

# Independent School District 197

West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan



Welcome to

## Pilot Knob Elementary School

Serving students in Kindergarten through Grade 4

1436 Lone Oak Road • Eagan

Phone 651-405-2788 • Fax 651-454-1569 • [www.isd197.org](http://www.isd197.org)





*Principal Byron Schwab was named Minnesota's Principal of the Year and a National Distinguished Principal in 2001.*

**Community Expectation:  
Everyone in the Pilot  
Knob school community is  
respectful,  
responsible,  
cooperative and  
willing to try.**



*Originally built in 1969, Pilot Knob Elementary is receiving building upgrades and technology enhancements as part of a successful bond referendum conducted in the fall of 2004.*

## **Welcome from Principal Byron Schwab**



Welcome to Pilot Knob Elementary – a Five-Star School in both math and reading under the No Child Left Behind star-rating system. Stars are awarded in the following manner based on results of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments:

- three stars for meeting federal accountability requirements
- one star for having more than 30 percent of students score in Level 5 (superior performance) on the MCA tests.
- one star for outstanding performance compared to schools with similar numbers of students receiving free and reduced price lunch.

Our students, staff, parents and community can be proud of the school's exceptional academic performance year after year. In addition to achieving five-star ratings in math and reading, the school enjoys a 96 percent attendance rate, well above the state goal of 90 percent.

We are proud of our other fine traditions, too. At Pilot Knob, we emphasize kindness and teamwork. Our innovative Kindness Patrol has been featured in the local media, and our school song is "Teamwork." We care about the needs of each student and work hard to ensure the most personalized, appropriate educational program for each one of our students. With a wide range of support services, special enrichment opportunities, and exceptional parents and staff, Pilot Knob Elementary is indeed a "five-star" school in every sense.

On behalf of the entire Pilot Knob Elementary community, I welcome you to one of the finest schools in the state of Minnesota. If you have any questions about our programs and services, please do not hesitate to contact me or to visit our school.

## **We're just the right size.**

Pilot Knob Elementary is a neighborhood school that is part of School District 197, which serves the communities of Mendota Heights, West St. Paul, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota and Sunfish Lake. The school is located at 1436 Lone Oak Road in Eagan and serves students in kindergarten through grade four.

Pilot Knob's student population ranges from 350-375, making it small enough to ensure individualized attention yet large enough to offer a comprehensive educational program. Our school community is a microcosm of America with 15 different languages represented in our ethnically and socio-economically diverse student body. Our welcoming, inclusive environment nurtures the values of respect and cooperation while preparing our students to be good citizens of an ever-shrinking world.

**Want more information? Call 651-405-2788.**



*In addition to a high-quality curriculum taught by excellent teachers, Pilot Knob students have multiple opportunities to challenge themselves even further. Science residencies and fairs (left photo) and group discussions of great books (right) are just two of our many programs that promote higher-level thinking skills.*

## **We promote academic excellence.**

School District 197 is proud of its well-defined, comprehensive and inclusive curriculum. Our mission is “to improve student achievement through the development of quality curriculum and the support of effective instruction.” A curriculum review cycle ensures that students receive the most up-to-date educational program possible.

During the past five years, the district has implemented new curriculum at the elementary level in science, phonics, writing, mathematics, social studies, music, art, and handwriting. Extensive staff development accompanies the introduction of each new program.

Pilot Knob’s Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) report from the Minnesota Department of Education indicates that students greatly exceed federal accountability requirements in both math and reading. Parents may see the report at [www.isd197.org](http://www.isd197.org) or contact Pilot Knob Principal Byron Schwab at 651-405-2788 for a copy. For more information about district curriculum, visit the website or contact the Office of Curriculum and Staff Development at 651-681-2310.



### **Early Learning**

Although Early Learning programs are not currently offered at Pilot Knob, we encourage our families to take advantage of the district’s outstanding offerings for families with children not yet in school. Early Childhood Family Education, Community Preschool, School Readiness, Early Childhood Screening, and several other programs are designed to meet the learning needs of parents and their young children. The program produces a seasonal brochure, *Way to Grow*, which is mailed to all district families with children from birth to kindergarten.

*At Pilot Knob, we value special learning experiences – like this fourth-grade class field trip to the state capital to share in the unveiling of the new Minnesota quarter and learn how coins are minted.*



## Kindergarten-Grade Four Curriculum

Pilot Knob stresses the basic skills in reading, oral and written communication, mathematics, social studies, and science. The emphasis is on maximizing each student's individual academic, social, physical, and creative development.

**Language Arts** –In the core subject areas of reading and writing, we use the balanced literacy model, which emphasizes viewing, speaking, listening, presenting, writing, and reading as well as an ongoing process of assessment.



The balanced literacy model includes these specific components:

- Guided reading
- Shared reading
- Independent reading
- Language experience
- Read aloud
- Spelling and word study
- Modeled writing
- Independent writing
- Shared or group writing

**Looking for more information on Pilot Knob's curriculum? Visit [www.isd197.org](http://www.isd197.org). Click the Curriculum button on the top header; then make your selection from the menu on the left.**

**Math** – District 197 is committed to giving each student a high-quality math curriculum. We are also committed to supporting teachers in their efforts to use the best instructional practices possible. After two years of research, the District 197 math committee chose *Everyday Mathematics*, a standards-based math curriculum for students in kindergarten-grade five. The program was fully implemented in the fall of 2002. In the fall of 2003, the Pre-Kindergarten *Everyday Mathematics* program was implemented in early childhood to ensure a smooth transition from early learning to kindergarten. At each level, students learn real-life applications in the following content areas:

- Numeration
- Operations and computation
- Patterns, functions, and algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement and reference frames
- Data and chance

**Social Studies** – District 197 has chosen the Scott Foresman Social Studies program that integrates social sciences and related fields of study to support the framework of the national curriculum standards. Each grade covers the topics of citizenship, culture, economics, geography, government, history and science/technology. The program allows students to draw upon their expanding knowledge base to better understand issues, concepts, problems, and perspectives.

**Science** – The elementary science program in District 197 focuses on standards and inquiry-based science concepts, which are continued through the fifth-grade level. The program is hands-on, allowing students to try activities that demonstrate principles in physical science, earth science, life science, and environmental science. Science units are enhanced at each grade level with field trips to the Dodge Nature Center (2-3 times per year for each class).



## Specialized Services

Activities of the individual classroom teacher are supplemented with specialized staff in art, media, music, Spanish, and physical education.



**Art** – At Pilot Knob, we believe that a comprehensive, well-organized art program should guide students in their personal discovery of visual arts.

Through the study of art and artists of different cultures and historical periods, students gain significant understanding of themselves and others. Our students create, read, write, listen, talk and learn about art during their weekly class. This encourages critical and creative thinking while building an awareness of art in everyday life. The fruits of our labor continually brighten the halls of our school!

**Media** – The library media program ensures that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information. Students come to the media center on a regular basis, splitting time between the library and the computer lab. Students are also encouraged to come to the center individually or with their class as needed.

The Accelerated Reader is a supplemental reading program coordinated by the media center. Students choose books at the appropriate level, read them, and take computerized comprehension quizzes. Children in grades 2-4 are given individualized book level and point total goals each quarter. They strive to maintain a minimum average of 85 percent correct on all tests.

**Music** – Pilot Knob students enjoy the opportunity to discover, learn, develop and refine their musical knowledge and skills. This leads to an appreciation of music and the deeper meaning it communicates as well as its lifelong value. Students receive 90 minutes of music instruction per week. Rhythm, melody, harmony, tone color, expression, and form are introduced and developed; movement is used to help students internalize the concepts of music. Students are exposed to musical symbols, orchestral instruments, great composers and their music, and a wide variety of musical styles. Students learn to sing a variety of songs and give vocal music concerts to the public each year. Our music curriculum (textbooks and CDs) from Silver Burdett was adopted in 2005.



**Spanish** – All Pilot Knob students learn Spanish! We introduce them to the Spanish language through songs, stories, games, and cultural activities. Components of the program include vocabulary, cultural awareness, and respect of differences. Our goals are to instill a love of languages and cultures in our students and inspire them to continue studying a foreign language after they have left Pilot Knob.

**Physical Education** – Pilot Knob works hard to develop lifelong fitness in students so they enjoy being active and have positive self-images. Units and activities include (but are not limited to):

- Kindergarten – fitness, parachute, tag-games, relays, movement education, cooperative activities, object control, introduction to basic games, and manipulatives.
- Grades 1-2 – ball skills, rhythms, rope-jumping, manipulatives, cooperative activities, sports lead-up activities, hand-eye coordination, and low-high organization games. Fitness testing begins.
- Grades 3-4 – fitness testing, games, basic skills, manipulatives, rhythms, rope-jumping, sports (football, floor hockey, soccer, volleyball, basketball, etc.), cooperation activities, and individual recreation activities.



**Want to learn more about Pilot Knob?  
Call 651-405-2788.**

## **We have opportunities for everyone.**

Everyone is important at Pilot Knob Elementary School! Our programs and services meet a variety of learning needs.

### **Special Programs**

The Special Programs Department is committed to helping each child reach his or her full potential.

- **Special Education** – Special Education is specially designed instruction based on each student's needs. As required by law, the district provides a free, appropriate public education to students with disabilities. The district provides a variety of services so children may receive an education in the least restrictive environment.
- **Health Services** – Our school nurse and health paraprofessional provide a variety of services, including emergency care, annual vision/hearing screenings, and classroom instruction on health issues.
- **English as a Second Language** – The English Language Learners Program offers English language instruction as well as academic support in reading and writing to students who do not yet speak English proficiently.



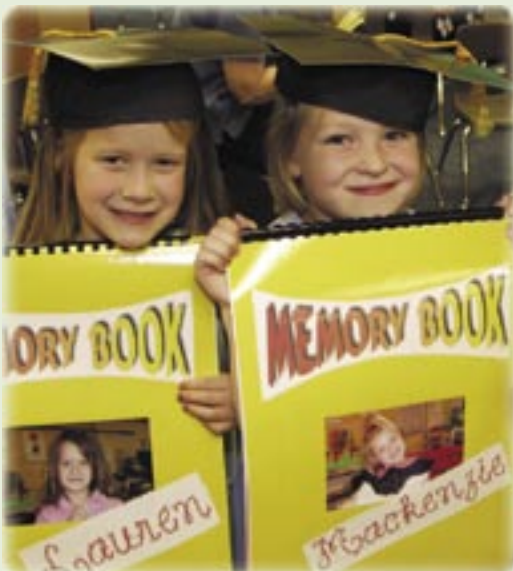
**After-School Enrichment** – Our special enrichment programs are a popular feature of the school. Students can choose from a wide menu of topics, including after-school chess offered through the district's Community Education program (pictured above). Watch for fliers on upcoming opportunities.

## **We link learning to real life.**

At Pilot Knob, we link learning to real life, stressing practical applications as well as the joy of discovery. Our fourth graders have regular service-learning projects, and whenever possible, our students learn by doing. In addition, our students enjoy a seamless transition from program to program and level to level as part of the district's "LINKS IN LIFE" program, which takes students from early childhood all the way through high school.

It starts with our Early Learning programs, which introduce parents of newborns to the district's services. Parent/child programs and preschool help parents plan for their children's transition to grade school. Preschool children who enter our kindergarten program find a direct connection and continuation of the early learning programs they have already started. This provides for a smooth transition to kindergarten and the elementary years.

The transition from Pilot Knob's fourth grade into the fifth-grade program at Friendly Hills Middle School is facilitated through a link called "Where Everybody Belongs" (WEB). This program provides mentoring and nurturing for incoming fifth graders. In addition, all district fourth graders attend a "Kindness Retreat" in the spring with their future middle-school classmates. To make the academic transition easier, fourth- and fifth-grade curriculums have been aligned so there is a smooth upward flow on the educational continuum.



## **We encourage innovation.**

New ideas ... new solutions ... flexibility ... and a willingness to pursue innovative programs and methods are encouraged at Pilot Knob Elementary School. For example, we have:

- up-to-date curriculum that exceeds state and national standards
- exciting partnerships and collaborations with the Minneapolis Art Institute, Dodge Nature Center, the Science Museum of Minnesota, local businesses, and other groups and individuals who care about public education
- opportunities for parents and citizens to be involved in the school. From mentoring students to one-time presentations, Pilot Knob needs and welcomes community assistance.



*Our "Kindness Patrol" is one example of the innovative spirit at Pilot Knob. TTTBK stands for Take Time To Be Kind.*

## **We embrace our global community.**

Pilot Knob Elementary strives to create a welcoming environment for all. The District 197 School Board has adopted a mission of meeting the learning needs of all community learners. It has also developed vision and value statements that speak to "celebrating and actively addressing" the changing demographics of the community, which we do with gusto at Pilot Knob. We are proud of the fact that 15 different languages are represented in our student enrollment, and our students can share in the joy of our own small-world community. We incorporate cultural awareness in several curriculum areas and encourage our students to be good world citizens and to practice kindness by respecting and caring for each other. At Pilot Knob, students learn that it's a small world after all!



**Families are important at Pilot Knob!** *We offer family fun nights, family science nights, family dance nights, family art nights, and many more opportunities throughout the year for families (we love grandparents!) to be involved in our school community. Volunteers and community visitors are always welcome at Pilot Knob. We like to share our wonderful school!*

## **We invite parents, businesses, and citizens to be our partners.**



Pilot Knob invites you to volunteer for one of the best schools in the state!

We need help with PTA events, classroom activities, Monday Folders, transportation coordination, teaching and tutoring, mentoring, and much more. The number of hours you volunteer is up to you; you can even help us from home if you wish. Sometimes, we need assistance for a one-time event.

If you are interested in being part of the Pilot Knob volunteer team, please contact us using the information in the next column. We will welcome you warmly – and get you started!

## **Here's how to contact us.**

Pilot Knob Elementary School  
 1436 Lone Oak Road, Eagan, MN 55121  
 Phone 651-405-2788  
 Fax 651-454-1569  
 Website [www.isd197.org](http://www.isd197.org)

## **Important District Phone Numbers**

General Information	651-681-2300
District Fax Number	651-681-9102
Transportation	651-681-2332
Child Nutrition	651-681-2380
Curriculum	651-681-2310
Special Programs	651-681-2392
Early Childhood Family Education	651-405-2638
Early Childhood Special Education	651-905-4196
Early Childhood Screening	651-405-2483
Community Education	651-681-2389

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