

Esko's Corner

Esko Public School District #99

...Connecting School and Community

Fall 2025 | Vol 30 Issue 1



What's Inside: Back to School - What You Need to Know!

Esko Fun Days Recap

Esko's School Upgrades!

Table of Contents

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Community Education..... 2-11



School News 12-23

Around Town.....24-26

Esko's Corner Submissions.....27

Church Happenings.....28-29

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**Community Education
 @Esko CommunityEd**

**Esko Schools
 @Esko Public Schools**

Community Education	Winterquist Elementary	Lincoln Highschool
16 E Hwy 61, Esko MN 55733 PO Box 10, Esko MN 55733	2 E Hwy 61, Esko MN 55733 PO Box 10, Esko MN 55733	2 E Hwy 61, Esko MN 55733 PO Box 10, Esko MN 55733
Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00	Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00	Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00
218-879-4038	218-879-3361	218-879-4673
www.esko.ce.eleyo.com	www.esko.k12.mn.us	www.esko.k12.mn.us



Class Registration Information

Adult Enrichment

We strive to offer a variety of classes for the adults in our community. All classes require registration online through the Eleyo site. In order to run classes, we need people to register at least 24 hours prior to the start of class. Some classes may need additional lead time as instructors order supplies. We give at least a 24 hour notice through email if we need to cancel a class and a refund will be given by method of your original payment. We are always open to class suggestions and activities or help in teaching an adult class if you have any ideas. Please reach out to us by emailing Brianna at bmattonen@esko.k12.mn.us.



Register online 24/7

www.esko.ce.eleyo.com

**or scan this
QR code!**



Youth Enrichment

Directly after school, students will meet for a snack and check-in in the cafeteria, then report to their club's meeting spot. You may pick up your child at the playground doors (door #6). If your child will not be attending a scheduled club, please inform their teacher AND call the Community Education office at 879-4038**

Refunds can be given on classes that have not begun with notice 24 hours prior to the start of class. Refunds can not be given on the day of the class, or after the class has started.

Clubs close for registration the day PRIOR to the beginning of the club.

Some clubs may need more time, and may close more than one day prior. This information may be noted in the course description. No registrations will be accepted after the clubs closing date.

Esko Community Education cannot accept registration for After School Clubs on the day of the club, due to communication with teachers and Cool Kids regarding attendance.

Adult Enrichment

Zumba

Zumba is a fitness cardio workout that combines Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves that will make you forget you're even working out! Our goal is simple...we want you to be healthy, to love working out and to enjoy exciting calorie burning, body energizing movements meant to be enjoyed throughout your life at any age! Now is the time to try Zumba!

Bring to Class: Water Bottle

Sessions: 6

Cost: \$48.00

Instructor: Naomi Christiansen

9/8/2025 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM Esko Schools Cafeteria

9/22/2025

10/6/2025

10/13/2025

10/20/2025

10/27/2025

Sessions: 7

Cost: \$56.00

Instructor: Naomi Christiansen

11/3/2025 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM Esko School Cafeteria

11/10/2025

11/17/2025

11/24/2025

12/1/2025

12/8/2025

12/15/2025

Zumba Punch Card

5 class punch card to use throughout the 25-26 school year
\$45

Pilates

Pilates is a low-impact, slow and controlled practice. This movement practice can help you; build strength, increase flexibility, release tension, relieve back, shoulder, and other joint pain, plus so much more. Come join Kati who just recently



received her Mat 1 Certification, but has practiced and loved pilates for many years.
Bring to Class: Pilates or yoga mat and water

Sessions: 6
Cost: \$78.00
Instructor: Kati Ruhnke
9/10/2025 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Esko Schools Cafeteria
9/24/2025
10/8/2025
10/15/2025
10/22/2025
10/29/2025

Archery - Info Coming Soon!

Pilates Punch Card
5 class punch card to use throughout the 25-26 school year \$65

Planning For Your Kids' Education
Review the need and means to save for your kids' future education costs. We'll cover how much is needed for college, vehicles you can use to save efficiently, and strategies to minimize out-of-pocket costs.
Cost: Free
Instructor: Oliver Kelsey with Signature Wealth Management
October 2 6-7:30PM Located in Room #132 Esko High School or the FCS room

Youth Enrichment

Elementary Volleyball
Join Mrs. Vesel-Johnson for fall volleyball, open to 5th and 6th grade boys and girls.
Grades 5&6 | \$65 | September-October
See Flyer on Pg 5 for specific dates, times and locations.

Elementary Cheer Clinic
Do you love to cheer? Be part of the elementary cheer clinic! The elementary cheerleaders will learn cheers, jumps, kicks, and a dance to do during the football game, Friday Sept. 19th. Cheerleaders will receive a shirt, themed pompoms and a bow. Those attending the grades 3-6 grade session will enter through the high school doors. Those attending the grades 3-6 session may not stay after school until their session begins, they must be picked up from school and come back. Pick up for all sessions is in the cafeteria. Registration will close 9/8/25 at 3 :00 PM. No late registrations will be taken.
Grades K-2 | 9/15/25 3 :15-5 :00 & 9/17/25 2 :15-4 :00 | \$52
Grades 3-6 | 9/15/25 5 :30-7 :30 & 9/17/25 4 :30-6 :30 | \$52

Savannah's Pottery
Open to grades 1-6. Students will make their own unique, hand-painted ceramic projects with Michelle Line from Savannah's Pottery. Projects will be returned to students at school in about 2-3 weeks. Classes will close for registration one day prior at 3:00 PM.

- Fall Owl Dish | 9/16/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$17 | Room S101
- Oak Leaf Cup | 9/23/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$16 | Room S101
- Boo Plate | 9/30/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$18 | Room S101
- Halloween Choice | 10/7/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$17 | Room S101
- Kids' Choice Orn. | 10/14/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$16 | Room

- S101
- Xmas Tree Plate | 10/21/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$17 | Room S101
- Kids' Choice Xmas | 10/28/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$17 | Room S101
- Xmas Cardinal Frame | 11/4/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$17 | Room S101
- Ho Ho Ho Plate | 11/11/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$18 | Room S101
- Santa/Reindeer Tile | 11/18/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$16 | Room S101
- Xmas Cardinal Dish | 11/25/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$16 | Room S101

Northern Outdoors Club
Northern Outdoors Club is an Esko-based business offering nature education with Cassie Janke. Class topics include everything from survival techniques to camp fire cooking and nature-based art projects. Classes will close for registration one day prior at 3:00 PM

- Prehistoric Skills | Grades 2-5 | 9/16/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$15 | Playground
- Take The Ropes | Grades 3-6 | 10/9/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$17 | Esko School Forest *Pick up at the forest
- Build a Bat House | Grades 3-6 | 10/30/25 | 3:15-5:00 | \$23 | Room S101
- All About Eyes | Grades 3-6 | 11/13/25 | 3:15-4:45 | \$18 | Playground
- Survival Tool Skill | Grades 3-6 | 11/25/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$19 | Room S100

Elementary Cross Country

Come run with the high school cross country team! Practice your running and try to beat your own personal scores! Please note: on the last week, students will be participating in a cross country meet! Students will walk to the school forest trails and participate in an official meet with the help of Highschool coaches and athletes. Pick up will be at 4:30 in the field parking lot! If your child is scheduled for Cool Kids for the meet, please know they can not be picked up by Cool Kids staff after the meet. Registration closes 1 day prior to first date of club.

Grades 1-6 | M 9/22 -10/6 3:15-4:00 | Playground; M 10/13 3:15-4:30 | Sports Complex | \$12

Crafts with Sam

Join Mrs. Sam after school to create beautiful, unique art pieces! Registration will close 1 day prior to start date at noon.

- Modern Wall Hanging | Grades 2-6 | 9/30/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$25 | Room E263
- Dreamcatcher Craft | Grades 2-6 | 10/28/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$25 | Room E263
- Funky Turkey Art Collage | Grades 1-6 | 11/18/25 | 3:15-4:35 | \$25 | Room E263

LEGO Robotics

Hang out with Miss Granholm for the afternoon and learn to build and control LEGO Robots! Please check back for any future sessions to be added. Registration will close 1 day prior to start date at noon.

October | Grades 3-6 | Tu 10/7/25-10/28/25 | 3:15-4:30 | \$30 | Room E372

Child Safety Classes

Join Ms. Bromberg during MEA break for Child Safety Classes. See flyer on Pg 5 for individual class descriptions! Please note: You need to register for each class independently. If you choose to register for both classes, there will be a short lunch break from 12:00-12:30 where students are encouraged to bring a nut-free bag lunch. Registration will close on October 13th at 3:00 PM

- Child and Babysitting Safety | Ages 11+ | 10/16/25 | 9:00-12:00 | \$55 | Room S100
- Home Alone | Ages 8+ | 10/16/25 | 12:30-2:30 | \$35 | Room S100

Esko Leads

Did you know that we have a leadership and service learning program for students in grades 5-7?

Esko Leads is a group that strives to inspire and educate teens to discover the leader within themselves. In this group, students will work together to find out who they are and what they can achieve, now and in the future. Our priority as a group is to work with local citizens and organizations to

benefit our schools, homes and communities through service learning.

Some projects we worked on in 2024-25:

- We spread kindness and happiness around school with inspirational chalk messages.
- We helped carve pumpkins and set up the jack-o-lantern walk in the school forest.
- We held a food drive for the Cloquet salvation army.
- We raised donations for area public health nurses and provided them formula to share within their communities.
- We helped to organize and host the Esko Winterfest Fest.
- We made tie-blankets to share with area animal rescue organizations.
- We shared our appreciation for our teachers by decorating the lounges.

*Please note new time. Esko Leads will end at 3:30 PM for the 25-26 school year.

Price includes a gratitude journal and Esko Leads t-shirt, designed by the group!

Registration will close 9/16/25 at noon.

Grades 5-7 | WED 9/17/25-5/13/25 | 2:15-3:30 | \$40 | Room S100

After School Club Text Alerts

Do you want to be the first to know when new After School Classes are open online? Register for free text alerts! Those registered on this list will receive a monthly text reminder to check out what After School Enrichment opportunities are available in Eleyo. We will also send an alert when a new class becomes available!

Registrant must:

1. Be an adult.
2. Ensure they have a valid email and phone number in their Eleyo profile.
3. Choose “yes” to receiving text messages.

Phone Numbers

Phone Number

8889997777

Cell

Allow us to send you Text Messages (SMS)

☒ Yes

☐ No

Remove

+ Add Another Phone Number

While registration is free, you will need to go through the entire checkout process for registration to be completed.

You will only need to register once. If at any time you’d like to be removed from the text list, please email edavey@esko.k12.mn.us or call the Community Ed office at 218-879-4038.



CHILD SAFETY CLASSES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

BABYSITTING SAFETY CLASS- AGES 11+ - 9:00-12:00 - \$55

THE CABS PROGRAM OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING TO ENSURE SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL BABYSITTING. IT COVERS EVERYTHING FROM STARTING A BABYSITTING BUSINESS TO ESSENTIAL SAFETY, CAREGIVING, AND FIRST AID PRACTICES. UPON COMPLETING THE COURSE AND MEETING THE CORE LEARNING OBJECTIVES, STUDENTS RECEIVE A CERTIFICATION VALID FOR TWO YEARS, AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCESS A DIGITAL COPY OF THE CHILD AND BABYSITTING SAFETY (CABS) STUDENT BOOK.

HOME ALONE - AGES 8+ - 12:30-2:30 - \$35

IS YOUR CHILD PREPARED FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STAYING HOME ALONE? THIS CLASS EMPOWERS CHILDREN WITH THE CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO HANDLE BEING HOME ALONE, WHETHER IT'S JUST FOR AN HOUR OR THROUGHOUT THE DAY DURING SUMMER BREAKS.



REGISTER ONLINE

WWW.ESKO.CE.ELEVO.COM

Cool Kids Open House

INTENDED FOR NEWLY REGISTERED COOL CUBS/KIDS FAMILIES

- TO MEET WITH TEACHERS
- SEE THE SPACE AND
- GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT OUR PROGRAM.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH

5:00-6:00 PM

16 E. HWY 61, ESKO

Elementary Volleyball Grades 5 & 6 Schedule

Week 1.

Mon Sept. 8th- FCS Classroom,
3:20-4:30

Tues. Sept. 9th-Practice, Varsity Gym,
3:20-5

Thurs. Sept. 11th-Practice, Blue Gym,
3:20-5:30

Week 2

Tues Sept 16th- Practice-Blue gym,
3:20-5:30

Wed. Sept 17- Practice, Varsity Gym,
5:30-7:00

Thurs Sept 18- Practice, Varsity Gym,
3:20-5:00.

Week 3

Tues Sept. 23- Practice, Varsity
3:20-5:30

Wed. Sept. 24- Practice, Varsity,
5:30-7:00

Thurs. Sept 25- Practice, Varsity
3:20-5:00

Sept. 25- POSSIBLE TOURNAMENT
(TBD)

Week 4

Tues Sept. 30- Practice, Blue gym
3:20-5:30.

Wed. Oct. 1- Practice, Varsity gym.
5:30-7:00

Thurs Oct. 2- Practice, blue gym
3:20-5:30



Week 5

**Monday Oct. 6 - Practice Varsity
3:20-5:00

Wed. Oct 8- Practice, Varsity Gym,
5:30-7:00

Thurs. Oct 9-Practice, Varsity, 5:30-7:00

Sat. Oct. 15th-POSSIBLE
TOURNAMENT (TBD)



Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)



What is ECFE?
Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) recognizes that parents are their child's first and most important teachers. ECFE offers parents hands-on learning experiences that will nourish a lifetime of teachable moments.



What Happens in ECFE?

A typical ECFE class includes:

Parent-Child Interaction - Time where parent and child together enjoy a classroom filled with developmentally appropriate learning activities.

Parent Education - Provides relevant, effective education and support that encourages a healthy environment for the growth and development of families.

Children's Activity Time - During parent education time, children explore, gain independence, and practice social skills while under the supervision of a licensed children's teacher.

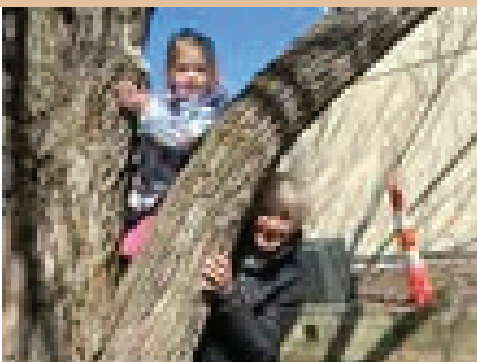
What are the Benefits?

Support during the transition to parenthood.
Information of early development and what to expect from children.

Strategies for effective limit-setting and teaching.
Quality time with children in a supportive and enriching learning environment.

Time with other parents to reflect on family values and parenting practices in a supportive group setting.

Enhanced family communication and co-parenting skills.
Strategies for balancing work and family and managing stress.
Familiarity with community resources for families with young children.



Esko Early Learning ECFE

Register for classes on
esko.ce.eleyo.com

16 E Hwy 61, Esko, MN 55733

Call us at 218-879-4038 or email
mpliml@esko.k12.mn.us





Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Classes



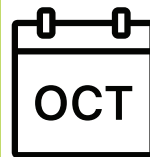
Little Sprouts

Esko ECFE

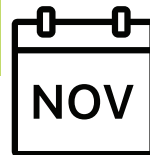
Join Ms. Kari on Wednesdays from
8:45-10:45
Starting 10/1-12/17

Get ready for Fall ECFE classes!

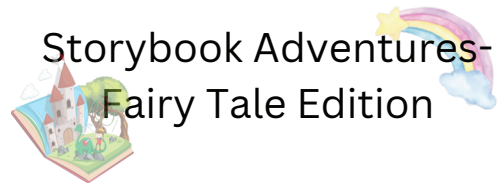
Teacher- Ms. Melanie
Parent Educator- Shannon Matzdorf



Fall into Learning



Storybook Adventures- Fairy Tale Edition



Gingerbread



ECFE Registration and Fees

Register online

<https://esko.ce.eleyo.com/>



Fees: No family is denied class
due to inability to pay. Please
call our office to discuss
options.

218-879-4038

Classes will be on Mondays 5:30-6:45
and Tuesdays* 5:15-6:30.

*Please note- If you register for
Tuesday night you will be registering
for all 3 sessions. Monday nights will be
offered on a monthly registration.

Registration will open June 1st.



Esko Early Learning School Readiness and Stepping Stones



School Readiness and Stepping Stones Handbook and Supply lists can be found on the school website.



2025-2026 Registration Information

School Readiness- **FULL**

Mon/ Tues/ Thurs

AM 8:30-11:00 or PM 12:30-3:00

Students must be 4 years of age by Sept. 1st to attend.

Discovery- **FULL**

Wed/ Fri

8:30-11:00

Students must be 4 years of age by Sept. 1st to attend.

This is our Nature/ STEAM based program.

Stepping Stones-

Tues/ Thurs

8:45-11:15

Students must be 3 years of age by Sept. 1st to attend.

Sliding Fee Scale available on Esko Schools website.

Email Melanie Pliml with questions
mpliml@esko.k12.mn.us



**Open House is on
Thursday Sept. 4th**

**Please email Melanie if
you did not receive the
link to register for open
house.**



Dear Preschool Families,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! We are so excited to begin another year of learning, exploring, and growing together. Whether your child is returning or joining us for the first time, we look forward to creating a joyful and nurturing classroom community.

This year will be filled with hands-on activities, new friendships, and plenty of opportunities for your child to explore their curiosity and creativity. Our focus will be on building social skills, encouraging independence, and sparking a love of learning that will carry them far beyond preschool.

A few reminders as we get started:

- Please send your child with a labeled backpack, a water bottle, healthy nut free snack and a change of clothes each day.
- Watch for newsletters and notes in your child's backpack for updates and classroom news.
- Most importantly—don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are partners in your child's education and want this year to be a positive experience for your whole family.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us. We can't wait to make special memories together this year!

With excitement,

Ms. Melanie and Ms. Nikki



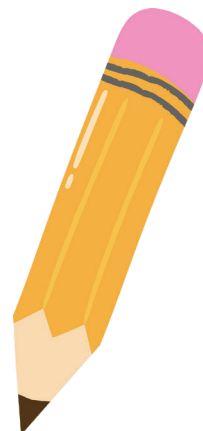


Early Childhood Screening



Early Childhood Screening is a free developmental and health screening that helps ensure all children are equipped for learning. Screening should take place after a child's third birthday to age 5 and is required by the state of Minnesota for every child before they start kindergarten.

Included are screenings for: cognitive, social emotional, speech and language, large and small muscle development. Also included are vision and hearing screenings, health history form and immunization review. Screening helps determine if there are learning concerns in these areas that should be addressed before your child begins kindergarten.



Early Childhood Screening dates for 2025-2026

Tuesday September 30, 2025

Wednesday October 1, 2025

Tuesday February 3, 2026

Wednesday February 4, 2026

All screenings take place at Esko Community Education, 16 E. Hwy 61, Esko, MN 55733



Registration for appointments opens approximately one month prior to the screening date on esko.ce.eleyo.com

For questions regarding screening contact Jill Liupakka at (218)879-2969 ext 636, or Email jliupakka@esko.k12.mn.us



Early Childhood Developmental Screening

Check in on how your child is growing and learning.

Early Childhood Developmental Screenings are checks that help parents understand how their child is developing and growing.



What is a screening?

Early Childhood Screening is a no-cost check of how your 3-5 year old child is growing, moving, talking, seeing, hearing and behaving.

Esko's next screenings are September 30th and October 1, 2025.

Register for an appointment at esko.ce.eleyo.com

Why does it matter?

Screenings give parents more tools to understand and support their child's growth and development.

The earlier you have your child screened the more time you have to address any needs and set them up for success.

Want to learn more about local screening programs?

Find more information and early
childhood screening options near you at
[HelpMeConnectMN.org](https://helpmeconnectmn.org)



<https://helpmeconnect.web.health.state.mn.us/HelpMeConnect/Search/HealthyDevelopmentandScreening/EarlyChildhoodScreening->

Superintendent's Report

By: Aaron Fischer

Welcome Back

I would like to take a moment to welcome back all our staff and students. We are excited to get a new school year started and look forward to the first day of school! Let's make this a great year.

Parking Lots

The School District has improved and expanded our parking. We expanded our parking lot behind the school next to the new sport courts and playground. This lot will help to address the parking shortage. The new lot will add over 90 new spots and should assist with the drop off and pick up areas. We are going to be opening this lot up for events and should make it a little more convenient to attend our students' wonderful events.

The second lot we enhanced was the lot between the dental and tax office in the center of town. This lot has now been paved and striped to assist with a better parking concept. This also allowed us to remove cement and debris that kept coming to the surface.

School Budget for this school year

Each year our Business Manager works diligently to prepare a school budget that reflects our revenues and expenditures. This is a difficult process in Minnesota because of how our funding is determined by the state formulas and changes throughout the school year. I believe we have a budget in place that will meet the needs of our students. Our student counts are one of the biggest factors in determining our revenues and we will find out in September if our students counts are up, down or the same. If all goes well, we are forecasting a balanced budget year!

New Staff

Each year we have staff members retire and decide to pursue new experiences. This is a sad time for all of us, but with this change comes opportunity. This year we have hired more staff than we have in quite a while. I have had a chance to meet the new teachers. They bring a high level of excitement to their new positions. I am excited about our new hires and hope you have a chance to meet them throughout the school year.

Substitutes

Esko Schools needs you! To provide a great educational experience and to cover essential functions we need substitutes in every area of the school (teachers, paraprofessionals, drivers etc...). If you are willing to help, we will be able to find an area for you. Even if you have limited availability, we would be glad to add you to our list. Please contact me at afischer@esko.k12.mn.us or call me at 218 879-2969.

Summary

I am starting my twenty-second year in the Esko School District. I am still amazed at the level of support this community provides to the school district staff and students. This is truly a great community to be a part of and to raise children in. Let's continue to work together to bring the best educational experience to our students.



Over 90 new parking spots have been added.!

From Our School Board Chair

On behalf of the Esko School Board, I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2025 / 2026 school year. Although the students have been gone for the summer, that doesn't mean that the school is quiet, in fact, it has been bustling with activity. Here are a few things that have been accomplished during the student's summer vacation.

The property that was purchased on Lincoln Lane that was demolished last fall, has been transformed into a new much needed parking area. The project had run into several soil issues as well as a bad manhole being discovered, but those issues have been corrected to insure a long lasting end result. The new area not only provides new parking spots but also solves several water issues that have plagued that area. New lighting has been installed and parts of the old Lincoln Lane have been resurfaced to provide a smooth ride into the area.

Administration is working on a new plan to help mitigate the pickup and drop-off issues in that area. Please look for those new protocols that will be disseminated to families in a variety of ways including through the instant alert system.

The retaining wall between the school and that parking lot area that has had loose bricks has been replaced to make it safer for our students. Side-walks around the school that have heaved over the years, caused by our wonderful clay soil conditions, have been repaired to prevent tripping hazards and the curb on the sidewalk toward the playground has been reworked to make the path between it and the school more handicap accessible. These were included in the summer projects thanks to input from the school's safety committee.

Our west parking lot between the Tax Service and the Dental Office has also been repaired and has a new blacktop surface. This will also give additional parking spots that were badly needed. This will also make it easier to plow and maintain in the future.



Inside the school new flooring was installed on the third floor. Some of this tile was in pretty bad shape. It adds a brand new welcoming feel for that area and certainly modernizes the look.

In the cafeteria, students will notice new tables. The old tables have been around for years and were getting hard to fold and unfold them before and after



From Our School Board

Clerk's Minutes

on, Independent School District No. 99, Esko, Minnesota, meeting on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the

derick, Todd Rengo, Steve McConnell, Rob Johnson, narborg and Superintendent Aaron Fischer.

called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

and by Rob Johnson to approve the agenda. Motion

Items

second by Leona Johnson to approve the Consent

of checks dated 6/3/24

the following items, as per the School Board Minutes:

Moved by Todd Rengo, second by Leona Johnson to budget. Motioned carried by unanimous vote.

Approve the Hire of Amber Fisher as Data Management for 210 days effective July 1, 2024

Moved by Steve McConnell, second by Rob Johnson Fisher as Data Management/Tech Help Desk Assistant, 2024. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Administrative Reports:

Principals' Reports:

Elementary School: Mr. Harter reported on the following of year activities included field trips, Kindergarten

ations

any Zywicki and Bridget Vesel-Johnson did a wo

ld day

Move Up Day

School Board presentation



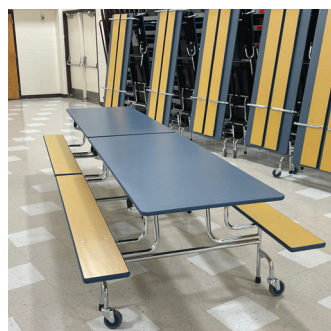
Interested in keeping up on Esko School Board news? Meeting minutes are always available online at:

https://www.esko.k12.mn.us/district/school_board/school_board_minutes

lunch. This will make it much easier for staff during the busy lunch period and for the community as they use the area for a variety of different activities. It again freshens up the area and adds a welcoming feel for the students.

We will be welcoming several new staff members to Esko both in the Elementary and the High School through retirements and through a few resignations. Administration has been working hard looking through a plethora of applications that have been received to choose the very best candidates to fill these positions.

I will leave it there for now, and I'm sure that I have missed several things, but I do want to mention that we are continuing to maintain the school building, which every contractor has said has "great bones". We will continue to do cost effective upgrades that will make it a safe, warm and welcoming building for the students to not only to learn, but to excel.



A big shout out and a heartfelt thank you to the parents, community members and all of those that contribute in so many ways to the success of our students. You are truly what makes Esko, Esko!

Jerry Frederick
School Board Chair



Esko Public Schools
2 East Highway 61, PO Box 10
Esko, MN 55733
(218) 879-2969

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school offers healthy meals each day. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school. Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, filling out the Application for Educational Benefits is still important! Your application may help the school qualify for education funds.

To apply, complete the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits and return it to:

Esko Public Schools
Attn: Emily Johnson
PO Box 10
Esko, MN 55733

Who should complete this application?

Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children qualify without reporting household income. Alternatively, children can qualify if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

COMMON QUESTIONS:

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children qualify?

Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance do not automatically qualify. Children may be eligible depending on other household financial information. Please fill out an application.

Who should I include as household members?

Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?

Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for you to complete an application.

What if my income is not always the same?

List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

Will the income information or case number I give be checked?

It may be. We may also ask you to send written proof.

How will the information be kept?

Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval, will be protected as private data. For more information, see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?

Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

If you have other questions or need help, call 218-879-2969 ext 610

Sincerely,
Emily Johnson



[Click here for the 2025-2026 Application For Educational Benefits!](#)

How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits

Complete the Application for Educational Benefits form for school year 2025–26 if any of the following applies to your household:

- Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or
- The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child) or
- The total income of household members is within the guidelines shown below (gross earnings before deductions, not take-home pay). Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR. Military: Do not include combat pay or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Maximum Total Income					
Household size	\$ Per Year	\$ Per Month	\$ Twice Per Month	\$ Per 2 Weeks	\$ Per Week
1	28,953	2,413	1,207	1,114	557
2	39,128	3,261	1,631	1,505	753
3	49,303	4,109	2,055	1,897	949
4	59,478	4,957	2,479	2,288	1,144
5	69,653	5,805	2,903	2,679	1,340
6	79,828	6,653	3,327	3,071	1,536
7	90,003	7,501	3,751	3,462	1,731
8	100,178	8,349	4,175	3,853	1,927
Add for each additional person	10,175	848	424	392	196

Step 1: Children

List all infants and children in the household, their school and grade if applicable, and birthdate. Attach an additional page if needed to list all children. Check the box if a child is in foster care (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child).

Step 2: Case Number

If any household member currently participates in SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR, write in the case number and then go to Step 4. If you do not participate in any of these programs, leave Step 2 blank and continue to Step 3.

Step 3: Adult and Child Incomes / Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number

- Social Security Number/Total Household Members. An adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security number or check the box if they do not have a Social Security number. Report the total number of household members and ensure all household members are listed individually on the application in the child or adult section as applicable.
- Child Income. If any children in the household have regular income, such as SSI or part-time jobs, list the total amount of regular incomes received by all children, and check the box for the frequency: weekly, bi-weekly, twice a month, or monthly. Do not include occasional earnings like babysitting or lawn mowing.
- Adult income. Report the names of adult household members and income in this section.

List all adults living in the household not listed in Step 1, whether related or not, such as grandparents, relatives, or friends.

Gross Earnings from Work. This is usually the money received from working at jobs where a paycheck is received. For each income, check the box to show how often the income is received: weekly, bi-weekly, twice per month, or monthly.

List gross incomes before deductions, not take-home pay. Do not list an hourly wage rate. For adults with no income to report, enter a '0' or leave the section blank. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

Are you Self-Employed or a Farmer? List the net income per month or year after business expenses. Do not list the same income twice on the application. A loss from farm or self-employment must be listed as 0 income and does not reduce other income.

Any Other Gross Income. List gross incomes before deductions from all other sources, such as SSI, unemployment, child support, public assistance, social security, rental income or annuities.

Step 4: Signature and Contact Information An adult household member must sign the form. If you do not want your information to be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, check the "Don't share" box in Step 4.

Optional: Please provide the information on ethnicity and race that is requested on the second page of the form. This information is not required and does not affect eligibility. The information helps to ensure we are meeting civil rights requirements and fully serving our community.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE (#506) "... The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the school district's expectations for student conduct. Such compliance will enhance the school district's ability to maintain discipline and ensure that there is no interference with the educational process. The school district will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy."

PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF PUPIL RECORDS (#515) "...The school district shall give parents of students currently in attendance and eligible students currently in attendance annual notice by such means as are reasonably likely to inform the parents and eligible students of the following:

1. That the parent or eligible student has a right to inspect and review the student's education records and the procedure for inspecting and reviewing education records;
 2. That the parent or eligible student has a right to seek amendment of the student's education records to ensure that those records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights and the procedure for requesting amendment of records;
 3. That the parent or eligible student has a right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that federal and state law and the regulations promulgated thereunder authorize disclosure without consent;
 4. That the parent or eligible student has a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged failure by the school district to comply with the requirements of 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and the rules promulgated thereunder;
 5. The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest for purposes of disclosing education records to other school officials whom the school district has determined to have legitimate educational interests; and
 6. That the school district forwards education records on request to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll including suspension and expulsion records pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act and, if applicable, a student's history of violent behavior.
- BULLYING PROHIBITION (# 516)** "... to the extent such

conduct affects the educational environment of the school district and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school district in its normal operations, it is the school district's intent to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond, remediate, and discipline those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, and other similar disruptive behavior."

STUDENT SURVEYS (#520) "...Occasionally the school district utilizes surveys to obtain student opinions and information about students. The purpose of this policy is to establish the parameters of information that may be sought in student surveys. Student surveys may be conducted as determined necessary by the school district. Surveys, analyses and evaluations conducted as part of any program funded through the U.S. Department of Education must comply with 20 U.S.C. 1232h." Parents may opt out of the following activities by providing written notification to Julie Pelletier, c/o Esko Public Schools prior to October 15 of each school year:

- (1) Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose.
- (2) The administration of any third-party survey as defined in the policy
- (3) Any non-emergency invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or other students.

Students and parents will be notified in advance of the activities/items listed above.

STUDENT DISABILITY NONDISCRIMINATION (#521)
The purpose of this policy is to protect disabled students from discrimination on the basis of disability and to identify and evaluate learners who, within the intent of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, need special services, accommodations, or programs in order that such learners may receive a free appropriate public education.

STUDENT SEX NONDISCRIMINATION (#522) Students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The purpose of this policy is to provide equal educational opportunity for

all students and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY (#524) "...The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and guidelines for access to the school district computer system and acceptable and safe use of the Internet, including electronic communications."

WORLD WIDE WEB PUBLISHING OF STUDENT WORK: Student artwork, writing or projects may be published on the World Wide Web, a part of the Internet, by the School District. No home address or telephone number will appear with such work. If parents do not want their child's work to appear on the Internet, they must provide written notification to "Julie Pelletier c/o District Office" no later than October 15 of each school year. In lieu of written notification parents grant the School District copy-rights and privileges to reproduce, adapt, publish, and display student work on the Internet. Such publication is intended to further the educational mission of the School District and display students' works to a worldwide audience.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT (#806) "... The purpose of the Crisis Management Policy is to act as a guide for school district and building administrators, school employees, students, school board members, and community members as to how to address a wide range of potential crisis situations in the school district. The step-by-step procedures suggested by this Policy will provide guidance to each school building in drafting crisis management plans to coordinate protective actions prior to, during, and after any type of emergency or potential crisis situation in the school district. Please note that, pursuant to this Policy, tailored crisis management plans will be developed for each school building in the school district and sections, or procedures may be added or deleted in those crisis management plans based on building needs.

THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT requires the following notices be given to parents:

MILITARY RECRUITERS - Parents have a right to request that their child's name, address, and telephone number not be released to a military recruiter without their prior consent. Written requests should be submitted to Julie Pelletier in the District Office by October 15 of each year.

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS - Parents may request the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met Minnesota Department of Education requirements for licensure at the grade level and the subject area(s) they teach

- Whether the teacher has an emergency or provisional license

- What the teacher's undergraduate major was, any graduate certification or degree held by the teacher including the field of discipline of the certification or degree

- Whether the child is being taught by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

Annual Health and Safety Notifications

AHERA (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act)

Federal legislation requires public schools to maintain a list of locations and types of asbestos found in the school building and a description for their proper management. The Asbestos Management Plan and related inspection reports are available at the District Office.

DRINKING WATER Esko Schools maintains and produces its own water, as there is no city system to draw from in Thomson Township. The school's water system treats and filters all water prior to distribution in the building, and drinking water is again filtered at each water fountain. Tony Compo, Head Custodian, has received ongoing training and is licensed by the MN Department of Health as a "water treatment technician." Water samples are taken weekly from both wells by the District and are then sent to the Minnesota Department of Health for testing. To date, Esko Public Schools has met all requirements relating to the safety of our water supply system per MN Department of Health (MDH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. Our water is used for drinking and preparation of meals daily. The testing log and results of the MDH & EPA tests are available at the District Office.

RADON Building tests have indicated that radon levels do not exceed the acceptable levels as established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Test results are available at the District Office

INDOOR AIR QUALITY Through preventative measures and regular maintenance of our facility and its mechanical systems, Esko Schools monitors and works to improve Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) for our students and staff using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines and recommendations. Questions or concerns regarding IAQ should be directed to the District Office.

Complete versions of all school policies are available online at:

www.esko.k12.mn.us/policyindex.htm
or by contacting the District Office.



Elementary News

By Brian Harker

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, September 2: First Day of School for Grades 1-6
- Thursday, September 4: First Day of School for Kindergarten
- Monday, September 8: PIE Meeting- 6:00 pm
- Monday, October 6: PIE Meeting – 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 1: 3 Hour Early Release- Elementary Conferences 1:00-7:00 pm
- Wednesday, Oct. 8: 3 Hour Early Release- Elementary Conferences 1:00-7:00 pm
- Thursday, Oct. 16: No School
- Friday, Oct. 17: No School

Back to School

Welcome back to school! Our staff is ready to hit the ground running. Thanks to our families for their support and for preparing their children to have a positive start to the school year. We look forward to partnering with you this year and making 2025/2026 a great school year.

Attendance

Research shows that school attendance has a direct correlation to academic success and sets the tone for an overall positive school experience for students. Let's work together this year to get your child to school every day.

Conferences

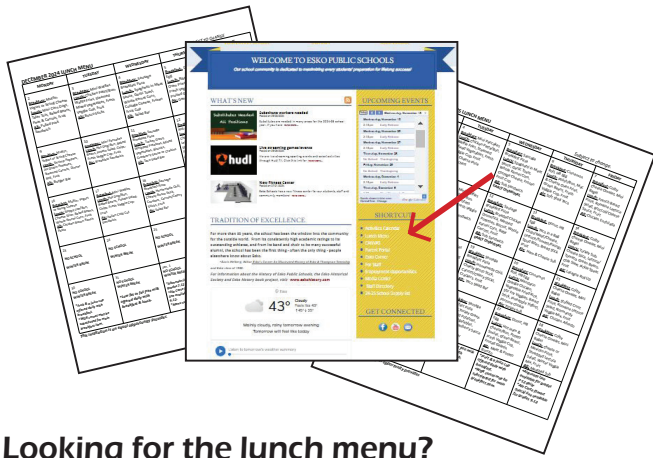
On Wednesday, October 1, and Wednesday, October 8, our students will be released three (3) hours early. Dismissal will be at 12:15. Conferences will be scheduled from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm on both days. Please mark these dates on your family calendar and start making plans for child care. More information to come on scheduling...

Partners in Education (PIE)

If you are looking to get involved in a worthwhile organization that does wonderful things for the students in our building, then PIE is the group for you. Becoming a member is easy! If you are a parent of a child in Winterquist Elementary School, then you are already a member of this group. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm (exception is September and January). This is a great opportunity to get together with this progressive group to talk, discuss, and support the school experience at Winterquist Elementary. PIE continues to raise money each year to support and provide educational opportunities for our young learners. We hope to see you at the meetings.

Other Items

- **Students are not allowed in the building before 7:45 a.m. or after 3:30 p.m. unless they are under direct supervision by a teacher or coach.**
- The phone number to reach Winterquist Elementary is 218-879-3361.
- Please be sure to contact the school by 8:30 if your child is absent. Parents/guardians are required to inform the office of their child's absence and the reason. If they do not call the office, we will contact them as a safety precaution. If we can't get an excuse for the absence, it will turn into an unexcused absence.
- With fall fast approaching, the mornings are quite cool. Make sure to send along a jacket or sweatshirt with your child. They are outside on the playground to start the day.

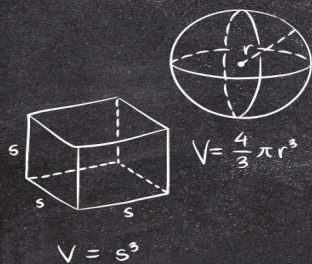


Looking for the lunch menu?

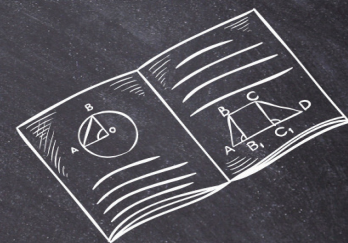
Find the current month's menu on the school website, under "shortcuts" here:

<https://www.esko.k12.mn.us/>

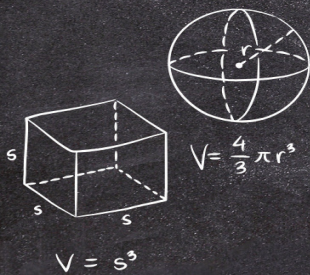




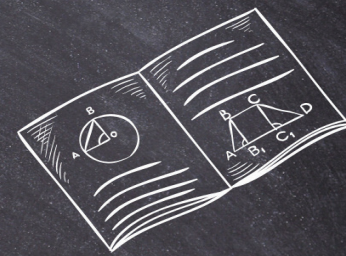
Quarter Four Honor Roll



Emma Adkins	Ethan Dallager	nen	Ahti Kari	Gannon Mattson	Landen Parask	Samuel Skog
Aania Ahsan	Aria Dammann	Jackson Hacker	Kroix Kayser	Easton Mattson	Ashelyn Parker	Madison Slygh
Nolan Anderson	Abrina Dammann	Jack Hakala	Sydney Kazel	Trygve Mattson	Adelyn Parrott	Easton Snow
Lillee Ankarlo	Ava Daveau	Hattie Hallback	Evie Kelsey	Hannah Maunu	Aubrey Pearce	Zakary Spears
Joshua Antonutti	Kinsley DeBondt	Tuula Hallsten	Jayden Keppeler	Abigail McConnell	Evelyn Peterson	Vivian Spicer
Lucy Backstrom	Colton Dewey	Annika Hallsten	Aubree Kern	Kaitlyn McConnell	Johanna Peterson	Weston Stay
Aaron Bailey	Autumn Doble	Weston Halverson	Alex King	Logan McConnell	Layla Peterson	Brielle Stewart
Roman Barnes	Rilee Durovec	Jamis Halverson	Kelsey Klemmer	Grace McIlvain	Michael Pfeifer	Jordan Stodola
Ellahna Barnes	Michael Dusek	Annika Halvorson	Majja Klingelhofer	Cierah McKibbin	Vincent Pianalto	Tyson Stormoen
Ellynor Barta	Garrett East	Vivian Halvorson	Caitlin Klunen-berg	Ava McKibbin	Titus Piepho	Eilee Straub
Lucy Barta	Kendra East	Samuel Hammond	Natalie Klunen-berg	Brooklyn McKib- bon	Witten Powers	Neela Stuermer
Brooklyn Battaglia	Wyatt Edblad	Arlyne Haney	Kamryn Korkala	Landon McMillan	Dylan Prachar	Maya Stuermer
Ashlynn Beare	Jaela Egge	Alyssa Hansen	Britta Koski	Maxwell McWil- liams	Nora Pulford	Annabelle Sunnar- borg
Josef Bednar	Anika Elsmore	Hailey Hansen	Brooke Koski	Aidan McWilliams	Levi Raisanen	Grace Swanson
William Beisang	Samuel Elton	Sharla Hansen	Carson Kronlund	Harpers Mears	Hailey Raisanen	Bryce Sweere
Gavin Belich	Marie Eng	Anna Hanson	Reese Kuklinski	Hazel Mendez	James Rautell	Jayden Symiczek
Remington Bender	Mason Eng	Levi Hanson	Aubrey Kulas	Brayley Merrier	Hannah Rautell	Joshua Synnott
Jaxon Benedix	Eliana Erspamer	Whitney Hanson	Kennedy Kurhajetz	Oliver Michaud	Piper Rice	Luke Tester
Harper Benedix	Logan Filipiak	Eagan Harker	Kennadie Lammi	Adelynn Michaud	Landon Ridgewell	Isaac Tester
Aspen Berg	Elise Finc	Easton Harker	Charlie Langhorst	Parker Micken	Baizlee Ritchie	Kenley Theisen
Wyatt Bergstedt	Tyler Finc	Cecilia Hart	Amber Lattner	Aubrey Micken	Hannah Roemer	Abram Thwaites
Aviana Bergstrand	Kalea Fonoti	Jacob Haugen	Keira Leach	Grace Miles	Hunter Roemer	Nolan Thwaites
Isabella Bowman	Claire Fontaine	Stella Haugen	Mariana LeBlanc	Ella Miles	Olivia Rulifson	Aiden Tingum
Marisa Brabec	Peyton Forsberg	Molly Hawkinson	Evelyn LeBlanc	Addison Miller	Liana Rust	Kaylee Tipple
Emma Breed	Max Foster	Kam Hendrickson	Garrett Leow	Tagan Mock	Naiya Ruuska	Jolie Urie
Eleanor Brekke	Kali Foxx	Nolan Hendrickson	Olivia Leow	Aislynn Mock	Londynn Salmi	Chase Walz
Annabella Brodin	Kennadi Foxx	Michael Henney	Thurston Lick	Ezra Modich	Bryn Sathre	Henry Warden
Quinn Bryant	Millie Frederick	Lillian Hester	Hewitt Liimatainen	Abigail Naud	Mari Sathre	Violet Warden
Braeden Caple	Ezra Frederick	Kaiden High	Aleah Lindgren	Ellie Naud	Kira Sauter	Evan Watsick
Merik Carey	Philip Furcht	Gabriella Hilinski	Hailey Lough	Sophia Naud	Ava Savage	Gwendolyn
Priya Carey	Hailey Gamache	Leland Hill	Cole Luense	Alivia Nelson	Bryce Sawyer	Weber
Charlie Carlson	Melanie Gamache	Sawyer Hipp	Drew Madill	Blake Nesseth	Hope Schmitz	Matthew Wier- maa
Ryan Carson	Logan Gamache	Evangelena Hobbs	Gianna Madill	Caleb Nesseth	Ariel Schmitz	Payten Williams
Owen Cawcutt	Preston Genereau	Joshua Houle	Joelle Majerle	Amira Nick	Bridget Schoepflin	Kaden Willis
Amelia Cebelinski	Owen Genereau	Bella Huffman	Braxdyn Male	Sovay Nick	Benjamyn	Sophia Wor- ton-Wherley
Joseph Cekalla	Cullen Genereau	Isaac Illikainen	Kiya Marino	Addison Nord	Schramm	Allison Zigich
Samuel Cheslak	Ella Gerard	Declan Johnson	Ava Marline	Kylan Nyakundi	Tucker Selin	Elliot Zigich
Ayden Chopskie	Kadence Ghann	Jayce Johnson	August Marline	Adrian Nyakundi	Peyton Selin	Izaac Zimmer
Liberty Clifford	Samantha Gilbert- son	Maya Johnson	Estella Marline	Owen OConnor	Grace Shannon	Liam Zimny
Avah Clow	Taylor Gilbertson	Elise Johnson	Audrey Marsh	Cruz Olson	Attlei Sheldon	Ava Zywicki
Araya Coleman	Elijah Gonzalez	Addison Johnson	Avery Martineau	Max Olson	Deklinn Sheldon	Owen Zywicki
Blake Conklin	Alyssa Gonzalez	Hunter Johnson	Genevieve Mattevi	Oliver Olson	Ava Sheridan	
Aoife Cook	Jack Graddy	Ilee Johnson	Andrew Mattinen	Jacion Owens	Emerson Jo Sielaff	
Vera Cook	Raegan Grayson	Jayce Johnson	Thomas Mattonen	John Pagelkopf	Addison Sielaff	
Joseph Cooper	Ella Grell	Nels Jouppi		Sophia Panger	Henry Skifstad	
Micheal Couture	Elizabeth Haapa-	Aina Jouppi			Lucy Skifstad	
Ethan Culbert		Nora Kachinske				



Quarter Four Merit Roll



Mya Amundsen
Eliza Anderson
Ava Anderson
Adisyn Anderson
Santiago Anich
Jayden Ausland
Mallory Ausland
Ali Autio
Emmett Bailey
Adalyn Berglund
Maiya Bergstedt-Bloss
Elin Besonen
Genevieve Bohlman
Ahna Brekke
London Byrnes
Brynn Christensen
Keaira Coleman
David Cornell
Kamden Coyle
Braelyn Crotteau
Logan Dahlman
Hunter Dallager
Adam Dallmann
Ethan Dallmann
MyKenzie Dammer
Kennadi DeBondt
Daniel Dewey
Brody Dinda
Dawson Dunaiki
Gabriel Dusek
Neil Elsmore
Tait Erickson
Theodore Federico
Benjamin Foster
Jada Fuchs
Ethan Gamache
Brennan Gerard

Aubrey Gerard
Haley Glendenning
Isabel Gorski
Cooper Greiner
Henry Grover
Tanner Gunderson
Alec Halvorson
Lilee Hanson
Greta Harden
Graham Hartlieb
Samuel Haugen
Payton Heittola
Ethan Hill
Lauryn Hilton
Madeline Hipp
Alexis Hitchcock
Chiara Houser
Jacob Iallonardo
Kailyn Jauhola
Alexandra Johnson
Jaster Johnson
Jocelyn Johnson
Joseph Jukich
Mikko Karjala
William Karjala
Madek Kayser
Alexandra Kemp
Ethan Klunenberberg
Emma Kopp
Abigail Krech
Olivia Krech
Kamryn Kulas
Chase Kvitek
Liam Lane
Carley Lawry
Amber Lawry
Trevor Leach

Brody Lillo
Ethan Lindgren
Leo Luense
Breckyn Male
Ariya Marino
Broderick Marsh
Chase Martin
Trevor Matteen
Solveig Mattson
Calla McClure
Braydon McKibbon
Eden Mendez
Eli Metcalf
Ty Milbridge-Scott
Gavin Moderson
Trevor Mrozik
Finn Muchow
Alexander Nelson
Violet Nelson
Kenleigh Nikunen
Derek Nooyen
Carter Osvoid
Altyn Oveson
Adam Pagelkopf
Samuel Panger
Connor Pearce
Harlow Perlinger
Wyatt Perrault
Aiden Peterson
Brock Peterson
Jackson Peterson
Margaret Peterson
Nolan Pfister
Emma Piirainen
Drew Piontek
Paiton Plante
Kadrik Porter

Liam Reeves
Garrett Reeves
Evan Rengo
Kellie Renne
Jackson Renninger
Benjamin Renninger
Lauryn Salmela
Harrison Samec
Elsa Sathre
Maxxwell Sauter
Adaline Savage
Aiden Sawyer
Noah Schmitz
Delaina Schumann
Caleb Schumann
Kane Selin
Harper Senenfelder
Sophia Sheridan
Araya Shovein
Jaxson Siats
Cayden Smith
Jaiden Soukalla
Cassie Stark
Bristol Streu
Conor Sullivan
Tenley Taivaloja
Kaija Thompson
Brianna Tingham
Annika Turcotte
Xai Vang
Teagan vonGillern
Skyler Wallin
Evan Weaver
Layla Whiting



Giving Back to the Community

One of the most satisfying, fun, and productive ways to unite teenagers and senior citizens is to spend time providing seniors with an extra hand in yard work, such as raking leaves and picking up garbage. On Wednesday, October 29, the Class of 2026 will be out in the Esko community learning valuable lessons about the meaning of volunteering their services and giving back to their community through hard work. When a community is doing well as a whole, its individuals are better off, too. The annual Senior Clean-Up Day gives the students a strong sense of fulfillment, responsibility, and commitment. It is an opportunity to thank the community of Esko for everything it has provided for the students throughout their years of growing up.

The students will begin working at 9:00 AM and will call the day before to confirm the approximate time they will arrive at your house. The students can place the leaves in bags you leave out or bring them to an area of your property that you designate. Students will not be allowed to enter homes or climb on ladders.

If you are interested in having the Senior Class of 2026 come and help with projects such as raking leaves or picking up garbage, please contact Nicki Peterson by email at npeterson@esko.k12.mn.us or by calling 218-879-4673 ext. 631. Please call or email with your name, address, phone number, and a short description of the yard work you would like done by Oct. 17.

In case of bad weather, the make-up day will be Wednesday, Nov. 5.

Cleaning Out Your Closet?

We need your shoes!

Esko Travel Club



DATES

Sept 8-Nov 7

Help us
raise funds
just by
donating
gently
worn, used
and new
shoes!



LOCATIONS

Esko Post Office

Esko Minis

Hermantown Service Center

BMO Bank, Superior



CONTACT

Deb DeArmond, FACS

Emily Rogers, Art

artandculinarytrip@gmail.com

Collected shoes not only help support us, but they will be reused and given a second life by those in need through #microenterprise. It's a WIN-WIN!





Congratulations to the Esko sports teams that made it to state this summer!

DOGS AND CATS

Thomson Township has a leash - running at large ordinance. This applies to all areas of the Township. All animals must be under their owner's control at all times and not on neighboring properties.

And as a reminder: Please pick up after your pet. Your neighbors appreciate it. There's also a link to a video on the Town website: <https://townofthomsmn.gov> with more information on the effects of animal waste on the local waterways.



COMPETITIVE SOCCER

REGISTRATION OPEN
SEPTEMBER 7-22

SEASON RUNS FEB - JUNE 2026

ESKO UNITED
GIRLS
U9-U14



CEC FC
BOYS
U9-U18

VISIT
WWW.ESKOSOCCER.COM
TO REGISTER

CLICK HERE

Esko Fun Days 2025

Thank You from the Esko Community Partnership,

On behalf of the Esko Community Partnership, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make Esko Fun Days a success!

To our sponsors – your generosity and support made this event possible. From helping us provide family activities and entertainment to ensuring our community could come together safely and joyfully, your contributions truly made a difference.

To our participants, volunteers, and community members – thank you for showing up with such enthusiasm and community spirit. Your energy and involvement are what make Esko Fun Days so special. Whether you joined in the parade, attended activities, supported local vendors, or simply came to celebrate with neighbors and friends, you helped create lasting memories for our community.

Esko Fun Days is more than just an event – it's a celebration of the strength, pride, and connection we share as a community. We are grateful to every individual and organization that played a part.

We look forward to seeing you again next year!

With gratitude,

Esko Community Partnership

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Platinum Sponsors \$ 1000 or above

Thomson Township

Esko Mini's

Buffalo House

Gold Sponsors \$500 or above

Reliable Insurance

RAM Insurance

Silver Sponsors \$300 or above

Sappi

Northwoods Credit Union

Bronze Sponsors \$ 100 or above

David & Diana Johnson

National Bank of Commerce

Boyd Smith

Esko Historical Society

Additional Sponsors:

Arrowhead Water

Northview Bank - Barnum

Thanks to the following people for stepping into a volunteer role to help!

Amanada Johnson

Carrie Altrichter

Cassie Janke

Cherri Sykes

Staci Wisted

Kari Knutson

Steve Knutson

Robin O'Niell

Kellie Hanson

Maggie Sunnarborg

Melanie Pliml

Nikki Crotteau

North Country RIDE

Sue Butkiewicz

Vanessa Carroll

Eva Nynas

Echo Vind

Stephanie Helland



Thank you to all who supported the trophy and clock sale on Saturday during Esko Fun Days

It was so much fun to chat with those who stopped to reminisce and take home a few souvenirs

We were more successful than expected and appreciate the support. All contributions will be divided among the fine arts department and athletic departments

Thanks again

Bob Thompson Memorial Esko Sports Alliance Golf Tournament

When: Saturday, September 6, 2025

Where: Cloquet Country Club

Time: 11:00 a.m. Shotgun Start



Donation: \$500 for a 5-person team -
\$100 for individual non-member.

4-person teams \$500 - \$125 for individual non-member.
(\$20 less for any Cloquet Country Club members)

Donation Includes: Lunch at the turn, Green Fees, Golf
Carts (two per group) or you may walk or use your own
push cart and a participant gift. **Limited to first 28 teams**

**Sign up your team on the Esko Sports Alliance
Facebook page or the Esko School Website >athletics.
If you have any questions, please contact Chad Stoskopf
at cstoskopf@esko.k12.mn.us or 218-879-1909**

All proceeds will support Esko Athletic Programs!

ESKO BLANKETS

Esko Community: Grab a warm, double-sided,
60"x80" Esko blanket to stay warm with while
cheering for your favorite Esko/CEC team!



AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP TODAY!

\$70

**REACH OUT TO
ESKOSOCCER@GMAIL.COM
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!**

RECYCLING SHED HOURS



The recycling center is located at the Town Hall
at 25 E. Harney Road.

Year-round hours of operation are:
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The staffed facility in Esko is for residential recycling only.

A list of items that are accepted can be found at: www.co.carlton.mn.us/254/Recycling-in-Carlton-County

With the increase in on-line shopping there has been an increase in card-board being recycled. If you have a large amount of cardboard, please bring it directly to the Carlton County Transfer station at 1950 Highway 210, Carlton. All boxes must be broken down before putting them in the dumpster.

Please do not leave items at the facility when it is unattended.

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

The Town of Thomson Board of Supervisors holds their regular meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 5:00 p.m. The meetings are held in the Town Board Room at the Town Hall, 25 E. Harney Road. Meetings are currently being held with an option to attend virtually via Microsoft Teams. Check the Town website: thomson.govoffice.com for details for each meeting.

THOMSON TOWN OFFICE

The Thomson Town Office is located at 25 E. Harney Road.
Office hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WEBSITE CHANGES

The Town of Thomson's website is <http://townofthomsonmn.gov>.

New permitting software has been added and permits can now be taken online at <http://us.cloudpermit.com> or on the Town's website.

New scheduling software for the community room and Northridge Park will be available in the near future.

TOWN HALL RENTALS / NORTHRIDGE PARK PAVILION

Remember: The Town Hall and Northridge Park Pavilion are available for private rentals. Contact the Town Office at 879-9719 for details or visit our website, <http://townofthomsonmn.gov>.

ESKO COMMUNITY

FALL RUMMAGE SALES

September
18-20

St. Matthews will be having a sale on September 18 & 19. Donations can be dropped off starting September 14th.

To be added to the list, please provide the following info along with \$5 to the church office:

- *Address of sale
- *Dates & times of sale
- *Brief description of items for sale



ESKO FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDRAISER



MEMORIAL PANCAKE ROUND-UP

WITH FAMOUS FAMILY TRADITION PANCAKES!

Breakfast will be
served dine-in and
curbside pick-up.

Saturday, October 4th - 2025
7 AM - 11 AM @ Esko Fire Hall

TICKETS: \$10/ea Family of 4 or more: \$35

All proceeds from events benefit Esko Fire Department
Please make all checks payable to: EFRA or Esko Fire Relief Association

Annual Fall Harvest Roast Beef DINNER

Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans,
rutabagas, bread, pumpkin dessert & beverage

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
4 Elizabeth Ave, Esko
(218) 879-3510

Tentatively Scheduled for
October 8, 2025
4-7pm

Tickets must be purchased in advance

\$18 for Adults

\$10 for Kids (6-12 years old)

Donation for Kids 5 & under

Take-out available!

Proceeds support LWML Mission Projects

TOWN OF

THOMSON

ESKO *Minnesota*

Interested in keeping up on Esko
Town Board news? Meeting agen-
das, minutes and virtual meeting
information is available online at:

[https://www.townofthomsonmn.
gov/meetings/](https://www.townofthomsonmn.gov/meetings/)





**SUBMISSIONS
WANTED!**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR SUBMISSIONS IN
THE NEW ONLINE VERSION OF THE ESKO'S
CORNER? WE CAN NOW PRINT ARTWORK, ESSAYS,
POEMS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS AT NO EXTRA
COST.

PLEASE SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS TO MICHELE
CARLSON AT MCARLSON@ESKO.K12.MN.US

Apostolic Lutheran Church

25 Church Road Esko, MN 55733
(PH: 879-3882)

Pastor Nathan Juntunen

Website: www.esko-apostolic.org

E-mail: eskoapostolic@msn.com



September Schedule

Sundays (Starting September 7th):

9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship Service – All Ages

* 1st & 3rd Sunday - Holy Communion

11 AM-Noon 1st Sunday Meal, otherwise

Coffee & Fellowship

Tuesdays (Starting September 2nd):

8:00 AM Men's Fellowship

Wednesdays (Starting September 10th):

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study

6:15-7 PM Activities for all ages:

Youth Group: Pre-school - 12th Grade

Adult Bible Study

Thursdays (Starting September 11th):

9 AM-3 PM Quilting (2nd & 4th Thurs.)

Events:

September 6, 6:00 PM: Sunday School
Kickoff Ice cream social! Come meet the
Sunday School teachers, register and
pray for all students & staff, and enjoy
fellowship! All ages welcome!

October Schedule

Sundays

9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship Service – All Ages

* 1st & 3rd Sunday - Holy Communion

11 AM-Noon 1st Sunday Meal, otherwise

Coffee & Fellowship

Tuesdays

8:00 AM Men's Fellowship

Wednesdays

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study

6:15-7 PM Activities for all ages:

Youth Group: Pre-School - 12th Grade

Adult Bible Study

Events:

Saturday, October 11th @ 5-7pm: Join
us for a Fall Community Meal at the
church. Enjoy delicious chili and corn-
bread. Everyone is welcome!

† Check out our Church website at
www.esko-apostolic.org.

There are pictures, upcoming events, bulletins, church calendar, cemetery information
and more!

November Schedule

Sundays:

9:00-9:45 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship Service – All Ages

* 1st & 3rd Sunday - Holy Communion

11 AM-Noon 1st Sunday Meal, otherwise

Coffee & Fellowship

NOTE November 2nd: Daylight
Saving Time Ends

Tuesdays:

8:00 AM Men's Fellowship

Wednesdays:

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study

6:15-7 PM Activities for all ages:

Youth Group: Pre-School - 12th Grade

Adult Bible Study

*November 26 6:30 PM: Thanksgiving
Eve Service

** No evening activities Wed. Nov.
25th**

Lord, we ask that You guide our children to walk in a manner
worthy of You. May their actions, words, and attitudes bring
glory to Your name. Empower them to be a positive influence in
their schools, shining Your light in a world that needs it. Amen.

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

4 Elizabeth Avenue

Esko MN 55733



Pastor Marty Mably
218.879.3510 – phone

stmatthewsesko.org – Website
stmattsesko@aol.com – Email

Sunday, September 7 – Rally Sunday

Church Service 9am

Sunday School & Christian Education Hour 10:15am

Games BBQ & Ice Cream Social 11am

Tuesday, September 9 at 7am

Men's Weekly Tuesday Morning Bible Study begins
The Truth Project

Wednesday, September 10 at 5-6:30 pm

Confirmation Orientation & Dinner
for Parents AND Confirmands Grades 6-8

Thursday Evenings at 6 pm

Experience Recovery

For Every Hurt, Habit, or Hang Up

"Depression and the Gospel" by Scott Mehl

Sunday, September 14 (Fall Schedule begins)

2 Sunday Worship Services 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School & Christian Education Hour 9:15 am

Sunday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Marty

Catechism for Adults

Wednesday, September 17 2:30-5pm

Confirmation Classes begin Grades 6-8

TRUNK OR TREAT



@ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH
October 31st @ 5:30-6:30pm

The youth will be serving dinner
as a fundraiser as well!!!

Made with PosterMyWall.com

BUILDING "SUNDAYS" TOGETHER!!

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday, September 7th

Church Service @ 9am

Sunday School & Education Hour @10:15am

Games, BBQ & Ice Cream Social @11am

