

# Updates from Superintendent Radeke

September 8, 2023



## Welcome Back Bulldogs!

Dear Lester Prairie School District Community,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with excitement as we embark on a new school year. As the Superintendent of Lester Prairie Schools, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome back to all our students, parents, teachers, and staff.

The beginning of a school year is always a special time - a time for fresh starts, renewed goals, and the anticipation of the incredible learning experiences that lie ahead. It's a time to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and embrace the challenges and triumphs that come with each academic journey.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated teachers and staff who have been working tirelessly to prepare our school district for a safe and enriching year. Your commitment to our students is truly remarkable.

To our students, I encourage you to approach this year with an open heart and a curious mind. Embrace every opportunity to learn, grow, and explore your interests. Keep in mind that each day is a chance to make new discoveries and reach new heights.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. We are partners in this journey and your support is invaluable. Together, we will ensure that our students have the resources and guidance they need to succeed.

Please stay connected with us through our school website, newsletters, and social media platforms for important updates and information throughout the year. We look forward to collaborating with you to make this school year a memorable and successful one!

Warm regards,  
Dr. Melissa Radeke  
Superintendent  
Lester Prairie Schools



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## *Staff Ruff Ruff Report*

LP Ruff Ruff Report- Staff Edition (September 1st)



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### **STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Jessica Flies- our new Title I Teacher!**

A little about myself and background:

I grew up in East Bethel, MN. I graduated from St. Francis High School. I'm the only person in my immediate family to graduate college- and I did it three times! I have my bachelor's degree in Psychology and English Studies from St. Cloud State University. I also did my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Bemidji State. I have a masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University. This is my 10th year teaching. I have two younger brothers- one is a truck driver and the other is a technician for a cable and internet company. I have been married to my husband, Nick, for about two years now, and we have a cat named Juniper, who is quite the drama queen.

A favorite thing that I like to do is:

Read. My parents gave me a Kindle for my birthday this year and it is my favorite thing in the world. Now that I am commuting here from St. Cloud I've finally discovered the magic of audiobooks.

My hobbies are:

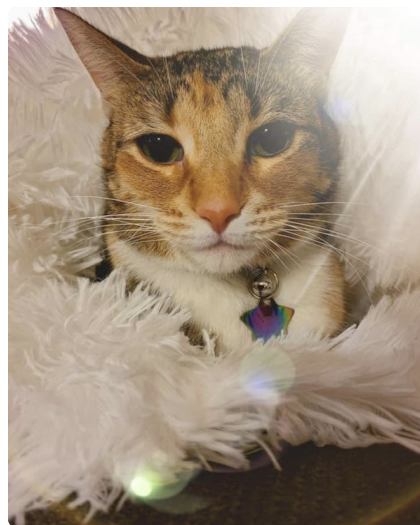
Reading, Traveling, watching baseball -Twins, Saints, St. Cloud Rox (My husband and I go to as many games as possible), spending time with my family. My parents have a seasonal RV site on Lake Mille Lacs, so we like to spend time there fishing and exploring.

Something you might not know about me is:

I'm left handed- but growing up I did gymnastics and softball and did almost everything for sports "right handed"

My favorite movie is The Breakfast Club because it's a classic and so fun.

My favorite book is Wonder because the simple message of Be Kind resonates throughout.



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### **STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Anne Chapman - our new EL Teacher!**

I grew up in Mayer and graduated from Waconia High School. This is my 16th year teaching. I was most recently teaching reading at Park Center Senior High School in Brooklyn Park. My family recently moved to Lester Prairie in January of 2021.

My favorite thing that I like to do is spend time with my family.

My hobbies are as follows: golf, fishing, crochet, cross country skiing, biking, reading, and playing board games.

Something you might not know about me is that I lived in Phoenix for a year after college, but returned to Minnesota because I could not stand the heat.

My favorite movie is The English Patient because of the beautiful setting and complicated love story.

My favorite book is The Name of the Wind because I enjoy the main character, style of writing, and genre.



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## **STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Danny Mages - our new Science Teacher!**

A little bit about myself and background: I grew up in Cokato MN, and graduated from Dassel-Cokato High School. After graduation I attended North Dakota State University, where I graduated this past December with a degree in Physics Education. During summers of both high school and college, I worked at a summer camp called Many Point Scout Camp, and it was this experience that inspired me to be a teacher.

A favorite thing I like to do is spend time with friends and family and go on all sorts of adventures

My hobbies are exploring the outdoors, reading, and watching movies.

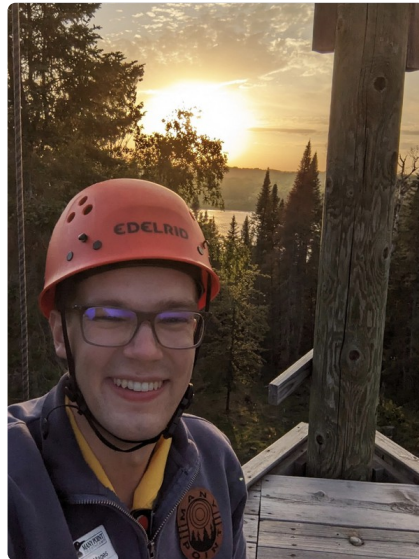
Something you might not know about me is that I once passed Ricky Gervais walking down a sidewalk.

My favorite movie is Captain America: Civil War because it's a great mix of plot, action, and character development of some of my favorite characters.

My favorite book(s) is the Percy Jackson Series because it sparked my love of reading and adventure books.

My favorite activity is paddle boarding because it is a unique versatile way to explore the outdoors.

If I could meet any historical person, it would be Isaac Newton, because I'd love to hear his first hand account of the Three Rules of Motion, and to ask if an apple actually fell on his head.



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## ATTENDANCE:

Consistent school attendance is vital to the success students have in school academically, behaviorally, and socially. A student is considered absent (excused or unexcused) if he/she is not physically present at the school. If a student is at a school sponsored activity/event they are considered present. In an effort to improve student attendance, letters will be systematically sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of each month for students who are considered habitually absent.

Lester Prairie Schools' definition of habitually absent: Student who misses more than 10% of the school year. The reason does not matter.

**5 absences a quarter**

**10 absences a semester**

***20 absences per school year (equivalent to a month of instruction)***

The school will request a note from a licensed physician after the 3rd consecutive day of absences due to illness.

From Attendance Policy 503 (the entire attendance policy and student handbook can be found: <https://www.lp.k12.mn.us/>)

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absences, and to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

If you receive an attendance letter from the school, please set up an appointment with the principal, Mr. Lee, to discuss and create a plan to improve your child's attendance.

Lester Prairie Schools will follow the Minnesota Truancy Laws for unexcused absences. **Three unexcused tardies to school (8:15-8:30) equal one unexcused absence. After 8:30 the student will be considered absent.**

When reporting your child absent from school you must give a reason. If no reason is given, it will be marked as unexcused absence.

**End of the day pickup:**

You must call the office by 2:15 if you are changing the end of the day pickup routine for your child.

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## Save Receipts For Your Child's Education Expenses

If you're buying school supplies for your children in kindergarten through 12th grade, you may qualify for one or both of these tax relief programs:

- K-12 Education Subtraction
- K-12 Education Credit

Save your receipts, because both programs can help lower your taxes and may provide a larger refund when filing your Minnesota income tax return.

Last year, more than 17,500 families received the K-12 Education Credit and saved an average of \$282. Over 138,000 families received the K-12 Education Subtraction with an average subtraction of \$1,285.

### Common Expenses That Qualify:

- School supplies (pencils, paper, calculators)
- Educational computer hardware and software
- Tutoring K-12 curriculum by a qualified instructor
- Rental or purchase of musical instruments used during school

### Expenses That Do Not Qualify:

- School supplies not used in education (backpacks, tissues, organizers)
- Clothing, including school uniforms (except required gym clothes)
- School lunches
- Family trip to museum or zoo

### Do I qualify?

To qualify for either the credit or subtraction, both of these must be true:

- You purchased educational services or materials to assist with your child's education
- Your child is attending kindergarten through 12th grade at a public, private, or home school

### Income limits for Each Program

**K-12 Education Credit:** Your adjusted gross income must be below the levels shown here. If you qualify for the credit, you must file a Minnesota return to claim a refund.

Number of qualifying children in K-12:	Adjusted gross income must be less than:
1 or 2	\$76,000
3	\$79,000
More than 3	\$79,000 plus \$3,000 for each additional child

**K-12 Education Subtraction:** There are no income limits for the education subtraction.

For more information on these programs and other valuable tax information, visit [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us) and enter K12 in the Search box or call us at 651-296-3781 or 800-652-9094.



## Updates from Mr. Scheevel in the Activities Office:

Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country and Football are into their second week of competitions. Visit the school website/activities calendar to find the schedule of games to come out and cheer on your Bulldogs.

Community Ed Volleyball and Football will be starting their competitions the week of September 11th.

English Language, GED and Adult Basic Education classes will start on Monday, September 18th. Registration for the class is open. Please contact the school activities office to register.

ECFE Fall Fun will take place on September 19th from 6:00pm-7:00pm in Room 139

55+ Driver Discount Class will be held on Wednesday Sept. 20th and Thursday Sept. 21st from 5:30pm - 9:30pm in the Media Center. Registration closes on 9/13/23. Go to [mnsafetycenter.org](http://mnsafetycenter.org) or call 1-888-234-1294 to register.





### Counselor Corner:

Welcome Back! Here at Lester Prairie School we are all super excited to be back and to have the students back in the building. Coming back to school can bring its challenges too such as re-establishing school routines, academics, and social and emotional well-being concerns. If you have concerns for your child, please reach out to me at 320-395-2521 ext 1141 or [mattson@lp.k12.mn.us](mailto:mattson@lp.k12.mn.us)

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### Does the School District have your most current contact information?

The School District uses the School Messenger Alert System to inform parents of school closings, late starts, early outs, and emergencies. Please make sure we have your current contact information so you receive our communications!



SCHOOLMESSENGER®

Community members can sign up to receive our inclement weather and emergency messages using a form on our website under the Community tab or [click here](#).



### Dates to Know:

September 18 - Regular School Board Meeting 5:45pm  
October 5 & 9 - Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:30pm  
October 11 - Regular School Board Meeting 5:45pm  
October 19 & 20 - Education Minnesota (No School)

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### Next Regular School Board Meeting: Monday, September 18th at 5:45pm in the Media Center

Please visit the School Board tab on our website to view upcoming Board Meeting agendas.

<https://www.lp.k12.mn.us/page/2452>





# ON THE SPOT FLU SHOTS

## GETTING YOUR FLU SHOT IS QUICK AND EASY!

Three convenient options:

1. During an appointment at any of our clinics
2. Nurse-only appointment at any of our clinics
3. Drive-thru appointment in Glencoe

## Drive-Thru Flu Shots

Get your flu shot 'on the spot' without leaving your car

**525 18th St. E, Glencoe (West Parking Lot)**  
**September 19, 21, 26, 28 & October 3, 5**  
**4 - 6 p.m.**

The drive-thru service offers flu shots ONLY. To receive a COVID-19 vaccine, please schedule a clinic appointment or a nurse-only visit by calling 320-864-7816. Patients are advised to park and wait 15 minutes after they receive their shot to be monitored for an adverse reaction.



### APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

Call today for flu shots starting mid-September  
**320-864-7816**



## Do you have any comments or feedback to share?

We would love to hear from you because your voice is important to us. Please click on the Google Form below. Thank you!



## Comments and Feedback

We would love to hear your thoughts and/or feedback about our school district. Please include your contact information so we can follow up with you.

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)



\* Indicates required question

*It is the mission of ISD 424 to develop every learner to the learner's maximum potential, to succeed and continue to learn in a changing world.*



### Lester Prairie Schools

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lp424>

Twitter: [@LPBulldogs424](https://twitter.com/LPBulldogs424)



**Melissa Radeke**

Melissa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

