



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

January 2025



Happy New Year! As we return from the holiday break, we are filled with excitement for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. This time of year brings a reflection on the progress we've made and a chance to set new goals to embrace the possibilities of the months to come. We will continue to build upon the strong foundation of academics, service, and community that define our school by striving for excellence in the classroom and supporting an environment where every student feels valued and inspired to reach their potential.

For our Seniors, this semester marks the beginning of the end of their high school journey. As they prepare for graduation and life beyond NPHS, we encourage them to appreciate every moment. Whether it's the last game, performance, or simply spending time with friends, these are the days they will remember for years to come. Their hard work, leadership, and dedication have inspired us all, and we look forward to supporting them through these final steps toward their future!



As Always, Go Cougars!

-Mr. Heinold, NPHS Principal

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.

SAT School Day Information - March 4th

NPHS staff has set a school-wide goal for improving SAT scores for our Junior class based on the SAT School Day Test. We will be actively assisting students in understanding the test format, types and rigor of questions, and strategies useful for standardized testing. Additional preparation sessions will be held during Success time, and students may be assigned multiple sessions based on PSAT data. PSAT scores, along with a score report letter were sent home to all 9th-11th grade students who took the PSAT in October.

Students also have access to online practice materials through their CollegeBoard accounts. Once logged in, students can take practice tests in Bluebook or even on Khan Academy. You can [click here](#) for a link to access Khan Academy's Free Digital SAT Prep. The SAT School Day Test for all NPHS juniors is tentatively scheduled for March 4th, 2025.

WHY THE SAT MATTERS

- Doing well on the SAT demonstrates strong academic skills in critical reading, writing, and math. This not only boosts confidence but also provides a clear signal to colleges and future employers of a student's readiness to succeed in challenging environments.
- Many colleges and universities use SAT scores as part of their admissions process. A high score can make a student a more competitive candidate, increasing their chances of getting into their preferred schools.
- High SAT scores can qualify students for merit-based scholarships, reducing the financial burden of college. Some programs, such as National Merit Scholarships, are directly tied to standardized test performance.



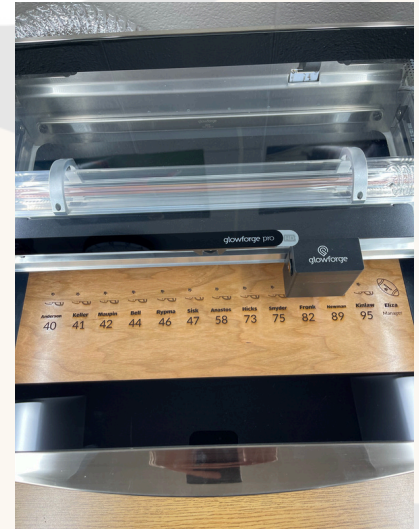
Attendance

Student attendance continues to be one of the biggest challenges that schools face today. When students are present in class, they have a better opportunity to learn new materials and master content with their teachers. NPHS is striving to increase attendance above 95% throughout the school year, part of that is through quarterly incentives. Grade levels compete against one another to have the highest in-person attendance rate to earn special treats. It is also worth noting that student attendance rates must be above 90% in order to be approved for school-sponsored activities such as field trips and school dances.

NPBS CTE Spotlight

NPBS CTE Department Leverages Cutting-Edge Technology

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department at New Prairie High School is equipping students with 21st-century skills through the use of innovative technology. Students in various CTE programs are utilizing state-of-the-art equipment such as a Glow Forge laser cutter, a Cricut cutting machine, and a professional t-shirt press. These tools allow students to develop practical skills in design, fabrication, and production. Furthermore, the CTE Department fosters creativity and communication through the production of video and audio podcasts. This provides students with valuable experience in multimedia creation, storytelling, and digital communication. By integrating these advanced technologies, the NPBS CTE Department is preparing students for success in today's rapidly evolving job market.



NPBS Business Students Explore Management Styles with LEGO

Mr. Clemons' Principles of Business Management class at New Prairie High School recently embarked on a unique learning experience, utilizing LEGO bricks to understand different management styles.

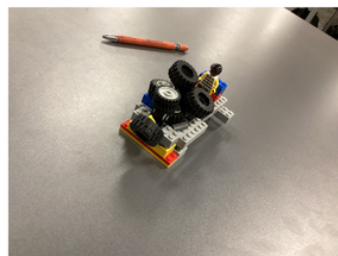
Divided into groups, students were tasked with creating two different models using distinct management approaches.

- **Classic Management:** This group focused on strict adherence to rules, clear division of labor, and a top-down approach. They emphasized efficiency and productivity, prioritizing the timely completion of the vehicles.
- **Behavioral Management:** This group prioritized employee motivation and satisfaction. They encouraged teamwork, open communication, and a more flexible approach, focusing on creating a positive and collaborative work environment.

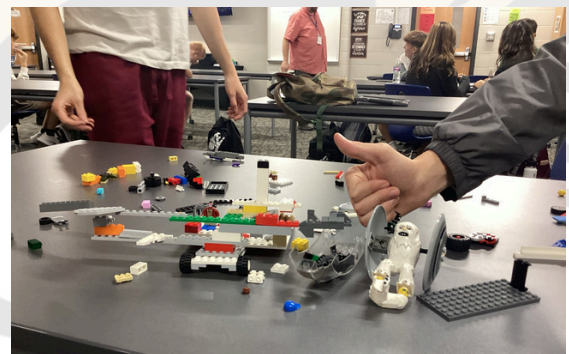
Through this hands-on activity, students gained a deeper understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each management style, observing how different approaches impacted the group dynamics, creativity, and the final outcome of their projects.



A



B





NPHS CTE Spotlight Continued

NPHS Construction Students Build a House in Rolling Prairie

New Prairie High School Construction students, under the guidance of instructor Mr. Hite, are currently building a house in Rolling Prairie. This unique, hands-on learning opportunity equips NPHS students with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the construction industry, making them valuable assets to the workforce.



Students are actively involved in all phases of the construction process, from laying foundations to installing roofing. They operate heavy equipment, learn essential construction techniques, and gain valuable on-the-job training. Upon completion of the project, students will be OSHA certified, an asset that will enhance their career prospects in the construction field. Furthermore, this program provides a pathway for students to enter construction unions, opening doors to rewarding careers.

NPHS IT Students Explore Technology Applications at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry

New Prairie High School Information Technology students recently commenced on an exciting educational field trip to Chicago's renowned Museum of Science and Industry. Led by their dedicated instructor, Mrs. Gregory, the students spent a day immersed in interactive exhibits that showcased the wonders of science and technology. The trip provided students with a unique opportunity to apply their classroom learning in a real-world context. They explored cutting-edge technologies, interacted with complex machinery, and gained a deeper understanding of the scientific principles that shape our world.

"This field trip was an invaluable experience for our students," said Mrs. Gregory. "It allowed them to connect with the real-world applications of their studies and fostered a deeper appreciation for science and technology." The trip to the Museum of Science and Industry was a resounding success, inspiring students and broadening their horizons.



NPHS PATHWAYS

Our CTE (Career and Technical Education) department offers several career pathway courses aligned to help all students access their full potential. Be on the lookout for more information during the scheduling process this Spring. Here is a list of available pathways at NPHS:

- Agriculture (Plant and Animal Science)
- Banking & Investment
- Biomedical Science and Technology
- Building and Facilities Maintenance
- Business Administration
- Civic Arts (Band, Choir, Visual Art)
- Construction Trades - Carpentry
- Digital Design
- Education Professions
- Engineering
- Human and Social Services
- Industry 4.0 - Smart Manufacturing
- Information Technology Operations
- Marketing and Sales
- Pre-Nursing/CNA

We also have several additional options for students to access through our partnership with the AK Smith program in Michigan City.

Second Semester Updates

FAFSA Information

The state of Indiana is now requiring that every senior file the FAFSA. This requirement applies to ALL students in the Class of 2025 regardless of their postsecondary plans. FAFSA opened on December 1, 2024. Please make sure that you have created an account at studentaid.gov, requested your FSA IDs and work on filing the FAFSA. If you need any help, the people at INvestED Indiana offer free FAFSA help, and they are amazing! You can contact an INvestED team member at 317-715-9007. We encourage you to watch for more information on College Goal Sunday, Indiana's largest FAFSA filing event, to be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025. You can also reach out to your student's school counselor for assistance.

Course Selection

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. Individual course selection meetings will then be held with students currently in grades 9 - 11. Completed course request sheets will be emailed to students and parents. All scheduling communication will be done via email so be sure to check for information throughout the spring semester.

Weather Cancellation - eLearning Days

NPUSC will utilize the following guidelines for weather cancellation days: the first two weather cancellation days would be made up on 2/10/25 and 3/17/25 (snow make-up days). On cancellation days 3-7, we will be instructing LIVE through Zoom. Any weather cancellation days beyond that will be made up in late May/early June. A daily eLearning schedule has been included in this newsletter.



HOMework CLUB

INPHS 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.



Public Input Session Notice

NPUSC community members are invited to a public input session at the New Prairie High School auditorium on January 14, 2025, at 6 pm central time. The NPUSC School Board will receive more information about the broad-based safety committee recommendations and hear public input. An email was also sent by Dr. White on January 2nd.

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

The logo for FinalForms, featuring the word "FINAL" in white and "FORMS" in white with a red checkmark over the "O", all on a black background.

IMPORTANT DATES

1/6 - Teacher Work Day - No students

1/7 - 1st Day of Second Semester
(Students return)

1/20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

2/10 - Snow Make-Up Day

2/20 - Step Up day

2/20 - Course Selection Night -
Incoming NPHS Freshman

2/26 - FLEX DAY

3/4 - SAT School Day Test

3/12 - End of Quarter 3

3/17 - Snow Make-Up Day

3/31-4/4 - Spring Break

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
justinheinold@npusc.k12.in.us

2024-2025 NPHS Synchronous eLearning Schedule

Begin at 9, 25 minute sessions

Teacher Preparation	7:00 -- 9:00 (2 hours)
Class period	Monday - Friday
1	9:00 – 9:25 (25 mins)
2	9:30 – 9:55 (25 mins)
3	10:00 – 10:25 (25 mins)
M: Cougar Mentor Time T-TH: Success	N/A
4	10:30 – 10:55 (25 mins)
5	11:00 --11:25 (25 mins)
6	11:30 – 11:55 (25 mins)
7	12:00 – 12:25 (25 mins)
Lunch	12:25 -- 12:55 (30 mins)
Independent Work, Teachers Available for Questions by Email	12:55 -- 2:30 (1 hr 35 min)