PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS

WELCOME
CLASS OF 2040



2027-28 SCHOOLYEAR

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

November 30, 6:00 p.m.
Kindergarten Information Night
at Hamilton Ridge Elementary
All families welcome

December 2, 6:00 p.m.
La ola del lago Spanish Immersion
Parent Panel
La ola del lago at WestWood

ONLINE ENROLLMENT BEGINS DECEMBER 10, 2026
WWW.PLSAS.ORG/ENROLL

Countdown to Kindergarten

November 30, 6:00 p.m.
Kindergarten Information Night
Hamilton Ridge Elementary

December 2, 6:00 p.m.
La ola del lago Spanish Immersion Parent Panel, La ola del lago Media Center

December 10
District wide online kindergarten enrollment opens: www.plsas.org/enroll

Parents are strongly encouraged to register their child between December 10, 2026 and January 8, 2027 to help us plan for staffing needs at each building.

May 10, 2027
Kindergarten Open House
Students will have an opportunity to ride a school bus and see their school.

Five Hawks and
Redtail Ridge:
3:30-4:30 p.m.

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

Families who do not have computer access can visit the District Services Center to use our computer kiosk between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (the lobby is closed from 11:30-12 daily for lunch). Please allow 30 minutes to complete enrollment. The DSC is located at 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake.





Providing an education as unique as your child.

Welcome to Kindergarten!
At Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, we understand that every child learns in their own unique way. Our kindergarten classrooms are designed to nurture curiosity, build confidence and support each student's individual growth.

We believe kindergarten should be a time of discovery, growth and joy. Students engage in developmentally appropriate experiences that promote cognitive, social-emotional and physical development—laying a strong foundation for future learning.

Partnerships with families are at the heart of what we do. Together, we create a safe, caring and cooperative environment where children learn through play, exploration and collaboration—while developing respect for themselves, others and their school community.

Our teachers are highly trained, licensed professionals who bring expertise, creativity and passion to every classroom. They are dedicated to providing high-quality instruction and ensuring a positive, successful start to your child's educational journey as a Laker.

Our mission is to inspire and empower each student to reach their full potential.



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Kindergarten Programs

Parents of incoming kindergarten students can choose between Full-Day Kindergarten at their elementary boundary school or Full-Day Spanish Immersion Kindergarten at La ola del lago at WestWood. 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 music, physical education, art, technology/media and often field trips.

Full-Day Kindergarten

Our Full-Day Kindergarten program offers a well-rounded learning experience where children grow through listening, observing, exploring, experimenting and practicing new skills. Students engage in hands-on activities that promote social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. The curriculum aligns with Minnesota Academic Standards in reading, writing, math, science and social studies, helping children build a strong foundation across all subject areas. Each day is thoughtfully structured to support the whole child—balancing active learning with time to recharge. While students enjoy a quiet break during the day, it's typically a restful pause rather than a nap time.

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, ESTEM/Technology	250 minutes/week

Full-Day Kindergarten Spanish Immersion

La ola del lago at WestWood

Parents have the option of enrolling their child in La ola del lago at WestWood, 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.

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 E-STEM Festival that has captured the attention of Twin Cities media and has become a tradition students look forward to each year.



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Everyday Ways to Help Your Child Grow

Starting kindergarten is an exciting milestone. Children learn best through play, conversation and real-life experiences—so the most meaningful preparation happens naturally, in everyday moments with you. Here are a few simple ways to help your child build confidence and readiness for school.

1. Building Independence and Confidence

Kindergarten is a place where children learn to do more on their own. You can support this by giving your child small opportunities to practice independence each day.

- Encourage them to get comfortable being apart from you for short, predictable periods—this helps ease the transition to school.
- Let them practice dressing themselves, zipping coats and putting on outdoor gear.
- Support independence in the bathroom to be able to manage their own needs.
- Practice sharing their first and last name and yours when asked.
- Help them learn to ask for help when they need it and to keep trying when a task feels challenging.

2. Growing Language, Early Literacy and a Love of Learning

The foundation for reading and writing comes from rich language experiences.

- Read together every day. Talk about the pictures, the story and what your child is noticing.
- Explore letter names and sounds in playful ways—point out letters on signs, on cereal boxes, or in their name.
- If they enjoy writing, help them write their name and celebrate their efforts
- Encourage your child to ask and answer questions such as who, what, when, where, why and how.
- Have conversations about feelings—both their own and others'. Naming emotions now helps children thrive socially and academically later.
- If it feels fun, teach them your home address and phone number so they feel safe and confident in new places.

3. Everyday Math Through Play and Real Life

Math for young children should feel hands-on and joyful.

- Count objects as you cook, grocery shop, or clean up: "How many apples do we have?" "Let's count the blocks as we put them away."
- Play with ideas like "more" and "less" during snack time or while sorting toys.
- Practice counting to 20 through songs, games, or movement (like clapping or jumping).
- Explore shapes at home or outside—see how many circles, squares or rectangles you can find.
- Enjoy puzzles together; they build spatial awareness, problem-solving and persistence.

4. Creativity, Play and Fine Motor Skills

Play is the heart of kindergarten. It helps children communicate, think creatively and build important motor skills.

- Offer opportunities for imaginative play—pretend stores, kitchens, superheroes, animals, anything!
- Draw pictures together and encourage adding details. Practice putting marker caps back on to build responsibility and fine-motor strength.
- Let your child use child-safe scissors, crayons, markers and pencils to build hand muscles and coordination.
- Move together—dance, hop, skip and practice moving safely from one place to another.

Most of All…

Talk with your child. Read with your child. Play with your child. These everyday experiences help them build curiosity, confidence, independence and joy—everything they need to be ready for kindergarten and excited for the adventure ahead.

Early Childhood Screening

Minnesota requires all children to be screened before entering public school 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.



Have you scheduled your Early Childhood Screening? Call: 952-226-0975 or scan the code

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

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 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 free breakfast and lunch on school days at no cost. This includes a healthy meal for breakfast and a complete meal for lunch - including a fruit and vegetable. If a student wants something extra - like a milk or an extra entree, they'll need to pay for those items with funds in their SchoolCafé account. If your child has any food allergies, please submit a MN Department of Education Special Diet Statement to the Health Aide at your child's school.

Educational Benefits

You may qualify for educational benefits that could help your whole family! By filling out an Application for Educational Benefits, families may qualify for reduced or waived child care, field trips, discounts on internet service and much more. Even if you don't think you will qualify, all families are encouraged to apply. Your completed application could also provide additional funding for your child's school. Apply through your SchoolCafé account or visit www.plsas.org/meals.

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 December 10, 2026. Our health services department will coordinate with you to accommodate your child's health needs during the school day.

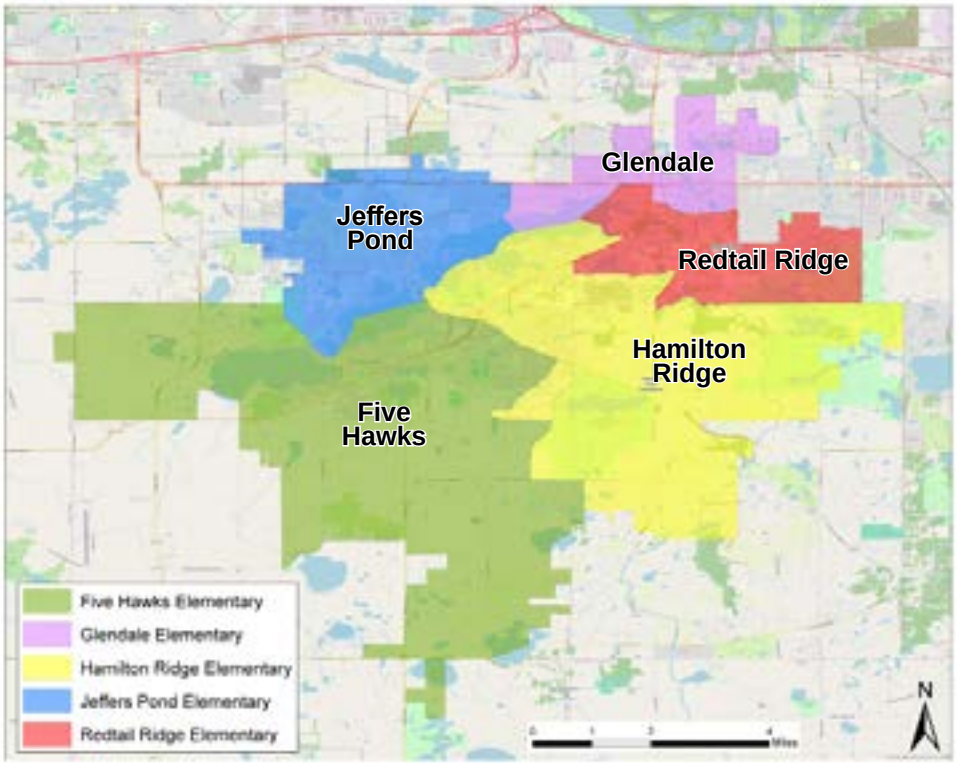
Per Minnesota Department of Health (MDH and Minnesota School Immunization Law, all children attending public school must show documentation of required immunizations before entering kindergarten. Families must provide one of the following:

- A record showing completion of all required immunizations for kindergarten entry,
- A medical exemption signed by a healthcare provider, or
- A notarized conscientious exemption signed by a parent or guardian.

Please email your child's immunization record during the enrollment process to kkeil@plsas.org or send it directly to your child's school health office. For additional information regarding individualized health care plans, medication during the school day, or kindergarten immunization requirements, please visit our website or contact your school's health office.

Attendance Boundaries

To find your elementary boundary school, visit: www.plsas.org/map



La ola del lago welcomes students from anywhere within the district and outside its boundaries



Resident & Non-Resident Students

Resident Students

Resident students will attend their elementary boundary school or La ola del lago Spanish Immersion, and complete the enrollment process online. Parents are strongly encouraged to register their child between December 10, 2026 and January 8, 2027 to help us plan for staffing needs at each building. For resident enrollment questions call 952-226-0000.

La ola del lago for Resident Families

The district is currently accepting enrollments for kindergarten students for the 2027-28 school year. If more students indicate a preference for La ola del lago than available spots, a lottery will be conducted to fill the spots on January 22. You will be notified of the status of your enrollment via email on January 22.

In the event of a lottery, a wait-list will be established and those on the wait-list will be provided with their sequential spot number.

Incoming resident kindergarten students who are siblings of current La ola del lago students will receive priority in the lottery. Resident students registering after January 22 will be accepted into La ola del lago on a first come first served basis.



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 applications for open enrollment. School placement for OE families will be announced in the spring. Forms are available on our website: www.plsas.org/enroll

To open enroll into the district, please fill out an open enrollment form located on our website: plsas.org/enroll/open-enrollment, then:

email it: centralenrollment@plsas.org

fax it: 952-226-0049 or

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

Questions? Please call 952-226-0040

Kindergarten Registration
Online enrollment opens Dec. 10, 2026

Beginning December 10, PLSAS will open online enrollment for all new students, including incoming 2027-28 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 December 10, 2026 and January 8, 2027 at www.plsas.org/enroll

To help prepare for online enrollment, please have your child's birth certificate or passport ready to upload. Please email your child's immunization record to kkeil@plsas.org or send it directly to your child's school health office.

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 (lobby is closed 11:30-12 daily for lunch. Please allow 30 minutes to complete enrollment. The DSC is located at 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake.



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 https://priorlake-savage.arux.app/kidscompany

Kids' Co. Registration for the 2027-28 School Year opens Thursday, April 1
Summer 2027 Kids' Co. Registration opens Monday, March 1

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.

Our Schools

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

Glendale Elementary
6601 Connelly 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
5370 Westwood Drive SE, Prior Lake
952-226-0400

Redtail Ridge Elementary
15200 Hampshire Avenue, Savage
952-226-8000

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