

PATRIOT CONNECTIONS

March 1, 2025

A PLACE TO CONNECT, LEARN, AND THRIVE

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A PATRIOT!

Knowledge Bowl Team Qualifies for State ... Again

A Senior High Knowledge Bowl team took 1st place at Regions and qualified for the Knowledge Bowl State Tournament on April 10-11 at Cragun's Resort. This is the third consecutive year of a PLHS team advancing to State, but the first regional championship - winning by an impressive 20 points. Two Knowledge Bowl teams competed at Regionals, held on February 21 at CLC in Staples. The two PLHS teams placed 1st and 13th out of 30 other local teams. The 1st place team members are pictured to the right.



(Left to Right): John Christensen, Amias Kjonaas, Lake Rowland, Tyler Wallin, Mason Jackson



Northern Lakes Boys Hockey Team State Tournament Bound

The Northern Lakes Boys Hockey team beat Alexandria 4-3 in a thrilling 6A Section Championship game to qualify for the State Tournament March 5-8 at Xcel Energy Center. This is the first state tournament appearance since making it in 2021. The team is entering the state tournament as the 5th seed with a 19-8-1 overall record. The team opens up the tournament against East Grand Forks at 8 pm on Wednesday, March 5 at the Xcel.

Robotics Team Places 2nd at Northern Lights Regional; Possible Invite to World's

The Patriots, PLHS's Robotics Team, participated in the Northern Lights Regional competition February 26 - March 1. After a record of 8-1 in the qualification rounds, the Patriots' alliance lost in the championship match. Fifty-four teams competed at the regional representing IL, IA, CO, MN, FL, WI, SD, and ND. The team won the Industrial Design Award which celebrates the team that demonstrates industrial design principles, striking a balance between form, function, and aesthetics. Qualifying for the MSHSL Robotics State Tournament, May 10 at Concordia University, St. Paul is based on performance at two regional events. With the amazing performance at this regional competition, the team has most likely secured a trip to State. Patriots is awaiting other regional finals to possibly punch their ticket to the Robotics World Championships April 16-19 in Houston, Texas. The team consists of 25 high school students.





Middle School Esports Players Qualify for State

Three Pequot Lakes Middle School Students qualified for the State Esports tournament. Emmett Cummings (7th grade) qualified for State in Super Smash Bros Ultimate and FORTNITE 2v2. Henry Woodman (7th Grade) and Henry Otto (8th Grade) qualified in FORTNITE 2v2. They participated at State on March 2, at St. Cloud State University.

Two Qualify for the State Wrestling Tournament; Zutter Takes Runner-up at State

Two Roadcrew wrestlers, Parker Zutter and Trevor Holmberg, punched their ticket to the Class AA State wrestling tournament! Parker finished first at Sections winning the 139 lbs weight class with a 10-4 decision. Trevor won a thrilling true second match in overtime at 145 lbs to qualify for State. Bryce Mick finished in 6th place at Sections. Parker finished Runner-up at the State Tournament held February 28 - March 1 at Xcel Energy Center. Pictured from left to right: Parker Zutter, Bryce Mick, and Trevor Holmberg.



PLHS Bands Earn Superior Ratings at MSHSL Large Group Ensemble

The Symphonic Band and Concert Band performed at the MSHSL Large Group Ensemble on Wednesday, February 26 at Staples-Motley High School. Ten other



schools also performed. The Symphonic Band, performing in Category 2, received two Superior ratings and one Good rating, with one of the Superior scores being an impressive 39/40. The Concert Band, performing in Category 3, earned one Superior rating and two Excellent ratings. The Symphonic Band is conducted by Jordon Goebel and the Concert Band is conducted by Mike Newton.



District Winner William Craig (Left) & Runner Up Chase Friedrich (Right)

2025 Eagle View and Middle School Spelling Bee Winners

The District Winners were William Craig (8th grade) and Chase Friedrich (6th grade). They will compete at the Regional Spelling Bee at Sourcwell in Staples on March 19. Grade Level Winners: Morgan Oglesby, 2nd Grade; Josiah Binneboese, 3rd Grade; Kylie Kostreba and Sophie Naffziger, 4th grade tie; Chase Duoos, 5th grade; Soren Pearson, 6th grade; Natalie Paluch, 7th grade; Gracie Uecker 8th grade.

Unified Basketball

Pequot Lakes High School students participated in a Unified basketball game on Thursday, February 27. This event gave students with and without disabilities the opportunity to compete together in an environment that met students' needs. Unified Basketball is an extension of all other unified activities, such as physical education class, track and field, prom, snowmobiling, and bowling events.

