

Reminders and celebrations to start the school year

The 2021-2022 School year is in full motion. We want to thank all of our families for getting the year off to a terrific start. Below are some reminders and information as we complete our first month.

► If you are looking to enroll your student, visit prbschools.org. You can fill out an enrollment form online. It is quick and you will hear back from us the same day! You can also



RICK AULIE
Tiger Talk

stop in to our District Office by entering door 33 or call 218-587-8306

► Our Preschool is also taking new enrollees. We offer free, all day preschool

options. Transportation is also free of charge. Call 218-587-8323 to enroll today!

► We have moved away from our Skyward system and transitioned to Infinite Campus. You can find all of the information about your student there (attendance, grading progress, etc.). If you need help logging in, let us know!

► Classroom teachers are still using SeeSaw to communicate with families

as well. Send a message to your child's teacher anytime. We value your communication, input, ideas, and any other feedback.

► Students eat for free at PRB! However, all families should still fill out our Free/Reduced Lunch application, regardless of income. Your children will get a free PRB Tiger T-Shirt once your application is submitted. Paper copies are available in the office or you can fill

this out using your Infinite Campus account.

► Check out our school Facebook Page. Lots of updates, events, and celebrations are posted there daily.

► Check out our community education offerings by visiting our school website. We have opportunities for students of all ages! Get your students involved before and after school.

MEET THE TEACHERS

JUSTIN FRANKE
Hometown: Hanover
Past teaching experience/education: This will be my 9th year teaching. I started at Chanhassen High School as a special education paraprofessional for 3 years, then 4 years in a small town called Clara City at MACCRAY Schools (7-12 Physical Education/Health) and the past 4 years I have been working at Pine River-Backus (K-12 Physical Education).



Franke

What grade(s) or subjects do you teach: I will teach 5th and 6th grade wellness classes. This is going to be a combination of Physical Education and Health.

Interests/hobbies: I have a 3 year old named Maverik who will be starting preschool this fall and a 1 1/2 year old named Reagan who keep me pretty busy. I will coach 3 sports at PLS (Football, Wrestling and Track). I love being outdoors, I love dogs, fishing, hunting and I am a huge Minnesota sports fan.

JENNIFER PARRY
Hometown: St. Cloud
Past teaching experience/education: Bachelors Degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato in Community Health Education.



Parry

I have a passion for working with children of all ages! I spent the last 8 years working in a local childcare center and have over 10 years of experience working with children ages 0-5. I look forward to creating a safe and nurturing space for children and families to learn and grow together!

What grades do you teach?: I will be working as the family educator in

the Early childhood department.
Interests/Hobbies: Cooking, fishing, hiking, camping and spending time with my husband and two children.

What are you most looking forward to at Pine River-Backus?: I am excited to get to know the families, children I will be working with as well as the community.

NATE FISCHER
Hometown: Albany, MN
Past teaching experience/education: Taught the last 3yrs in Staples-Motley as a Special Education teacher. Before that spent 2yrs as a paraprofessional in Superior, WI.



Fischer

Teaching Degree from The College of St. Scholastica, Bachelor Degree in Communication from the University of Minnesota-Duluth

What grades do you teach?: I will be teaching 9-12 grade

Interests/Hobbies: Football, bird hunting, spending time with my family on the lake

What are you most looking forward to at Pine River-Backus?: I can't wait to get to know a new group of students and staff. I look forward to working with our students and families to improve their

MATTHEW CASPERSON
Hometown: Baxter
Past teaching experience/education: Graduated from North Dakota State University with a Bachelor degree in physical and health education.



Caspersen

- 1 year teaching experience at Pequot Lakes Middle School as

a PE teacher.
What grades do you teach?: K-6

Interests/Hobbies: I love to spend time with my family and friends and also love to spend time hunting or doing any activity outside.

What are you most looking forward to at Pine River-Backus?: Building relationships with the kids and getting to know them through a physical activity setting.

RACHEL WARG
Hometown: I grew up in Cannon Falls MN. My husband and I moved to Longville this summer from Hastings, MN



Warg

Past teaching experience/education: I taught at Red Wing High School the past 12 years. I have a BA in Humanities with a minor in Art History and Italian Language from the University of Minnesota (Duluth and Twin Cities) a M.ED degree in secondary education: assessment curriculum and instruction, and additional English and education credits from Metro State University and Carleton College.

What grades do you teach? I will have 9th grade English, 11th grade CIS Comp, and 12th grade CIS World Literature

Interests/Hobbies: I like to travel, cook, read, fish, watch baseball & football, music, theater, and spend time outside with family and friends.

What are you most looking forward to at Pine River-

Backus?: As a new resident in the area I am looking forward to meeting the young people here and learning about their communities! (Oh, and I'm excited about the smaller class sizes, too!)

RACHEL TELFER
Hometown: I was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MN but have lived in Elk River, MN for the past 20 years.



Telfer

Past teaching experience/education: University of WI, Green Bay
BS Elementary Education, Minor in Early Childhood

Saint Mary's University, Minneapolis

Masters in Educational Leadership

Hamline University, St. Paul

K-12 Reading Licensure

Saint Mary's University, Minneapolis

K-12 Principal Licensure

My first teaching experience was in Wisconsin as a reading and math specialist. I moved back to my home state and became a district wide teacher for English Language Learners in Elk River for two years, followed by a 5th grade classroom teacher for multiple years. The latest position I have had was with Elk River High School as their Intervention Specialist and AP Coordinator.

What grades do you teach?: I am Intervention Specialist for grades 7-8

Interests/Hobbies: I love to read, bake, kayak, work in my

flower gardens, and spend time with my loved ones.

What are you most looking forward to at Pine River-Backus?: I am most looking forward to a small, close knit community where I can become involved in the community, my colleagues become my second family, and I am able to work closely with my students and their families.

BECKY STABENOW
Hometown: Pine River



Stabenow

Past teaching experience/education: This is my 10th year teaching professional education. We moved back to Minnesota during the pandemic from California. I've taught Kindergarten-5th Grade, Special Education K-12th, and had the amazing leadership role as an Activities Director.

I am a proud PRB Graduate, BSU Alumni & am actively working on my post-graduate Educational Administration & Leadership Licensure.

What grades do you teach?: 8th - 12th Level III EBD Program

Interests/Hobbies: Adventures with my family and canines, making people laugh, gardening, riding bike, reading, and making memories with my people.

What are you most looking forward to at Pine River-Backus?: Creating relationships with students, families & the community.

MAKING THE GRADE

Bemidji State University

The following local students earned degrees from Bemidji State University during the 2020-2021 school year: **Abigail Rister**, Backus, an associate of arts in liberal education; **Megan Saley**, Backus, a bachelor of science in environmental studies; **Jeremy Rooney**, Breezy Point, a bachelor of science in criminal justice; **Alexis Danielson**, Crosslake, a bachelor of science in social work; **Becca Nelson**, Hackensack, a bachelor of science in design; **Cody Caughey**, Merrifield, a bachelor of arts in psychology; **Alyvia Thielke**, Nisswa, a bachelor of science in marketing communication; **Jenna Crawford**, Pequot Lakes, a bachelor of science in marketing communication; **Jared Sewall**, Pequot Lakes, a bachelor of science in health education and a bachelor of science

in physical education; **Benjamin Sullivan**, Pequot Lakes, a bachelor of science in social studies education; **Courtnei Peterson**, Pine River, a bachelor of science in psychology.

Southern New Hampshire University

Kerilyn Sommers of Pequot Lakes has been named to the summer 2021 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Northwest Technical College

The following local students earned degrees from Northwest Technical College in Bemidji: **Sarah Herman**, Fifty Lakes, associate of science in nursing; **Riley Wilson**, Pequot Lakes, diploma in electrical construction and maintenance.

SCHOOL BRIEF

\$1,000 scholarships available for credit union members

Applications are now being accepted for the Minnesota Credit Union Foundation Scholarship Council (FSC) scholarship program. As part of Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union's continued efforts to support students and their families in their financial education journey, we encourage those that qualify to apply for this scholarship opportunity available exclusively to Minnesota credit union members.

This year the council will be awarding eight \$1,000 scholarships to traditional applicants and eight \$1,000 scholarships to non-traditional applicants. Any member of a Minnesota Credit Union Network affiliated credit union pursuing post-secondary education in the fall 2022/spring 2023 or a high school senior graduating in 2022 is eligible to apply.

You can find more information and a link to the application at mmfcu.org. Applications are being accepted online with a submission deadline of

November 30, 2021.

To apply, submit an essay not exceeding 500 words answering the following essay question: "How did the way you interact and communicate with businesses change during the pandemic and what would you like to see continue in the future? From these experiences what suggestions do you have for your credit union?"

The FSC has awarded over 340 scholarships totaling over \$200,000 since its inception in 1997. The FSC strives to build credit union brand awareness and strengthen member relationships through its scholarship program.

Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union is a member-owned financial cooperative serving central Minnesota. The credit union has 10 full-service branch locations offering all your financial needs under one roof. They also participate in CO-OP Shared Branching offering an additional 5,900 locations nationwide if you are traveling, away at school, on business and more.

Thriller 'Wait Until Dark' at Brainerd Community Theatre

Brainerd Community Theatre debuts its 2021-22 season with the classic thriller 'Wait Until Dark,' performing on the John Chalberg stage on the Brainerd campus of Central Lakes College. The tension ratcheting play runs October 21-23 and 28-30, with all performances at 7 p.m.

Director Patrick Spradlin noted that this is the first of four plays that resulted from a unique form of casting utilized by BCT. "This year we used a company audition approach," said Spradlin. "Basically, we held three audition sessions in early August and cast all four of our shows at once, putting together a company of over 50 local actors." In some cases the same actors will appear in multiple productions during the season, said Spradlin.

"We used this casting approach for several reasons. Mainly, it allowed me and our two guest directors (Travis Chaput and Beth Selinger) to see a large pool of talent all at once. Then, we were able to distribute the actors among the four productions in our season. The actors liked it because it allowed them to better schedule their time commitments over the next several months."

The first play up in the season will probably be familiar to many



Contributed / John Erickson

Nick Kory, Maren Martin, Kevin Yeager will bring 'Wait Until Dark' to the audience at Brainerd Community Theatre.

due to its film adaptation. "The play version of 'Wait Until Dark' was highly successful in itself, but the movie starring Audrey Hepburn and Alan Arkin really catapulted the story to fame," Spradlin pointed out. "The version we're producing is more recent adaptation of the Frederick Knott play by Minnesota playwright Jeffrey Hatcher. It has some interesting twists that don't appear in Knott's original script."

The story begins by introducing us to Susan, a woman recently blinded in an automobile accident, and her photographer husband Sam. Their lives are upended when Sam is approached by a stranger who gives him a doll for temporary safekeeping. Unknown to Sam, the doll contains valuable contra-

band. When the woman, Lisa, who gave it to him returns to claim it, the doll can no longer be found. Lisa's psychopathic partner decides to take matters into his own hands, enlisting the help of a con man to trick Susan into finding and surrendering the doll. A wartime buddy of Sam's named Mike appears on the scene and works with Susan to unravel what is quickly becoming a mysterious and dangerous situation. However, Susan soon finds herself on her own, and must both overcome her blindness and use it to her advantage in order to survive the menacing psychopath intent on finding the doll.

The cast of 'Wait Until Dark' features actors who've become well-known and respected

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