

2025-26 Detroit Lakes Public Schools

ANNUAL REPORT

District Quick Stats • Financial Stewardship • Strategic Plan Update

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

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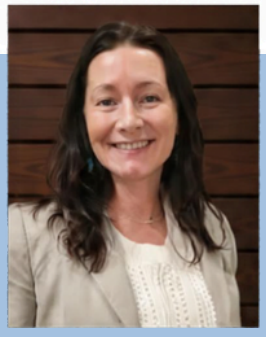
DETROIT LAKES SCHOOL BOARD



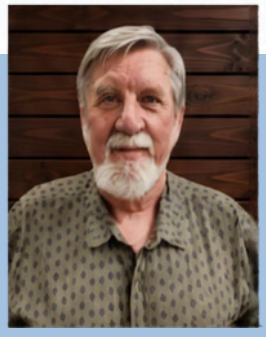
JOHN STEFFL
Chair
(2024-2028)



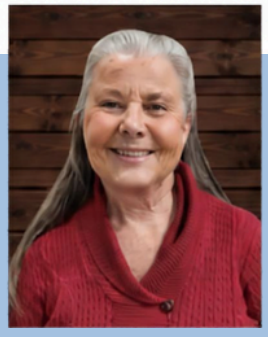
MARY ROTTER
Vice Chair
(2022-2026)



JULIE SMITH-YLINIEMI
Clerk
(2024-2028)



MICHAEL WALTHER
Director
(2024-2028)



MICHELLE OKESON
Treasurer
(2022-2026)



SANFORD NELSON
Director
(2022-2026)

DISTRICT OFFICE CABINET



MARK JENSON
Superintendent



RENEE KERZMAN
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology



JASON KUEHN
Director of Finance & Operations



KYLIE JOHNSON
Director of Human Resources



PAIGE TOLLEFSON
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent



KAREN NUDELL
Special Education Director

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Laker Community,

This Annual Report highlights the many successes of the 2025-26 school year. Our school district continues to be a high-performing district across multiple measures - academically, through students' extracurricular accomplishments, and in the ways our students support one another and the broader community. It is a privilege to present our District Annual Report, highlighting the achievements, growth, and community spirit that define Detroit Lakes Public Schools.

Within this report, you will find highlights from our schools, student and staff achievements, demographic, financial, and building information. The work of educating our students is not done alone. Our district's sustained excellence is only possible with the support of our broader community and strong partnerships with district families.

As we reflect on our recent milestones and look forward to the opportunities ahead, my gratitude goes to our students, families, community partners, and our exceptional staff.

Our mission remains rooted in a shared commitment to excellence, ensuring that every learner from preschool through graduation experiences a high-quality education in a safe, supportive, and innovative environment. Across all of our buildings, "Laker Pride" is brought to life each day by the dedication of our teachers, support staff, custodians, food service workers, bus drivers, and administrators. Together, they build the relationships and environments where our students can truly thrive.



This past year, we have continued to focus on cultivating robust academic programs, expanding real-world learning opportunities, and upgrading our facilities to remain state-of-the-art. Through careful fiscal stewardship, we ensure that our resources directly impact classroom success, supporting our educators as they guide thousands of local students toward bright futures.

Community collaboration is foundational to everything we achieve. Thank you for your continued engagement, feedback, and unwavering support of our schools. By working together, we ensure that Detroit Lakes Public Schools continues to be a place where all students are empowered to reach their full potential.

Thank you for your partnership and your dedication to the next generation of leaders.

Mark Jenson
Superintendent

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to transparent communication, continuous improvement, and preparing every student to thrive beyond graduation.

VISION

Detroit Lakes Public Schools envisions a future where students are prepared to thrive beyond graduation.

MISSION

Detroit Lakes Public Schools ensures consistent expectations, opportunities, meaningful support, and strong relationships so that every student develops the skills, confidence, and connections needed to thrive beyond graduation.

EMPOWER. CONNECT. GROW.

We believe in building strong schools and a strong community so our students can build bright futures.

2025-26 DISTRICT PROFILE



2,717 STUDENTS

7 SCHOOLS

85.1% GRADUATED IN FOUR YEARS

36.4% QUALIFIED FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

23% ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

MET OR EXCEEDED STATE TESTING STANDARDS

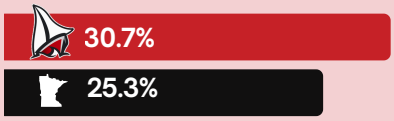
READING



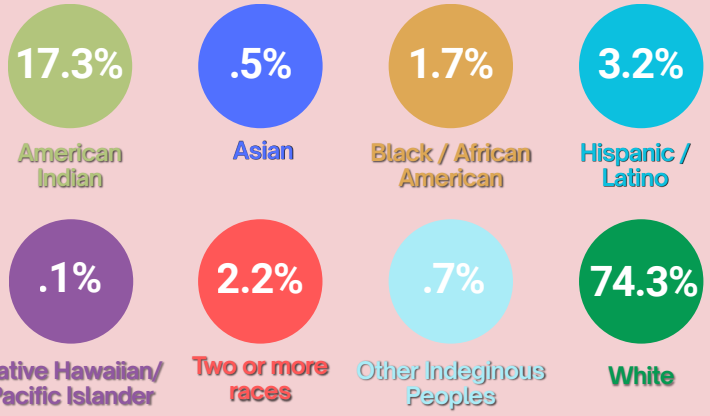
MATH



SCIENCE



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS





2025 -2026 HIGHLIGHTS

Take a look back at just some of the accomplishments of Detroit Lakes students and staff from the 2025-26 school year.

STUDENT AND SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS



DLHS Students Win AAA Award
Hannah Barberg and Julian Jimenez were selected as the 2026 DLHS Tiple 'A' Award recipients for their outstanding works in academics, arts and athletics.



DL Clay Target Team to State
Our hometown Clay Target Shooting Team qualified to compete in the State Championship. Elias Okeson also qualified for the individuals division.

Five members of the Detroit Lakes High School Choir program were selected for the 9-10 Minnesota Honor Choir presented by the American Choral Directors Association. More than 2,000 students state-wide submitted auditions but only a select few were chosen for the prestigious ensemble.

These talented singers performed in Minneapolis in February for the Minnesota State Choral Festival.



Robotics Captain Up for Award
Electric Lakers Robotics Captain, Bianca Fingalson was interviewed for the leadership award during the Great Northern Regional Robotics Competition.



228 Students Graduated from Detroit Lakes Public Schools and Progams

- **Graduates pursuing higher education: 110**
- **Graduates pursuing trades careers: 7**
- **Graduates entering the workforce: 18**
- **Graduates joining military service: 3**
- **Students who graduated from E-Laker Online or ALC: 47**
- **Dollars for Scholars provided 99 graduates with a combined 222 scholarships totalling more than $417,000.**



DLHS Concert Choir Wins GOLD
Under the direction of Blake Weitzel, Detroit Lakes High School Concert Choir students received a GOLD rating, the highest rating possible, at the WorldStrides National Heritage Festival in Orlando, FL.

Math Masters Regional Competition
A team of fifth grade Elementary students, lead by STEAM Instructor, Kellie Wolf, competed at Math Masters. Taking first place in the team round was Thorin Beckerleg, Denzel Guzman, Simon Johnson, Brian Sonnenberg and Liam White. For the Individual Round, Grayson Reynolds took first place! Several other Detroit Lakes students earned top-rankings through the Fact Challenge Round as well.



Laker Robotics Team Wins Competition
Electric Lakers Robotics team won the Minnesota Unified Robotics Competition in Bemidji, MN.



Girls Tennis Academic All-State & Gold Team
DL Girls Tennis honored as MSHSCA Gold Team for maintaining a team GPA of 3.75 or higher. Several players earned individual Academic All-State honors as well.

Laker student-athletes earned two state championships, capturing the Class A Gymnastics Title and the Class AA Girls Golf Title.

Both Boys & Girls Golf Teams won Section 8AA Championships, and the Gymnastics Team claimed the Section 8A TItle.

The Boys Track & Field Team added to the year's accomplishments with a runner-up finish in Section 8AA.

2025 -2026 HIGHLIGHTS



First Annual Trunk or Treat
The Roosevelt Elementary PTO held it's first ever Trunk or Treat. More than 600 kids of all ages showed up, dressed in costumes to participate in the fun community event!



Laker Robotics Team in International Competition
The robotics team participated in several other competitions throughout the year, including the Green County Robotics Competition in Tulsa, OK where they went up against over 50 teams from 6 countries, with their robot, Jackalope!

In May, DLHS held its annual ceremony honoring sophomore, junior, and senior students who maintained a 3.5 GPA or higher. Among the students recognized were 76 seniors from the graduating class of 2026! These students achieved high academic honors, earning special cords, medals, and stoles.



Eagle Feather Ceremony
This annual cultural ceremony honored and celebrated 30 of our district's graduating American Indian students.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

- **Detroit Lakes has 182 classroom teachers.**
- **Our teachers have an average of 12.5 years of experience.**
- **Detroit Lakes celebrated 20 retirees in the 2025-26 school year, representing aproximately 467 years of service.**
- **This year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools had 9 educators increase their teaching credentials. The district now has 175 Tier 4 Certifications.**
- **In 2025-26, 194 DLPS staff members held Tier 3 or higher Teaching Licenses.**
- **These teachers won Michelle Harris Teacher of the Year Awards:** Local educators from across the district were honored for their impact and dedication.



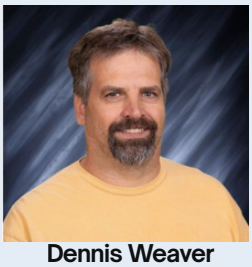
Destany Okeson
Rossman Elementary



Sadie Skrove
Roosevelt Elementary



Amy Tollefson
Roosevelt Elementary Preschool



Dennis Weaver
Middle School



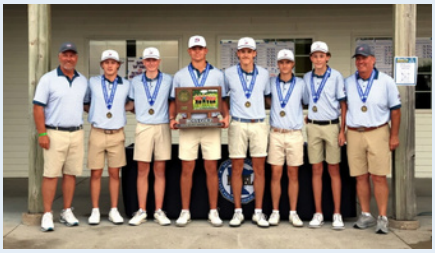
Will Blasczyk
Middle School



Jen Barberg
Middle School



Fletcher Nelson, Rossman Elementary
Recognized as 2025 Educator of the Year by Read with Malcolm - Share the Magic Foundation



Golf Coaches Awarded Coach of the Year
Boys Golf Coach, Vern Schnathorst and Assistant Coach, Jay Peterson were recognized by MSHSCA as Coach of the Year. Girls Golf Coaches Dustin Martin and Anna Moser received the same honor.
Photo credit: DL-Online

LAKER ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Detroit Lakes Activities belong to the Central Lakes Conference (CLC) in Minnesota and are recognized by the MSHSL – or MN State High School League.

BUILDING CHAMPIONS IN LIFE

Laker activities strive to develop young adults who are respectful, responsible committed teammates.

Detroit Lakes Public Schools is committed to making extracurricular activities available and accessible, our activities fees are historically some of the lowest in the state.

DETROIT LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

Detroit Lakes High School (DLHS) had a little more than 78% of our students participate in one or more activity during the 2025-26 school year. DLHS is proud to offer more than 50 activities for our students to participate in. This includes Fine Arts, Athletics, and Clubs/Organizations.

78.3% DLHS STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN ONE OR MORE ACTIVITY

DETROIT LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Detroit Lakes Middle School students are active and involved in the 2025-26 school year 81.5 percent of our students in grades 7 & 8 participated in one or more sport at the middle school level. Coupled with our strong fine arts programs and student council we are near 90 percent of our students participating in at least one activity with most doing multiple. We are proud of our outstanding participation numbers and specifically, the large number of students who participate in multiple activities throughout the year. DLMS strives to have as many students as possible involved and participating.

81% DLMS STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN ONE OR MORE ACTIVITY

DLMS FINE ARTS

Band
Choir
Drama
Fall Musical
Speech

DLMS ACTIVITIES

Drum & Dance Team
Math-Contest
Student Council
RAK Club





DLHS MSHSL FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES

Choir 8AA
Jazz Band 8AA
One Act Play 8AA
Speech 8AA

DLHS NON-LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

BPA - Business Club
Drum & Dance Team
FFA
Fall Musical
Knowledge Bowl
Laker Singers
Math League
National Honor Society
Native American Club
Pep Band
Prom Committee
Spring Play
Student Council
Yearbook

DLHS VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP GROUPS

Interact
Key Club
PaY
Target

DLHS AND DLMS MSHSL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Adapted Bowling 1A
Alpine Skiing 5A
Baseball 8AAA
Basketball 8AAA (B-G)
Cheer 1A
Clay Target 1A
Cross Country 8AA (B-G)
Danceline 4AA
Field & Track 8AA (B-G)
Football 8AAAA
Golf 8AAA (B-G)
Gymnastics 8A
Hockey 8A (B-G)
Nordic Skiing 8A (B-G)
Robotics 1A
Soccer 8AA (B-G)
Softball 8AAA
Swimming 5A (G 8A) (B-G)
Tennis 8AA (B-G)
Volleyball SAAA
Wrestling 8AA

TECHNOLOGY BY THE NUMBERS



185
Digital Classroom Displays



3,000
Staff & Student Devices



39
Printers & All-in-One: Print, Copy, Scan, Fax Machines



340
WiFi 6 Access Points



353
Security Cameras



93
Access-Controlled Doors

Network Infrastructure

- Centralized Phone System
- 10GB Internet Connection
  - 10-40GB Between Admin Office & District Buildings



400
VOIP Cloud Based Phones

STRATEGIC PLAN

SUPPORTING DETROIT LAKES LEARNERS

The Strategic Plan is our path to achieving five main goals over the next five years. You can think of the Strategic Plan as the lesson plan for the entire district. Built around five strategic goals supported by measurable outcomes, the plan guides our direction and priorities. Below is an overview of each goal, along with examples of the measurable progress achievements.

Consistent, High-Quality Learning

» STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1



Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will increase the percentage of students meeting grade-level benchmarks by strengthening instructional practices and academic growth, resulting in consistently high-quality learning and student excellence.

Measures of Success

- Reading Achievement
- Math Achievement
- Science Achievement
- Curriculum Alignment

Ready for Lifelong Success After Graduation

» STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2



Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will increase the number of students graduating with meaningful postsecondary readiness experiences by fostering student excellence, confidence and connections, resulting in student readiness for life beyond graduation.

Measures of Success

- Readiness Experience
- Postsecondary Preparation

» **Learn More: dlschools.net/about-us/strategic-plan**

Belonging, Wellness & Healthy Habits

» STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 3



Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will strengthen student belonging, engagement, and relationships by promoting wellness and reducing obstacles to participation, resulting in strong student connection and active participation.

Measures of Success

- Attendance
- Behavior
- Participation
- Wellness

Access & Aligned Systems

» STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 4



Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will improve access to rigorous coursework and opportunities by promoting student excellence and providing support based on individual student need, resulting in consistent access and success for all students.

Measures of Success

- Grading Practices
- Instructional Alignment
- Advanced Coursework Access
- Family Commication

Fiscal & Operational Stewardship

» STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 5



Goal Statement

Each year, Detroit Lakes Public Schools will maintain financial stability and operational excellence by aligning resources to student learning and sustaining efficient, high-quality systems, resulting in long-term sustainability and effective operations.

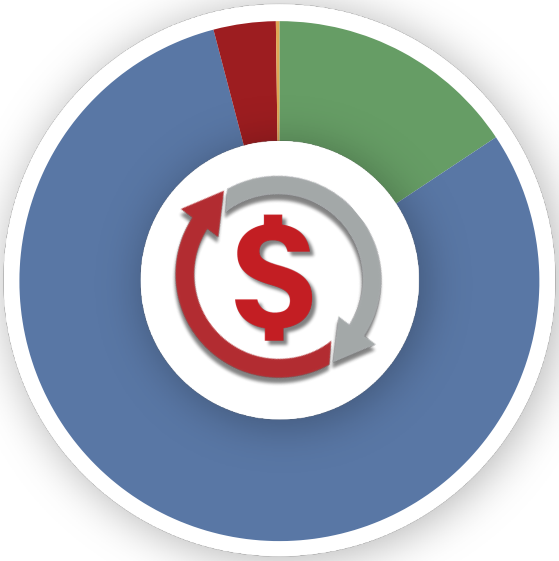
Measures of Success

- Fund Balance
- Facilities & Operations
- Long-Term Planning

2025 -2026 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

WHERE DOES THE DISTRICT'S MONEY COME FROM?

The General Fund pays for Detroit Lakes Public Schools' day-to-day operations, and it has a variety of funding sources, outlined below for 2025-26.



2025 -26 REVENUES:
$44,701,193

STATE

80.3%
$35,872,977

The state of Minnesota is DLPS' largest funding source at 80 cents of every dollar. The amount paid by the state is dependent on student enrollment. Funding from the state does not fully cover the cost of educating students in Detroit Lakes.

LOCAL TAXES

15.7%
$7,003,716

Local taxes used for public education are referred to as "levies" and help make up the gap between what the state provides and what our students need and the community expects. The Public Education Property Tax Levy is a critical funding source for our students that requires approval by local voters and is collected over a set number of years.

Levy funds are used to support special education services, enrichment activities including music and athletics, staff salaries, safety and security, and more. Property tax levy dollars represent 15 cents for every dollar spent on student in Detroit Lakes.

FEDERAL

3.9%
$1,727,500

Federal money accounts for less than 4 cents of every dollar received and helps provide vital services in specific areas, including special education, and support for reading and math (Title I).

OTHER

0.2%
$97,000

All other funding sources combined make up 2/10 of a cent out of every dollar received. This includes grants, gifts, donations and fees that are used for very specific purposes.

Local Levies Support Detroit Lakes Students

There continues to be a gap between the revenue the school district receives from the state and federal governments and what is actually costs to educate DLPS students. We rely on local levies to make up the difference and ensure students have the opportunity to access the education they need and deserve.

Local property tax levies help cover basic education that isn't fully funded, including smaller class sizes, academic support and interventions, support for students with special needs, support for English language learners, and transportation.

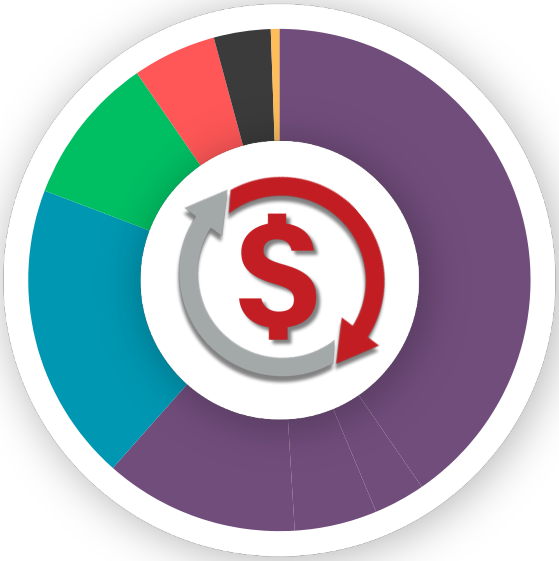
Levies also fund curriculum and extra-curricular activities such as music, theater, athletics, and clubs.

Technology is another area not fully funded by the state. Local levies help cover the costs of technology in schools and administration. In a technology-driven economy, we must prepare our students for the safe and appropriate use of technology.

2025 -2026 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

WHERE DOES THE DISTRICT'S MONEY GO?

Approximately 85% of the District's funding goes directly to schools and classrooms to support student learning.



2025 -26 EXPENDITURES:
$44,999,163

61.5%
$27,691,711

TEACHING & LEARNING SUPPORT

In 2025-26 just over 61 cents of every dollar spent was used for teaching and learning support such as educators, counselors, librarians, and educational support professionals.

19.3%
$8,662,871

SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION

About 19 cents from every dollar goes to educators who provide specialized education services and instruction.

3.7%
$97,000

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

District Administration, including the superintendent's office, business services, curriculum, instruction, and assessment, human resources, technology, and communications, make up less than 4 cents per dollar.

9.6%
$7,003,716

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE, GROUNDS & OPERATIONS

A little more than 9 cents per dollar was spent on building maintenance, facilities, and grounds.

0.6%
$97,000

OTHER SERVICES & FIXED COSTS

Utilities such as power and water for our district buildings, and other fixed annual expenses cost our district less than 1 cent per dollar.

5.4%
$1,727,500

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

School administrators, including principals, and assistant principals, account for about 5 cents of every dollar spent.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Detroit Lakes Community Education provides lifelong learning opportunities for all ages!



EARLY CHILDHOOD AND FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE)

ECFE classes are school-based programs designed for children from birth to kindergarten age and their parent or caregiver. Promotes exploration and parent-child interaction.

- **27** Classes
- **611** Students



SCHOOL READINESS (Preschool)

School Readiness programming has been split into our two elementary schools; each school now has 4 sections of preschool. Rossman had 44 preschoolers and the other 49 students were in preschool at Roosevelt during the 2025-26 school year.

- **8** Classes
- **93** Students



YOUTH & ADULT ENRICHMENT

A variety of classes offered to the community, designed to build skills, foster creativity, and encourage lifelong learning outside of traditional school or work. Promotes growth, community conection, mental well-being, and hands-on hobby exploration.

- **76** Classes
- **381** Students



DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Structured training programs designed to teach new drivers the rules of the road, vehicle mechanics, and safe driving habits. Driver's Education classes are both in classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training.

- **5** Classes
- **177** Students

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION



Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs are designed to help adults improve on basic skills and reach new goals in things like reading, writing, math and even test taking. There are also course pathways that lead to GEDs or Adult Diplomas. All ABE classes are free!

- **59** Classes
- **439** Enrollees
- **162** Participants *Participant = 12+ hours of attendance
- **10** Sites both physical and online

LAKER KIDS
School Aged Care Program

Laker Kids is what we now call our Community Education ran afterschool and summer-time child care program. Both Rossman and Roosevelt Elementary offer Laker Kids programming.

- **2025 SUMMER:** 78 Students
- **25-26 SCHOOL YEAR:** 108 Students

DLPS DISTRICT OFFICE



BUILDING

702 Lake Ave

(218) 847-9271

dlschools.net

Square Feet: 8,696
Constructed: 1934
Remodeled: 2021

ADMINISTRATION

Superindentent:
Mark Jenson

DISTRICT OFFICE:

- 13 Staff
- 8 Centralized District Departments

DISTRICT-WIDE STAFF

TOTAL DISTRICT STAFF: 419
TEACHERS: 189
ADMINISTRATORS: 11
PARAPROFESSIONALS: 76

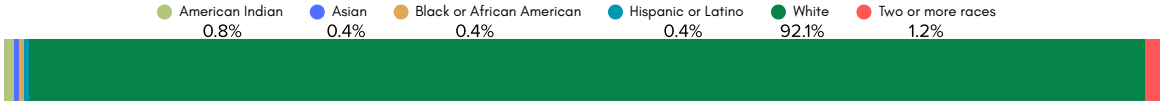
Welcome to the heart of Detroit Lakes Public Schools' administrative support system. This unique building is home to our executive leadership team, including the Superintendent and Executive Administrative Assistant. It also serves as the central hub for our district's official records, legal compliance, and public notices.

Originally built in 1934, this historic brick building served as the United States Post Office for the Detroit Lakes area. It has since been reimagined into the Detroit Lakes Public Schools District Office and now serves as the central operational and administrative hub for a school district spanning 291 square miles and serving nearly 3,000 students.

To support our schools and community efficiently, this facility brings together several essential team and services:

- **Business & Human Resources:** Headed here are the HR, Payroll, and Finance teams that keep our district running smoothly.
- **Educational Leadership & Innovation:** This space brings together our Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology teams to foster modern learning across all of our schools.
- **Operational Management:** The District Office serves as the home base for our Transportation Department, Operations Manager, and District Communications Specialist.

Additionally, the Detroit Lakes Board of Education regularly gathers here for strategy sessions, committee work, and policy reviews as they prepare for monthly public meetings. Whether managing behind-the-scenes operations or planning for the future, the building is dedicated to serving our students, staff, and community.



ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY



BUILDING

510 11th Ave

(218) 847-1106

rv.dlschools.net

Square Feet: 112,690
Constructed: 1990
Remodeled: 2021

ADMINISTRATION

Principal:
Trisha Mariotti
Assistant Principal:
Maggy Doll
Certified Teachers: 47
Total Staff: 101

2025-26 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

School Readiness (Preschool) **Ages 3-5:** 49
Grades K - 5: 567

Roosevelt Elementary serves approximately 560 students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The building has undergone several additions and remodels through the years, with the largest being completed in 2021. It included adding a gymnasium, office, health office, several classrooms, and cafeteria.

Roosevelt's school day begins at 8:20 am with morning announcements and is followed by morning meetings in each classroom. Academic instruction continues throughout the day and concludes at 3:25 pm.

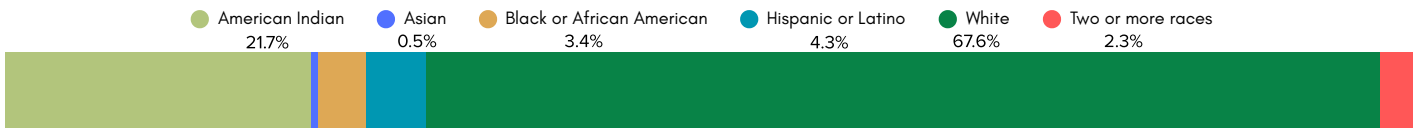
Roosevelt provides students with a caring and supportive learning environment that enables them to achieve success in academic knowledge and social/emotional growth. Core instruction includes reading and mathematics, along with science, social studies, health, physical education, music, and art. Instruction is combined with differentiated intervention programming. Interventions include STEAM-based and art opportunities, math and reading support, special education programming, and after-school extension programming.

Roosevelt Elementary staff understand that fostering a positive school and classroom climate by building trusting relationships with students is essential. Universal practices include a trauma-informed approach when providing behavioral assistance. PBIS framework (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) has been fully implemented and aligns with the school building goals, academic instruction, student management and professional development.

DLPS Proficiency vs. State Average

	READING		MATH		SCIENCE	
GRADE	Roosevelt	State	Roosevelt	State	Roosevelt	State
3	48.40%	48.20%	58.90%	57.70%		
4	54.60%	48.30%	65.60%	55.10%		
5	55.10%	54.10%	53.10%	41.70%	25.50%	25.40%

ENGLISH LEARNERS	1.0%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	26.3%
FREE/REDUCED MEALS	44.5%
HOMELESS	3.4%



ROSSMAN ELEMENTARY



BUILDING

1221 Rossman Ave

(218) 847-9268

rs.dlschools.net

Square Feet: 91,765
Constructed: 1951
Remodeled: 2020

ADMINISTRATION

Principal:
Emily Sternberg

Certified Teachers: 46

Total Staff: 88

2025-26 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

School Readiness (Preschool) **Ages 3-5:** 44

Grades K - 5: 554

Rossman Elementary is located conveniently two blocks from the lake on Rossman Avenue. The building was originally constructed in the 1950's and underwent a major renovation in 2020. Improvements included a new front office, several new classrooms, a new Kindergarten wing, new cafeteria, commons, media center, music, art space, and a beautiful new gymnasium.

Rossman Elementary serves students PreK-5 and provides balanced academic programming to meet the unique needs of every learner. Core academics instruction includes reading, math, science, social studies, physical education, music, art, and STEAM. Intervention services and programming support the varied student needs academically, socially/emotionally, and behaviorally.

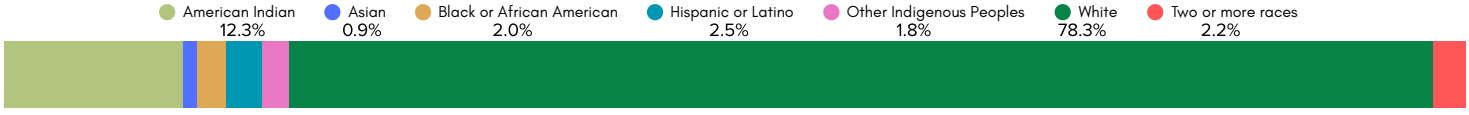
The Rossman school community cultivates positive relationships, mutual respect, and responsibility and ownership of actions and behaviors within a safe and caring learning environment. The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework used at Rossman Elementary focuses on three expectations: Kind, Safe, Ready. The teaching, modeling, and promoting of PBIS expectations directly connects to our building goals, academic instruction, student management practices, and professional development focus.

Student progress reports are shared with parents at the end of each trimester. Growth and performance are monitored through various measures to ensure each student is making progress and working toward grade-level standards.

DLPS Proficiency vs. State Average

	READING		MATH		SCIENCE	
GRADE	Rossman	State	Rossman	State	Rossman	State
3	57%	48.20%	68.60%	57.70%		
4	57.60%	48.30%	70.30%	55.10%		
5	59.30%	54.10%	54.90%	41.70%	38.50%	25.40%

ENGLISH LEARNERS	1.1%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	22.9%
FREE/REDUCED MEALS	34.3%
HOMELESS	1.8%



DETROIT LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL



BUILDING

500 11th Ave

(218) 847-9228

ms.dlschools.net

Square Feet: 156,246
Constructed: 1977
Remodeled: 2021

ADMINISTRATION

Principal:
Mike Suckert
Assistant Principal:
Justin Hegg

Certified Teachers: 46
Total Staff: 73

2025-26 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Grades 6 - 8: 601

Detroit Lakes Middle School is a 156,000 square foot building built in 1977 and houses approximately 600 students in grades 6-8. A major remodel was completed at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, with almost every area being rejuvenated.

The Middle School day begins at 8:15 with a 24 minute Primetime (advisor/advisee) period. The day ends at 3:25.

Students in sixth grade are assigned to one of three learning teams. While, there is only one 7th grade team, one 8th grade team, and one 7th/8th grade combination team.

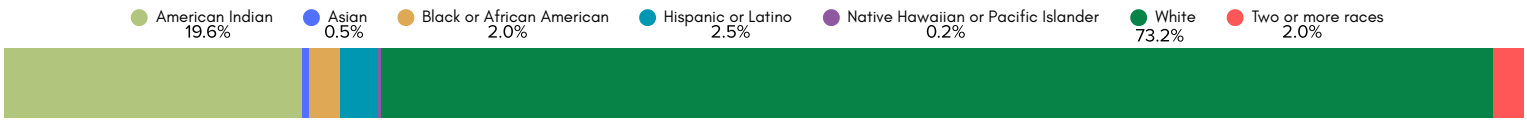
Language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies are taught as year-long courses at all three grade levels. Art, Healthy Living, or Technology Applications teachers rotate between the grade level teams on a trimester (12-week) rotation. All students have physical education every day. Students can choose to be in band, choir or reading exploration as 6th graders or industrial technology as 7th and 8th graders.

The Middle School uses trimester (12 week) grading periods with progress reports going home at midterm of each trimester for 7th and 8th grade students. The Middle School also utilizes standards-based grading based on a four-point mastery scale with “4” being Exemplary, “3” Meets Standard, “2” Partially Meets Standard, and “1” Does Not Meet Standard. A value of “0” stands for No Evidence of mastery.

DLPS Proficiency vs. State Average

	READING		MATH		SCIENCE	
GRADE	DLMS	State	DLMS	State	DLMS	State
6	65%	53.10%	40.90%	39.20%		
7	42.60%	43.00%	40.10%	40.30%		
8	48.20%	49.70%	38.00%	42.10%	10.30%	16.00%

ENGLISH LEARNERS	0.8%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	18.8%
FREE/REDUCED MEALS	34.6%
HOMELESS	0.7%



DETROIT LAKES HIGH SCHOOL



BUILDING

1301 Roosevelt Ave

(218) 847-4491

hs.dlschools.net

Square Feet: 263,220
Constructed: 1957
Remodeled: 2020-22

ADMINISTRATION

Principal:
Jill Walter
Assistant Principal:
Justin Messer

Certified Teachers: 51
Total Staff: 88

2025-26 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Grades 9-12: 770

E-Laker Online: 64

Detroit Lakes High School (DLHS) is a 263,220-square-foot building built in 1957 that houses approximately 800 students in grades 9-12. A major remodel was completed between the 2020-22 school years to include a Freshman Wing, state-of-the-art gymnasium, Family and Consumer Science and art rooms, as well as a large, widely used commons area. Renovations were completed in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) wing, main academic area, and weight room.

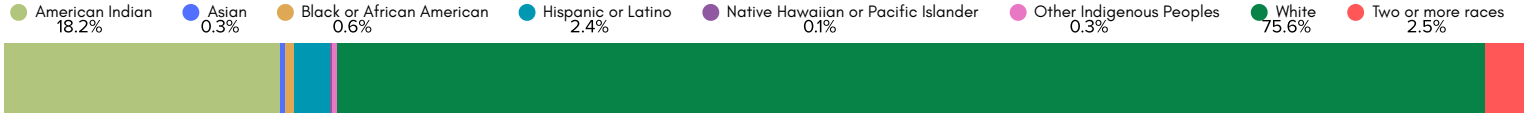
DLHS employs a seven-period modified block schedule. Students attend 7, 50-minute periods three days during the week and four odd/even block periods that are 90 minutes each on Wednesday and Thursday. This also includes Academic Intervention time (AIT) that is built into the school day on three days each week. The academic calendar is divided into semesters, ensuring a comprehensive and structured learning experience.

DLHS offers rigorous college preparatory academic coursework in mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science, in addition to a multitude of opportunities in physical education, art, music, CTE, and pathway courses that are tied directly to over 90 business and community partners. Students also embark on a journey of work-based learning from their freshman year through their senior year. This encompasses a wide spectrum of experiences, including career fairs, job shadowing, mock interviews, guest lectures, industry-focused field trips, and immersive internships. DLHS also offers advanced coursework opportunities in multiple academic areas including Concurrent Enrollment (CE), Advanced Placement (AP), and Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). Over 79.6% of our students participate in athletics, activities, and fine arts programs each year.

DLPS Proficiency vs. State Average

READING		MATH		SCIENCE	
DLHS	State	DLHS	State	DLHS	State
49%	42.00%	53.80%	35.10%	52.5	34.6

ENGLISH LEARNERS	0%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	16.1%
FREE/REDUCED MEALS	27.5%
HOMELESS	1.2%



ACADEMIES OF DETROIT LAKES HIGH SCHOOL



ACADEMIES OF DETROIT LAKES
MY FUTURE. MY COURSE.

At the heart of our educational model is a unique academy structure centered around five distinct pathways: Business/Entrepreneurship, Information Technology, Production, Health Science, and Human Service. These pathways empower students to delve into areas of interest, fostering a sense of purpose and equipping them with valuable skills for success in the 21st century.

Each academy course has three components: 1. Industry aligned content, 2. Work-based learning activities, and 3. Guest speakers or teachers. More than 90 business and community partners provide authentic learning experiences for students at DLHS. In addition, many of these partners serve on academy advisory boards ensuring that curriculum meets industry standards and helping to develop experiential learning opportunities within our pathways. As noted in the graphic above, each grade level participates in different work-based learning activities throughout the academy experience.

HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH SCIENCES

PRODUCTION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Human Services: The Human Service Pathway at DLHS offers a unique opportunity for students interested in Early Childhood Development, Education, and Culinary arts. Students work on real-life culinary projects, are able to earn a CDA certification and gain college credit for Introduction to Teaching through MSUM. We had 37 students focus their attention on this pathway last year.

Health Sciences: There were 34 students following the Health Sciences pathway during the 2025-26 school year. Additionally, students completed certifications in Anatomy and Physiology and Clinical/Lab Procedures in our Health Science pathway courses this year.

Production: The Production Pathway at DLHS offers students a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience and skills in engineering design, manufacturing, building trades, and agriculture. Students are exposed to the Siemens Engineering curriculum, have access to the latest technology, and create impressive projects in wood, vinyl decals, and laser engraving. We had 29 students dive into the Production Pathway last school year.

Business and Information Technology: The Business and IT pathway at DLHS offered 27 students a comprehensive education in business and technology fields, preparing them for various career opportunities during the course of the school year. Students apply skills learned in this pathway to compete in Business Professionals of America (BPA) and create real-world projects using text, symbols, and digital imagery. Students have various internship options available to them in this pathway, providing valuable exposure to real-world business and IT environments.

DL AREA LEARNING CENTER



Detroit Lakes Area Learning Center (DLALC) first opened its doors September 4th, 2001 and transitioned to the M State campus in 2015. At the close of the 2025-26 school year, ALC programming was relocated to a designated wing within Detroit Lakes High School.

The DLALC approach to students and families is singular, strategic, and with one fundamental purpose: Identify what is getting in the way of a student being successful academically or socially and create interventions based on the findings to support growth. The DLALC was created to support multiple needs that include chemical and mental health issues, attendance, pregnant and parenting teen needs, credit recovery, regional afterschool programming (K-12), and regional summer school (K-12). Detroit Lakes is home to one of six Recovery Schools in the state of Minnesota. It serves students who have successfully completed or are currently in an in or out-patient treatment program and have a sincere desire for a clean and sober lifestyle.

The DLALC begins the day at 8:15 and ends the day at 3:30 with seven 50 minute class periods. There is also a 30 minute advisory and a 25 minute skills class mixed in throughout the day. We have one additional period after school that runs from 3:30 until 4:30 that accommodates our credit recovery program. Classes are broken up into quarters throughout the year to make sure we are accommodating the needs of our students. DLALC serves approximately 50 students face to face but attendance fluctuates throughout the year.

We celebrated 20 ALC Graduates in 2026!

BUILDING

1301 Roosevelt Ave

(218) 844-5687

alc.dlschools.net

Moved to DLHS: 2026

ADMINISTRATION

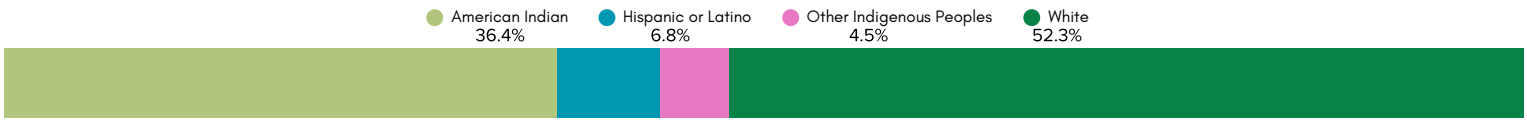
Principal:
Jill Walter
Assistant Principal:
Justin Messer

2025-26 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Grades 9-12: 44 Students

Grad Rate: 61.5% in 4 years

ENGLISH LEARNERS	**0**
SPECIAL EDUCATION	**9.1%**
FREE/REDUCED MEALS	**77.3%**
HOMELESS	**6.8%**



LAKER TRANSITIONS



BUILDING

1104 West River Rd

(218) 844-4760

dlschools.net/schools/laker-transitions

Constructed: 2021
Square Feet: 9,417

ADMINISTRATION

Director of Special Education: Karen Nudell

Transition Facilitator: Wendy Fritz

2025-26 STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Adult Aged 18-21: 20 Students

Laker Transitions is a program designed to assist adult-aged students with disabilities learn employment and independent living skills, along with facilitating post-secondary education and training opportunities. Students will learn about and be able to access community agencies that will support transition goals. Students learn skills encouraging them to be involved members in the community while accessing their greatest level of independence in employment, daily living, post-secondary education and training, community participation, and recreation/leisure.

Project LIFE

Project LIFE is a comprehensive transition program that combines classroom and life skill education with authentic work experiences to prepare students with disabilities for a self-determined future. Paired with Project SEARCH® as a final year, employment outcomes are well above the national average for persons with disabilities. Project LIFE provides two levels of a transition-focused course of study. Classroom instruction for both levels develops skills for future employment, daily living, participation in the community, self-determination, social communication, personal financial literacy, and basic and safe use of technology.

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a nine-month post high school transition program that provides training and education leading to employment for individuals with disabilities. It is a collaboration between interns, families and guardians, Essentia Health, Detroit Lakes School District, Becker County, and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Interns are immersed in the workplace and participate in three internships to explore career options while learning transferable job skills. The ultimate goal upon completion of the Project SEARCH program is competitive, integrated employment.

Laker Trek

Laker Trek is a multi-year transition program for young adults ages 18-22 who require consistent, individualized support in employment and daily living after completing high school. The program focuses on vocational and independent living skills to maximize independence, and encourage community participation by building skills and confidence for a meaningful transition into adulthood.