

# np NEW PRAIRIE UNITED SCHOOL CORPORATION

*a culture of excellence*

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

WINTER 2020



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*The 2019-20 school year has started off strong in the New Prairie United School Corporation! We are excited to continue that positive momentum into 2020.*

## MISSION

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



## Superintendent's Message

May 3, 2016, was an important day for our school district. It was the day our community decided to make our vision for 21st-century learning facilities a reality for our students by voting YES on the referendum.



I am excited and honored to report that after three years of work, the construction project has been completed on time and on budget. I thank our staff, students and families for their patience and flexibility during the extensive construction process.

The project was not an easy one. After 50 years of use, our high school required many much needed upgrades.

The project was an essential one, though. And it's one that will benefit our students for many years to come. The new spaces in our school district encourage collaboration and creativity, which we hope to inspire in all New Prairie students.

It has filled me with pride for our community over the past few weeks as I've visited schools throughout our district. I'm glad that our elementary buildings are safer with secure entries, and I'm excited that our middle school has more space for a growing band program. When I walk past the new library at the high school, I see students taking advantage of a library built for 21st-century learners. Although our student musicians and performers have always sounded great, the music was just a bit sweeter amplified through our new auditorium.

To our community: Thank you once again for your support in making our vision for a 21st-century learning environment a reality for New Prairie students.

Yours in Education,  
Paul White, Superintendent

## New Prairie Seeking More Substitute Teachers

Teachers get sick, too. But just because the regular teacher is not leading the classroom does not mean students are not ready to learn. Thanks to substitute teachers, education continues even when regular classroom teachers cannot make it into the classroom.

"Substitute teachers play an essential role in our education system, but unfortunately we are facing a shortage of them currently," Superintendent Paul White said. "Without enough substitute teachers, our schools are forced to make tough decisions to fill the gaps."

Teachers give up their prep period to fill in when needed, or administrators and intervention staff step up. However, it is a burden the district wants to avoid putting on an already stretched staff.

That's why the district has rolled out a new compensation and bonus system for substitute teachers. New Prairie United School Corp. now offers increases daily pay for substitute teachers:

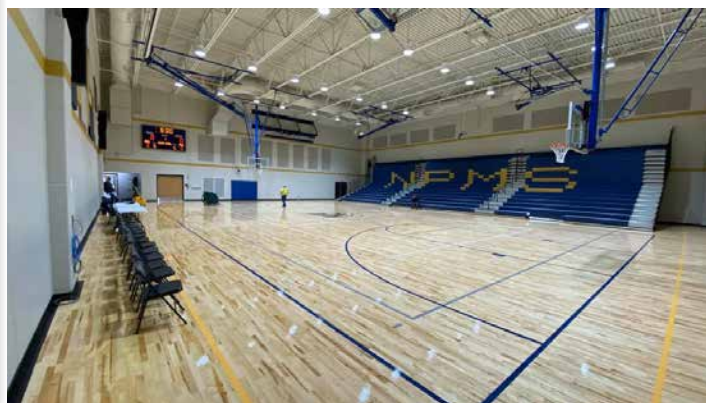
- \$68 daily pay rate for subs with a high school diploma
- \$75 daily pay rate for subs with a college degree
- \$90 daily pay rate for licensed teacher subs

Additionally, New Prairie is offering an incentive to reward regular substitute teachers.

"Our subs work hard, and we think consistency should be rewarded," White said.

Any substitute who works 25-49 full days in a semester will receive a one-time bonus of \$300, while any substitute who works more than 50 full days in a semester will receive a one-time bonus of \$600.

Those interested in becoming a substitute teacher should apply online at [npsc.k12.in.us](http://npsc.k12.in.us) or call the Central Office at 574-654-7273.



*Our construction project has come to an end after three years of hard work and determination. Thank you once again for your support in making our vision for a 21st-century learning environment a reality for New Prairie students.*





*There is something to smile about at New Prairie schools!*

## Community Feedback Sought for New Prairie School Calendar

Would you like to see New Prairie United School Corp. start school later in August? How about if it meant the first semester would end after Christmas break in January? Or if the school year would extend through June?

If you had the option of a full week off during Fall Break or during Thanksgiving Break, which would you choose? How do you feel about the number of e-Learning days offered at New Prairie schools?

As the school district begins planning the calendar for the 2020-21 school year, officials are hoping to collect feedback from the community. The school board is expected to discuss the calendar at its January meeting.

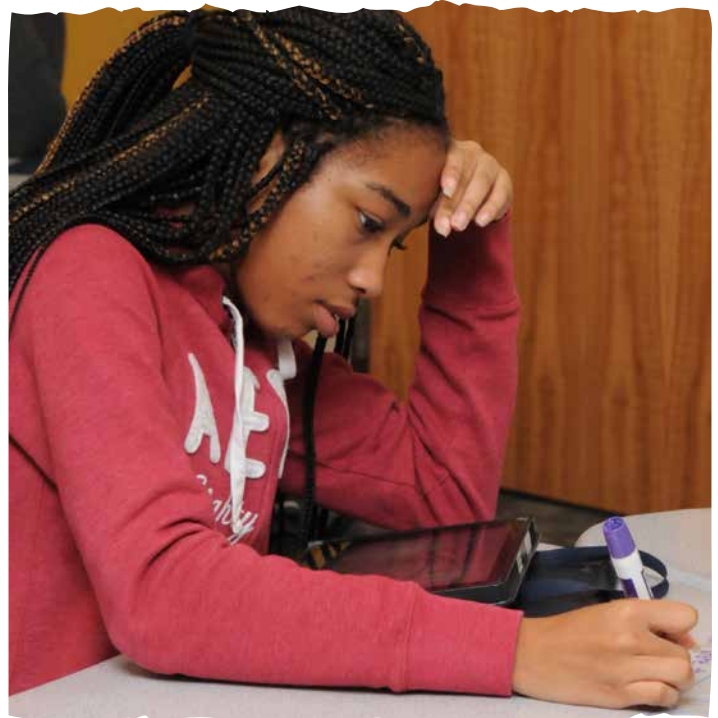
To complete the survey, visit [surveymonkey.com/r/NPcommunitycalendarsurvey](https://surveymonkey.com/r/NPcommunitycalendarsurvey). General comments can also be sent directly to Superintendent Paul White at [paulwhite@npusc.k12.in.us](mailto:paulwhite@npusc.k12.in.us).



*We are thankful for all of our wonderful students at New Prairie.*



*Technology plays an important role in the education of our students.*



*Hard work pays off for our students.*

## District Hosts Inaugural Skilled Trades Week

For some time now, a four-year college degree has been touted as the one true path to success. However, New Prairie's guidance department knows that's not always the case, and so do the hundreds of New Prairie graduates who have found fulfilling and well-paying careers in the skilled trades field.

Heidi Schellinger, a counselor at New Prairie High School, wants students to know about all of the opportunities available to them after high school. That's why she worked alongside the rest of the guidance department to organize New Prairie's inaugural Skilled Trades Week, which took place Nov. 18-22.

Skilled Trades Week kicked off as six tradesmen and women gave presentations to all Olive Elementary students and then traveled to New Prairie High School for a panel discussion about their career paths. One carpenter ended the day at Prairie View Elementary speaking to kindergartners about his craft. On another day, dozens of counselors from across Michiana toured various union shops to learn about how to plug students into construction jobs and apprenticeships.

The week was rounded out when the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades brought simulators into the school to demonstrate to 8th graders and high school students. Using virtual reality headsets, students got a glimpse of what it is like to handle large machinery such as boom and scissor lifts. The programming was well-received by students -- even New Prairie's youngest learners.

"My kindergartener was excited about the talk from a guy that 'builds houses and buildings' and about the special pencil she brought home," said one parent. "As someone who works in the trade, I really appreciate the school district for presentations like this."

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The U.S. has over 30 million jobs that pay an average of \$55,000 per year and do not require a bachelor's degree.
- The U.S. Department of Education reports there will be 68-percent more job openings in infrastructure-related fields in the next five years than there are people training to fill them.
- Nearly 300,000 jobs for electricians are expected to become available in the U.S. over the next decade.

# 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.

# School Board

- Richard Shail..... President
- Al Williamson..... Vice-President
- Dale Groves.....Secretary
- Phillip King.....Member
- Jason DeMeyer.....Member

# Feedback is Welcome

We welcome our readers' letters, comments and critique. Write to us at Editor, New Prairie United School Corp., 5327 North Cougar Road, New Carlisle, IN 46552, or call (574) 654-7273.

# Contact Us

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(219) 778-9388
- Rolling Prairie Phone .....(219) 778-2018

# Our Website

[www.npusc.k12.in.us](http://www.npusc.k12.in.us)



Our mission is to ensure high levels of learning for all students.



New Prairie United School Corporation  
5327 North Cougar Road,  
New Carlisle, IN 46552

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Learning is more fun with friends!



We are proud of our wonderful teachers and students here at New Prairie.

# All-School Calendar

- Dec. 23-Jan. 3..... Winter Recess
- Jan. 6..... Teacher Work Day (no school for students)
- Jan. 7..... Students Return
- Jan. 20..... Martin Luther King Day (snow make-up day)
- March 10..... Last Day of Q3
- April 6-10..... Spring Break
- May 21..... Last Student Day
- May 22..... Last Teacher Day
- May 31..... Graduation

