

A teacher's perspective: what does Distance Learning look like at PLSAS?

The COVID-19 pandemic launched teachers, students and families into a new reality last March when our schools had to shut down. Since that time, we have more information - thanks to staff, parent and student feedback - about what works for students and what doesn't when it comes to Distance Learning.

PLSAS Distance Learning 2.0 reflects improvements over last spring, offering more structure and a comprehensive learning experience. We asked some PLSAS teachers how they and their students find success in the Distance Learning model.

Kelly Stufft

1st grade teacher, Distance Learning Academy



How do you engage students in Distance Learning?

It is important to first build relationships - not only between teacher and student, but also between student and student. Next, focus on building routines and structure. Once these are established, student engagement is stronger.

How do you maintain classroom rigor and help students be successful?

Small-group instruction is a very powerful teaching and learning tool in Distance Learning. These groups are a time to differentiate instruction and meet student needs. Students are also more comfortable taking risks in small groups, and they allow a chance for students to deepen relationships with their peers.

What advice do you have for students during Distance Learning?

Come prepared for Distance Learning the same way you would come to school: dress appropriately, eat a good breakfast before class, bring all of your materials, use headphones to eliminate distractions, participate and have fun in this new learning adventure!

Jaime Chilson

5th grade teacher, Five Hawks Elementary



How do you engage students in Distance Learning?

I have set up a sense of trust and urgency with my students. For the last 9 weeks, I have built a strong relationship with students and that has aided in their ownership of their education.

How do you maintain classroom rigor and help students be successful?

We celebrate all the small gains that we are making. They know that hard work pays off and we are making the most of this learning model!

What advice do you have for students during Distance Learning?

Never give up! It isn't always what we had planned, but when we are working our hardest and giving it our all, we will be rewarded!

Distance Learning teachers continued on page 2

School Board election results

Voters in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools have elected newcomers Amy Crosby and Julie Bernick to their first terms on the School Board. Incumbent, Mary Frantz was re-elected to her seat for another four-year term.

Crosby earned the most votes, garnering 11,551. Bernick was next with 10,709, followed by Frantz with 10,206. Current Board members Melissa Enger and Lee Shimek did not seek re-election.

The other four candidates vying for positions included Jonathan Painter (7,486 votes), Nneka Sederstrom (6,385 votes), J B Davis III (6,093 votes) and Farheen Hassan (3,106 votes). There were also 260 write-in votes.

Newly elected Board members Crosby, Bernick and Frantz will begin their terms in January, 2021.

Kindergarten 2021/22 enrollment information



Welcome class of 2034! Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools is pleased to offer tuition free, full-day kindergarten and full-day kindergarten Spanish Immersion at La ola del lago at Grainwood.

December 3 at 6 p.m.

Watch the Kindergarten Information Session online

All parents of incoming 2021/22 kindergarten students are welcome to attend a districtwide virtual Kindergarten Information Session on Thursday, December 3 at 6 p.m. Parents will learn about our traditional kindergarten program and our La ola del lago Spanish Immersion option. Submit a question for the information session: <http://bit.ly/K-info>

Watch the Information Session live (the information session will also be recorded and posted to our enrollment page):

- Website: www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/kindergarten
- Local cable channel 17 in Prior Lake and Savage

December 8 at 6 p.m.

La ola del lago at Grainwood

Spanish Immersion Kindergarten Panel

Join via Google Meet

Join us live on Google Meet to learn about the La ola del lago (LODL) at Grainwood Spanish Immersion program. You'll hear from current LODL parents, our Principal and immersion teachers to get a sense of what a day-in-the-life of an immersion student is like. Come with your questions and join us (the panel will also be recorded and posted to our enrollment page):

- by video: <https://bit.ly/LODL-k>
- by phone, dial +1 929-299-3271 and enter this PIN: 706 969 309#

January 14

Online enrollment begins for 2021/22

Beginning January 14, families can visit the district website: www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us and click on "Enroll" to register for the 2021/22 school year. For questions, please call 952-226-0043.

We are looking forward to welcoming your student as a Laker!

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is a free and simple check of how your child is growing and developing. Screening can detect possible health or learning concerns so that children can get help before they start school. As soon as your child reaches 3 years, 2 months call 952-226-0975 to set up a screening appointment.

Circle of Friends Preschool

Mark your calendars! Online registration for the 2021/22 school year begins February 1st. Circle of Friends Preschool, a 4-Star Parent Aware rated program, offers exceptional, personalized learning for all students through exploration, inquiry and discovery, all in supportive environments.

Preschool classrooms are developmentally aligned to Minnesota's early learning standards to prepare our learners for success in kindergarten and beyond.

To discover a program to fit your needs and to access the registration process, visit www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us and click on Circle of Friends Preschool under the "Our Schools" tab.

www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

Distance Learning teachers continued from page 1

Allison Short
Math teacher, Hidden Oaks Middle School



How do you engage students in Distance Learning?

I believe that student engagement begins with relationships. I have gotten to know my students, their interests, abilities and what makes them unique through surveys, activities and conversations. I use this knowledge to provide my students with instruction that is engaging and relevant to them.

How do you maintain classroom rigor and help students be successful?

I provide my students with opportunities to learn in a variety of ways. They can receive instruction through live, synchronous lessons, interactive, self-paced video lessons or individual/small group mini-lessons. Students also engage in various activities to practice their skills and are offered additional support, if needed.

What advice do you have for students during Distance Learning?

To all the wonderful students out there – your safety and mental health are the most important thing right now! Make sure you are doing what you need to do to keep yourself healthy and happy. Please know that your teachers are here to support you through this crazy year, so don't hesitate to reach out if you need help. We will all get through this together and be stronger because of it!

Ana Trimberger
Kindergarten teacher, La ola del lago at Grainwood



How do you engage students in Distance Learning?

I engage students by giving them a sense of community and building relationships during our morning meetings. I use creative and fun activities in which students can relate - like our pumpkin investigation or our E-STEM day. I also use best immersion practices like TPR (Total Physical Response) to associate vocabulary with movement.

How do you maintain classroom rigor and help students be successful?

I maintain the classroom rigor and help students to be successful by teaching expectations from day one. Once a sense of community is established and relationships are built, I have conversations with students and check with them on how they are doing and how we can work or create a plan. This communication is with the students and parents as well.

What advice do you have for students during Distance Learning?

Keep up the good work! If you have questions, ask them. Teachers are here for you. We do not want students or families to struggle by themselves. Let's lean on each other through these challenging times.

Struggling with school?

Free reading and math tutoring online

Let's face it, COVID-19 has made everything challenging this year, especially learning. Reading Corps and Math Corps have launched a new initiative to help. Scholar Squad offers one-on-one, online tutoring for Minnesota students in grades PreK-8.



Visit ScholarSquad.org to request help for your child. A literacy or math coach will be in touch to set up a time to learn more about your child and conduct a short screening. If the screening shows your child could use extra help to boost their skills, you'll be matched with a tutor who will provide one-on-one practice and support.

Call your child's school - even when in Distance Learning - if your student is diagnosed with COVID-19

At PLSAS, our goal is to provide as much in-person learning time as possible. We need our community to work together toward this goal and help stop the spread of COVID-19 so students can get back to the classroom.

Call your school if your child contracts COVID-19

It is important to call your child's school - even while in Distance Learning - if your student is diagnosed with COVID-19. This will allow us to continue to look at our local district data and not have to rely solely on Scott County COVID-19 case rates when determining learning models. As cases in our county and school district decrease, the sooner we will be able to get back to in-person learning.

No-cost, at-home COVID-19 testing information

The MN Department of Health is promoting at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for any person who wants to be tested, with or without symptoms, at no cost. This saliva test is just as accurate as the nasal swab test and is available at no cost for every Minnesotan, whether or not you have insurance. Visit www.health.state.mn.us for details.

Remain vigilant to reduce spread of COVID-19

Please remember to wear your mask, practice social distancing, wash your hands, cover coughs/sneezes and keep your contacts limited to those closest to you and your family. Routine healthcare visits, immunizations and well-child visits continue to be essential during this time.



From the Superintendent



Teri Staloch, Ed.D.

Recently, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools (PLSAS) celebrated American Education Week, a time when we honor public education and the many staff members who are making a difference in the lives of students in our community.

This year, as we face educating students during a public health crisis, it seems all the more important to recognize PLSAS staff who have been working

tirelessly and have remained committed to educating and supporting students throughout the pandemic.

The global health pandemic has called on our staff to adapt to unprecedented challenges and they have risen to the occasion. Our staff have maintained caring relationships, provided rigorous instruction and continue to meet students where they are in their learning journey.

I am so proud of the perseverance of our teachers, the way they have kept students connected and engaged in school, and excited about their learning. Our support staff have kept our schools running and our students learning in safe environments, and our administrators have been leading by example throughout the uncertainties and complexities of this very different school year.

PLSAS recently completed the first quarter of school and as I reflect on this most challenging start to the school year, I am grateful we were able to have several weeks of in-person learning in the Hybrid Learning model with many students.

Due to the significant number of new cases of COVID-19 in Scott County and our school district, we made the difficult decision to shift students to full-time Distance Learning from home. Students in grades 6-12 began Distance Learning on November 12 and elementary students will follow their older peers beginning November 30.

As we begin Distance Learning 2.0, it is not the same as the emergency Distance Learning students experienced last spring. This school year's Distance Learning program reflects improvements over last spring based on staff, parent and student feedback. Distance Learning 2.0 is a structured and comprehensive learning experience with more synchronous (online at the same time) learning where all students in a class will participate in learning together.

While we continue to make the most of Distance Learning, our goal is to get back to in-person learning as soon as we can safely and logistically do so. We need our entire community to work together toward the in-person learning goal and help us stop the spread of COVID-19 so students can get back to the classroom. Please wear your mask, practice social distancing, wash your hands and keep your contacts limited to those closest to you and your family.

It is also important for parents/guardians to call their child's school - even while in Distance Learning - if their student is diagnosed with COVID-19. Doing this will allow us to continue to look at our local district data and not have to rely solely on Scott County COVID-19 case rates when determining learning models. As cases in our county and school district decrease, the sooner we will be able to get back to in-person learning.

The health and safety of our students, staff and families remains our top priority. We remain committed to educating our students to the best of our ability given this public health crisis and the community spread we are all experiencing. I am confident we will get through this together.

PLSAS COVID-19 Dashboard

www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/covid-19

Keep track of what's happening with COVID-19 cases inside our schools. Every week, we'll post an updated count of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the district, as well as share the number of students and staff who are in quarantine. While students are in Distance Learning, we will continue to update our dashboard with cases that are reported to us.

Virtual Student Library Cards for PLSAS students in grades 6-12

We are excited to announce a partnership with the Scott County Library that provides secondary students at PLSAS with a fine-free, virtual library card. This library card allows students in grades 6-12 to access online tutoring and homework help, research tools, eBooks, audiobooks, electronic magazines, language learning tools and print books.

Students are not charged late fees with this card, but are responsible for costs that occur from lost or damaged items. The Virtual Student Library Card (VSLC) provides students with the same access to the full Scott County Library as a standard-issue library card.

PLSAS students in grades 6-12 will receive an email from Scott County Library with instructions on how to activate and use their VSLC.

If you have questions, please contact the Scott County Library at (952) 496-8641 or jgrussing@scottlib.org.

Snow days now Distance Learning days

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools will implement Distance Learning days to provide an opportunity for all students, E-12, to learn from home when our schools close due to weather.

Our first inclement weather day of the school year will NOT be a Distance Learning day. The first school cancellation due to weather will remain a traditional cancellation as in the past.

Should there be a second inclement weather day this school year, a Distance Learning day will be called. This means no students will attend school in our buildings and will instead receive online instruction at home. Kids' Company child care will not be offered any time our schools close due to inclement weather.

School closures will be communicated on the district website, social media, by phone call, text, email and on local television stations. Students will use Seesaw and Schoology to get assignments and communicate with teachers during established office hours.

Tree of Warmth winter clothing drive

Please bring NEW boots, snow pants, waterproof gloves/mittens, hats, socks and scarves by December 8 to the following drop-off locations:



Twisted Loop Yarn Shop
16210 Eagle Creek Av., Prior Lake (library bldg.)

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools
District Services Center
4540 Tower St. SE, Prior Lake

The UPS Store
14033 Commerce Av. NE, Prior Lake

Prior Lake Chamber of Commerce
4785 Dakota St. SE, Prior Lake

All donated items will go to students in need in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools.

The Tree of Warmth winter clothing drive is sponsored by the Prior Lake Chamber of Commerce.

School Board Scholars

To be a School Board Scholar, a Prior Lake High School student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or higher. Congratulations to our 2020/21 School Board Scholars!

Kathryn Abney	Lily Drane	Jack Hulskotter	Ella Martell	Ana Sanchez-Garza
Elliana Albrecht	Mikayla Drentlaw	Sydney Indihar	Madeline Marvel	Ty Sandell
Nissa Ali	Bella Drewes	Aria Jackson	Keegan Masser	Abbigail Santer
Bruin Allen	Olivia Duncan	Emma Jacob	Marissa Maurer	Madelyn Sasse
Lydia Allison	Owen Dwyer	Kyle Jacobson	Julieta Mazzoldi	Savannah Savoy
Benjamin Anderson	Anthony Dyson	Sophia Jacobson	Ava Mccalvy	Jade Sawrey
Brielle Anderson	Adam Easton	Samuel Jansen	Kyle McCullough	Allison Schafer
Erin Anderson	Noah Ebeling	Evan Jefferson	Sarah McDonald	Anna Schatzlein
Gunnar Anderson	Cole Edwards	Cody Jenkins	Brendan McGraw	Nora Schatzlein
Isabella Andrus	Ayla Edwardy	Alexander Jensen	Ava McKeon	Jayden Schoeller
Allison Andryski	Madelyn Ekstrand	Abby Johnson	Heather McKiernan	Stephanie Schonhoff
Maame Anokye-Agyei	Rohan Elvin	Benjamin Johnson	Lillian McRoberts	David Schons
Colton Anthony	Evan Engel	Blake Johnson	John Meagher	Madison Schreier
Alison Arnold	Morgan Erickson	Drew Johnson	Abrianna Meelberg	Jeremy Schreiner
Jacob Artang	Ryan Erickson	Jack Johnson	Clara Meixner	Rachel Schriever
Maerianna Artang	Bethany Erkel	Matthew Johnson	Samantha Menier	Avery Schroeder
Mikayla Babcock	Carlos Esparza-	Zachary Johnson	Kyra Menning	Leah Schuerkamp
Parker Baines	Talamantes	Mia Johnston	Isabella Merwin	Benjamin Schultz
Hayden Banas	Mariajose Esparza-	Ashlyn Jore	Allison Meschke	Ryan Schultze
Michael Baribeau	Talamantes	Faith Jung	Anna Mestnik	Tyler Schwen
Warwick Barker	Annika Evenson	Katherine Kaisersatt	Thomas Mestnik	Zachary Seeman
Isabelle Barney	Corinne Fastrup	Kaitlyn Kalal	Carter Meyer	Mckenzie Serda
Lillian Barney	Soren Featherstone	Ciara Kallevig	Courtney Meyer	Jaden Setter
Samantha Barrett	Aidan Ferguson	Mahika Kandula	Claire Michaelson	Eli Shoppell
Avery Bartusek	Joseph Fier	Kaitlin Kane	Madison Michels	Kerri Shorba
Caden Baty	Elizabeth Finkenaur	Zachary Karsko	Benjamin Mickett	Justin Simonson
Brooke Bauer	Anja Finstad	Kaitlyn Kartschoke	Kylie Miller	Sourikhamxay
Grace Baumler	Ella Fitterer	Sarah Keeney	Charlotte Moede	Simproukham
Brady Baur	Ethan Fontana	Brenna Keil	Frederick Moede	Emily Singewald
Alexander Beck	Katie Foss	Leah Keith	Alexander Moeller	Ariana Skroch
Ellen Becken	Avery Fowble	Joshua Keller	Lauren Moeller	Gabe Smit
Kyle Behrens	Jenna Fowler	Katelyn Kelm	Aamal Mohammad	Brooke Spieler
Raina Belair	Ravlin Frantz	Grace Kennedy	Natalee Mohs	Dalton Spratt
Jayson Berg	Riley Franzen	Henry Keo	Trevor Mong	Gabrielle Sprouls
Arianna Bergeron	Ella Fredrickson	Abigail Kerr	Bryce Moore	Jack St. Martin
Carter Berggren	Mitchell Fust	Marissa Kieser	Ellie Mortensen	Hannah Stach
Emma Bingenheimer	Michael Gabbard	Faith King	Luka Mortensen	Zoe Stanek
Brandon Bischel	Emma Gannon	Audrey Klein	Reagan Moss	Isabella Stein
Payton Bloedow	Sophie Gardiner	Kayla Klima	Hayley Mullins	Sophia Stein
Ava Bondhus	Griffin Garrity	Nikolas Knudsen	Kalle Munger	Joseph Stelzig
Madeline Bopp	Kaia Gastony	Adeline Knutson	Elizabeth Munsterman	Jackson Stephany
Laine Bottemiller	Andrew Gatti	Kendra Knutson	Emily Munsterman	Zander Steward
Leah Bottemiller	Samantha Gau	Ella Kocina	Anjali Muppidi	Chloe Stimmmler
Grace Bowman	Matthew Gednalski	Jack Kokoschke	Laura Murr	Taryn Stocker
Parker Boyce	Makayla Gedrose	Yana Kolesnik	Magen Mutch	Kellen Stokes
Shannon Boyle	Zachary Gelman	Roshni Konakanti Bugulu	Bella Nelson	Lauren Stolt
Morgan Bozeman	Ashley George	Sam Koopmeiners	Olivia Nelson	Breanna Storlie
Henry Brandt	Naomi George	Emily Krause	Sophia Nelson	Gavin Strane
Tatum Brostrom	Emma Gerdes	Megan Krawza	Sophie Nelson	Mateo Suarez
Gavin Brown	Liv Gidley	Claire Krivitz	Emeline Nemeth	Veronica Suarez
Ava Bryant	Kendra Gilbertson	Joseph Krouse	Grace Netz	Dennis Such
Kaylin Buckingham	Ashley Giles	Sarah Krouse	Gillian Neuharth	Sylvia Such
Haley Buelow	Norah Ginkel	Abigail Kuboushek	Tanner Newlin	Levente Szabo
Caleigh Bunkers	Elizabeth Ginzburg	Lillian Kuiken	Tyler Newlin	Luke Ta
Alexandra Burger	Colin Glynn	Natalie Kunz	Jessica Nguyen	Tatum Tande
Benjamin Burke	Lance Goeschel	Ashton Lacko	Melissa Nguyen	Leif Tanner
Jared Burnett	Abigail Gogolin	Alyssa Lam	Sandy Nguyen	Keara Telshaw
Cooper Busch	Richard Gonser	Anita Lam	Kathryn Nollette	Sofia Tereshchenko
Jayde Butler	Naomi Gray	Katelyn Lam	Lauren Nygaard	Emily Thielen
Bella Carlson	Dustan Green	Sara Lam	Nicholas Nygaard	Kylie Thompson
Sara Carlson	Carson Greenlee	Ella Lang	Magnus O'Connor	Natalie Thoms
Cameron Carney	Sarah Grinberg	Kristen Langdon	Mary O'Neil	Nicole Torborg
Cole Carney	Mara Grotjohn	Lauren Larson	Cameron Oliver	Sonnie Trabling
Aubrey Carrigan	Lindsey Grove	Lucas Larson	Ariana Olson	Kathryn Trachsel
Carmen Carrillo	Rachel Guetter	Micah Larson	Armaan Olson	Amy Tran
Grace Chapman	Jessica Ha	Sophie Larson	Julia Olson	Liem Tran
Jack Cheng	Kyle Haas	Wyatt Larson	Lydia Olson	Jackson Tressel
Jo-Yi Chow	Sadie Haben	Elle Laurienzo	Talon Olson	Grace Tschida
Leah Christensen	Abigail Haferman	Samantha Leam	Isabel Ondracek	Lili Mei Ullrich
Matthew Christensen	Hannah Haghghi	Anastasia Ledyeva	Isabel Orvalla	Hannah Ulsager
Luke Christopherson	Rebeka Hailu	Breanna Lee	Michael Osipenko	Srushti Vaidyanathan
Sam Christopherson	Logan Hall	Kayla Lee	Leo Ostigaard	Lainey Van Hecke
Sophia Church	Sidney Hall	Sophia Lee	Sazanami Ostlund	Blake Vander Weide
Lindsey Clark	Ian Hansen	Audrey Lehnert	Carl Otten	Elika Veng
Hallie Clayton	Dylan Hanson	Logan Lehrer	Benjamin Pascanik	Madison Vogt
Gabriel Coleman	Taylor Hartell	Samantha Leong	Ainsley Pauna	Joseph Vohnoutka
Chloe Collins	Kaia Harvey	Sophia Lewis	Sydney Pearson	Blake Wallen
Anya Congreve	Madeline Hauenstein	Mark Lichtenberger	Cecelia Peller	Shannon Wallskog
Freya Congreve	Molly Hauenstein	Jenna Lillard	Benjamin Perila	Scarlett Walter
Aryel Connelly	Courtney Haugen	Garrett Lindaman	Joseph Perila	Matthew Walz
Caitlyn Connelly	Jade Haugen	Lauren Lindstrom	Sienna Perkins	Lauren Wander
Madelyn Connor	Nathaniel Hawkins	Camille Little	Josephine Peterburs	Rachel Ward
Kaitlyn Cray	Ross Hebel	Melisse Little	Mallory Petersen	Eric Warner
Lauren Crosby	Abigail Heiser	Renae Little	Benjamin Pfannenstein	Kavinu Weerawardhene
Luke Crosby	Tianna Helgeson	Alexandra Lloyd	James Piper	Matthew Weinberger
Kate Curtler	Delaney Henry	Neva Loechler	Abigail Pocrnich	Ava Wentworth
Gabrielle Cvancara	Mary Kate Herber	Taylor Lolling	Travis Poonai	Isaiah Whalen
Lucas Cvancara	Emily Hesse	Skyler Longerbone	Kiera Priebe	Zachary Wiese
Riley Dahl	Emma Higgins	Maria Lopresto	Hannah Qahan	Tori Wietgreffe
Matthew Dallalah	Owen Hildebrandt	Britta Lund	Courtney Rahbain	Josie Wilhelm
Michael Dallalah	Allison Hilzendegeer	Vivian Lundquist	Lauren Rausch	Julian Will
Sydney Danger	Kaori Hirano	Madalyn Lyons	Brynna Ray	Abigail Williams
Nicholas Danicich	Noelle Hoepner	Quinn Mackin	Madeline Reckmeyer	Courtney Williams
Hannah Dauer	Madeline Holden	London Maershbecker	Josephine Reed	Grace Williams
Taylor Dauer	Sophia Holloway	Grace Mahowald	Jeremy Rejda	Justina Wojahn
Angelena Davis	Wilfred Holm	Veronica Maines	Brooklyn Rentschler	Ava Wold
Emma Davis	Brooke Holmes	Isabella Maldonado	Jake Ridgley	Emily Wu
Natalie Davitch	Alleyna Holtan	Emily Mang	John Ridgley	Kelly Wu
April Defillo Hernandez	Laurel Hoops	Savanaluck Manikhong	Miranda Roberts	Connor Young
Evan Delain	Bladen Hopkins	Hing	Mckoy Ross	Mia Zastrow
Stella Dileva	Jake Horner	Cassidy Manor	Sidney Rousselow	Olivia Zastrow
Lynn Dinh	Jasmine Horrach	Kaleb Marahrens	Rita Ruacho-Rodriguez	Erik Zender
Lily Dodge	Abigail Horter	Vanessa Marahrens	Quinn Ruzicka	Kristina Zerwas
Amanda Dolby	Sarah Huderle	Lindsay Marcinkevich	Katlyn Sabby	Joseph Zollar
Connor Dombrowski	Charlie Hudoba	Lauren Marquardt	Victor Safonov	Adrienne Zollman
		Ana Martell	Mackenzie Salentre	Jaiden Zollman

Free meals for students



PLSAS LakerMarketplace has expanded our free, curbside Meals-To-Go program. Distance Learning students will now receive seven days worth of meals in a bundle that includes:

- Individually portioned, healthy and nutritious breakfasts and lunches
- A new themed meal kit a few times per month

Our themed meal kits are family-style meals featuring a main entrée, fruits, vegetables and milk. Each student will receive a breakfast and lunch meal kit. Check out SchoolCafé for more information on the themes and weekly menus.

We are still requesting that families pre-order their meals through the Google Form link that is emailed every week and posted to the district Facebook page. Curbside pick-up will continue to be available on Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, at your designated pick-up location.

Application for educational benefits

Help generate state aid for your school by completing the Application for Educational Benefits. Parents/Guardians can submit meal applications by logging into SchoolCafé or visit our website to download printable applications at www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us

Students in households that meet the free or reduced-price meal income guidelines will generate compensatory revenue for their school. Each household must complete the online form, no later than December 15 so the school can calculate eligibility and report to the MN Dept. of Education.

Early Childhood Family Education

We have so many options to support you and your child. Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes are open for registration throughout the year. In-person and online classes are available.

Visit:

priorlake-savage.ce.eleyo.com

for class descriptions, dates and times



Are you new to the district?

Welcome to Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools! If you have school-age children, you can enroll them online at www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/enroll or visit the District Services Center, 4540 Tower Street SE in Prior Lake.

For more information, call 952-226-0000. We look forward to welcoming your child into our school district as a Laker!

Connect with us

To get news, photos, events and more, "Like" us on Facebook and/or follow us on Twitter and Instagram.



[facebook.com/PLSAS](https://www.facebook.com/PLSAS)
twitter.com/isd719
[instagram.com/isd719](https://www.instagram.com/isd719)

New learning spaces are meeting the needs of students during the pandemic



COVID-19 has changed how we educate students in ways we could never have imagined. At Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools (PLSAS), flexibility is key as we implement our learning models with safety requirements, while ensuring student's individual learning needs continue to be met.

Back in 2017 when the community approved two school funding requests to add staff and space for our growing enrollment, we never could have predicted just how well the design of our new learning environments would serve us in today's world of educating students during a pandemic. From flexible furniture and movable walls, to outdoor classrooms, our spaces are meeting the needs of students by ensuring they can collaborate while maintaining a safe social distance.

The newly opened Hamilton Ridge Elementary was designed specifically to meet the individual learning needs of students. The guiding principles shaped the design to include classrooms with movable walls, furniture on wheels to make learning flexible on a daily basis, and areas where students can easily convene in small groups to work, while also including areas for individualized learning.



Hamilton Ridge Elementary students find spaces to work during independent learning time

Another new design feature at Hamilton Ridge, as well as Prior Lake High School (PLHS), are "learning stairs," which are not only functional stairs but also serve as informal seating space. The versatile nature of the learning stairs offers flexibility where students in today's environment can spread out and socially distance, while still being able to connect with one another either formally through project-based learning, or informally with one another.

PLHS has undergone major renovations with new classroom additions, a secure front entrance, an expanded kitchen, and parking lot, and a four-court activity center. Moving forward, work continues on the PLHS cafeteria expansion and a second, three-story classroom addition, both set to be complete this winter. Many of the new PLHS classrooms were constructed with a removable wall that opens directly into collaborative spaces with flexible furniture which compliments group work.

Bridges Area Learning Center, our alternative high school, opened in 2019. This building was designed specifically for flexible use and student choice, with open spaces, flexible furniture, and opportunities for collaborative student learning and socialization. One of the highlights of the building is the makerspace patio area which allows outside access for our students and a dedicated space designed for hands-on creativity.

With the safety requirements due to COVID-19, outdoor learning spaces are more important than ever before. Throughout PLSAS, teachers have created outdoor classrooms to promote learning while social distancing.

One example is at Jeffers Pond Elementary where teachers have received professional development on safety and sustainable outdoor learning. Teachers have developed classrooms with an identified "sit-spot" outside the building. The sit-spots include a variety of seating options, such as tree stumps, grass, sit-upons or other plastic flexible seating.

In addition, both Jeffers Pond and Redtail Ridge Elementary have new kindergarten classrooms with doors that re-direct student passage away from classrooms and provide direct access to outside learning.

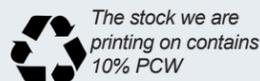
WestWood Elementary, La ola del lago at Grainwood, Hidden Oaks and Twin Oaks Middle Schools have each taken advantage of new multi-purpose rooms that allow flexible space for project-based learning, co-teaching, meetings, student collaboration and small-group instruction.

Our students live in a fast-paced and ever-changing world full of choices. At PLSAS, we want our classroom environments to keep pace with the world we live in and be conducive to open collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking.

It's hard to predict how the rest of the school year will unfold amidst the pandemic but it is our hope that our flexible indoor learning spaces and outdoor classrooms will help students adapt and serve them well in the months and years to come.

About this newsletter

For questions or comments regarding *Laker Connections*, contact Kristi Mussman, Director of Communications, kmussman@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us or 952-226-0014



Our mission is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community.

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