

a culture of excellence

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

FALL 2024



NPMS EARNS A GOLD STAR FOR COUNSELING PROGRAM

This year, NPMS earned the Indiana Gold Star School Counseling Award by the Indiana Department of Education! This award was earned by participating in the Carrying the Torch to Student Success comprehensive school counseling program and commends the school's commitment to providing an effective school counseling program, offering direct and indirect services to students and striving to improve student outcomes. The award also means the counseling program implements The Indiana School Counseling Competencies for Students and the American School Counseling Association's Mindsets & Behaviors for Student Success. NPMS Principal Justin Holmquest commented, "This is a great honor and a testament to the hard work of our guidance team! I am very proud of them and their hard work!"

You're Invited to our Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences!

Save the date for October 15 and 16 for NPUSC's Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences:

- New Prairie Middle School3:00p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- New Prairie High School3:00p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- Olive Township Elementary.....2:30p.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Rolling Prairie Elementary 4:00p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Prairie View Elementary..... 4:00p.m.-7:30 p.m.



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MISSION

Our purpose is to Ensure High Levels of Learning for ALL Students



Superintendent's Message

I am so excited to share that the 2024-25 school year is off to a great start! It is so fun to see eager students filling the halls, fall extracurriculars in full swing and teachers implementing curriculum to ensure ALL of our students learn at high levels! I am confident this year is going to be a great one!



With that said, I want to encourage parents and guardians to make it out for our Parent/Teacher Conferences on October 15 and 16. Beyond that, we invite you to come to athletic and extra-curricular events, reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns and fully embrace the

NPUSC community. As the year takes off, your involvement at the start makes a significant difference in your child's entire school year.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve this community as Superintendent of the New Prairie United School Corporation.

*Dr. Paul White,
Superintendent of New Prairie
United School Corporation*



NPMS Named a Solution Tree Model PLC School for its Positive Impact on Test Scores

New Prairie Middle School has recently been recognized as a Solution Tree Model Professional Learning Community (PLC) School. Model PLC schools are considered to be high-performing schools that focus on strategically improving student learning. The district as a whole has a vision that centers on enhancing educational experiences and outcomes, and this recognition underscores NPMS's commitment to this goal. NPMS Principal Justin Holmquest is proud of his team. He shares, "This honor reflects the dedication of our teachers to the PLC process. It is through the collaborative efforts and relentless pursuit of excellence by our educators that we have achieved this milestone. It is a tremendous honor, and we look forward to continuing our growth as educators to meet the learning needs of our students and our community."

PLCs' effectiveness has been growing over the past few years. In 2020-21, (the school year right after Covid), NPMS's ELA ILEARN Grades 6 through 8 scores were around 7% above the state average. While many schools saw a dramatic decline immediately after Covid, NPMS remained steady. This past school year (2023-24), the ELA ILEARN scores averaged almost 10% above the state average in Grades 6 through 8, with seventh grade ELA scores at almost 19% above the state average!

In math, NPMS has seen even higher averages. In 2020-21, Grades 6 through 8 were at about 5% above the state average on the Math ILEARN test. This past school year (2023-24), this grew to almost 14% above state average for Grades 6 through 8.

Mr. Holmquest explains, "I firmly believe that implementation of PLCs did two things. The first is that it helped stymie large amounts of learning loss when we returned from lockdown. Over the past few years, I believe that our commitment to PLCs has allowed us to close learning gaps quicker and achieve at a high level, especially compared to the state average and the trends the state is seeing." With a commitment to PLCs, he looks forward to seeing even more growth in years to come.



NPUSC Elementary Schools Earn IRead Pass Rates Over 90%

NPUSC Elementary Schools Olive Township, Prairie View and Rolling Prairie all posted student pass rates over 90% on the spring 2024 iRead exam. This is an excellent accomplishment as very few school systems can report that all their schools posted pass rates at this level. NPUSC School Board President Phil King was able to represent NPUSC schools at an award ceremony at the statehouse on September 25 with the Indiana State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Congratulations to the teachers and students in all of our NPUSC Elementary Schools for doing such a great job developing literacy skills in our students.

INTRODUCING NAVIANCE K-12

To help students in their career exploration journey, NPUSC is excited to introduce Naviance K-12 – a comprehensive website that students can use to do everything from exploring different careers and interests to making plans about colleges and careers. In the elementary edition, younger students can enjoy tools and activities that help them explore options for future success, such as Up the Ladder, a gamified experience designed for students in Grades K-5.

As learners navigate through the game, they are exposed to various career paths while they build a resume, collect badges and get promoted “up the ladder” as they complete activities. The age-appropriate interface is engaging and designed to foster curiosity and confidence. A growing body of research demonstrates the importance of providing career-connected learning experiences for younger learners to develop a positive self-concept of their occupational prospects. Students who have more time to think about and prepare for their futures are better equipped to adopt new skills and invest in their own lifelong learning, so NPUSC is looking forward to seeing younger students discover their interests and skills.



For students in Grades 6-12, Naviance allows them to manage the entire process of college and career planning, applications and decisions in one location. From Naviance, they can also:

- **Get involved in the planning and advising process** – Build a resume, complete interest and skill inventories and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers
- **Research colleges** – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past
- **Research careers** – Research hundreds of careers and career clusters and take career assessments and interest inventories
- **Create plans for the future** – Create goals and to-dos and complete tasks assigned by the school to better prepare students for future college and career goals, such as submit requests for transcripts and recommendations directly to their counselors and teachers

Parents and guardians are encouraged to check out Naviance with their student on their school iPad by going to the Clever app and clicking on the Naviance icon. Students must login with their school email address. NPUSC hopes families find this resource helpful as students begin to explore their future!

New Prairie's Heart Safe Initiative Saves a Life

In the spring of 2024, the unimaginable happened. A parent visitor collapsed in the parking lot at the middle school. Thanks to the amazing heart safe initiative, staff simultaneously went into action. One grabbed the AED (automated external defibrillator), another called 911, others took vitals and performed CPR and still more made sure the surroundings were safe for bystanders and students. What started out as a crisis ended in a saved life as the parent was stabilized and transported to the hospital.

New Prairie Middle School is a Project Adam Heart Safe School. This means the staff have been trained and have practiced how to respond to a heart crisis situation. This was their first saved life. PLTW Biomedical Science Teacher and NPUSC HOSA Advisor Tonya Aerts emphasizes how important training and awareness is. “It’s not just knowing how to do CPR,” she says, “it’s having the confidence and desire to help someone.” The group of staff individually saw there was a problem and took action with confidence. Because of their efforts, a life was saved!



Mrs. Aerts has led this initiative from the beginning, and she could not be more proud of the New Prairie staff. They responded in a “textbook” standard, doing exactly what they needed to do. She commented that “the whole process has come full circle.” What started as a tragedy seven years ago at Mark Mayfield’s passing, has now saved a life. At that time, New Prairie was unprepared for a crisis of

this nature. Yet now thanks to Mark’s legacy and the countless heart safe trainings that followed, New Prairie is now prepared and able to save a life.

Additionally, the staff involved were awarded the Heroes for Life award through ZOLL® Medical. When a ZOLL AED is involved in a save, the program donates an AED. In paying it forward, an AED is being donated to the New Prairie Little League in honor of New Prairie staff who saved a life.



You're Invited

You are invited to attend meetings of the School Board of NPUSC. These meetings are generally conducted at 6 p.m. CST on the fourth Monday of each month in the Superintendent's Office, 5327 N Cougar Rd., New Carlisle, IN, unless otherwise advertised.



New Prairie United School Corporation
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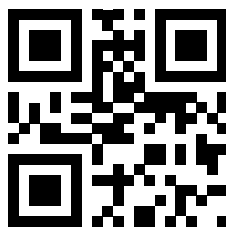
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(219) 778-2215
- New Prairie Middle School (574) 654-3070
(219) 778-4435
- Olive Township Elementary (574) 654-7531
(219) 778-4740
- Prairie View Elementary..... (574) 654-7258
(219) 778-9388
- Rolling Prairie Elementary..... (219) 778-2018



Our Website

www.npusc.k12.in.us

COME SUPPORT THE COUGARS!



NPUSC invites all families and community members to come on out and support our amazing Cougars! For more information on games, please visit NPCougars.com or scan this QR code. This site is updated on a daily basis and includes event schedules, event recaps and thousands of pictures of Cougar student-athletes in action.



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