WINTER 2026

THE
VIKING VOICE
PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Pelican Rapids School
District #548
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Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

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WINTER LEARNING, RECREATION, AND ACTIVITIES

Pelican Rapids Community Education

Connecting School & Community through Learning, Recreation, & Activities

- Activities Pre-K-12 students
- Open Pickleball - Adults
- Open Skating
- Open Gym/Walking Track/Weightroom
- Estate, Will & Trust Planning
- Indoor Walking Track
- Babysitter Class
- CDL Theory Training Course - Adults

IN THIS ISSUE

- Viking Preschool & ECFE
- Preschool & Kindergarten Registration
- Club Vikes School-Aged Childcare
- Viking Elementary News & Updates
- Pelican Rapids High School News
- "The Anxious Generation" Book Study
- PRHS Activities/Sports
- District News & Information



VIKING PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026-27



Strong academics, unique course offerings, dynamic art programs, and competitive athletic teams offer numerous opportunities for students of all backgrounds, interests, and abilities to succeed in life, education, and future careers.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



Brian Korf
Superintendent

At Pelican Rapids Public Schools, our mission is clear: to provide a variety of high-quality academic, arts, and athletic programs in a unique rural setting. Each day, that mission guides our decisions, our priorities, and our commitment to students and families.

We believe education is strongest when it is a true partnership between students, families, schools, and our community. Our students remain our top priority, and we are fortunate to have highly qualified staff who provide a positive, rigorous learning environment focused on academic excellence. Our district's diversity enriches learning by giving students meaningful real-world perspectives and experiences, while preparing them for post-secondary education, the workforce, and lifelong learning.

This year, our work is centered around four key priorities:

- Community Engagement: Strengthening relationships with families, local organizations, and community partners to support student success and build pride in our schools.
- Educating the Whole Child: Supporting not only academic growth, but also students' social, emotional, and physical well-being.
- Increasing Student Enrollment: Highlighting the strengths of Pelican Rapids Public Schools and ensuring our district remains a welcoming, high-quality option for families.
- Sound and Transparent Financial Practices: Being responsible stewards of public resources while making strategic investments in students and staff.

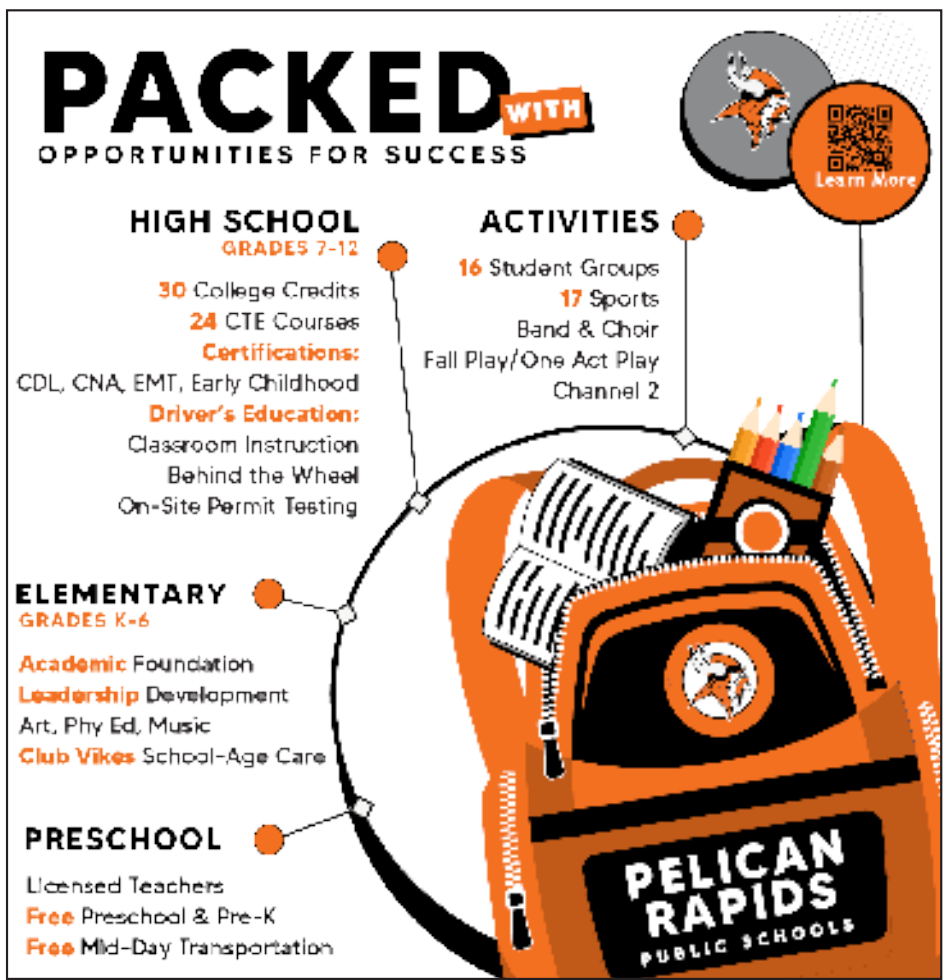
These priorities align directly with our district goals. We are focused on ensuring that 75% of our students are kindergarten-ready, as measured by teacher assessments, because early learning is foundational to long-term success. We are committed to increasing reading and math proficiency for Free and Reduced Price students by 3% each year, recognizing the importance of equity and access for all learners.

At the secondary level, we continue to emphasize future readiness. Our goal is for 100% of graduating seniors to leave Pelican Rapids High School with a clear plan–whether that path leads to postsecondary education, military service, or the workforce. In addition, we are working to ensure our graduation rate exceeds the statewide average, reflecting our commitment to supporting every student through completion.

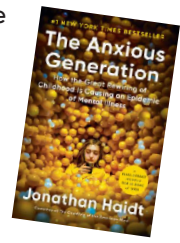
None of this work happens alone. The success of Pelican Rapids Public Schools is built on strong partnerships, dedicated staff, supportive families, and a community that values education. Together, we will continue to build opportunities for our students and ensure a strong future for our district.

Thank you for your continued support of Pelican Rapids Public Schools.





PRHS staff continue professional learning through "The Anxious Generation" book study by Jonathan Haidt, which examines the impact of technology, social media, and screen use on adolescent development. To support families, we are sharing parent newsletters connected to the book study offering insights, conversation starters, and practical strategies you can use at home.



VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST & PROGRAM
NOVEMBER 11, 2025



After the Veterans Day appreciation breakfast, the program began with the PRHS band and choir performing patriotic music as the veterans and their families entered the fine arts auditorium to many rounds of applause. After a few guest speakers, The Missing Man Table, sometimes referred to as the "Fallen Comrade Table," ceremony was performed reminding viewers of those fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. Military Service Members. The program concluded with six area veterans being wrapped in healing Quilts of Valor® whose mission is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor. We were truly honored to be part of such a special day.





VIKING PRESCHOOL & EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

Creating, celebrating, and supporting are the program goals of Viking Preschool and Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

CREATING JOYFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Parents and children have opportunities to share in interactive play-based activities. Engaging in art projects, music and movement activities, sensory play, and storytelling CREATE shared fun and connection for individual families and within the larger group.

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

We get to witness the growth and development of young children with our families. It is so incredibly rewarding. We get to share the privilege of celebrating milestones, both big and small, from a child's first steps to their first words, friendships, favorite songs to dance together, and pre-literacy skills like reading their name at circle time.



Terra Fitzsimmons

Pre-K/ECFE Educator and Coordinator

SUPPORTING THE PARENTING JOURNEY

We have the chance to support parents on their journey through parenthood, offering guidance, reassurance, and practical strategies for navigating the joys and challenges of raising young children. Being able to empower parents and see them grow in confidence and competence is immensely gratifying.

Working with young families allows us to form meaningful relationships with parents and children alike. These connections often extend beyond the classroom, fostering a community and support among families who share similar experiences and challenges.

I love families with young children! I'm so lucky to have the opportunity to work with them every day at Viking Elementary. Come and join us, we would love you to be part of our Viking Preschool & ECFE family!









Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Magical Mondays Class

Join us for weekly parent/child play, art, and circle time!

Who: parents & children ages 1-5

When: starts Monday, September 15 @ 5:30-7:00pm

Where: Viking Elementary ECFE classroom

Cost: no fees, registration required



Located in Viking Elementary and taught by licensed teachers, Viking Preschool is offered at no cost to Pelican Rapids District residents. Our program now includes free mid-day transportation to licensed daycares.

AGES 3-4 PRESCHOOL (two half days)

- Tuesdays/Thursdays OR Wednesdays/Fridays *
- 8:00-11:15am or 11:45-3:00pm

**session days/times can vary depending on registrations*

AGES 4-5 PRESCHOOL (five half days)

- Monday - Friday
- 8:00-11:15am or 11:45-3:00pm

School readiness is built on the foundation of support that nurtures each child's unique characteristics, knowledge, and skills, equipping them for long-term success. It encompasses essential aspects of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development–each playing a crucial role in preparing children for a smooth transition from early learning to kindergarten and beyond. At Viking Preschool, our dedicated staff are committed to fostering these critical areas, ensuring that every child is well-prepared and confident as they take their next educational steps.

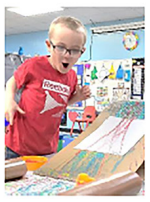
Math & Literacy Skills: Rhyming, Phonics, Letter Recognition, Number Recognition, Handwriting, Calendar Skills, Patterning, Counting, Sorting

Fine & Gross Motor Skills: Gluing, Cutting, Throwing, Catching, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Play, Hopping, Running

Social & Emotional: Sharing, Taking Turns, Table Manners, Handwashing, Greeting Friends, Sharing Stories, Communicating, Games

WCMCA Head Start

Preschool Program for 3-5-year-olds
Early Head Start Program for 0-3-year-olds.



Head Start Preschool

(All classes meet 4 days a week)

We offer 2 options:

- ½ Day PM Class: Monday - Thursday
- Full Day Class: Monday - Thursday

•Located at Pelican Rapids Viking Elementary School

For more information on Head Start Preschool
Contact: Carrie - 218-770-9232 or Deb - 218-770-8858



Early Head Start

EHS home-based services offers weekly home visits and group socialization activities for parents and their children providing child development and parent support services.

For more information on Early Head Start
Contact: Bonnie - 218-770-9231



Or Apply Online:



Reading to children offers numerous benefits, contributing to their cognitive, emotional, and social development

Cognitive Benefits

- Language Development
- Improved Literacy Skills
- Increased Knowledge
- Enhanced Brain Development
- Preparation for Academic Success

Emotional and Social Benefits

- Bonding Time
- Emotional Intelligence
- Stress Reduction

Developmental Benefits

- Imagination and Creativity
- Improved Listening Skills
- Better Communication

Long-Term Benefits

- Lifelong Love of Reading
- Cultural Awareness
- Self-Confidence

Tips to Maximize the Benefits

- Choose Age-Appropriate Books
- Be Consistent
- Interactive Reading
- Make It Fun



Families READ

READ Toolkit for Families MDE Resources:

Scan the QR CODE to link to the Full Toolkit (https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/READ/eng/toolkit/)



CLUB VIKES KIDS HAVE FUN ALL YEAR-LONG!

Club Vikes School-Age Childcare, located at Viking Elementary, is a safe and fun place for children in grades K-6 to go before and after school, on non-school days, and during the summer.

SCHOOL YEAR SCHEDULE: Monday - Friday

7-8:00am (before school) / 3:05-6:00pm (after school)

SUMMER SCHEDULE: Monday - Friday / 7:00am-6:00pm



Club Vikes staff is focused on making each day a fun-filled experience for your child!

A typical day can include the following:

- doing crafts (melty beads, shrinky dinks, yarn projects)
- reading to themselves or to a friend
- baking (with the help of staff)
- playing outside on the playground or a staff led game
- choosing free time activity (legos, barbies, animals, board and card games).

We also do special things such as:

- having themed activities such as track & field 'Olympics'
- making games/crafts and having a mini carnival
- playing board games/bingo with senior living residents

There are also summer activities in our community that we enjoy doing including:

- attending summer rec activities
- the summer reading club at the public library
- participating in the minnow races
- playing board games/bingo with senior living residents
- going on field trips/swimming at the city pool

Breakfast, lunch & afternoon snack provided each day.

Students participating in summer rec are walked to and from their activities by Club Vikes staff.

Our staff is certified in CPR/First Aid in addition to other state required classes.



If you are looking for a safe environment with staff who will keep your child engaged in a variety of fun and enriching activities, Club Vikes is the place to be!

QUESTIONS? Contact Tonya Honrud, Club Vikes Coordinator at thonrud@vikes.us or 218-863-5910 x5022

STAY CONNECTED - Club Vikes
https://www.facebook.com/ClubVikes



January 30 was the Celebrating our Community performance. The specials team worked with our 1st and 6th graders to put on an awesome collaborative performance to celebrate our Pelican Rapids community. It included music, rhythmic dancing, artwork, and a 6th grade band performance. Seven languages were spoken/sung throughout the performance by our students.



November 6 was Family Bingo Night!! Mr. Nelson was the official game caller. Approximately 50 students and 30 parents joined in the fun!



5th graders collected 108 pounds of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Mrs. Larson's classes earned a pizza party for collecting the most tabs (62 pounds).

VES NEW & UPDATES



Derrick Nelson
Elementary Principal

Thank You to all the students and families who donated items to the food drive to support the Pelican Rapids Food Shelf in December. Viking Elementary students donated nonperishable food items and money to help support the local food shelf. All the items and money were brought to the Pelican Rapids Food Shelf to help local families. This was a great lesson for students to understand that the holiday season is about giving and how to help their community.

If you are dropping off your student or picking up your student before or after school, please use the parking lot at the south end of Viking Elementary School as the front area is for buses. Also, please be careful and watch out for other adults or students who may be crossing the parking lot.

Parents who have students who will be entering Kindergarten, we ask that you please turn in their registration to the office by the end of February. These registrations are very important as we start planning for the 2026-2027 school year.

Registration is also open for our Club Vikes program for the upcoming summer. Club Vikes will again be open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Mondays through Fridays. Details can be found on the Club Vikes web page: www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us/programslearning/club-vikes-school-care .

February 6th Viking Elementary kicked off the Winter Olympics with an opening ceremony. Students participated in a parade that ended in the gym with songs, anthems, and games. Thank you to the Lighthouse team for helping to create a fun kick-off to the Winter Olympics for our students.

We have two opportunities coming up for parents, grandparents, friends, or neighbors to visit Viking Elementary with students. Reading Day will be held on March 5th throughout the day for the different grade levels. Students will be reading different books or stories that they have written to families and friends.

Numbers in the Neighborhood is back on May 13th for its second year and will again feature a variety of math games and activities that students have learned or played this year at Viking Elementary. Please feel free to stop by March 5th or May 13th for these opportunities for students to display their reading and math skills.



ACTIVITIES FOR PRE-K-6 STUDENTS

There are numerous opportunities for students to be involved throughout their educational experience at Pelican Rapids Schools.

After school activities for VES students in grades Pre-K-6 include art club, volleyball, soccer, run club, wrestling, basketball, and football. We encourage students to get involved, learn teamwork, and have fun!

FALL

PR Youth Football* Grades 3-6
Flag Football Boys & Girls Grades 1-2
Viking Run Club Grades K-3 & 4-6
After School Boys Basketball Grades 3-6
PR Youth Wrestling/Pin 'Em Club Gr. Pre-K-6

WINTER

After-School Girls Basketball Grades 3-5
Saturday Morning Boys & Girls Basketball Grades Pre-K-3
Art Club Grades 5-6

SPRING

Volleyball Grades 3-6
PR Youth Football* Grades 2-5
Viking Track & Field Club Grades Pre-K-6
After School Soccer Grades 4-6

SCHOOL YEAR

PR Just for Kix* Grades Pre-K-6

**non-district organization*

VES PERFORMANCES

Grades 5-6 Band and Choir Concerts
- December 22 at 6:30pm
- April 21 at 6:30pm

Grades K-6 Collaborative Programs (Music, Art, Physical Education)

Celebrating Our Community-Grades 1 & 6
- January 30 at 1:30pm

Kindergarten Program
- March 6 at 1:30pm

Grades 3-4 Program
- March 27 at 1:30pm

Location: Fine Arts Auditorium (FAA)

West Parking/Entrance: behind FAA, door 14 (elevator access)

East Parking/Entrance: across from FAA, door 17

Dates & times subject to change. Check **Pelican Rapids Public Schools** Facebook page or website for details and updates.

VES Activities Webpage/Calendar

VES Looking Ahead

Feb 16	No school (Conferences) **VES 12-6:00pm**, PRHS 1-7:00pm
Mar 5	VES Reading Day
Apr 3-6	No school (Spring break)
May 6	MN Bike to School Day
May 13	Numbers in the Neighborhood
May 20	Last day of school

VIKING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HELPING 100% OF PRHS STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH A PLAN

An important part of our post-secondary planning is helping our students meet our goal of 100% of students leaving PRHS with a plan for post-secondary education, military service, or entering the workforce.

Here is how we support those goals for everyone:

- Career panel of local business professionals
- Career expos throughout the year
- Post-secondary group planning meeting
- Individual senior planning meetings
- Guest speakers

Here is how we support each of those paths:

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Offer classes for college credit in high school including a Career & College Prep course
- Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)
- College representative visits
- Visits to colleges
- ACT & PSAT testing
- College application fees waived for qualifying students

MILITARY SERVICE

- ASVAB testing offered at the high school
- Opportunity to meet with recruiter
- Military Education and Career Exploration Event

ENTERING THE WORKFORCE

- Workforce/Technical training
- Field trips to area businesses and industries
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Offer numerous CTE courses (listed under Explore Potential Careers on far right column of newsletter)



Our Career and College Prep class had an amazing visit to MSUM on November 19th! Students heard all about campus life, student support services, and degree types MSUM offers. The kids took a tour around campus, and ended the day with some great food at Kise Commons. Huge thanks to MSUM for an inspiring and welcoming experience!



Kelsey Lage
High School Counselor

As your student's school counselor I also support each student in the following ways:

- **Academics:** Credit tracking, class registration, schedule creation, in-school support referrals
- **Personal/Social:** Help manage emotions/stress, provide grieving support, grief counseling
- **Post-Secondary Planning:** College application assistance, answer questions, provide scholarship assistance

Therapy Dog Update

The beloved therapy dog, Chibbs, passed away unexpectedly before the 2025-2026 school year. He was a special part of our school, bringing comfort, joy, and support to students and staff. While we grieve this loss together, we also celebrate the many ways he made a positive impact on our Viking community.

Sage Lage is a new member of the Viking family. She was born in July and through a generous donation by a community member, she was welcomed into the family early this Fall. She is sweet, gentle and a good listener and will make an excellent Therapy Dog someday, right now she is a young pup who needs to go to school and be at least 1 before she can officially test. She attended the CROP Walk with the Minnesota Honor Society students last fall (shown photo on the right).

EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS

- Accounting
- Ag Occupations
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Career & College Prep
- Coaching & Officiating
- Computer Applications
- Content Creation & Storytelling
- Cosmetology
- Digital Photography
- Electricity
- Environmental Science
- Intro to Business
- Personal Finance
- Robotics
- Small Engines
- Video Productions
- Welding
- Woods

ACQUIRE UP TO 30 COLLEGE CREDITS

- Advanced Algebra
- AP Art
- Calculus
- College English
- Early Childhood Education
- Precalculus
- Spanish III
- Statistics

EARN CERTIFICATIONS & CREDITS

- Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Theory Training Course
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Early Childhood Education (ECE)
- Driver's Education - Classroom & Behind-the-Wheel
- Credit Recovery Program



Visit my High School Counselor web page for important updates and information or contact me at: klage@vikes.us or 218-863-5910

READY TO LEAD. TO EXCEL.

Class of 2025

PELICAN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

100% OF PRHS GRADUATES HAVE A PLAN FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, MILITARY SERVICE, OR ENTERING THE WORKFORCE.

WATCH HERE

POST-SECONDARY 4 YEAR DEGREE

51% Students with plan to earn a bachelor's degree or higher.

COLLEGE IN THE SCHOOLS (CIS)

62% Students who earned college credits while meeting high school requirements.

COLLEGE CREDITS

UP TO 40 COLLEGE CREDITS OFFERED AT PRHS

23 Students who earned 3 - 15 college credits.

9 Students who earned 16 - 30 college credits.

4 Students who earned 31 or more college credits.

POST-SECONDARY 2 YEAR DEGREE

6% Students with plan to earn an associate's degree.

GAP YEAR

6% Students with plan to enroll in post-secondary education in the future.

CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

76% Students who participated in 2 or more of the 30+ co-curricular opportunities available at PRHS including sports teams, student groups, art and music, and organized activities.

2.5 GPA OR ABOVE

84% Students who earned a GPA of 2.5 or above.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL/TRADE PROGRAM

8% Students with plan to attend technical school or a trade program.

WORKFORCE

29% Students with plan to enter the workforce.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

107 Total number of CTE classes taken.

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource Courses:
Agribusiness Occupations, Ag Science 9, Ag Science, Environmental Science, Electricity, Welding, Small Engines, Ag Leadership

Industrial Technology Courses:
Industrial Technology 7, 8, 9, CAD, Woods, Robotics, Digital Photography

Computer and Business Courses:
Computer 7, 8, 9, Computer Applications, Accounting, Personal Finance, Intro. to Business

Family & Consumer Science, Cosmetology Courses: *Living Skills, Cosmetology*

Other CTE Courses: *EMT, CNA, CDL*

24 Students who completed CNA class; 17 have taken & passed certification

7 Students who completed EMT class; none taken certification test

8 Students who completed CDL course; 1 has taken & passed certification test.

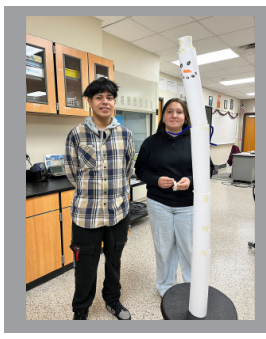
11 Students who completed Cosmetology classes

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

171 Thanks to generous business and community members, 36 seniors were presented with $89,550 in scholarships!

PRHS is excited to be offering a new Global Foods class this year. In addition to studying the culture of countries around the world, students learn to cook a variety of foods while focusing on food safety, measuring, and etiquette. Students shown in the photo on the right were making the Italian dessert Cannoli. Other foods the students have made include Korean Corndogs, Ratatouille, Butter Chicken, Baklava, Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Cuban Picadillo, and Cuban sandwiches. This elective course is taught by Mrs. Holl.





The 8th grade science classes worked on a problem-solving STEM project:

Snowman Stretch

They had to build the tallest freestanding snowman using only certain materials in one class period.





Welding Project Helps Community

Thanks to the students in Mr. Larsen's Welding class and to our custodial crew (for assisting with assembly) of the storage for the new E-Bikes available for rent at the Pelican Rapids Public Library.

Business Computer Applications

Junior and Seniors in Business Computer Applications are learning about the development and use of Artificial Intelligence. Students were asked to create a simple data set and are investigating how AI learns and responds by training a model to recognize their data. This group is testing to see if the program can identify the differences in fruit, both real and fake. During this unit students are also discussing ethics, appropriate use, and the importance of critical thinking when using AI.



Opportunities to Celebrate Growth, Teamwork, and Perseverance



Davey Kosen
Dean of Students
Activities Director

Dear Pelican Rapids Families and Students,

I hope you are enjoying the rest and renewal that winter break provides, and that we are all looking ahead with excitement to the spring season and what it brings to our school and community. As we move into the final stretch of the school year, it is an especially exciting time to be a Viking.

Our students continue to represent Pelican Rapids with pride across all activities and athletics. Spring sports and extracurricular programs are busy with competitions, performances, and events, and we appreciate the dedication and commitment shown by our student-athletes, coaches, advisors, and families. Please continue to check the activities calendar on our website and follow our social media pages for the most up-to-date schedules and announcements.

As participation increases during this time of year, we remind students of the importance of meeting eligibility requirements, maintaining good attendance, and representing our school with positive sportsmanship and conduct. These expectations help ensure a successful experience for everyone involved and allow our programs to continue to thrive.

The winter postseason and the start of spring also provide opportunities to celebrate growth, teamwork, and perseverance. Whether on the field, in the gym, on the stage, or in the classroom, our students are working hard and finishing strong. We look forward to recognizing their efforts and accomplishments as the year comes to a close.

Thank you for your continued support. Your presence at events and encouragement of our students plays a vital role in the success of our programs.
"Sun shines on the Vikings!"

Sincerely,

Mr. Davey Kosen

PELICAN RAPIDS
VIKINGS

BEING A VIKING MEANS YOU:

ATTEND FREE PRESCHOOL
MEET AMAZING AND DIVERSE STUDENTS
LEARN THE 7 HABITS® LEADERSHIP SKILLS
CHOOSE FROM 13 DIFFERENT SPORTS
JOIN 20 STUDENT GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES
ACQUIRE UP TO 30 COLLEGE CREDITS
EARN CDL, CNA, AND EMT CERTIFICATIONS
EXPLORE MUSIC, ART, AND THEATER INTERESTS
EXPERIENCE A RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
LEARN FROM DEDICATED AND CARING STAFF
EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS
GRADUATE WITH A PLAN AND A FUTURE

CONNECT IN ACTION:
SUPPORTING STUDENTS THIS SEMESTER AND BEYOND

As we continue with our schoolwide theme for the 2025-26 year, **Connect: Power, Recharge, Conserve**, I'd like to share how this vision is taking shape through intentional student supports, wellness initiatives, and meaningful learning experiences.

Connecting Through Advisory Time

One of the ways we support students is through **Student Advisory Time**. Advisory provides time twice a quarter for students to build trusted relationships with staff and peers, reflect on their goals, and strengthen skills such as self-awareness, communication, and responsibility.



Laura Januszewski
High School Principal

Recharging Through Mental Wellness Support

As part of our focus on mental and emotional well-being, students participated in a **Mental Wellness Check-In with Monica Schneider from Blooming Mental Health**. These check-ins are designed to help students better understand stress, emotions, and healthy coping strategies while normalizing conversations around mental health. This work aligns with our belief that caring for mental wellness is essential for learning, growth, and long-term success.

Powering Growth Through Learning and Exploration

Powering student growth means helping students recognize their potential, explore future pathways, and build confidence in their goals. Throughout the year, students will engage in meaningful learning opportunities, including:

- **Guest Speaker: Hunter Pinke – "No Bad Days":** Students heard an inspiring message about resilience, mindset, and perseverance, encouraging them to overcome challenges.
- **College Knowledge Month:** Students explored post-secondary options through activities, meetings, guest speakers, and career pathway field trips that connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities.
- **College and Career Readiness Assessments:** Juniors will participate in the **PSAT** and **ASVAB** to help identify strengths, interests, and potential career pathways.
- **Military Appreciation and Education Day:** This event will provide students with information about military service, educational benefits, and career opportunities through meaningful conversations with members of each military branch.

These experiences are designed to help students build awareness, confidence, and direction as they plan for life beyond high school.

Our staff continues its professional learning through the **"Anxious Generation" book study by Jonathan Haidt,** which examines the impact of technology, social media, and screen use on adolescent development. As we shared earlier, key themes guiding our work include:

- The importance of real-world connections
- Healthy technology boundaries
- Sleep, self-regulation, and unstructured time

To support families, we are sharing **parent newsletters connected to the book study,** offering insights, conversation starters, and practical strategies you can use at home.

Conserving What Matters Through Student Portfolios

Beginning in **Semester 2**, students will engage in **portfolio work** that encourages reflection, goal-setting, and ownership of learning. Portfolios will allow students to:

- Showcase growth over time
- Reflect on strengths, challenges, and progress
- Connect learning to personal goals and future plans

This work helps students conserve their energy and attention by focusing on what truly matters–their growth, values, and sense of purpose.

Together, these initiatives reflect our shared commitment to supporting students in their learning. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to connect, empower, recharge, and focus on what matters most for our students.

Go Vikings!

PRHS Looking Ahead

Feb 16	No school (Conferences)
	VES 12-6:00pm; **PRHS 1-7:00pm**
Feb 19	PRHS Band Concert 7:30pm - FAA
Mar 14-15	PRHS Spring Play
Mar 25-30	PRHS Choir Trip to Orlando
Apr 3-6	No school (Spring break)
May 2	Prom
May 7	PRHS Band Concert 7:30pm - FAA
May 11	PRHS Choir Concert 7:30pm - FAA
May 20	Last day of school
May 22	Graduation 7:00pm

Fine Arts Auditorium (FAA)
East Parking/Entrance: across from FAA, Door 7
West Parking/Entrance: behind FAA, Door 14 (elevator access)

Dates and times are subject to change.
Visit our school website or Facebook for updates.

www.pelicanrapids.k12.mn.us
Pelican Rapids Public Schools



"The Anxious Generation"

- PRHS staff are reading this book as part of the on-going commitment to supporting the well-being of our students.
- The book explores how changes in childhood over the past decade have contributed to increasing levels of anxiety and stress among young people.
- We'll be sharing insights with you through a parent newsletter (shown on the left).
- Our goal is to learn as a community and work together to create environments-both at school and at home-where children can grow with confidence, connection, and balance.

Use the QR code below for "The Anxious Generation" Parent Newsletter

PELICAN RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT











PRHS has numerous opportunities for students in grades 7-12 to be involved in our rich tradition of excellence in academics, arts, and athletics. Our state-of-the-art facilities include the Al Siegle Activities Center for our indoor sporting events and activities and our Fine Arts Auditorium for school and community performances. We encourage all students to take advantage of over 30 academic and co-curricular opportunities in our unique small school setting!

PRHS Sports

Fall
- Cross Country Boys
- Cross Country Girls
- Football
- Soccer Boys
- Soccer Girls
- Volleyball

Winter
- Basketball Boys
- Basketball Girls
- Dance Team
- Wrestling

*non-district organizations

Spring
- Baseball
- Fishing League*
- Golf Boys
- Golf Girls
- Softball
- Track & Field Boys
- Track & Field Girls
- Pelican Rapids Trap Team*

PELICAN RAPIDS VIKINGS

PRHS Activities Webpage/Calendar

Dates & times subject to change.

Check **Pelican Rapids Public Schools** Facebook page or our website for details and updates.

PRHS Activities/Student Groups

- Art Contests
- Art Contests
- Band-Contests/Pep Band/Trips
- Celebration of Cultures Event
- Choir-Contests/Trips
- Fall Play/One Act Play**
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Knowledge Bowl**
- Math Team**
- MN Honor Society
- Pelican Rapids Just for Kix*
- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)
- Spanish Trip
- Special Olympics
- Speech**
- Student Council
- Video Production
- Viking Student Success
- Yearbook

*non-district organization

**MSHSL activity

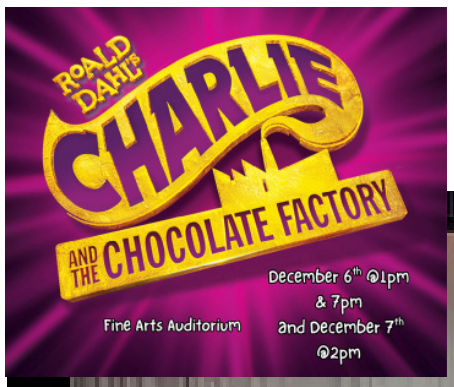


PRHS freshman agriculture students attended the Region FFA Fall Rally where they learned different aspects of the FFA on a local, state, and national level. Some of the workshops they attended included Ag Mechanics, Animal Science/Vet Technology, Team Building, Leadership, Career Development Events, and Natural Resources. They competed in the Best Informed Greenhand contest, taking home 6 of the top 10 placings, out of 110 students competing from around the region: 1st: Lily LaFerriere, 2nd: McKennah Norton, 4th: Dominic Herdan, 6th: Carsen Peasley, 7th: Brysen Haugrud, 9th: Jace Wolf.





PRHS students gave amazing performances in the December musical production of ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.*** The musical was directed by Amber Wang, PRHS Vocal/Music 5-6 Teacher.



Benefits of Being Involved in Co-Curricular Activities

- Boosts academics & learning
- Improves physical & mental health
- Builds social skills & connections
- Develops leadership & discipline
- Encourages cultural & community engagement
- Prepares for careers & future goals
- Increases confidence & life experience



Concordia High School Juried Art Show
Congratulations to these awesome young artists!

On Thursday, January 15, Concordia concluded its High School Juried Art Show. Over 100 artists and 13 different schools submit artwork to this show, but only 58 pieces were accepted. Five students from Pelican Rapids represented our area proudly. Those five students were Max Koch, (mixed media sculpture, Wonder Dragon) Jessica Martinez (ceramic sculpture, Octavia the Octopus), Zero Spaulding (charcoal drawing, Cat... I Don't Know) Yasmin Rodriguez Lopez (ceramic pottery, Cocos) and Antonia Banton (mixed media painting, Les Émotions Prennent Vie). Along with the prestige of being selected, Antonia Banton was one of just a handful of merit award winners.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION...CONNECTING SCHOOL & COMMUNITY
THROUGH LEARNING, RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES



Pelican Rapids Knowledge Bowl brought home some ribbons on January 16. Winsdae Dahlman, Payton Welch, Olivia Kunz, Emma Hanson, and Rosco Stubbs received the Movin' On Up award. They made a big jump from their written score through their performance in the four oral rounds. Congratulations!



And congratulations to the team of Kingsley Gray, Graham Pesch, Abdi Aden, Nicholas Rockstead, and Charlie Stubbs! They placed third out of more than 20 area KB teams.

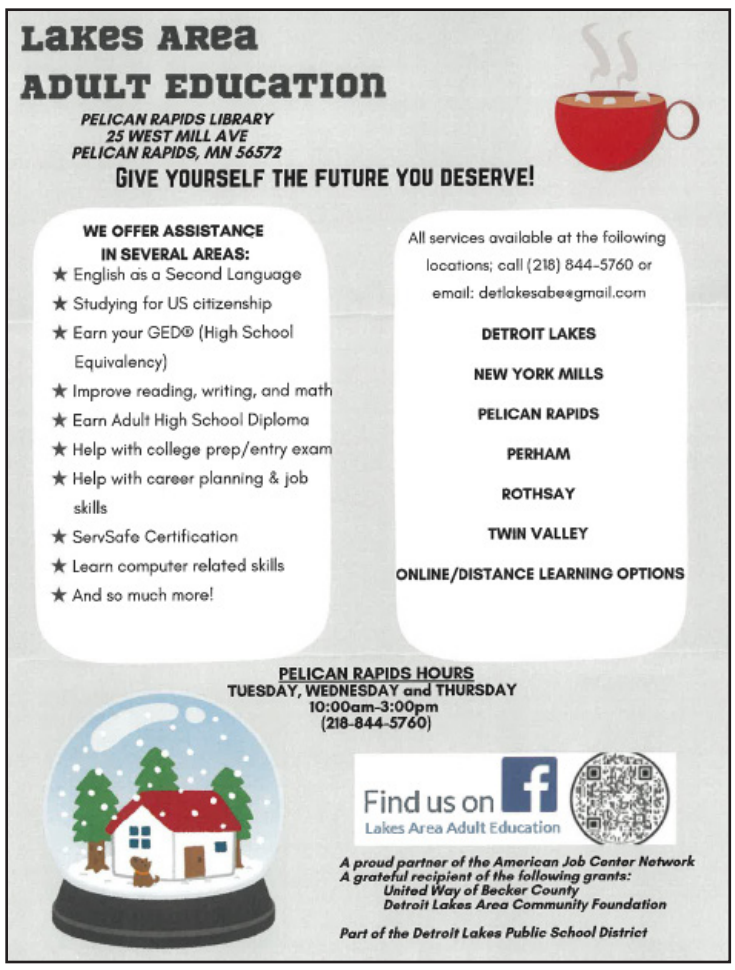
SADD Representatives and First Graders teamed up and decorated Gingerbread Houses together in December. Everyone had a great time!





Viking Choir members filled the community with Christmas carols in December.













Pelican Rapids Public Library

KIDS PROGRAMS
- Winter/Summer Reading Programs
- Creation Station & Play Area - daily
- StoryTime - Mondays at 10:30am
- Lego Club - Wed. @3:30pm Grades 4-8
- Teen Book Club-1st Tuesday of month Grades 7-12
- StoryWalks
- Special Movie Days with popcorn when school not in session

ADULT/FAMILY PROGRAMS
- Books n' Brunch - monthly (Wed.)
- Puzzle Exchange

ITEMS FOR CHECK-OUT
- Life jackets
- Snow shoes
- E-Bikes (rental fees apply)
- Maplewood State Park entrance sticker
- Summer pool passes

EVENTS
- **March 14 @ 11:00am - Chuck Johnson 'The Night Before Gettysburg'**
- **April 18 @11:00am - Amelia Erhart Presentation**

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
- Welcome Baby Bundles to local families
- Indoor used book sales
- Book truck - summer

**note information above was current as of this newsletter publication. Contact the Pelican Rapids Public Library for the most up-to-date information.*

LIBRARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 25 West Mill Avenue
Phone: 218.863.7055
Email: prpl@prpubliclibrary.org
Website
Facebook
Friends of the Pelican Rapids Library

Want to teach or take a class? We'd love to hear from you!

Use the QR code on the right or email bwontor@vikes.us .

Community Ed Survey

Chauncey Martin Building



- Concessions-PRHS Sports
- Trail Head-Heart of the Lakes Trail
- Bike Racks, Repair Station
- Winter Warming House (skates available)
- Year Round Restrooms

Community Programs, Activities, Events & Resources

Click on the links below for information about local activities, programs & events:
- City of Pelican Rapids
- Pelican Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
- Pelican Rapids: Events, Updates and Community News

Click on the link below for Pelican Rapids Area Programs & Resources:
- Pelican Rapids Area Programs & Resources

The programs/activities/events/resources listed above includes those offered at the Pelican Rapids Public Schools, through Pelican Rapids Community Education, and in the Pelican Rapids area. If you have information about local programs/classes/activities that you'd like to share please email Becky at bwontor@vikes.us .

STAY CONNECTED: Pelican Rapids Public Schools, Pelican Rapids Community Education

DISTRICT



E-LEARNING DAYS

E-Learning Days will be used to make up some snow days. The first 2 snow days are built into the 2025-26 school calendar. Snow days 2-6 will be E-Learning Days at home.

Attendance will be taken on E-Learning Days. There is no preschool, Club Vikes, or activities on E-Learning Days.

On an E-Learning Day, teachers will post activities on:

- Seesaw (Elementary)
- Google Classroom (High School) & Google Chat (to communicate with teachers)
- Email (High School)

Teachers will be available during the instructional day to answer questions.

- Available does not mean the teacher will be on live video all day.
- Available means they can be reached via email or might host a virtual meeting students can join.

E-Learning is NOT Distance Learning

- If your student does not have access to materials or the internet, he or she will be allowed to make up any required work once class is resumed
- Remember most classes will not be "live" on the internet on an E-Learning day. Some teachers may choose to use Google Meet or Zoom to answer questions or get students started, but this is not a requirement.

VES & PRHS E-Learning Day details can be found on our website using the QR code on the right.

E-Learning Day Details

ENROLLMENT

• 929 students Pre-school-12th grade

LEADERSHIP PLATFORM

• Franklin Covey's *Leader In Me*® and 7 Habits of Highly Effective People/Teens®

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

• Free Viking Preschool for district residents
• Free mid-day transportation to and from local licensed daycares

VIKING ELEMENTARY

• Named a Minnesota School of Excellence
• Average class size 18
• Year round school-aged childcare K-6

PELICAN RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL

• Earn up to 30 college credits
• Certifications in: CDL, CNA, EMT, Early Childhood Education
• CTE courses: Business, Industrial Technology, Agriculture, Cosmetology

LEARNING/PROGRAMS

• Art, band & choir classes for K-12 students
• Targeted Services, credit recovery programs
• On-site school-linked behavioral health services
• Driver's Education & Behind the Wheel

STATE OF THE ART FACILITIES

• Fine Arts Auditorium with seating for 500
• Indoor Activities Center
• Outdoor lighted complexes for baseball, football and soccer fields; track
• Multi-Use Trail Head Building warming house, bike repair,concessions

ISD 548 SCHOOL BOARD

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME AND ENERGY WITH OUR SCHOOL!

- STACI ALLMARAS
- JON KARGER
- BRENDA OLSON
- ANDREW SORUM
- MOLLY WELCH

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

To view current job openings and begin the on-line application process visit our district website or use the QR code below.

EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Emily Evenson, HR Manager & Executive Administrative Assistant
218-863-5910 ext. 4445 or eevenson@vikes.us

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

TEACHER SUB

QUALIFICATIONS:
- BACHELOR'S DEGREE
- MN SHORT-CALL SUB LICENSE

RATE OF PAY
- $160 PER DAY

PARAPROFESSIONAL SUB

QUALIFICATIONS:
- HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED

RATE OF PAY
- $17 PER HOUR

SCAN to apply

QUESTIONS: CONTACT EMILY EVENSON
218-863-5910 X4445 OR EEVENSON@VIKES.US

Backpack Buddies supplies hungry children in Pelican Rapids with food for the weekend



The Pelican Rapids school district and Food Shelf partner to provide a bag of food such as cereal, fruit cups, pudding, juice boxes, peanut butter & crackers, granola bars, ramen noodles, and other easy meals. The program is partially funded by United Way and through community support. Any donation would be appreciated.

Questions? contact Jackie Larson 218.329.5752 or larsonjb@umn.edu

Willing to donate? contact Sue Bruggeman 218.329.8626

Pelican Rapids School Fund

The mission of the Pelican Rapids School Fund is to provide financial support on projects which will provide and and enhance educational opportunities for students of Independent School District (ISD) 548, thus making a positive impact on our community and world. Tax deductive donations can be given through West Central Initiative.

Online: https://wcif.org/fund/psf
Mail: West Central Initiative, PO Box 318, Fergus Falls, MN 56572

MILITARY EDUCATION AND CAREER EXPLORATION EVENT

Booths with representatives from the:
- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Air Guard

will be set up at the game for students, parents, and community members interested in military service and career information.



The Color Guard will present the colors at the girls varsity game

Join us in honoring active and retired members of the military at the

DOUBLE HEADER

BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL VS. BARNESVILLE @ HOME

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- GIRLS VARSITY @ 6:00 pm
- BOYS VARSITY @ 7:30 pm

LEADERS GYMNASIUM

Free game admission and complimentary meal ticket for military and their families

Chauncey Martin Multi-Use Building



- Concessions-PRHS Sports
- Trail Head-Heart of the Lakes Trail
- Bike Racks, Repair Station
- Winter Warming House (skates available)
- Year Round Restrooms

Items for sale

OFFICE FURNITURE
- FILE CABINETS
- CHAIRS
- AND MORE

Contact Trevor Steeves at tsteeves@vikes.us

Visit our website to view Items for Sale including:
- Padded Chairs
- Carts
- Tables
- File Cabinets
- and more

Contact Trevor at tsteeves@vikes.us for details and purchasing information.



Trevor Steeves
Building & Grounds Superintendent