces found throughout the Pelican Rapids community. To create this piece he is using cardboard, glue, and metal tape. The final piece will be 5x15 feet and it will be revealed at this year's Friendship Festival.

ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



Derrick Nelson
Elementary Principal

The 2024-25 school year is winding down. The staff is busy planning for the 2025-26 school year at Viking Elementary. August 28th will be the back-to-school day at Viking Elementary School. Some changes for back-to-school day are that students will have the opportunity to get their school pictures taken from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. If families cannot make it on August 28th, there will be a picture retake day in October. Students will also meet with their teachers. A letter will be sent in August from the

teachers with directions on how to sign up for the time to meet.

Free breakfast and lunches will be offered to all students at Viking Elementary again this summer. Breakfast will be served from 7:45-8:30am and lunch from 11:30-12:30pm Monday-Friday.

Club Vikes will be open this summer with a wide variety of activities for students. If you have any questions, please contact Tonya Honrud (218) 863-5910 for more information about Club Vikes.

This year Viking Elementary students have been busy earning bag tags for perfect attendance for each month. Attendance is one of the most important parts of a student's success. Thank you to families for helping get your children to school on a consistent basis. The following is a list of how many students had perfect attendance each month at Viking Elementary:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| • September 317 Students | • January 126 Students |
| • October 267 Students | • February 212 Students |
| • November 276 Students | • March 172 Students |
| • December 265 Students | |

Thanks to all of the students, teachers, and staff for a great 2024-25 school year and have an AWESOME summer.

Generous Donation of 30 Sleds for VES Students

The local Dunvilla Lions have been very generous in donating money to help the Viking Elementary School purchase 30 new, longer sleds to use on Paul's Hill during the school day! Our staff is grateful for the Lions understanding the needs of our students and the joy and fitness that outdoor activities offer. We would also like to thank the Lakeland General Store for assisting us with the sled ordering process. Assisting in presenting the cool new sleds are Levelle and Harry, two Viking Elementary students.



Looking Ahead

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 9 | Superheros for the Earth Program
Grades 3-4 at 1:30pm |
| May 14 | VES Numbers with the Neighborhood |
| May 15 | VES Track & Field Day-Grades K-3 |
| May 16 | VES Track & Field Day-Grades 4-6 |
| May 19-20 | 6th Grade Trip |
| May 21 | Last Day of School |
| May 22 | Teacher Workshop |
| May 23 | Graduation 7:00pm - Leaders Gym |

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



9th Grade students spent the morning learning about their greatness by sharing the story of how butterflies go from caterpillars to a cocoon and then emerge as glorious butterflies.

The theme of the day was how all of us have struggles in life but we need to keep working to find our greatness and strength. Like the butterfly whose struggle to get out of the cocoon helps its wings become magnificent.

The project ended with 9th grade students creating butterflies with Kindergarten students!

"The Greater the Struggle, The More Glorious the Triumph" Butterfly Circus



We recently asked 6th grade students what their favorite thing about going to school at Viking Elementary. Here's what they said:

"My favorite thing is the community because they aren't judging and they are the nicest people I've ever met."

"The education the kind teachers and the friendly environment they teach us in, I am so grateful for all of this and how I get this opportunity to learn at this school. Thank you so much to the kind people with golden hearts for welcoming me."

"My friends and classmates I moved form Minneapolis and I love it here."

"The friends, and the opportunity's that we are given."

"Learning with my friends and spending time with my favorite teachers."



Almost 600 Earth Day posters made by students in grades 1-8 are displayed at the Fergus Falls Public Library. Thirty classrooms from 4 area schools (Pelican Rapids, Battle Lake, Underwood, and Fergus Falls) participated in this event. More than 55 students from Pelican created posters, reported Dee Johnson, a member of the Earth Day Committee. Six classrooms of Pelican students participated in the poster project, coordinated by Pelican Viking teachers Rund, Satterlie, Seter, and Gottenborg.

Logan Johnson, Tydan Dokken, and Beckett Satter spent a day learning more about music at the MSUM 6-8th Grade Honor Band. They did a fantastic job representing Viking Elementary!



Activities for Elementary Students

There are a variety of activities for elementary students to enjoy during the school year. Detailed information can be found on our website using the QR code below.

- Viking Track & Field Club
- After School Soccer
- Youth Football
- Art Club
- Band & Choir
- Basketball
- Run Club
- Volleyball
- Math Masters
- Knowledge Bowl
- School Patrol
- Knowledge Bowl
- After School Boys Basketball
- Youth Wrestling



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 |



ELEMENTARY VOLLEYBALL CAMP

Going into grades 3-6
May 27-30 Tuesday - Friday
• Grades 3-4 8:30 - 9:30am
• Grades 5-6 9:30 - 10:45am
Location: PRHS Legends Gym
Entrance: West door 7
Fee: \$25 (includes t-shirt)
Varsity Head Coach: Heidi Isaman

NEXT LEVEL BASKETBALL CAMP

Boys & girls going into grades 1-6
May 27-30
Tuesday - Friday 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Location: PRHS Leaders & Legends Gyms
Entrance: West door 7
Fee: \$30 (includes t-shirt)
Varsity Head Coaches Brian Korf & John Gullingsrud will direct the camp with assistance from current high school basketball players.

YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

Going into grades 3-6
July 21-July 24 Monday-Thursday
10:00-11:15 AM
This is a camp where your student will gain instructional knowledge on the fundamentals of football, compete in drills, compete in a flag football tournament, interact with the varsity football team and current alumni college football players.
Day 1: Offensive Skill Work
Day 2: Defense and Specials Skill Work
Day 3: Competitive Drills and Flag Football team Breakdown
Day 4: Flag Football Tournament
Attire: comfortable athletic attire, cleats or running shoes, water bottle
Cost: \$40 (if cost is a concern reach out to Coach Beachy)
Coach Beachy Contact: 218-296-1932
Location: Chauncey Martin Field (game field)
STEAM CAMP
Students who completed grades 3-6
July 14-17 Monday-Thursday
10:00-11:30am
Location: Viking Elementary Cafeteria
Fee: \$20
Instructor: Teresa Schlieman
With the Winter Olympics coming up this year, the STEAM camp will be challenges revolving around Olympic sports and history.

THEATRE CAMP - "MOANA"

Students who completed grades 4-8
Auditions: May 19 & 20 5:00-8:00pm
Location: PRHS Choir Room (West Door 13)
Rehearsals: July 14-August 1 (Monday-Friday) 8:00am-12:00pm
Performances: August 1 & 2 TBD
Location: Fine Arts Auditorium (West Door 14)
Fee: \$20 per child
Instructor: Amber Wang, Vocal/Music Teacher
Questions: Cary Haugrud, Comm Ed Coordinator 218-205-5745

VIKING STUDENT SUCCESS

Students who completed grades K-6
June 2-June 18 (June 19 is a holiday)
Monday-Thursday 8am-12:00pm
Location: VES
Program contact: Marie Heiberg
Summer learning includes hands-on reading, writing, math and science learning activities.

SUMMER SCHOOL/CREDIT RECOVERY

Students who completed grades 7-11
May 27-30 (Tuesday-Friday) 8-12pm
June 2-12 (Monday-Thursday) 8-12pm
Location/Entrance: PRHS west door 8
Program contact: PRHS Counselor Lage
Letters will be mailed to parents of students who need to attend summer school.

REGISTER TODAY!

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2025

REGISTRATION

COMMUNICATION & PROGRAM UPDATES

Facebook:

Pelican Rapids Schools Summer Programs

Website:

pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us

> Summer Programs 2025

Please register by May 15

Child must be registered before participating

Kids in summer rec activities get a t-shirt.

NO SUMMMER PROGRAMS ON:

June 6, June 19, July 4

SUMMER REC FEES

Summer rec family max=\$125/family

Free/reduced meal qualifiers:

fees reduced by 50%, family max=\$80/family

Once family max reached for all families,

activities will be \$1 per child per activity

SUMMER REC REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:

Contact Becky Wontor bwontor@vikes.us or

218.863-5910 x4250 with questions or if fees

are a financial hardship

SUMMER REC PROGRAM QUESTIONS:

Contact Dave Rund, Summer Rec

Coordinator drund@vikes.us or 218.863-9317

T-BALL Boys & girls who completed pre-school and Kindergarten (minimum age 4 years) Mon & Wed 9:30-10:15am Fee: \$20 Location: Chauncey Martin East BRING LABELED GLOVE	ROOKIE BASEBALL Boys & girls who completed grades 1-2 Mon-Thurs 9:30-10:15am Fee: \$30 Location: Chauncey Martin West BRING LABELED GLOVE
KNOT HOLE BASEBALL Boys who completed grade 3 Practices: Mon-Thurs 10:30-12pm Games: Mon & Wed 12:30pm Fee: \$50 Location: Chauncey Martin West BRING LABELED GLOVE, SOFTBALL/ BASEBALL PANTS OPTIONAL	PEE WEE BASEBALL Boys who completed grade 4 Practices: Mon-Thurs 10:30-12pm Games: Mon & Wed 12:30pm Fee: \$50 Location: Chauncey Martin West BRING LABELED GLOVE, SOFTBALL/ BASEBALL PANTS OPTIONAL
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL Boys who completed grades 5-6 Practices: Mon-Thurs 10:30-12pm Games: Tues & Thurs 12:30pm Fee: \$50 Location: Chauncey Martin West BRING LABELED GLOVE, SOFTBALL/ BASEBALL PANTS OPTIONAL	PONY TAIL SOFTBALL Girls who completed gr. 3-4 & 5-6 Practices: Mon-Thurs 10:30-12pm Games: Tues & Thurs 12:30pm Fee: \$50 Location: Chauncey Martin East BRING LABELED GLOVE, SOFTBALL/ BASEBALL PANTS OPTIONAL
PICKLEBALL Boys & girls who completed gr. 3-8 Mon-Thurs 9:15-10:15am Fee: \$30 Location: Chauncey Martin Courts PICKLEBALL PADDLES PROVIDED	GOLF Boys & girls who completed gr. 3-8 Tues & Wed 1-3:00pm Fee: \$45 Location: Birchwood Golf Course BRING GOLF BALLS, CLUBS, TEES

SOCCER PRE-K Boys & girls ages 4-5 years Tues & Thurs 9:30-10:15am Fee: \$20 Location: Football Field BRING SHIN GUARDS AND RUNNING SHOES (NO CLEATS)	SOCCER K-2 & 3-5 Boys & girls who completed gr. K-5 Mon-Thurs 8:15-9:15am Fee: \$30 Location: Football Field BRING SHIN GUARDS AND RUNNING SHOES (NO CLEATS)
SPEED AND STRENGTH Students going into grades 4-12 A program geared to every person gain healthier habits, put work into their body and improve athletic performance. June 2 - July 31 Grades 7-12 (4/week) Monday-Thursday • Session 1: 6:00-7:15 AM • Session 2: 7:15-8:30 AM • Session 3: 8:30-9:45 AM Fee Grades 7-12: \$50 Family Max: \$75 (2+ in same family) Grades 4-6 (2/week) Mondays & Wednesdays • Session 4: 9:45-10:15 AM Fee Grades 4-6: \$25 Attire: comfortable athletic attire, workout/running shoes, water bottle Instructors: Coach Eli Beachy & Coach Abby Syverson Location: Downstairs High School Weight Room (enter west door 7)	REQUIRED FOR BAND STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-7 Week 1: August 11-August 14 Monday-Thursday 5th Grade Band Lessons Location: VES Band Room Instructors: Ms. Moen (M), Mr. Fitzsimmons (F) • 9:00-9:45am Clarinet (M), Trumpet (F) • 10:00-10:45am Flute (M), Horn (F) • 11:00-11:45am Oboe (M), Saxophone (F) • 12:15-1:00pm Percussion (M), Trombone/Baritone (F) Week 2: August 18-August 21 Monday-Thursday • 5th Grade Full Band 9:00-10:00am (everyone) • 6th Grade Full Band 10:15-11:15am Location: VES Band Room, Instructor: Ms. Moen • 7th Grade Full Band 1:00-2:30pm Location: PRHS Band Room, Instructor: Mr. Fitzsimmons

SUMMER BAND

Unique Course Offerings at PRHS

Leadership Course

This semester-long elective class for students in grades 11-12 is taught by John Peter. His description of the class is as follows:

“We spend a lot of time in this class working on developing an autonomous self. A common saying in class is: ‘If you can't lead your own life, you can't lead others.’ This is done through daily leadership readings and reflections and organizational practices. We also spend a large amount of time on independent projects where the students can explore their own interests”.

Leadership Quotes from PRHS students:

Brooklyn Scoplitte: "I learned that leadership is not just about leading others and taking charge. It's about how you talk to others and how you take charge of your own life. Leading is also about being a team player and learning from others”.

Hanan Mohamed: "In my leadership class, I learned how to communicate more effectively, which really helped me become a better speaker. It also booster my confidence personally and taught me to take ownership of my life and collaborate with others. Overall it helped me grow personally and for the future, professionally."

Career and College Prep Course



Above: students after their two week unit on interview preparation, including a mock interview with Principal Januszewski.

The Career and College Prep class provides high school juniors and seniors with essential skills for life after graduation. Students explore a range of post-secondary options including college, trade schools, military service, and the workforce.

Through hands-on activities, guest speakers, and real-world applications, students develop job readiness, financial literacy, and effective communication skills.

The course also emphasizes resume writing, interview preparation, and retirement planning. The instructor for this engaging class is Andy Rarick.

Content Creation & Storytelling

One of our new and unique courses at PRHS is Content Creation & Storytelling. Instructor John Peter outlines the class in the following way:



“We spend time learning the basics of filming and editing to tell stories. We also work on storytelling through live events like sports games. Additionally, we learn techniques like color grading, sound mixing, and lighting. We have two major documentary style projects of the students' choice during the year and we do one big community project as well.”

Leadership Quotes from PRHS students:

Ramses Feria Rubio: "Not everything is just hit record and take the video, I've learned about editing and how to tell a story as well and have found a new interest in content creation."



Easton Munick: "I learned how to use a camera correctly and edit the footage into a story. It is really fun to take a camera and make something cool from nothing. It is a fun and interesting class."



Kelsey Lage
High School Counselor

An important part of our post-secondary planning is helping our students meet our goal of 100% of students leaving PRHS with a plan for post-secondary education, military service, or entering the workforce.

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 SERVICE

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

ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

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

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.

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

Inspire and Empower the Next Generation of Leaders and Innovators



Laura Januszewski
High School Principal

Dear Pelican Rapids Community and Parents,

Our district’s mission is to provide a variety of high-quality academic, art, and athletic programs in a unique rural setting. This winter has given orange and black fans many moments to cheer in all three of these categories. Our high school math team advanced to the state meet for the second year in a row. The boys’ wrestling team advanced three individuals to the state wrestling tournament. The boys’ basketball team earned back-to-back Section Champion trophies with a spectacular run in the playoffs and a win over Barnesville. A spring performance of “The Great Gatsby” included a 40-student cast full of new and veteran faces. Our speech team is looking to cap off a stellar season of great regular season awards and performances. The FFA group will send multiple participants to the State Convention in April.

As I reflect on the accomplishments of this school year, I’m happy to share the outstanding success achieved in fulfilling one of our district goals of ensuring that 100% of our graduating students have a plan for post-secondary education, military service, or entering the workforce. Our staff is committed to providing comprehensive support and opportunities for our students as they prepare for their futures. We believe preparation for life after high school begins before senior year, and we have implemented a variety of initiatives and programs to facilitate this journey.

The 2024-25 school year has provided diverse and immersive experiences for our students through coursework, field trips, speakers, career panels, and employable certifications. These opportunities allow our students to engage with members of our community and gain valuable insights into the range of post-secondary options available in Pelican Rapids and surrounding areas.

We continue to expand our course offerings to encompass a broader spectrum of career pathways. This school year included new courses such as Career and College Prep, Early Childhood Education, Coding and Software Design, and Content Creation & Storytelling will provide students with cutting-edge skills and knowledge that are highly relevant in today’s rapidly evolving job market.

As we celebrate the achievements of this school year, let us continue to work together to inspire and empower the next generation of leaders and innovators in Pelican Rapids.

Go Vikings!



CTE Business Students from PRHS visited Lakeshirts in Detroit Lakes. Students had the opportunity to see the production process, as well as all the other departments that make up this amazing company. We learned about the growth of this once small tshirt company into an industry leading apparel manufacturer with over 1,000 employees. Thank you to Lakeshirts for the awesome morning!



Cosmetology students toured The Salon Professional Academy in Fargo! They learned about massage therapy, esthetician, nail, and cosmetology programs that the school has to offer. Thanks for helping our students explore potential careers!

Students of Pelican Rapids schools have the opportunity to become better humans because they are able to interact with people from all walks of life

Final thoughts as I’m weeks away from retiring...

I really have been blessed to have spent thirty-three years of my career here in Pelican Rapids. Whether it was as a teacher, coach, advisor, or administrator I have experienced so many rewarding experiences over the years.

My wife Susan and I could not have asked for more from a school than the education both of our sons received as students here in Pelican Rapids’ Schools. Casey and Ryan not only received a solid foundation of knowledge and skills from their teachers, but they also gained so much from the extra-curricular participation in which they were able to be involved. Both boys are doing well with one being a head men’s basketball coach for a division II college and the other a sales representative for the West Coast and Canada for a company out of Fargo.

What I felt most valuable, however, was the overall experience they were able to have by going to a school with so many different cultures. Students of

Pelican Rapids schools have the opportunity to become better humans because they are able to interact with people from all walks of life.

Over the duration of twelve to thirteen years a student begins to see the similarities that we all have and stop dwelling on the differences. This has been so valuable for both of our son’s growth as adults and their interactions with others.

When looking at Northern Minnesota, Pelican Rapids is a different community and has a different school population. This impact this has on us is great as we do things and see things differently and this helps lead to a happier and more rewarding life.

Our culture of acceptance is a flag that we fly high as each student is encouraged to “Wave the Viking Flag of Victory”.



Doug Bruggeman
Dean of Students

Our students shared their favorite thing about attending school at PHRS:

“The friends I have made and the teachers.”

“I like our culture and how we embrace all of the differences we have it shapes us to who we are.”

“I really love attending this school. Not to be dramatic or anything, but I physically and mentally love learning, which I know not many students do. I really do enjoy how the teachers at PRHS are respectful and understanding. They always take the time to help me when I need it, and their support has made a big difference in my academic success.”

“How respectful people are.”

“All the different people and classes that are offered.”

“The friends and the connection between students and the teachers that go past their job descriptions and help students with problems.”

“The freedom that we have at PRHS!”

“The classes it offers.”

“My friends and school staff.”

“My favorite thing about PRHS is the teachers are very nice.”

“The kindness and understanding of most students & teachers.”

“The friendly staff.”

“Just being there and the environment.”

“The kindness of older grades to younger grades and the opportunity you have to do extra things when you are older.”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT



Winter Sports Recaps can be found on our website using the QR code on the left. GO VIKINGS!



Pelican Rapids Math Team 2nd Best Small Public School at State On Monday, March 10th, the Pelican Rapids High School Math Team competed at the State Tournament of the Minnesota High School Mathematics League.

This was the second consecutive year the Vikings took their talents to Spring Lake Park High School to face off against the brightest math minds in Minnesota. In the 'A' division, Pelican finished 6th place out of 11 teams.

The 'A' division consists of smaller enrollment schools, both elite private and rural public schools. Considering the latter, Pelican Rapids was the 2nd best non-private school to compete (of six schools), only being beaten by Waseca. "Pelican Rapids once again does more with less," notes Math Team coach Logan Knorr. "Considering that most of these other schools have much higher enrollment or are private schools, it is an incredible feat how our students continue to balance all kinds of activities and represent Pelican Rapids in a positive way."

Leading the way for the Vikings in the test were senior Azra Gunes (9 points) and junior Oliver Snaveley (8 points). Also scoring for the Vikings was junior Allie Thompson (3) sophomores Hayden Haugrud (5), Nicholas Rockstead (5), Emma Hanson (4), Julianna Borgen (3), and freshman Graham Pesch (4). An alternate competitor who participated was senior Jaxon Dalman.

ACADEMICS

ARTS

ATHLETICS

READY

TO LEAD. TO EXCEL.

PRESCHOOL
Free Preschool & Pre-K
Free Transportation

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

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

PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Congratulations to the PRHS students at the Vocal Solo Ensemble at MSUM on March 12th.

Chamber Choir got an Excellent rating.

- Zayli Arrow got a Superior rating
- Zayla Arrow got an Excellent rating
- Andrew Checco de Souza got an Excellent rating.



The speech team traveled to Underwood on Wednesday, April 9th for the Subsections 22 tournament. Julianna Borgen placed 2nd in Dramatic Interpretation. Placing 3rd in

Original Oratory was Daisy Holl. Andy Roesch was 1st alternate in Humorous Interpretation and Max Koch was 1st alternate in Discussion. Go Vikes!

PRHS SPORTS

PELICAN RAPIDS VIKINGS

- CALENDAR & SCHEDULES
- ROSTERS
- SCORES & STANDINGS

PELICANRAPIDS.K12.MN.US
ACTIVITIES > SPORTS



BENEFITS OF BEING INVOLVED IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Academic**
 - Improved Academic Performance
 - Enhanced Learning Opportunities
 - College Preparation
- Physical and Mental Health**
 - Physical Fitness
 - Mental Health Improvement
 - Cognitive Benefits
- Social**
 - Teamwork and Collaboration
 - Building Relationships
 - Networking Opportunities
- Character/Personal Development**
 - Discipline and Time Management
 - Leadership Skills
 - Resilience and Perseverance
 - Goal Setting

- Cultural and Community**
 - Diversity and Inclusion
 - Community Engagement
- Career-Related**
 - Skill Development
 - Exploring Interests
- Life Enrichment**
 - Increased Confidence
 - Memorable Experiences



PRHS Band students traveled to New York city for an amazing week of sightseeing and music! Stops included:

- One World Trade Center & Observatory,
- Rockefeller Center,
- NBC Studios Tour
- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- 9/11 Museum and St. Paul's Chapel
- Times Square
- Central Park
- Fifth Avenue
- Evening Dinner Cruise
- The Statue of Liberty National Monument
- Ellis Island
- Three Broadway Shows
- One Off-Broadway Show
- Ellen's Stardust Diner
- Grand Central Station Terminal
- Manhattan Bus Tour
- Brooklyn Bridge
- Broadway Up Closer Workshop
- Chinatown
- Little Italy
- New York City High Line



Celebration of Cultures

This is an annual event celebrating each other's cultures and company. They shared a meal with various traditional and comfort foods from the ethnic families in the community. This year's meal included tacos, flan, Asian dishes, and even macaroni and cheese.



After the meal, students listened to keynote speaker Pelican senior Aisho Mohamud. Her remarks embodied the spirit of the annual event: "To my friends and everyone here-never be ashamed of where you come from. Your culture, your language, your traditions-they are what make you special. Hold onto them, be proud, and always remember who you are."



FFA

UPDATES AND NEWS



Students, including Viking elementary kids, were invited in to check out the animals at the Live Petting Zoo in the Ag shop on Thursday, April 17.

"We really had a great day overall. We put this event together because, number one, it is fun for everyone. Also number two, to expose students to the different types of agriculture," said Lee Larsen, Ag Teacher. "We had 6 stations this year: small animals, poultry, FFA, dairy, goats/sheep, and tractor safety. The elementary students bring a lot of excitement and energy. The FFA members gave top notch explanation and demonstration throughout the day."



The Pelican Rapids FFA Horse Judging team competed at regionals, on February 26th at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The team took 3rd place earning a trip to the State FFA Convention in April. Individually, Dylan Hoadley earned 8th place, Jaylyn Wolf 14th, and Londyn Milbeck 18th. Picture: Cailyn Craik, Jaylyn Wolf, Dylan Hoadley, Londyn Milbeck, Kendra Ross, Ally Birger



The Pelican Rapids FFA Dairy Evaluation team took home first place at the regional event. They competed against 15 other teams and 75+ individuals. The Dairy Evaluation team now advances to the Minnesota State FFA Convention April 28-29th. Individual Placings:

- Olivia Johnson - 2nd
- Madilyn Johnson - 9th
- Kolbi Ross - 10th
- Aubry Hoadley - 23rd

Region 6A MSHSL Arts Competition



It was a fun Awards Day at the Region 6A MSHSL Arts Competition on April 24! Pelican Rapids students submitted 18 works of art alongside the work of 13 other schools in the region, with 163 works total on display at New York Mills Regional Cultural Center. Each artwork entered is scored by three different judges, with the average of the scores leading to an Excellent Award or Superior Award. There is also one 'Best in Category' awarded for each distinct art category and one 'Best in Show' that the judges all come together to choose.



Earning Excellent awards for Pelican were Olivia Kunz, Lluvia DeLuna Julsrud, and Ella Schleske in Drawing, Valeria Reyna and Kendall Krueger-Pierce in Painting, Kendall Krueger-Pierce in Sculpture, Daisy Holl in Computer-based art, and Jaelynn Clark in Ceramics. Also competing were Violet Solinger in Drawing, McKenna Erickson in Sculpture, Leigha Pixley in Painting, and Aubry Stoll in Ceramics.



Earning Superior Awards (highest scores) were Daisy Holl in Computer-based art and Printmaking, Kendall Krueger-Pierce in Painting, and Connor Thammavongsa in Digital Photography. Daisy Holl also earned Best in Category in both Printmaking and Computer Based Art. Congratulations to these talented and hard-working artists!

Pelican Rapids students Olivia and Madilyn Johnson placed fifth in the country at the 2025 Under age 21 Junior Curling National Championships in Bowling Green, Ohio, which ran from April 1 to April 6.



The sisters, representing Team Rokke along with teammates Lily Rokke and Karna Thurlow, competed against the nation's top young curlers and narrowly missed a spot in the playoff round. Congratulations on this amazing accomplishment!

DISTRICT

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 to the Pelican Rapids area after post-secondary schooling to live and work in our community.

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



PRHS ALUMNI



SHARE YOUR STORY

ISD 548 SCHOOL BOARD

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME AND ENERGY WITH OUR SCHOOL!



- STACI ALLMARAS
- GREG LARSON
- JON KARGER
- BRENDA OLSON
- ANDREW SORUM
- MOLLY WELCH

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:
MACLAIN HOVLAND, EDUARDO SANCHEZ

Pelican Rapids School Fund

The mission of the Pelican Rapids School Fund is to provide financial support on projects which will provide and enhance educational opportunities for students of Independent School District (ISD) 548, thus making a positive impact on our community and world. Tax deductible donations can be given through West Central Initiative.
Online: <https://wcif.org/fund/psf>
Mail: West Central Initiative, PO Box 318, Fergus Falls, MN 56572



District Buildings & Grounds Update

Spring is in full swing, we have been busy with outside cleanup and spring sporting events. Graduation will be here soon and that will start another busy summer, this will be the last year of tuck pointing at the high school wrapping up a 5 year project, we will be replacing a set of outside doors and framework at the Elementary along with several smaller projects. We continue to do maintenance and improvements on all School District buildings and grounds and before we know it we will be starting School in the fall. Enjoy the summer and all Pelican Rapids area has to offer.



Trevor Steeves
Building & Grounds
Superintendent

ENROLLMENT

- 800 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 for district residents
- 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 with seating for 500
- Indoor Activities Center
- Outdoor lighted complexes for baseball, football and soccer fields; track
- Multi-Use Trail Head Building with warming house, bike repair, & concessions



BEING A VIKING MEANS YOU:

ATTEND FREE PRESCHOOL

MEET AMAZING & DIVERSE STUDENTS

LEARN THE 7 HABITS® LEADERSHIP SKILLS

CHOOSE FROM 13 DIFFERENT SPORTS

JOIN 20 STUDENT GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

ACQUIRE UP TO 40 COLLEGE CREDITS

EARN CDL, CNA & EMT CERTIFICATIONS

EXPLORE MUSIC, ART & THEATER INTERESTS

EXPERIENCE A RESPECTFUL LEARNING

ENVIRONMENT

LEARN FROM DEDICATED & CARING STAFF

EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS

GRADUATE WITH A PLAN & A FUTURE

We recently invited our staff to share their favorite aspects of working at Pelican Rapids Schools. Here's what they shared with us:

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

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

"My favorite aspect of working in the Pelican Rapids School System is the staff members with whom I work closely. To come to work everyday and truly believe that your coworker will work hard to help you, in anyway they can, is an awesome feeling and experience."

"My co-workers because they are incredibly knowledgeable, thoughtful and great fun!"

"The people. There are so many people here that genuinely care for you."

"Seeing the children light up when they come to school and to spend time building relationships with them so they can be successful in school by feeling safe and understood."

"That the staff cares about each other and the well-being of our students."

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED:

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

SCAN to apply



EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONS:

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

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

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!

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.



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!



Looking Ahead

- May 8 PRHS Band Concert 7:30pm - FAA
- May 12 PRHS Choir Concert 7:30pm - FAA
- May 14 Yearbook Dedication 10:40am - FAA
- May 14 Scholarship Night 6:30pm - FAA
- May 18 Baccalaureate 7:00pm - FAA
- May 21 Last Day of School
- May 22 Teacher Workshop
- May 23 Graduation 7:00pm - Leaders Gym

FAA = Fine Arts Auditorium

East Parking/Entrance: across from FAA, Door 7

West Parking/Entrance: behind FFA, Door 14 (elevator access)

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



www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us



Pelican Rapids Public Schools