



# Prior Lake High School

## *Parent Newsletter*

### January 2019

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#### A POSITIVE PLACE TO LEARN

## From the Principal

by John Bezek

It is hard to believe at the end of this month we are halfway through the school year. While it may seem a bit early January is the time of year high schools around the state start the registration process for the 2019-20 school year. This process is something we take very serious for it is the basis for what we offer and the staff we hire. Our guidance staff will be communicating with your students this month about the process and various requirements at the local and state level; students are also made aware of the requirements of various colleges and universities. As always if you have specific questions please contact our guidance staff they are always willing to help with questions or concerns.

We have over 2700 students each registering for 24 courses (six periods over 4 quarters) so there are thousands of pieces that go into building a high school schedule. We take those thousands of student requests and figure out how many sections we need of each course, that is the basis for deciding how many staff we hire. Staffing is directly based on these registration numbers that is why we reiterate the importance of making informed choices and we often hold the line of making schedule changes unless there is a legitimate need.

At Prior Lake we pride ourselves on being a comprehensive high school with a wide variety of course offerings. We encourage you to talk your student about their plans and all the options available to them.

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**Laker Corner PLHS School Store** is open every day!

Before School:

7:45 — 8:00

6th Hour:

2:02 — 3:00

After School:

3:00 — 3:15

Attendance Line  
Phone Number

**952-226-8601**

**Parking Lot Reminders**

Speed limit for the high school parking lot is 10 miles per hour!

Main lot requires parking permit, must be displayed on the rearview mirror daily

Softball "daily" lot requires payment day before to park  
*(example: pay Monday to park Tuesday)*

**Laker Café** is open all day!

## 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 (MCGT). Our mission is to support and advocate for academically advanced students, their parents, and their educators.

**Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday January 15 at 7pm** in the WestWood Elementary Media Center (5370 WestWood Dr. SE; Prior Lake, MN 55372), featuring Assistant of Student Support Services Melissa Knettel, who will speak and answer questions about how the needs of gifted kids are met throughout the district.

We will also be hosting two informal "coffee" meetings toward the end of January (just in time for middle and high school scheduling!) where anyone can stop by to talk with SPAN Board members who have "been there" about any questions/concerns you have related to your child. **The coffee meetings will take place on Th. Jan. 24 9:30-11am and Tu. Jan. 29 6:30-8pm at the Caribou inside the Prior Lake Lunds.**

Be sure to sign up for our email list to be notified about the coffee meetings and other meeting dates. If you have questions or would like to be placed on our email list, please email Apryl at [span.priorlake@gmail.com](mailto:span.priorlake@gmail.com). See all of our meeting dates on our website [www.mcgt.net/priorlake](http://www.mcgt.net/priorlake).

## Nurse's Note



As you may already know, Minnesota is seeing cases of influenza across the state, including in our region.

To find a flu shot clinic near you click on the following link:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/>

Here is some information about [influenza in school](#).

You can also read more here: [flu facts](#)

The best way to prevent the spread of influenza is to keep our hands clean, cover sneezes and coughs, and receive yearly flu vaccines. It is not too late to receive a flu vaccine! Please be in touch with your primary care provider if you are concerned about flu symptoms in yourself.

If your child has influenza or influenza-like-symptoms (ILI), please refrain from sending them to school. **Symptoms include fever > 100.0 F, cough and sore throat.** Also, please state your child's symptoms on the attendance line when excusing them from school. This helps us to track and report Influenza and ILI symptoms.

Thank you for your help in keeping PLHS healthy!

Please contact me with any questions.

Julie Dusatko, Licensed School Nurse, RN

[jdusatko@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:jdusatko@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us)

952-226-8682

## Attendance Procedures

Call the Attendance line – 952-226-8601

If your child will be absent from school due to illness, vacation, or appointments, etc.

If you need to take your child out of school for an appointment during the school day (call at least **30 minutes before** your pickup time)

If you forgot to call when your child was absent from school

You may also send us an email at:

[hsattendance@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:hsattendance@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us)

You do not need to come into the school to pick-up your child. They will receive a pass to leave the building from the Attendance Secretary, they will sign themselves out of the building (at the desk located by the student entrance), and meet you at the car. All students **MUST** exit from the student entrance on the east side of the building.

### Absence due to Appointments

Students who miss all or parts of a school day due to a dental, medical or other appointments must provide written note from the dental/medical office where they received treatment.

### Absences Due to Family Vacations 3 or more days

Students need to pick up the "Parental Requests for Extended Absence" form in the attendance office and have it signed by each of their teachers and their parent(s).

### College Visits

Juniors are given one college day and Seniors are given two. They are excused absences, but do count towards the student's total missed attendance days per quarter. Verification of attendance at a post-secondary school is required upon the return of the student to PLHS.

## Trips to Afton – Snowboarding/Skiing

### Trips to Afton- Snowboarding/Skiing

- Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>- 3:30-10:30
- Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>- 3:30-10:30
- Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>- 3:30-10:30

Trips are \$45 for bus trip and lift ticket

Rental is extra

Questions, contact the Activities Office- 952-226-8690

## National Honor Society

This past December we have had many fun events along with an amazing retreat! Some of these events include bell ringing, caroling for build a hand, staff appreciation activities, parents night out, and spirit of the holidays.

Senior Madeline Roses led bell ringing and was able to help out the Salvation Army while spreading Holiday cheer. Multiple volunteers also helped out and made bell ringing successful and fun way to serve our community and those in need!

One of our biggest events of the year was also this past month which was caroling for for a foundation called Build a Hand. This foundation helps build hands for those who have lost them overseas due to land mines. Seniors Marisa Popple, Ryan Wade, and Aidan Becken and juniors include Emma Kubushek, Isabel Lundquist, Kate Heimel, and Kylie Karsky chaired this event and lead it to its great success. Over the five nights of caroling, many different clubs and organizations joined in and helped us to reach above our goal of over \$10,000. The next step will be making the hands and then sending them to the recipients overseas.

The month of the December is crazy for teachers and Seniors Leah Keil and Erin Quach and Juniors Abby Grund and Preethi Kumar assisted in making the Holidays a little less crazy for the staff. They along with other volunteers helped wrap gifts for teachers and also had members make cookies to spread some Holiday joy around to all and thank them for all of the wonderful work they do within our school!

Kailey Ernste and Abby Yost put on Parent's Night Out and were able to make it a fun and successful event. About 40 kids signed up and enjoyed the fun Holiday theme! There were many fun activities that kept everyone engaged and made the event so fun. Our next PNO is coming up on March 1st!

The final event of December was Spirit of the Holidays, where we were able to spread the spirit of the season to the entire school. The members did a wonderful job of decorating the school and also delivering singing and candy grams to people. It was so fun to see the joy that a simple song or candy cane can bring someone!

We are so excited to start the New Year with more service and support for our community!



## Guidance News

College Credit Opportunity Night 1/30 at 7pm: Join us in the auditorium for information about how to earn college credit while a student at PLHS. Topics will include: our dual enrollment classes at PLHS that earn college credit, Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) enrollment and registration, and MNCAPS. The presentation will be posted online.

Registration for 2019-2020: Guidance will be meeting with all grade levels on January 24<sup>th</sup> to give an overview on graduation requirements and registration for next year's courses. Presentations will be posted on the guidance website. Counselors will join English classes on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> (9<sup>th</sup> grade), Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and Feb 7<sup>th</sup> (11<sup>th</sup> grade) to register students for classes. **Students that are absent on their assigned registration day can stop in the guidance office the following week, any time between 7:30 – 3:00, to complete their registration.**

Practice ACT: Prior Lake High School will be hosting the practice ACT test on Saturday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for registration is Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. The registration link and more information can be found on the guidance website.

Schedule change requests for quarter 3 are due by Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. For more information, please visit the guidance webpage.

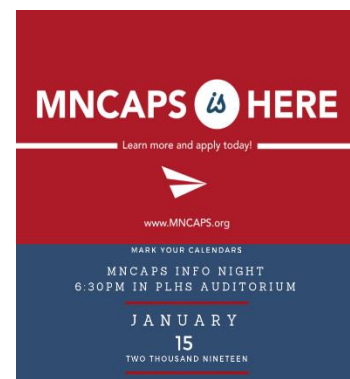
The Guidance Department is looking for local businesses and organizations who are interested in donating money to be used for scholarships for the senior class. Please contact Kelly Kren at [kkren@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:kkren@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us) if you are interested in making a donation or sponsoring a scholarship.

## MNCAPS Minute

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is right around the corner! We cordially invite you to our Student and Parent Information Night to learn more about MNCAPS experience. This event will be held on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 PM in the PLHS Auditorium.

When participating in MNCAPS, students receive the following:

- High School Credits
- College Credits  
*(Weighted when calculating cumulative GPA)*
- Professional Mentor Experience
- Corporate Business Projects
- Experiential Learning
- Professional Skills Development
- Flexible Work Environment
- Career Decision-Making Assistance
- Collaboration with Peers



The session on January 15<sup>th</sup> will include a presentation from current MNCAPS students as well as the MNCAPS Coordinator, Erik Sill. In the meantime, if you have questions about the program, please visit [www.mncaps.org](http://www.mncaps.org) or contact Erik Sill at [esill@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:esill@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us).