



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

December 2024



As December begins, we find ourselves at an important moment in the school year. With the end of the semester approaching, our focus is on finishing strong. Students are working hard to prepare for Final Exams, and we encourage everyone to stay organized, seek help when needed, and prioritize their well-being during this busy time.

This month also offers a chance to reflect on the accomplishments we've achieved together. Whether in the classroom, on the field, or in our community, our students continue to shine, and it's their commitment to excellence that inspires us all.

As the holiday season approaches, I want to remind everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and cherish moments with loved ones. Please stay safe during your travels and celebrations. Your support of our students and school makes New Prairie a truly special place.

Thank you, and together, we will continue to build on the momentum we've created this semester.

As Always, Go Cougars!

-Mr. Heinold, NPHS Principal



Photo courtesy of Terrie Sult

Each month, we will be putting together a newsletter to highlight some important information that we would like to share with our NPHS families. You may always contact the school for more information.

AERTS RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

Congratulations to NPHS's own Tonya Aerts on being named the 2025 PHW Hero for Young Hearts Adult Advocacy Champion!

Each year, Parent Heart Watch (PHW) honors individuals who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to raising awareness about sudden cardiac arrest in children and young adults through impactful actions that advance PHW's mission to protect children and young adults from preventable sudden cardiac death.

She will receive her recognition at the PHW 20th Annual National Heart to Heart Conference this Winter.



Professional Learning Communities at Work

At New Prairie High School, our commitment to the Professional Learning Communities at Work (PLC) process has been the cornerstone of our efforts to Ensure High Levels of Learning for ALL Students. Through intentional collaboration during daily planning time and on Late Start Fridays, our teachers analyze student data, set clear learning goals, and develop strategies to meet the diverse needs of every learner.

A key component of this process is our dedicated use of Success Time, a daily intervention block designed to provide targeted support. Success Time has become an essential element of our school-wide improvement goals, creating a flexible framework for addressing student needs. Whether students require additional practice to master essential standards or seek academic experiences to extend their learning, Success Time offers meaningful support. Students can self-enroll in sessions that align with their goals or interests. Teachers will also place students in specific sessions based on results from common formative assessments, ensuring they receive assistance where it's needed most. This proactive approach has strengthened academic outcomes and empowered students to take ownership of their success.



NPHS BASEBALL CEREMONY

The 2024 State Champion Cougar Baseball team will be receiving their Championship rings during the boys basketball game at the December 7 home game vs. LaPorte. Game time is 7:00 and the ceremony will take place during halftime. The championship banner will also be revealed. A shadow box has been constructed in the Hall of Champions with the state trophy and a TV that will replay the championship game.

Be sure to come out and support your 2024 New Prairie Boys Baseball State Championship team as well as cheer on your NP Cougars basketball teams!

HOMWORK CLUB

NPHS is offering afterschool help for both math and English/Language Arts. These free tutoring sessions are hosted in the NPHS Library from 2:30-3:00pm. Teachers from our Math and ELA departments will be there to assist students with assignments or reteaching of essential content.

- Math help is available on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- ELA help is available on Mondays and Thursday.



Scheduling Information

Scheduling for the 25-26 school year will begin in January. The Guidance Department will hold class meetings during Success Time after Winter Break to introduce the scheduling process to students in grades 9-11.

Students will then meet individually with their school counselor to review graduation requirements and select courses for next year. Student course selections will be entered in PowerSchool during the student's meeting. After the scheduling meeting, student course selection sheets will be emailed to students and parents for review. School Counselors can be contacted with any questions or concerns. The master schedule for the 25-26 school year will be created based on the student course requests.

The 25-26 Curriculum Guide link will be emailed and posted on the NPHS website in January. We encourage students to use careful thought when selecting courses for next year. Students choosing year-long courses are making a commitment for two semesters. Students will not be taken out of a year-long course at semester. We will do our best to schedule the requested courses; however, we do not honor specific teacher or lunch requests.

School counselors are always available throughout this process, please feel free to contact your student's assigned counselor with questions.



NPHS Science Department Spotlight



The Biology classes just finished the unit over Cell Basics, which included Characteristics of Life, Cell Theory, Prokaryotic vs Eukaryotic Cells, Cell Organelles and their functions, and the Cell Cycle (including Mitosis and DNA Replication). Honors Biology also learned the parts of a microscope and how to properly use the microscope and spent a day practicing microscope skills and looking at cells, as well as other fun things in the microscopes! We will finish the semester with a unit on Cellular Transport. This unit will include the Egg Lab where students will get to see osmosis and diffusion in action! Be sure to ask your biology students about the Egg Lab after Thanksgiving Break!

Students in Mrs Aerts PLTW Human Body Systems have been exploring the parts and function of the brain. Everything from the anatomy of the brain to what happens when things go wrong, this lesson is definitely something that everyone can relate to.

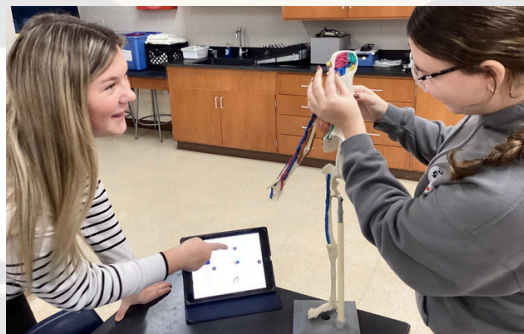
In addition, students completed 2 online courses offered by HFC. HFC is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to care for families impacted by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, inspire the next generation of Alzheimer's advocates, and be leaders in brain health research and education. HFC was founded in 2012 by Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen.

Students will wrap up this unit with the community viewing of Taking Care. "Directed and produced by award-winning filmmaker James Keach, Taking Care is a 38-minute documentary following the journey of acclaimed filmmakers Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen as they navigate the complexities and heartbreak of Lauren's mother's advancing Alzheimer's disease. Through humor, heart, and an unwavering commitment to change, Taking Care imparts a message of hope, resilience, and the profound impact individuals can have when they seek solutions to society's greatest challenges."

Everyone is welcome to attend this viewing. Details are below, RSVP is needed to assure enough seating.

RSVP INFORMATION

Taking Care Viewing
Monday, December 9th, 2024
5:30-6:15pm CST (film duration: 37 minutes)
New Prairie High School Cougar Den
RSVP: [Taking Care RSVP](#)



NPHS Final Exams

Semester 1 final exams will be on the last two student days before Winter Break. A special schedule will be used to allow for sufficient time in the testing rooms with short breaks in between for additional studying/preparation.

Odd period classes (1, 3, 5, and 7) will give final exams on Thursday, December 19. Even period finals will be on Friday, December 20.

Important NPHS Links

[Daily Bell Schedule](#)

[Fall Athletics Information](#)

[Military Opt Out Form](#)

[Grade 12 Vaccination Reminder](#)

[Building Map](#)

[Dismissal Procedures / Parking](#)

[Volunteer Background Check](#)

Attention Winter and Spring Athletes and Families!!

New for the 2024-2025 school year, New Prairie High School Athletic Department has partnered with FinalForms, an online forms and data management service. FinalForms allows you to complete and sign athletic participation forms and upload the required IHSA Physical Information form for your student-athlete(s) this is required for athletic participation starting in '24-'25.

In order to keep up with all things New Prairie Athletics, be sure to frequently check their website at npcougars.com

FINALFORMS

IMPORTANT DATES

12/9 - Taking Care Viewing

12/11 - Winter Band Concert

12/13 - Winter Choral Concert

12/19 - Odd Period Final Exams

12/20 - Even Period Final Exams

12/20 - Last day of Semester 1

12/21-1/5 - Winter Break

12/31 - All Cap and Gown Orders DUE for Graduating Seniors

1/6 - Teacher Work Day - No students

1/20 - MLK Jr. Day - No School

2/17 - President's Day - Snow Make Up Day (if necessary)

2/20 - Step Up Day (for incoming Freshman)

2/26 - Flex Day

Also, check out npcougars.com for athletic dates/times, ticket information, and post-event summaries.

Contact Information

Phone: (574) 654-7271
(219) 778-2215

<https://www.npusc.k12.in.us/new-prairie-high-school/>

facebook.com/newprairiecougars

Mr. Justin Heinold, Principal
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STUDENTS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO
PURCHASE IPAD
INSURANCE AT THE MAIN
OFFICE FOR \$20.
DEADLINE IS BEFORE
WINTER BREAK.

