



SCHOOL'S IN SESSION | SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEKEND UPDATE

DAILY REMINDERS

Daily Schedule

- **School starts each day at 7:20am**
- **Traffic near school gets congested most mornings, plan your arrival time accordingly**

Attendance Reminders

- **Students are expected to be in school for the entire day. If an absence is necessary, please follow the steps listed on page 2 for notifying the school**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 30:** School Fundraiser Kickoff
- October 2:** Two hour early release (12:06pm)
- October 11:** Fun Run
- October 16:** No school, Staff In-service
- October 17-18:** No school, MEA Break

SCHOOL POLICY UPDATE

Cell Phones & Personal Electronic Devices

Prior Lake Middle Schools have adopted an "Away for the Day" policy for cell phones and other personal electronic devices. Students may not use their cell phones or other personal electronic devices from the first class bell (7:20) to the last class bell (2:06). For more information on this new policy please review the [family communication](#) sent home last week.

Student Dress Code

The school board has updated the district [Dress Code Policy](#). Students are encouraged to wear clothing that is suitable for the weather, ensures health and safety, and is appropriate for school activities, whether in physical education or classroom settings. Clothing should cover from one armpit to the other and down to approximately mid-thighs, front and back. If wearing see-through or mesh garments, appropriate coverage underneath that meets the dress code requirements is necessary.

MANAGING MIDDLE: IPADS

Managing Middle School can be a tough task for students and their families. Each week we will bring you some tips to help you support your student as they navigate middle school.

iPads are an important learning tool in our schools. Students use their iPads daily to access curriculum, complete assignments, and track their grades. In order to be successful it is important for students to come to school with a **fully charged iPad**.

You can help your student by having an **iPad charging routine at home**. Start by choosing a place where they iPad will charge each night. We recommend the kitchen or living room (not their bedroom). Set a time each night when your student needs to plug in the iPad and double check it is charging. Finally, make it part of the morning routine to put the iPad in their backpack. If you spend a few weeks helping students establish this routine it will become automatic and they can take responsibility for it the rest of the school year.

Student Attendance

Students are expected to be in the assigned class each day. Should your student need to be absent for any reason the school will need to be notified. Please email or call your respective school. Emails are preferred for planned absences

Attendance Contact Information

Hidden Oaks
homsattendance@plsas.org
952-226-0701

Twin Oaks
tomsattendance@plsas.org
952-226-0501

GRIEF SUPPORT AT SCHOOL

The Growing Through Grief Program provides Grief Support Groups at school for students at no cost. With continued support of the Park Nicollet Foundation, it is a community-based partner with PLSAS, committed to providing ongoing grief support. If your child has experienced a significant loss and you'd like this resource shared with him/her, please contact us.

Please feel free to review these short videos and share with students and parents that want more information as they start the referral process to the program.

- Introduction to Park Nicollet Growing Through Grief – Families: <https://youtu.be/dxs11I4BDbY>
- Introduction to Park Nicollet Growing Through Grief – Student: <https://youtu.be/9rwrykExMSY>

Kristin Hodnefield, Hidden Oaks MS, khodnefield@plsas.org

Jenny Witt, Twin Oaks MS, jwitt@plsas.org

TWIN OAKS PICTURES

Dear Twin Oaks Parents,

School pictures are ready!

To order, log in to your account on mylifetouch.com or create an account using your student's student ID number.

All families can also log on and order a FREE Digital SmileSafe card.

More about the Smilesafe program [here](#).

Thank you!

LAKER ACTIVITIES

Students and families are invited to come out and support all Laker Activities this fall. Checkout the [High School Activities](#) page for schedules.

5 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU COME TO PLHS SPORTING EVENTS

- 1 All 8th Graders & Younger**
Must come with an adult who will supervise them throughout the game
- 2 All balls, backpacks, drinks & food**
Will not be allowed in the stadium
- 3 No Reentry**
Once you leave the stadium, you will not be able to reenter
- 4 You must purchase a ticket**
All students & adults must purchase a ticket to enter the game
- 5 Follow @ethelakenation on Instagram**
You will find themes for games!

SCAN ME

PL PRIOR LAKE LAKERS

GET YOUR EVENT TICKETS!

SCAN ME

Purchase your tickets ahead of time for all PLHS Events!

Visit The Website:
<https://www.vancoevents.com/us/eventlist/plsas>

PRIOR LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL ULTIMATE FRISBEE

COED FRISBEE CLINICS
SEPTEMBER 15TH
SEPTEMBER 29TH
OCTOBER 13TH
5-6PM
FIELD WEST OF
PLHS MAIN ENTRANCE

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN AND SCRIMMAGE WITH HIGH SCHOOL TEAM MEMBERS.

USE THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CORNER

Community Education is offering several after school activities for middle school students this Fall including Chess, Golf, and Archery. Checkout the Community Education website for more information.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHT: TOMS JR. OPTIMIST CLUB

7th & 8th Grade Students in the Junior Optimist Club made Thank You letters for First Responders from the Prior Lake & Waconia Fire Department in memory of September 11th. Thanks to advisors Mr. Wabbe and Mrs. Bartholow for helping our students make a difference!



OPERATING LEVY REFERENDUM SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 5



As part of the November 5, 2024 ballot, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools will ask voters to revoke the district's existing operating levy of \$623.97 per student and replace it with a new levy of \$1,803 per student. The new levy would be in place for 10 years and would generate about \$10.8 million for the first year with an inflationary increase in the following years.

If approved, the additional funds would bolster the district's financial stability and support investments in programs aligned with our community-informed Strategic Plan. We propose the following to support each student's growth and success:

- Enhance academic excellence that increases student performance and outcomes
- Increase staffing for behavior intervention and student support
- Expand career pathway programs
- Strengthen safety and security at all schools

Look for more information on the operating levy referendum proposal on the district's website, www.plsas.org/referendum