

February 1, 2017

From the Principal—David Lund

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Our students are well into registering for classes next year, make sure to talk to your daughter/son about course choices. We do not guarantee our students that they will get all the elective classes they choose but they still need to choose carefully. We have a policy that sets our minimum class size at 24 which means that we do not offer classes that have registration numbers below that. Every year I have students tell me how they really wanted to take a class but forgot to sign up. I will not bore you with details but building our master schedule for 2,400 plus students with 6 choices each quarter and 4 quarters is complicated. It all adds up to 56,400 variables to take into consideration, so the more we know right from the start the better job we can do. We have an outstanding group of counselors at PLHS who are available to help you and your student with questions you may have, good luck with registration!

Laker Time – you should have received two e-mails with regard to Laker Time and I have spoken to all of our students about this Wednesday flexible scheduling. In short, we will be open for business as usual at 8:05 a.m. Wednesday mornings. Our busses will run on time and staff will be in the building. The difference is that first hour does not start until 9:05 a.m. Students will have from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. to get help from teacher if they need, retake a test if they are authorized or study alone or with their friends. It is highly suggested that students who need help come in, teachers will also be sending individual requests for students to attend. If your child is caught up on their work and doing well in their classes, they do not need to show up until 9:05 a.m. Busses will run on time so if they choose not to ride the bus in at the normal time, they will need to find their own transportation.

February 11th is our winter Sweethearts dance. Before every dance we remind students that their style of dancing must be appropriate for the school setting, every dance we have to ask students to leave due to inappropriate dancing. Please remind your son/daughter that these are school functions and as such, school rules and policies apply.

A notice from Child and Family Nutrition services - In efforts to better meet our student's needs, a new culinary line will open at Prior Lake High School called "The Bowl...by LakerMarketplace", starting Feb 2nd. The menu will center around building burrito bowls, salads, or nachos with toppings like homemade pico de gallo, guacamole, corn salsa, fresh cilantro, Mexicana sour cream, chicken, pork, and beef. The cost for a meal, made complete by adding a fruit and milk is \$3.05. The option to upgrade for a burrito with double meat and additional toppings is available for an extra charge. Ala carte options will also be available.

Another feature of The Bowl is the compost and recycling station. In efforts to keep our earth beautiful, The Bowl will be using only compostable trays, bowls and utensils. We will be asking students to discard their waste by "recycling" cans and plastic, "composting" their organic materials, and then putting other waste in a separate trash bin. The Bowl will be located at the lower level entrance of the high school.

Dear Parents of the Class of 2020,

As a freshman at Prior Lake High School, your child will face many new and different opportunities and experiences. My name is Elizabeth Heile and I am a current senior at Prior Lake High School and a member of the Prior Lake Community Safety Advisory Committee. I would like to inform you of some situations your child may encounter at the high school and emphasize how important your role as a parent is over the next four years.

Upon entering the high school, your child will be flooded with opportunities to make new friends, become involved in sports and clubs, and take new, interesting classes. He/she will also be exposed to new challenges and be forced to make difficult decisions about drug/alcohol use, social media use, involvement in extracurricular, friendships, etc. During this exciting period of change, opportunity, and growing independence for your child, it is important that you guide them to make the right choices. The decisions that your child makes at this time in their life are crucial and can affect their future, including success in high school, acceptance into college, future employment options, etc.

While the Prior Lake High School has many policies established in order to deter students from using drugs or alcohol, substance use and abuse are still prevalent in all high schools across our state, and nation. Alcohol/drug use will hinder your child's success in academics and athletics and may cause them to be suspended from school and prevent them from participating in sporting events. Even worse, these substances will make them physically weak, fatigued, and unable to reach their full potential. Allowing students access to these harmful substances hurts them and their futures and could potentially hurt their parents as well. In order to protect our Prior Lake's youth, the city has passed the Social Host Ordinance, which states that any person can be charged if hosting an event or gathering where alcohol is present and being possessed or consumed by persons under twenty-one (21) years of age. Make sure that your child is informed of the risks and repercussions of underage drinking and illegal drug use, and help them make good decisions in order to stay safe and set himself/herself up for success.

With the expansion of the internet and social media in recent years, people have effortless and rapid access to information. What your child posts, tweets, or Instagrams over the next four years can easily be viewed by their peers, adults, employers, and college admissions departments and athletic programs. Colleges and employers don't want careless or reckless students to ruin their image and reputation, and more and more employers and colleges are checking up on employees and students via the internet. In a survey of 43 American universities conducted by the Chicago Tribune in 2015, 67% of schools utilized Google and 86% of schools utilized social media in order to research prospective students before admitting them. Help keep your child's social media image appropriate and reputable by checking up on their accounts, setting a good example, and preventing the bad behaviors that could get them into trouble on the internet.

Finally, set your son or daughter up for success by helping them get involved in the school and community. There are tons of clubs and activities for students of all interests, and these groups can help students make friends that have similar interests and values, provide students the opportunity to explore new activities and interests, and become well-rounded, setting them up for a successful future. Colleges and employers like to see students who take advantage of what their high school has offer and make positive differences in their communities.

We appreciate your job as parents of high school students and encourage you to set your child up for success and help them reach their full potential. On behalf of the Prior Lake Community Safety Advisory Committee, thank you for supporting and guiding our youth to safe, healthy, and successful futures.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Heile
Senior at Prior Lake High School

World Café coming to PLSAS!

Reimagine Minnesota

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools along with 40 other school districts have come together to develop a collective education plan to address integration, access, opportunity and educational achievement. To accomplish this, community members are invited to attend World Café where input will be gathered to help inform school districts on a plan that creates equity, integration and excellence in education for all Minnesota students.

World Café is open for staff to attend as well as parents and other residents of our community. Please share this information and encourage parents and others to register this week to attend World Café. We know from past experience that people attend events when they are personally invited. Multiple perspectives are vital to this process and all voices and perspectives are important.

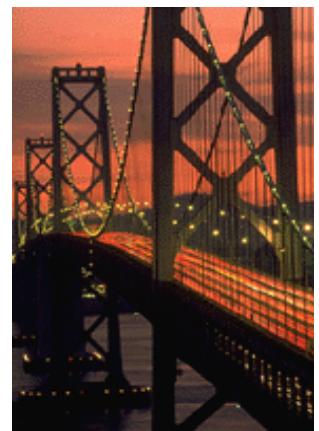
**Thursday, February 9, 2017
6 - 8:30 p.m. Twin Oaks Middle School
15860 Fish Point Road SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372**

Transportation and interpreters will be available upon request. Child Care for school-age children (ages 5 and up) will also be available upon request. Light food and refreshments will be provided. The event is free and open to the public but please register in advance by calling 952-226-0010 or register online: <http://bit.ly/2k8Imfx> You can also access our invitation, printed in multiple languages, on district and school home pages: <http://bit.ly/2jKJXr1>



SPAN (Synergy/Sage Parent Action Network)

SPAN is the Synergy/SAGE Parent Action Network. We are also known as the Prior Lake-Savage Chapter of the MN Council for the Gifted and Talented. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7pm in the WestWood Media Center (5370 WestWood Drive SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372). We will host a viewing of the award-winning 54-minute documentary *2e Twice Exceptional* (<http://2emovie.com/>) followed by a discussion of the film. If you have questions or would like to be placed on our email list, please email Apryl at span.priorlake@gmail.com. See all of our meeting dates on our website www.mcgt.net/priorlake.



Parent Advisory Council

Parents and the school community share goals regarding the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of students attending Prior Lake High School.

With those goals in mind, it is imperative that parents and the school, work cooperatively to meet the needs of our students. A key component to this cooperative arrangement is communication between parents and the school. PAC is a gathering between parents and administration to have conversations regarding initiatives, procedures, or happenings at PLHS.

Meetings are held once a month and the next meeting will be February 22nd. The meetings will be held at Prior Lake High School in room 222 at 4:15 PM.

PLHS Guidance News

Attention all students! If you **missed your registration date** this week, please come down to the guidance office next week (February 6th-10th) to complete your registration.

Is your student interested in **PSEO**? Will your student be a Junior or Senior next year? The counseling department will be hosting two PSEO informational sessions on **February 8th and February 9th**. Both sessions start at 3:15pm. Students interested in doing PSEO next year are encouraged to attend one of these sessions.

Students who failed a **CORE** class (Math, Science, English, or Social Studies) must meet with their guidance counselor as soon as possible to discuss credit recovery options. Since these classes are required for graduation students **MUST** make up these courses before graduation. Please talk with your counselor if you have more questions.

On November 10th, all 9th and 10th graders completed a career exploration activity in class through Family Connection. This is a **REQUIRED** assignment for 9th and 10th graders. For students who **DID NOT** complete the activity in class, Family Connection access and instructions for the activity can be found on our guidance website. 11th and 12th grade students have access to the activity as well and can complete it if they would like.

2017 Senior Lock-in

Hey Seniors! Come join all your classmates for one last blast. The Senior Class Parents are hosting this FUN-FILLED, ALL NIGHT party at school. Be with your friends on graduation night. We'll have a ton of fun activities, entertainment and prizes for everyone! Food and beverages will be provided.

Friday, June 9 – Saturday, June 10, 2017

Prior Lake High School

10:00 pm to 5:00 am

Cost: \$75 if postmarked before March 1; \$85 if postmarked between March 2 and April 30; \$100 after May 1 to June 12, 2017. (Registration fee can be paid at the door) (Note: Goodie bags may not be available to all who register after April 30th).

Also, please remember to make out your checks to Prior Lake-Savage Graduation Celebration, Inc. AND remember that both parent and student must sign the registration form. Registration forms must be mailed to Prior Lake Savage Graduation Celebration, PO Box 301, Prior Lake, MN 55372 or turned in at Student Services.

Senior Shirts

FEAR THE LAKE T-SHIRTS



Get yours now before they are all gone!!

Special price - \$7

Contact – vwright@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

or t-shirts are sold in Room 136 at Prior Lake High School

They are going fast!!



National Honor Society

The National Honor Society has been working on a variety of projects this winter. Seniors Aaron Blanchard and Gabi Brinkley, and juniors Grace Schroeder, Parker Jorenby, and Hannah Caldwell have been raising money through carolling events for Build-a-Hand, an organization provides prosthetic hands for people in need. The hands will be ordered and assembled by NHS members later this spring.

NHS also hosted Parents Night Out on January 13th. The event, chaired by seniors Courtney Cornelius and Morgan Fust, provides inexpensive childcare for students in the district. Another Parents Night Out event is coming up on February 17th, and will be chaired by seniors Siri Torvik and Emma Halpenny.

Senior Hannah Beers recently chaired Cocoa and Cram, a study session for freshmen that need help studying for tests coming at the end of the semester. Another similar event called AP Slam will take place on May 2nd. NHS members will be there and will be available for studying and homework help for upcoming AP tests and finals.

On February 8th, seniors Alyssa Hough and Liz Heile will be chairing the winter Blood Drive. The drive will collect blood that will be used for transfusions and life-saving operations, and will raise money for scholarships that will be awarded to seniors in NHS at the end of the year. Hough and Heile will be organizing volunteers and facilitating donor sign ups over the next few weeks. Please go to www.redcross.org to sign up.

On February 10th, NHS and Student Council will be hosting a pancake breakfast to raise money for events and scholarships. Chaired by Alyssa Hough and Anna Feldt, the breakfast will take place in the morning of the 10th in the high school commons and will be \$3 per ticket.

The annual Man Pageant is also coming up on February 17th. The event, chaired by seniors Katelyn Schmidt, Shannon Hockman, and Christina Laridaen, and juniors Heidi Wedel and Megan Giese, will take place in the PLHS auditorium and will raise money for charity. The event will be a competition between senior boys for the title “Captain of the Lake.”

If you have any questions, please contact Maria Leceardone-Brown mleceardone@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us (Newsletter information provided by Historian Liz Heile)

Snowboarding and Skiing at Afton Alps

Snowboarding & Skiing to Afton Alps on Friday, February 3rd, 3:30-10:30pm!

The cost is \$40. Sign up at the Activities Office.



Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education – CTE

#WeArePLSAS

February is National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month!

FABLAB: Soft Skills in Action

During the 2013-2014 school year, the School Board and Superintendent asked the Business and Industrial Technology Departments to work collaboratively to open a Fabrication Lab and create an integrated Business and IT curriculum. Students in the Fab-LAB classes use a variety of 2-D and 3-D design software and then produce prototypes using vinyl cutters, vinyl printers, laser engravers, and 3-D printers.

As the curriculum was being designed, we explored a variety of ways to link the students' work to 21st Century Learning Skills. Our research affirmed that IDEO, a San Francisco design firm, provided some excellent resources. In its early years, IDEO created the mouse for Apple Computer. Today IDEO is a world renowned firm "creating positive impact through design". At the heart of its success are these ideas: all of us are creative and collaboration among people is the best way to solve complex problems.

When FabLAB classes began during the 2014-2015 school year, the *IDEO Innovation Values* were posted in the Design and Fabrication labs:

Be Optimistic, Collaborate, Embrace Ambiguity, Learn from failure, Make others successful, Take ownership, and Talk Less Do More

By implementing these industry-based values in the classroom, we have observed that students

- are embracing a culture where they take risks; they have created some incredible end-products from their failures; are taking time to help one another with design and equipment questions as they make others successful; are wrestling with uncertainty and experimenting with possible solutions; and are working more effectively with group members as they collaborate to design and create projects.

These values give our students a context to work on the soft skills—teamwork, ability to ask questions, problem solving, collaboration, communication—that employers want in future hires.

