

PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

# WELCOME

## CLASS OF 2036



# KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



ONLINE ENROLLMENT BEGINS **JANUARY 12**  
[WWW.PLSAS.ORG/ENROLL](http://WWW.PLSAS.ORG/ENROLL)

# Countdown to Kindergarten



**January 12, 2023**

**District wide online kindergarten enrollment**

**[www.plsas.org/enroll](http://www.plsas.org/enroll)**

Parents are strongly encouraged to register their child between January 12 and January 31, 2023 to help us plan for staffing needs at each building.

Families who do not have computer access can visit the District Services Center (DSC) to use our computer kiosk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please allow 30 minutes to complete enrollment. The DSC is located at 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake.

**Save the dates!**

We are planning some exciting events designed for you and your kindergarten student. Save the dates below.

**May 15, 2023**

Kindergarten Open House  
Five Hawks, Redtail Ridge,  
3:30-4:30 p.m.

Glendale, Hamilton Ridge, Jeffers  
Pond, La ola del lago at Grainwood,  
WestWood, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**August 1-11, 2023**

Great Start to Kindergarten  
assessment days. Specific dates and  
information will come from your  
child's schools.





## Providing an education as unique as your child.

Welcome! At Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, we know that every child learns differently. That's why we offer program options to meet varying needs and to optimize learning for all students.

We believe all kindergarten students need developmentally appropriate activities throughout their day in the areas of gross and fine motor skills, cognitive development and social/emotional development.

We form partnerships with parents to create a safe, caring, cooperative environment where students learn through developmentally appropriate practices while showing respect for themselves, others and their community.

Our teachers are highly trained, licensed professionals who have a passion for education and are ready to deliver high-quality instruction and a successful kindergarten experience for your child.



*Our mission is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community.*



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# Kindergarten Programs

Parents of kindergarten students have the option to register for Full-Day Kindergarten available at their elementary boundary school or La ola del lago, Full-Day Kindergarten Spanish Immersion at Grainwood. The curriculum outcomes for students are the same whether involved in the traditional Full-Day Kindergarten or La ola del lago Spanish Immersion. The school day for both programs is 6 1/2 hours and includes the core curriculum as well as field trips, music, physical education, art and technology/media, with all students having access to iPads and SMART Boards in their classroom.

## Full-Day Kindergarten

Full-Day Kindergarten provides a well-rounded kindergarten curriculum that gives each child the opportunity to discover and learn through listening, observing, exploring, experimenting and practicing. Students will have experiences that promote social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth, with curriculum that follows Minnesota state standards in math, reading, writing, social studies and science. Each child is introduced to a wide range of academic curriculum that helps develop the whole child. During Full-Day Kindergarten, students have quiet time during the day, but this is not usually a time that children sleep.

Curricular Areas	Kindergarten
Social readiness and work habits, Responsive Classroom	Morning meeting, expectations and logical consequences, Second Step and classroom organization
Reading	Whole-group instruction, small group guided reading sessions, including phonics instruction, along with opportunities for independent reading
Writing	Whole-group instruction, small group guided writing sessions, and independent writing
Math	Core instruction. Extension activities that provide challenge based on student ability.
Science & E-STEM (Environmental Education - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)	Core instruction. Extension activities that provide challenge based on student ability.
Social Studies	Core instruction
Specials: Art, Music, PhyEd, Media/Technology	250 minutes/week

# Full-Day Kindergarten Spanish Immersion

## La ola del lago at Grainwood

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Parents have the option of enrolling their child in La ola del lago at Grainwood, the district's full-day Spanish Immersion program for students in grades K-5. La ola del lago welcomes students from anywhere within the district and outside its boundaries. As part of the public school system, there is no tuition cost to parents and in-district transportation is provided.

La ola del lago translates to “wave of the lake,” a name that symbolizes the natural resources of our community and the district's commitment to environmental education.

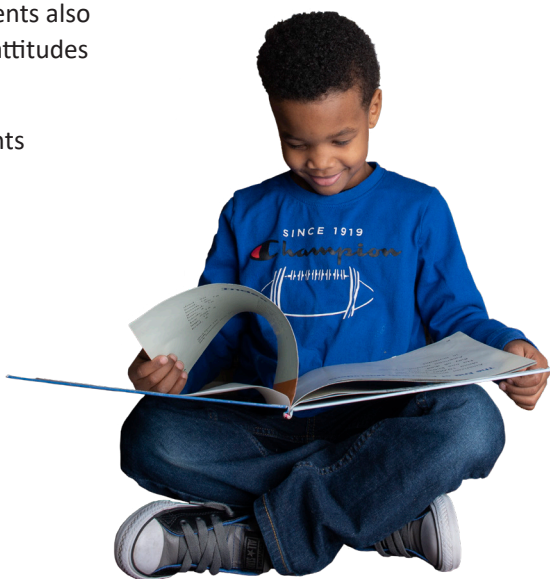
La ola del lago is similar to traditional kindergarten curriculum except all classroom instruction is in Spanish. Students develop high levels of proficiency in their first language and work toward the same academic standards as students in the traditional Full-Day Kindergarten program.

Core curriculum is similar, with the same look and feel of the traditional program curriculum. Students also participate in field trips, music, physical education, art and technology/media. Instruction is differentiated through individual, small group and whole-group instruction.

The teachers speak Spanish throughout the day using expressive tones, exaggerated gestures and many visual aids. Teachers often use songs, useful phrases, and rhymes and structure the day with familiar routines.

Immersion students demonstrate flexibility in thinking and enhanced sensitivity to verbal and non-verbal cues. They are also able to communicate with people they would otherwise not have a chance to know and are able to travel and experience other cultures more meaningfully. All students also demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.

Parents of Spanish Immersion students should be willing to strongly support the program and transmit their enthusiasm to their student, yet families do not need to speak or be fluent in Spanish at home. Parents should be willing to encourage their child during challenging times and learn to take risks in speaking and writing a second language.





# E-STEM Education

## Environmental Education - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math

Our schools are the first district-wide E-STEM schools in the state of Minnesota. E-STEM is an interdisciplinary approach to instruction and learning focused on inquiry and real world problem-solving in the 21st Century, applying hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematical practices with projects and field experiences related to the environment.

E-STEM is available to all students, early childhood through grade 12. Our award-winning programs have been modeled by school districts throughout the state and country.

Our district programs have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with PLSAS being named a Green Ribbon Schools Sustainability District that supports Environmental Education (EE).



Thanks to community partners, innovative teachers, our Community Education services and the natural beauty surrounding our district, our schools lead the way in integration of environmental education into all aspects of the school day.



Our program is unique in that environmental education is embedded into the core curriculum. This is a major component to the success of the program which results in students who learn to become critical thinkers and approach problem solving by studying multiple perspectives.

Every school has an outdoor classroom setting used by teachers and students. Each year, our elementary schools hold a day-long, outdoor EE festival that has captured the attention of Twin Cities media and has become a tradition students look forward to each year.

# Kindergarten Entry Goals

Children are natural learners. Their innate curiosity, sense of wonder and exploratory nature are traits that will be fostered and nourished in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools' kindergarten program. Kindergarten students will experience growth in the following curricular areas: Social Readiness, Self-Help Skills, Work Habits, Reading, Writing, Science, Technology, Math, Social Studies, Health & Safety, Music, Art and Physical Education.

Some ideas to help prepare your child for kindergarten are listed below.

- Demonstrates increasing comfort with separation from family/caregivers
- Manages clothing, bathroom use and outdoor gear independently
- Speaks their first and last name when asked
- Shares their parents/caregivers first and last name when asked
- Asks for help when needed
- Tries hard to complete a task of interest
- Enjoys reading together and is careful handling books
- Writes their first name
- Recognizes some letters and can make their sounds
- Asks: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How questions
- Labels how she or he is feeling
- Labels how a friend or family member is feeling
- Counts to 10
- Can identify "more" and "less"
- Enjoys puzzles
- Draws a picture and replaces the marker cap when finished
- Labels 5 shapes
- Moves safely from one place to the next, quickly and slowly
- Hold a scissors and pencil

Have you scheduled your  
Early Childhood Screening?  
Call: 952-226-0975

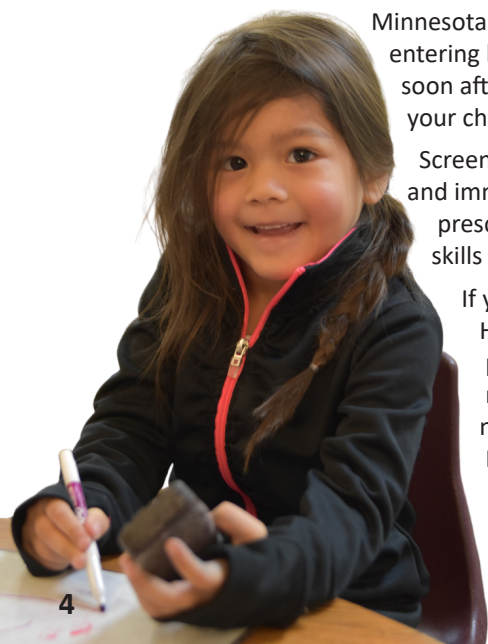
## Early Childhood Screening

Minnesota requires all children to be screened before entering kindergarten. The screening is most valuable soon after your child's third birthday and gives you and your child an early connection to PLSAS.

Screening is FREE and includes growth, development, and immunization checks. Your child will be assessed in preschool concepts, communication skills, motor skills and social-emotional skills.

If your child has already been screened in HeadStart or in another school district, please provide the screening report. Children only need to be screened one time. Children do not need to be screened if they have an active Individualized Education Program.

Parents can choose to conscientiously object to screening for their child. If you object, please provide a signed statement indicating your conscientious objection screening.





# Kindergarten Entry Goals

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Kindergarten students will play, explore, discover and grow. Support their learner readiness by reading together often, counting items in the grocery cart, talking about feelings and singing songs. Encourage independence in the bathroom and with dressing. Play together imaginatively. Write your names together and then talk about the letter names and their sounds. If your child finds it fun, practice their home address and phone number. Label your child's backpack with this information and ensure they know where that is located. Share positive memories you have from school. Be excited together!

## Great Start to Kindergarten

PLSAS is committed to preparing instruction that caters to the unique learning needs of all children. To help us in our planning, we will be scheduling "Great Start to Kindergarten" assessments for students August 1-11, 2023.

In the summer, we will be contacting enrolled kindergarten families with specific dates and times to schedule your child's "Great Start to Kindergarten" experience.

A trained staff member will work with your child one-on-one to measure reading, math and social skills. The testing will take up to 30 minutes and will help us place your child in the kindergarten classroom that is best suited for him/her.

**Enrollment is for students 5-years-old by September 1. Children reaching age 5 after September 1 may meet specific criteria for early entrance into kindergarten. Call your building principal for details.**



# School Services

## Transportation

The attendance areas for kindergarten are established by elementary school boundaries. To find your designated school, please visit [www.plsas.org/map](http://www.plsas.org/map)



Kindergarten bus stops will change from year-to-year to recognize changing needs of in-district students. The transportation department will determine bus stop locations in the summer and post bus assignments and bus stop locations to your personal Infinite Campus website account in mid August. Open enrolled students are eligible to ride the bus from any established stop located within the school attendance boundary area. Parents requiring child care, second household or open enrolled stops will need to submit an Alternate Bus Stop Request Form, available on the district website, by July 15. These forms are due every year.

Bus stops in your neighborhood have been established to serve all children. While we are not able to make bus stops within eyesight of every student’s house, we do make every effort to create kindergarten stops as close to home as possible. To help make the bus stop as safe as possible, we recommend that a parent wait with kindergarten students at the bus stop. In addition, bus stops are frequently checked by transportation personnel to help ensure the safety of all students. Per state law, the maximum walking distance, without hazards, to a bus stop for students in grades K-5 is 1 mile.

## Child Nutrition Services

All kindergarten students receive a free breakfast and have the option to purchase lunch or bring their own lunch. All student lunch accounts remain prepaid with deposits made with cash, check or credit card. The district has contracted with SchoolCafé to provide the added convenience of using a credit card, with no transaction fees, to prepay for meals. Free and Reduced-Price Lunch assistance is available. Application forms are located on our website on the Child Nutrition Services page and on our SchoolCafé app. Menus can be found on our website or by downloading the SchoolCafé app on your mobile device. If your child has any food allergies, please submit a doctor’s note to the Health Aide at your child’s school.

## Health Services

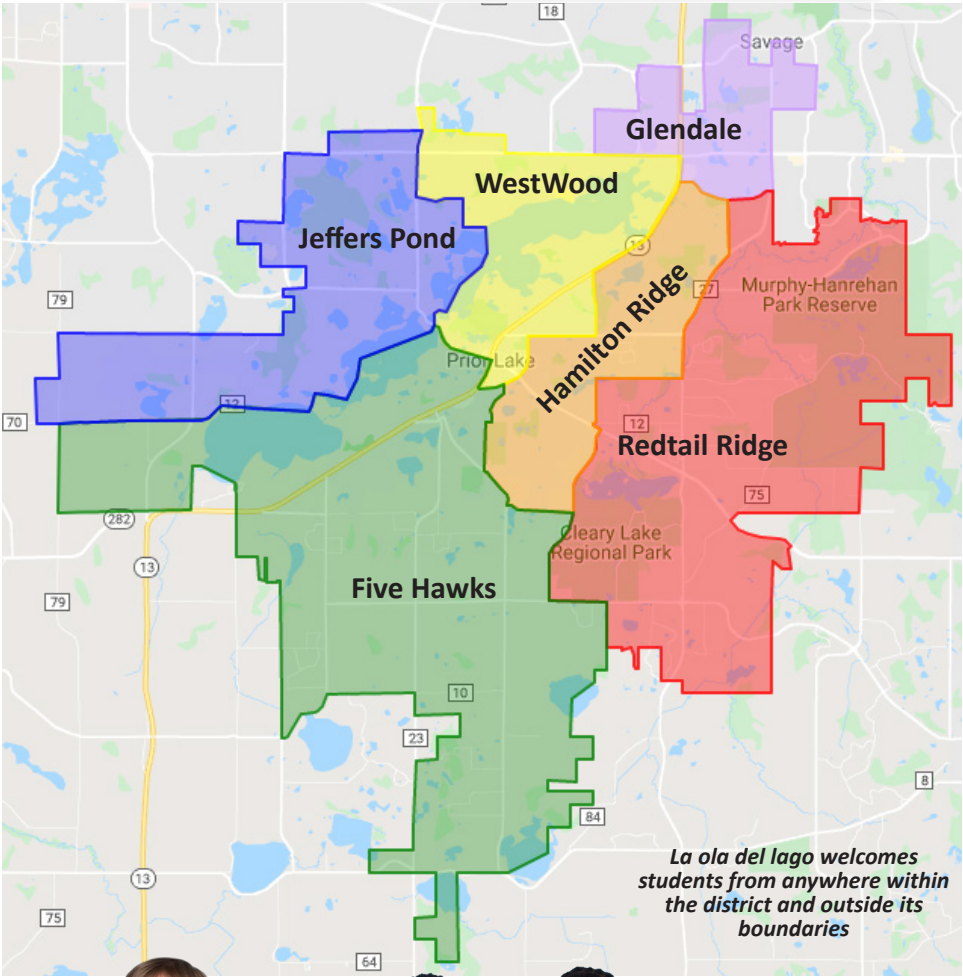
PLSAS provides health services support for all students in the district. If your child has any chronic health concerns, please indicate this under the Health Services section of the online enrollment process, which opens on January, 12, 2023. Our health services department will coordinate with you to accommodate your child’s health needs by creating individualized health care plans.

Per Minnesota School’s Immunization Law, all children attending public school must be up to date with required vaccinations, must show proof of medical exemption by a medical provider, or must provide notarized non-medical exemption from parent. Please upload your child’s immunization record or send to their school during the online enrollment process.

Please visit our website or call your child’s health office if you would like additional information regarding individualized health care plans, medication during the school day or immunization information.

# Attendance Boundaries

To find your elementary boundary school, visit:  
[www.plsas.org/map](http://www.plsas.org/map)



# Resident & Non-Resident Students

## Resident Students

Resident students will attend their elementary boundary school or La ola del lago Spanish Immersion at Grainwood, and complete the enrollment process online. Parents are strongly encouraged to register their child between January 12 and January 31, 2023 to help us plan for staffing needs at each building.

### La ola del lago for Resident Families

Currently, the district has the capacity to accommodate 92 kindergarten students at La ola del lago (LODL). If there are fewer than 92 resident students enrolled at LODL by February 6, all the children registered will be accepted. If more than 92 resident students have submitted a kindergarten enrollment indicating a preference for LODL, the district will conduct a lottery on February 7. Parents of resident students wishing to attend LODL must enroll by February 7 to be included in the lottery.

Incoming resident kindergarten students who are siblings of current LODL students will receive priority in the lottery. Resident students registering after February 6 will be accepted into LODL on a first come, first served basis until the district reaches 92 students at LODL or, if a lottery was conducted, they will be placed on a waiting list.



## Non-Resident Students

PLSAS welcomes non-resident students as Lakers through the Minnesota Department of Education's Open Enrollment (OE) program. Under OE, families are requesting enrollment into the district, not a site within the district. OE forms are to be filled out listing 3 school options (no options are guaranteed). OE students will be assigned a school based on building capacity and district class sizes.

We are accepting and approving applications for open enrollment until January 30, 2023. After that time, applications will be approved as space allows. School placement will be announced to approved, open enrollment families in May.

**To open enroll into the district, please fill out an open enrollment form located on our website: [www.plsas.org/enroll/open-enrollment](http://www.plsas.org/enroll/open-enrollment), then:**

**email it: [btlusty@plsas.org](mailto:btlusty@plsas.org)**

**fax it: 952-226-0049 or**

**mail it: District Services Center, 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372**

**Questions? Please call 952-226-0077**

# Kindergarten Registration

## Online enrollment opens Jan. 12, 2023

Beginning January 12, PLSAS will open online enrollment for all new students, including incoming 2023-24 kindergarten students. At that time, families can visit the district's enrollment page to begin the student registration process (please see pg. 8 for important resident and non-resident enrollment details).

**Parents and guardians of incoming kindergarten students are strongly encouraged to register their child online between January 12 and January 31, 2022 at [www.plsas.org/enroll](http://www.plsas.org/enroll)**

To help prepare for online enrollment, please have your child's most recent immunization record ready to upload, along with your student's birth certificate or passport. Please note that online enrollment cannot be completed from a cell phone.

Paper enrollment packets will not be mailed. Enrollment will only be available online or by visiting the District Services Center, 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday - Friday. Families who do not have computer access can visit the District Services Center (DSC) to use our computer kiosk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please allow 30 minutes to complete enrollment. The DSC is located at 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake.

## Watch Our Kindergarten Videos

Visit our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/isd719](http://www.youtube.com/isd719) to view our Full-Day Kindergarten and La ola del lago at Grainwood videos where you can see what a school day looks like for kindergarten students. You can also scan the QR codes below to watch the videos instantly.



Full-Day Kindergarten video



La ola del lago at Grainwood video

### Kids' Company School-Age Care

Kids' Company, a program of Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools Community Education Services, offers before, after and non-school day care for all kindergarten students at every elementary school. Kids' Company can also be your choice for child care during the summer. While attending Kids' Company, students are offered choices that promote social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth through interactive and immersive activities and experiences. For more information about Kids' Company, including how to register, visit [www.plsas.org/KidsCo](http://www.plsas.org/KidsCo)

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# Elementary Schools

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**Five Hawks Elementary**

16620 Five Hawks Avenue SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0100



**Glendale Elementary**

6601 Connolly Parkway, Savage  
952-226-0200



**Hamilton Ridge Elementary**

8100 157th Street, Savage  
952-461-7800



**Jeffers Pond Elementary**

14800 Jeffers Pass NW, Prior Lake  
952-226-0600



**La ola del lago at Grainwood**

5061 Minnesota Street SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0300



**Redtail Ridge Elementary**

15200 Hampshire Avenue, Savage  
952-226-8000



**WestWood Elementary &  
SAGE Academy**

5370 Westwood Drive SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0400



**Edgewood School**

(Early Childhood Screening,  
Circle of Friends Preschool, ECSE, ECSE)  
5304 Westwood Drive SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0900

# Responsive Classroom

All elementary schools practice the principles of Responsive Classroom to teach students the social skills of C.A.R.E.S. (Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control) where social-emotional and academic learning combine to encourage and empower children. Responsive Classroom helps to increase social skills and academic achievement, creates positive classroom climate and expands learner independence.

## Volunteer

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in all of our elementary schools. The PTC (Parent Teacher Child) and DOGS (Dads of Great Students) are groups that support our schools through many volunteer efforts.

## Communication

Principals regularly communicate via parent newsletters and social media to help keep parents informed of events and school happenings.

In addition, our elementary schools use an online communication tool called Seesaw which offers a virtual window into the classroom. Seesaw is a student-driven digital portfolio that empowers students to create, reflect, share and collaborate. Parents use a unique login to see their child's work in one place along with important classroom updates and information from the school office.

**All K-12 students  
have access to iPads  
and SMART Boards**





4540 Tower Street SE  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE  
AREA SCHOOLS

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 30  
Prior Lake, MN

**Welcome to kindergarten at Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools!**  
**Online enrollment opens January 12, 2023**  
**[www.plsas.org/enroll](http://www.plsas.org/enroll)**