



PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

January 14, 2022

PLSAS Staff and Families,

District leaders have been closely monitoring COVID-19 data and staffing rates this week. We are seeing an increase in positive COVID-19 cases. While we have implemented the shortened quarantine option for 5 days for staff, we continue to experience critical staffing shortages based on increased employee absences combined with a growing number of job vacancies throughout our district. As a result, **Distance Learning will continue through Friday, January 21**. We will continue to monitor our data, and should the staffing levels support it, **it is our intention to return to In-Person Learning beginning Monday, January 24**. Families and staff will be notified next Thursday evening if this needs to be altered.

Updated school schedule K-12:

- Monday, January 17 - No school, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Tuesday, January 18 - Distance Learning
- Wednesday, January 19 - Distance Learning
- Thursday, January 20 - Distance Learning
- Friday, January 21 - Distance Learning
- Monday, January 24 - In-Person Learning resumes

Please continue reporting student absences due to illness, including positive COVID-19 cases, to your child's school during Distance Learning.

K-12 Building access for students during Distance Learning Jan. 19-21

If absolutely necessary, students can come to school during Distance Learning. **Due to our staffing limitations, parents/guardians should only use this option if it is absolutely necessary for their student to be supervised and/or access internet resources.** There will not be in-person, teacher-led instruction provided at the school; the teacher-led instruction will continue to be provided online only but students will be supervised. Bus service will be available to students who are registered utilizing the below link. Parents/guardians will need to fill out the following form by Monday, January 17 at 5:00 p.m. to access this option for their student(s). <https://forms.gle/mgp6GgJAL5pwRbBv7>

Special Education Programs:

We will provide in-person instruction starting on Wednesday, January 19 for students with IEPs in our center-based programs, including the following programs:

- Life Skills - Glendale, Redtail Ridge, Twin Oaks, PLHS
- CID - Hamilton Ridge, Twin Oaks, PLHS
- Plus/EBD - Five Hawks, Hidden Oaks, PLHS

All center-based programs will follow regular building and student hours. Please continue to report absences through our attendance line.

Early Learning Programs:

Circle of Friends Preschool, ECFE and ECSE will return to regularly scheduled in-person classes on Wednesday, January 19. Please continue to report absences through our attendance line.

*Regular transportation will be provided for students in the above listed Special Education center based programs and ECSE.

Child Nutrition Services

PLSAS LakerMarketplace will continue to offer free, curbside Meals-to-Go during Distance Learning. Curbside meals will be 3 days worth of free breakfast and lunches available for pickup on Friday, January 21 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at three locations.

Meal pick-up locations are determined by the first letter of your student's last name:

Twin Oaks Last Name Begins with: A - K

Jeffers Pond Last Name Begins with: L - P

WestWood Last Name Begins with: Q - Z

Order form for ALL students/children ages 18 and under: <https://forms.gle/e9xUeaRHA5kJDWpPA>

Kids' Company

Kids' Company will be closed January 19-21 (Preschool-Grade 5). Kids' Company families will not be billed for January 19-21 (Preschool-Grade 5).

What you can do to help

We appreciate the many parents/guardians who volunteered to serve lunch last fall and our staff who have been going above and beyond to fill staffing gaps that have allowed us to remain in-person learning to this point. As many of you know, there is a national staffing crisis and PLSAS is feeling those same impacts. Currently, we have more than 60 positions open in our district. Below are options for parents/guardians who may be interested in employment in our schools.

We're hiring: Become a [child nutrition](#), [custodial](#), [paraprofessional](#) or [Kids' Co assistant](#). View all open positions, [here](#).

Substitute Teach: To be a substitute teacher, an individual would need to get a short-call substitute license and apply through Teachers On Call. Click [here](#) for information.

Other Substitute Positions: To become a non-certified substitute, such as a paraprofessional or educational assistant, click [here](#).

Volunteer: Opportunities to volunteer are limited because of COVID-19 protocols. If opportunities become available, building principals will communicate directly with parents/guardians.

Please know that we realize these changes are not easy for anyone and every decision made is done so by thinking through the many ripple effects each transition brings. We are all eager to get students back into the building as soon as possible. We also need to make sure we have the staff to sustain instruction and operations when we return. Thank you for your continued partnership during these challenging times.

Be well,

Teri Staloch, Ed. D.
Superintendent