



Priest Lake Elementary Board Report

August 20th, 2025

Principal Tommy Hansen

I am so excited to have been given the opportunity to serve as the head principal of Priest Lake Elementary and to work with all of the amazing staff, students, and volunteers in our school and community. I am still getting settled into my new role, and the past few weeks have been filled with meeting staff, learning the building, and finalizing the elementary schedule.

The staff at PLE are outstanding at their jobs and have shown tremendous dedication to ensuring that students at the Lake receive the best education possible. I have seen them come into the school on their own time—well before their contracts began—to make sure the learning environment meets students' needs. It's rare to find 100% of the staff in the building on a day they're not scheduled to work, but that's exactly what I've seen here. Their commitment and professionalism are truly impressive.

The elementary schedule does present a few challenges, particularly in maintaining a smooth flow to the day while ensuring teachers receive their mandatory prep time. We are somewhat dependent on the staffing of the district's other two elementary schools. One additional staff member for just two hours a day would solve most of these issues, but for now, the schedule is workable. Students will still meet the state's requirement of 900 academic hours for grades 4–8, with some flexibility built in for emergency closures—which, I understand, can happen here at the Lake from time to time.

Our projected enrollment for the year is about 40 students, down from last year's 50. However, this decrease is not due to a loss in enrollment, but rather a reorganization, as some families have opted for the district's new online K–8 option.

We are hosting an Open House on Thursday, August 21, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The teachers and I will be there to meet students and talk with parents. I'll also be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone who attends. I look forward to seeing many of you there, meeting all of our students, and starting the school year on a fun and positive note.

Strive for Greatness!