

Lakeland Elementary

BACK TO SCHOOL ♦ NEWS



...LET'S DO THIS!!!!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

I am excited to enter into the 24-25 school year. This year will be full of loving, and growing as community of learners.

At Lakeland, our focus is to embrace a whole child approach to learning. This means we focus on nurturing not just academic skills, but also the social, emotional, physical, and creative development of each student. Our goal is to create a supportive and engaging learning environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential. By integrating a broad range of activities and personalized learning experiences, we ensure that every child is seen, valued, and empowered to succeed.

Our theme for the year is, "Remember Your Why". This concept will be the center of what we do as educators and, I hope, families. We will strive to keep the students as the focus in all that we do, every decision we make, and every goal throughout the year.

Each student will receive a t-shirt that says, "I'm Their Reason Why". Teachers will be getting sizes for the student shirts during the back to school meetings. Once the shirts have arrived, we will encourage students to wear them on certain celebration days throughout the year.

So...let's do this, parents! It is going to be great year.

 *Gretchen Baumgardner*

Important Numbers:

Main Line:
(320)263-5020

Attendance:
(320)263-5021

Nurse:
(320)263-5014

Palmer Bus:
(320)382-6421

Willmar Bus:
(320)235-2110

Woodlands Mobile
Crisis:
(800)432-8781



School/Family Partnership Opportunities

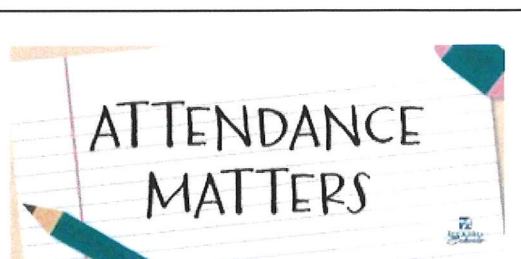
We love our Lakeland students and their families. There are many ways to be involved in your child's school year:

- Join the school and classroom REMIND accounts. This is a great way to quickly connect with your child's teacher and receive important announcements.
- Attend Parent/Teacher Meetings
- Volunteer in your child's classroom (background check required)
- Come to Family Night Activities
- Participate in Feedback Surveys

This year we will once again be holding our "We Are Lakeland" School/Parent meetings. These will be held three times throughout the school year:

- Monday, Sept 30
- Monday, Jan 27
- Monday, May19

All meetings will be held in the STEM room and will begin at 4:00pm. The agendas of the meetings will center on our school Title 1 goals giving parents the chance for feedback on those areas as well as help give ideas for school events.



In order to learn, we need your child at school! If you are having a hard time getting your child to school (or getting him/her to school on time), please reach out. We are here to help! The following attendance policies will be followed:

- Three unexcused absences will result in a truancy referral with Kandiyohi County.
- After ten illness days, a doctor's note will be required to excuse a child as sick. Without a note, it will be an excused absence.

If your child will not be in school, please remember to call the attendance office.

SAFETY FIRST

Your child's safety is important to us. Because of that, please have your ID ready when you are picking up your child. Only adults who are listed on our Campus/Parent Portal system will be allowed to check a student out of school.

If you have custody restrictions, please get the paperwork to the office to ensure our information is up to date.

During the school year, we will be practicing safety drills with the adults and students. Our hope is to be prepared in case of any type of emergency. We will practice various drills and scenarios. Some of the drills will be practiced with staff only. More information will be coming throughout the year.

Beginning/End of the Day Procedures:

Our doors open at 8:15 for student arrival. Buses enter the back parking lot, and students enter through the back doors. Parent drop off happens in the front of the school. Please do not leave your car when dropping off students in the drop off lane. If you wish to walk your child into school, please park your car in the parking lot.

Student dismissal time is 3:20 for K-5. Students riding the bus home will leave from the back of the school. Our goal is to have buses leaving the school by 3:25. Parent pick up happens in the front of the school. Students line up by their grade level colored flag. Please continue to pull ahead when waiting in line. Do not leave your car unattended in the pick up line. Please use the parking lot to leave your car if you wish to walk up and get your child.

PLEASE ONLY USE DESIGNATED PARKING SPOTS IN THE LOTS. THIS INCLUDES LEAVING THE HANDICAPPED SPACES FOR THOSE WITH SPECIALLY IDENTIFIED VEHICLES.

BE PATIENT AND WATCH FOR CHILDREN. PLEASE DEMONSTRATE KINDNESS IN THE PARKING LOT. WE WANT ALL KIDS TO GET HOME SAFELY.

Meet the Administrators:



Gretchen Baumgarn
Principal

Gretchen Baumgarn has been the principal at Lakeland since it opened in the fall of 2017. Prior to that, she has been a classroom teacher and Dean of Students in the Forest Lake and Willmar districts.



Rikka Williamson
Dean of Students

Rikka Williamson is beginning her first year as the Dean of Students at Lakeland. Prior to that, she has been a teacher and Instructional Coach in the Alexandria and Willmar districts.



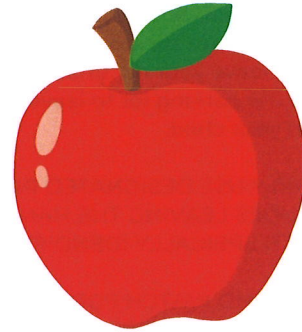
Let us know how we can support:

- We are here to help! Please reach out at any time if you have concerns about your child.
 - We are often not in our offices, so please leave a message if you call.
 - If you would like to come in and talk with us (we love that!) please check with the admin assistants, Alissa and Lexi, to schedule a time. We want to make sure we are available when you come to school.
 - We love your kids! Partnering with you is a great way to ensure they have a great school year.
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Important Dates: September 2024

Sept 3-4: Parent/Teacher Back to School Meetings
Fall Pictures During Meetings, 8-3:30
Sept 5: First Day of School, K-5
Sept 9: First Day of School, Pre-K
Sept 23: Vision and Hearing Screening
Sept 23-27: Homecoming Week Dress Up Days
Mon 9/23--Pajama Day
Tues 9/24--Crazy Hair/Hat Day
Wed 9/25--Sport/Jersey Day
Thurs 9/26--Twin Day
Fri 9/27--Red and White/Cardinal Day



Important Dates: October 2024

Oct 4: No School for Students
Oct 7: Vision/Hearing Re-Screening
Oct 17-18: No School
Oct 21: "We Are Lakeland" School/Parent Meeting
Oct 23: Picture Retakes
Oct 31: End of Term 1

Stay Connected! Contact Us Anytime.

LAKELAND ELEMENTARY	320-263-5020
Twitter: @WillmarLake Remind: @willlake Facebook: Willmar Public Schools	1001 Lakeland Dr. SE Willmar, MN 56201
