



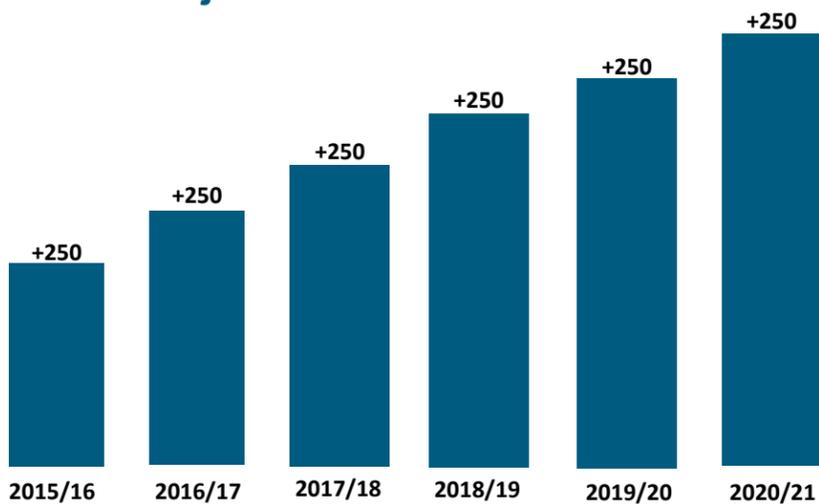
On May 24, 2016, Prior Lake-Savage Area School District residents will be asked to vote on a funding proposal that would respond to increasing student enrollment by providing:

- space for students
- technology for teaching and learning
- security for schools

The Growth

Our school district is experiencing tremendous enrollment growth. We are a popular school district with lots of housing growth; with that growth comes families with children. More students means more needs throughout our district. Existing funding sources are not enough to address this growth, so the school district is requesting additional local funding through a referendum.

Projected Student Enrollment



In the next five years, 1,500 more students are expected in our schools, spread across all grade levels – that’s an average of 250 students per year.

The Question

The one-question ballot request includes a \$129 million 20-year bond request and a \$2.125 million per year 10-year technology levy. These funds would be allocated toward these three goals:



Space for Students

Additions and/or renovations at every building in the district, including classrooms, cafeterias and gyms; a new elementary school; a new Bridges Area Learning Center; and space for our innovative learning programs.



Technology for Teaching and Learning

Support to maintain our position as a leader in Minnesota for innovative technology use in the classroom, including student and staff devices; software programs that support students, teachers and families; technology infrastructure; and technology support staff.



Security for Schools

A new, secure entrance at Prior Lake High School, a visitor screening system at every school; and additional security cameras for all schools.

[More referendum information on page 3](#)

Students Take a Virtual Tour Around the World with Google Expeditions



Jeffers Pond students use Google Cardboard to view penguins in Antarctica on a Google Expedition.

Imagine visiting penguins in Antarctica or the surface of the moon in an afternoon. PLSAS media specialists and students got a unique opportunity to take virtual tours to these exotic places using an innovative new classroom tool called Google Expeditions.

Teachers at Glendale, Jeffers Pond and WestWood took their classes on immersive virtual journeys to bring their lessons to life this spring. Students were using Google Expeditions to virtually see into other places and times. Students tied their learning about ecosystems, history and biomes into this virtual reality experience.

The Google Expeditions team visited the three elementary schools to showcase the virtual reality platform. Built for the classroom, Google worked with teachers and content partners from around the world to create more than 100 engaging journeys - making it easy to immerse students in entirely new experiences.

Using a tablet and one of the Google Expeditions apps, teachers guided up to 50 students wearing virtual reality viewers, like Google Cardboard. Teachers directed their class and pointed out highlights while referring to notes.

Teachers and students alike were excited by this experience. "I have not seen all of the students so excited about something in all my years teaching," said Kate Tinguely, media specialist at Glendale and Jeffers Pond. "The excitement in the room was contagious! Kids were engaged, excited and learning all at the same time!"

www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

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PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS
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A Message From Superintendent, Dr. Teri Staloch

It's not often you see preschool students and fifth graders studying together, but I recently had an opportunity to observe these two "buddy classrooms" at Jeffers Pond and the amazing learning that resulted.

On this day, the way in which students were learning was not what you may be envisioning. There were no computers, tables or chairs. A teacher was not standing in front of the class delivering instruction. There wasn't even a traditional classroom. Instead, teachers were working alongside students in the Outdoor Learning Center, a beautiful area that provides a multitude of hands-on, E-STEM learning opportunities.

Teachers Anne Nelson and Anna Dutke, along with the science committee, had been looking at student data and MCA scores in which students could improve. They knew they had previous success pairing classes and decided to design a lesson using the inquiry method of teaching while outdoors.

As a result, eleven-year olds were paired with the four-year olds in the nature-based preschool program for a lesson on the study of animals in their natural ecosystems. The teachers had created lessons with information and animal bio facts, such as feathers and fur pelts that were age appropriate and high interest. These bio facts were placed around the Outdoor Learning Center and the students "discovered" the information.

Here's what happened. Fifth graders read to preschoolers (and in some cases preschoolers read to fifth graders!) a description about the animal's natural history including habitat, food source and predators. The preschoolers and 5th graders then worked together to determine the animal's adaptations for survival.

Preschoolers drew the animal in their nature journal and made note of what the animal's adaptation was for survival, while the fifth grade students wrote about the animal and its adaptations in their science journal. The fifth graders checked the preschooler's drawing for detail while the preschoolers counted to make sure the older students wrote at least three sentences about each animal they investigated.

The teachers have reported that since implementing paired classroom lessons, behaviors and engagement levels with all students have improved. The preschoolers enjoy one-on-one interaction with students they consider role models who get as excited as they do about the same subjects. The fifth graders are challenged by the creativity and open mindedness of the preschoolers, which helps to bring their understanding of the material to a deeper level. They also thrive on being given a leadership role in learning.

Other teachers throughout the district have also implemented buddy classrooms and have had the same successes. In fact, on the day of my visit, kindergarten and third grade buddy classes were collecting maple sap from the trees they had tapped with their teachers and parents earlier in the year.

Teacher collaboration is key to implementing innovative strategies in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools. Anna and Anne plan to share more details of their classroom lesson with other teachers throughout the district during an upcoming professional development day.

As an innovative school district, I value the way teachers are empowered to think outside the box in terms of how we educate students and engage them meaningfully in the learning process.

Similarly, our nature-based preschool model has become a popular program and one we hope to expand in our district in the future. It's one more way we are working to fulfill our Strategic Direction of expanding and embedding environmental focus across the district.

I'm looking forward to continue watching our youngest learners progress through elementary school. One day they will be fifth graders who will remember the role models before them and practice the same patience and wisdom with a whole new class of preschoolers.



Community Education
Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools

Community Education Classes

To register for Community Education classes, visit www.priorlakesavagece.com

Summer Swim Registration is now open at www.priorlakesavagece.com or call 952.226.0080.

Session I: Mon-Thu, June 13 to 23

Session II: Mon-Thu, June 27 to 30 and
Tue-Fri, July 5 to 8

Session III: Mon-Thu, July 11 to 21

Session IV: Mon-Thu, July 25 to August 4



Star Wars®: May the Fourth Be With You
(Ages 5-11 w/Adult)

Wed, May 4
6-8 p.m.

Twin Oaks Middle School

\$29 (1 child/adult) \$12/each additional child.

In a galaxy as far away as Twin Oaks Middle School, you'll explore the stars and beyond. Grab a dodgeball and join the DJ for a Galactic Scramble, create a Star Wars® themed art project, have snacks, and enjoy your time completing other challenges with your adult and other Wookies, Jedis, and Droids. Costumes or Star Wars® apparel is encouraged but not required. Please bring a white T-shirt for black light dodgeball. Additional LED products may be available for sale at the event. Light snacks are included.

District Retirement Celebration Set for May 19

We will be bidding our PLSAS retirees a fond farewell at a retirement party on May 19. Save the date and join us at Twin Oaks Middle School, 15860 Fish Point Road SE, Prior Lake from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

2016 Retirees

David Ayres, 5th Grade Teacher, Five Hawks Elementary

Barb Baldwin, 3rd Grade Teacher, Five Hawks Elementary

Sally Davis, Spanish Teacher, Prior Lake High School

Lucy DesLauriers, Special Education Teacher, Redtail Ridge Elementary

Andy Franklin, Science Teacher, Prior Lake High School

Linda Grell, Special Education Secretary, Prior Lake High School

Robin Gunning, Media Specialist, Prior Lake High School

Eileen Hanson, Kids' Company Site Leader, Grainwood Elementary

Pat Jones, Head Building Secretary, Redtail Ridge Elementary

Dr. Doug Kern, Director of Special Education

Jean Lamusga, Finance Secretary, Prior Lake High School

Terry Lewis, Science Teacher, Prior Lake High School

Rosalie Schaefer, FACS Teacher, Prior Lake High School

Marie Schoenig, Speech Language Pathologist, Prior Lake High School

Deb Sunderman, Physical Education Teacher, Five Hawks Elementary

Commissioner Cassellius Visits Redtail Ridge Elementary School



Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius visited Redtail Ridge recently as part of her tour of schools with multiple Reward School designations.

Redtail Ridge has received the Reward School designation for four consecutive years.

Recognized annually by the Dept. of Education, Reward Schools are Minnesota's highest performing Title I schools. These schools have demonstrated exceptional student outcomes and success in closing achievement gaps.

L to R: Superintendent Dr. Teri Staloch, School Board Vice-Chair Todd Sorensen, Commissioner Brenda Cassellius, Senator Eric Pratt, Representative Drew Christensen and Redtail Ridge Principal Barb Yetzer

Referendum information continued from page 1

The Background

We Listened...

The School Board and District leadership spent the last year studying the district's growth and facility needs before finalizing the referendum request. Extensive work by a Demographic Review Committee paved the way, followed by many Board study sessions and community input.

Throughout the planning process we have been working with – and listening to – our community, gathering staff and community input through information sessions, emails, comment cards, many informal discussions and a community survey. In response, we are being fiscally responsible with our community's financial resources: we reduced the original proposal and used a range of financial tools to save money and be more efficient with tax dollars.

What if the Referendum Does Not Pass?

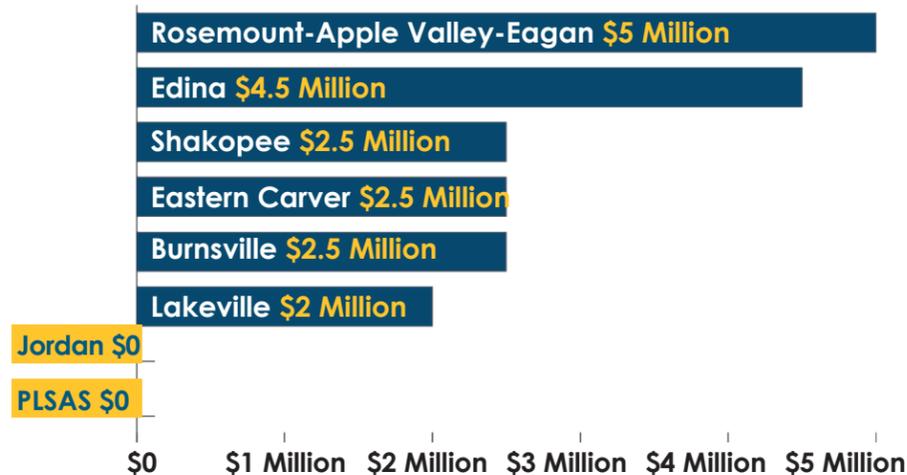
The School Board has determined that without additional funding:

- Class sizes would increase
- Growth would continue to add pressure on schools
- Elementary attendance boundaries may need to change due to school crowding
- Our ability to maintain classroom technology and innovative programming would be limited
- We would not be able to improve security at all buildings

Financial Management

We are committed to transparent and responsible management of our community's financial resources. Our Business Office has received the Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Award for exhibiting fiscal health, sound fiscal management and accountability. We have also received the Association of School Business Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award.

Technology Levy Comparisons



Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools (PLSAS) is one of the few metro area school districts without a voter-approved technology levy. If the referendum is approved, it would provide dedicated funding for classroom technology and free up operating dollars for a new elementary school and other building additions.

Tax Impact

If approved, the tax impact on the average homeowner (\$300,000 value home) would be less than \$31 per month. An online tax impact calculator is available at: www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/referendum.

Voting Information

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 24 or you can absentee vote until 5 p.m. on May 23. To download an absentee voting application or to find your polling location, visit www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/referendum or call Martha Walz at 952-226-0010.

Learn More

Attend an information session:

- Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. District Services Center
- Wednesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. Prior Lake High School

 www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/referendum

 input@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

 952-226-0037



Scan the QR code for more referendum information!



DID YOU KNOW?



Our educational cost per student is nearly \$2,000 less than the average in the seven county metro area.



DID YOU KNOW?



91% of residents surveyed rated our quality of education as excellent or good.

Morris Leatherman, 2016 Survey



DID YOU KNOW?



93% of residents surveyed rated our staff job performance as excellent or good.

Morris Leatherman, 2016 Survey



DID YOU KNOW?



In the next five years, Prior Lake is projected to gain 825 new housing units and Savage an additional 400 housing units.

Important Dates

April 28
Referendum
Information Session
7 p.m.
District Services Center

May 2
District Elementary Art
Show
6 p.m.
Glendale Elementary

May 4
Referendum
Information Session
7 p.m.
Prior Lake High School

May 9
School Board Meeting
7 p.m.
District Services Center

May 19
District Retirement
Celebration
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Twin Oaks Middle
School

May 24
Special Election:
2016 Referendum -
Polls open from
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Superintendent
Dr. Teri Staloch

**2016 Board of
Education**

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Vice-Chair
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Kristi Mussman
952-226-0014



PLHS Students Present at Fab Lab Innovation Showcase



L to R: Sophomores Josh Caven, Carter Johnson, Will Hagen and Taylor Galloway pose with their "Convenient Cutting" board and detachable knife holder at the PLHS Fab Lab Innovation Showcase.

Prior Lake High School's Fabrication Laboratory -- Fab Lab -- is now in its second year of operation. Students continue to learn and design using 2-D and 3-D software. After problem-solving during the design process, they fabricate their products using laser engravers, 3-D scanners and printers, vinyl cutters and printers and heat-transfer equipment. Often this process includes prototyping and revisions before final products are refined.

As a final project for the 2nd Quarter, the students worked collaboratively to create a business plan and a product for the Innovation Showcase. They displayed their business/marketing plans to potential investors (staff, parents and fellow students), along with their product prototypes.

Some of this year's products included a "Power House," a house-shaped container home to a USB power strip; "Bathroom Bundle" organizing unit that holds a razor and a small bowl of water for use at home and on the road; and "Convenient Cutting," which is a cutting board with a detachable container for knives and scissors.

The Fab Lab course is open to students in grades 10-12 and is co-taught by Business teacher Jennifer Reinhardt and Industrial Technology teacher John Maresh.

Lakers on the Leading Edge Blog Showcases Innovation in Classrooms

Have you ever been to a Math Carnival or used Barbies to learn about linear models?

Our incredibly creative teachers use examples like these to make learning fun and engaging for their students. In an effort to publicize all the innovative things happening throughout the district, Digital Learning Specialist Jessica McMahon created Lakers on the Leading Edge blog.



The blog highlights new and different ways teachers are focusing instruction using the 21st century learning skills: creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking.

Visit the blog to see more innovation: <http://leadinglakers.blogspot.com>.

Glendale 5th graders create carnival games to help practice math skills.

Lake House Café Now Open at PLHS



The new Lake House Café coffee shop is now open at Prior Lake High School! Open from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, the coffee shop serves hot and cold coffee drinks, smoothies, hot teas, bakery items, and grab-and-go salads and sandwiches. Every Wednesday is Sushi Wednesday and

fresh sushi will be available. Cash and checks are accepted.

Be sure to follow Laker Marketplace on Twitter for news and updates: @LakerMarket.

LEF Gratitude Greetings Honor Staff

This spring, the Laker Educational Foundation is offering two ways to say "Thank you" to teachers and staff.

For every tax-deductible donation of \$20 made to the Laker Educational Foundation, your chosen staff member(s) will receive a personalized Gratitude Greeting or Teacher Tribute, and a \$10 gift card to Artisan Coffee Bistro in Prior Lake.

The Teacher Tributes are the perfect way for 2016 seniors to thank the special teachers who have touched them deeply and changed the course of their lives. It's the best time to give them the recognition, honor and respect they deserve.

To donate, visit the LEF website www.lakerfoundation.org and click the link on the homepage.



O.A.R., Martina McBride to Headline Prior Lake Rotary's Lakefront Music Fest

Tickets purchased from any of our athletic teams or activities will benefit their respective programs.

Prior Lake Rotary invites you to the seventh annual 2016 Lakefront Music Fest at Lakefront Park in Prior Lake! This year's lineup features O.A.R., BoDeans and Eric Hutchinson on Friday, July 15 for rock night; and Martina McBride, Love and Theft, and Lauren Alaina on Saturday, July 16 for country night.

There are two ways to support PLSAS students:

Buy Tickets

Buy tickets now and save! Single tickets purchased in advance are \$30 for both nights. Tickets purchased at the gate are \$30 per night. Ages 13 and under are free. Fifty percent of admission ticket sales (\$15 per ticket) sold directly through our teams and activities will benefit their respective programs. Visit the following website to select the team/activity from which you would like to purchase tickets: www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/LMF.

Volunteer

The Laker Athletic Booster Club and Patrons of the Arts and Activities will receive \$20/hour for any volunteer that signs up to work at the event. Benefits of volunteering include: free admission to the event for both nights, a free volunteer t-shirt and enjoying awesome music outdoors at beautiful Lakefront Park! Visit the Lakefront Music Fest website for more details: www.lakefrontmusicfest.com.



Martina McBride



Love and Theft



Lauren Alaina

Buy tickets today! \$30 for both nights!
www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/LMF