



a culture of excellence

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

SUMMER 2021



What's Inside:

- New Prairie Receives Heart Safe School Distinction
- Registration Information for the 2021-22 School Year
- Summer Meals On-Site July 19-30
- Celebrating New Prairie's Athletic Achievements

Now that we've wrapped up the 2020-21 school year, summer break is here, and we will soon gear up for a successful 2021-22 year! But for now, see what we have planned for the summer in this issue!

MISSION

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



Superintendent's Message

Though our district has faced numerous challenges as a result of the pandemic, we have many reasons to be hopeful as we look ahead to the 2021-22 school year. We achieved excellence in both our academics and athletics this past year, and New Prairie High School earned the honor of becoming the first school in Indiana awarded with the Heart Safe distinction. I am proud of the diligence and grace that our staff, students and student families have demonstrated this past year, and I am confident that we will continue to work together as a unified community in the coming academic year.



We are still finalizing the COVID safety protocols for our schools for 2021-22, but rest assured that, as always, the health and safety of our students, students'

families and staff are always at the forefront of our decision-making processes. State, national and CDC guidelines change frequently, and we take the recommendations of health officials seriously when formulating our own protocols. With this in mind, we will inform you of our official COVID protocols as we draw closer to the start of the school year.

NPUSC intends to be in daily, in-person attendance K-12 for the 2021-22 school year!

Despite all that we have experienced over the past year and a half, our community is stronger than ever, and I am looking forward to brighter days ahead. Have a fun, safe summer!

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

Summer Meals On-Site in July

The New Prairie United School Corporation will be offering free meals to students ages 18 and younger from July 19–30. On-site breakfasts will be available daily at the middle school from 7–7:30 a.m., and lunches will be provided from 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

"Take Home" meals will also be available on Friday, July 2, and Friday, July 9. These containers consist of five packaged breakfasts and five packaged lunches. Parents and guardians of eligible NPUSC students may pick up meals at the following locations and times, while supplies last:

- Middle school: 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Mini Mountain Campground: 11–11:15 a.m.
- Village Mobile Home Park: 11:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

For more information, please contact Laurie Jacobson at (574) 654-0401 or lauriejacobson@npusc.k12.in.us.



Our students persevered through a very difficult year and came out strong!



New Prairie Receives Heart Safe School Distinction

While New Prairie High School has received many honors over the past year, one of the school's greatest achievements was its recognition as the first high school in Indiana to receive a Heart Safe School Distinction from Project ADAM. This honor signifies that New Prairie has training programs in place so that both students and staff can provide a swift, potentially life-saving response in the case of an emergency involving a cardiac event.

Project ADAM was founded over 20 years ago in honor of Adam Lemel, a high school athlete who sadly passed away during a basketball game. His death was a result of an insufficient medical response to a sudden cardiac arrest. The word "ADAM" in the organization's name stands for "Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory," which reflects their goal of developing resources and programs for schools nationwide to instruct in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and CPR to save lives. Tonya Aerts, New Prairie's biomedical teacher, has relentlessly pursued a Project ADAM partnership for the school for over two years. This venture was made more difficult because there weren't resources already in place in Indiana for this type of program. However, she was inspired by the tragic stories of Jake West and Mark Mayfield, two local student athletes who passed away in a similar manner to Adam Lemel. With the support of these students' parents, and the administration at New Prairie, Aerts helped coordinate a connection between Riley Hospital, Project ADAM and New Prairie.



When asked about this endeavor, Aerts stated, "I couldn't wait for another sudden cardiac arrest event to happen... Every student at New Prairie High School deserves to be in a rescue-ready environment. Every student who competes at NPUSC deserves this. Every spectator deserves this. The project has taken on a path I didn't expect, creating a new generation of rescue-ready individuals. Students want to help. It empowers them. Imagine a world where we help each other instead of looking the other way. That's a goal for me."

In order to be certified as a Heart Safe school, New Prairie had to complete a checklist of tasks, including organizing a staff to maintain AEDs and having well-marked and easily accessible AEDs throughout school buildings. Aerts has been able to procure funding to provide CPR training for the students in the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA), and she conducts AED drills in her biomedical classes as well. In addition, she continues to encourage teachers and staff throughout the school to incorporate CPR and AED training into classes and



Cougar Mentor periods. Obtaining this certification for New Prairie has proved to be a long-term commitment, but Aerts is passionate about the program and hopes that, in time, it will expand to the district middle and elementary schools as well.

For more information about HOSA and the Heart Safe program, please visit the group's website at <https://hosa.org/ilc>, or visit its social media pages at New Prairie HOSA (Facebook) and [npusc_hosa](https://www.instagram.com/npusc_hosa) (Instagram).

NPUSC Receives Grants for Student Activities and Learning Recovery

The New Prairie United School Corporation (NPUSC) is pleased to announce that our district has received two grants to further our mission of achieving a culture of excellence and ensuring high levels of learning for all students.

First, NPUSC received a grant from the Indiana Department of Education totaling \$644,100. The New Prairie Education Foundation will be an administration partner of this grant, and the New Carlisle Public Library and LaPorte County Public Library will be service partners. These funds will primarily be used to hire seven additional teachers whose focus will be working with students who were most impacted by learning loss during the pandemic. The monies will also be used to further literacy development and expand library access.

The second grant was awarded by the Board of Directors of the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte (HFL) in the amount of \$120,000. These funds will be used to cover afterschool enrichment programs (Empower Hour) for grades K-8. This is NPUSC's fourth year in the Empower Hour program, which encourages individuals in our community to lead healthier lifestyles. The focal points addressed in the program are food insecurity; access to exercise classes and facilities for students, families and school personnel; developing strong afterschool enrichment programs; and summer camp.

NPUSC is grateful to the financial partners who have so generously contributed to our district. These funds help our schools to continue to provide excellent education and safe activities for all students.



Each student and staff member at New Prairie is an integral part of our community.

Online Registration for the 2021-22 School Year

Registration for the 2021-22 school year opens on July 12 for all grades. This process will be accomplished completely online using the program Power Tool Enrollment (formerly known as "Infosnap"). You will receive your student(s) snap codes to register in mid-July. For any general issues with online enrollment, please call Power School Parent Support at 1 (866) 752-6850. For any NPUSC specific issues, contact Steve Hand at (574) 654-0203 or at shand@npusc.k12.in.us.

You may complete all of your paperwork through the Power School Enrollment website before the start of the school year. If you need anything to be translated, you may contact Yessica Jimenez at yessicajimenez@npusc.k12.in.us. If you wish to obtain a payment plan for iPad insurance or textbooks, you must do this in person at your student's school office or at the NPUSC Central Office beginning on Monday, July 26. Further communication regarding class schedules for grades 6-12 and obtaining parking passes for high school students will be communicated from your building principal.

For more information on textbook fees, student emails and more, please see the letter sent by Dr. Carrie Cannon. You can also contact Dr. Cannon directly at ccannon@npusc.k12.in.us or at (574) 654-7273.

Summer Bowling at Black Cat Lanes

Is your student already running out of ideas for the summer? If so, you may want to consider a Black Cat Lanes VIP Alleycat Card. Our local bowling alley is generously offering one free game per week, between Monday and Thursday, from June 1 through August 6. There is a one-time fee of \$15 for one card or a discounted rate of \$20 for two cards. This amount covers both the bowling and shoe rental charges.

Cards can be purchased at Black Cat Lanes or at Historic New Carlisle on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information, please contact Rhonda Myers at (574) 654-7258 or at rmyers@npusc.k12.in.us. You can also email newprairieeducationfoundation@gmail.com.

Football Camps for Elementary and Middle School Students

New Prairie High School will be hosting football camps from July 19-22 for students who have just completed grades K-8. Grades K-5 will play from 2-3:30 p.m., while grades 6-8 will play from 4-5:30 p.m. Interested families should register as early as possible so that preparations can be made for staff, uniforms and awards.

There is a fee of \$45 per student, which can be paid online at www.npcougarscamps.com, in-person at your school office, or in-person at the New Prairie High School Athletic Department. Checks should be made payable to New Prairie Athletics. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at (574) 654-0264 or email aspahn@npusc.k12.in.us.



Technology, even now more than ever, is an important part of our school day.

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

Phillip King..... President
 Al Williamson Vice President
 Dale Groves..... Secretary
 Jason DeMeyer..... Member
 Jill Smith..... Member

Contact Us

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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 Elementary..... (574) 654-7258
 (219) 778-9388
 Rolling Prairie (219) 778-2018

Our Website

www.npusc.k12.in.us



Our students are getting prepared for their bright futures!



New Prairie United School Corporation
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Accomplishments on the Court: Celebrating New Prairie's Athletic Achievements

Despite the numerous challenges that New Prairie athletes faced during the 2020-21 season, their dedication and work ethic never wavered. As a result, their hard work was rewarded at the end of their respective seasons with numerous accolades and championship titles.

New Prairie Girls Volleyball won their third consecutive IHSAA Sectional and Regional Championships. Senior Elise Swistek, two-time Northern Indiana Conference (NIC) MVP, will be missed next year, but expectations remain high for next season as all of her talented teammates will be returning in the fall.

This past season was also significant for New Prairie Boys Basketball: they won their first IHSAA Sectional Championship since 2003. Several athletes, in particular, were instrumental to the team's success: senior Braydon Flagg was named as an Honorable Mention Selection to the All-NIC Basketball Team, and Flagg, senior Rylan McBride, and senior Hunter Smith were all Honorable Mention Selections to the IBCA All-State Academic Team.

In addition, the New Prairie's Boys Tennis team celebrates its second IHSAA Sectional win in three years, and the Boys Swimming team competed in six events at the state meet. New Prairie also honors sophomore Lillian Zelasko (cross-country), senior Elise Swistek (volleyball), and junior Hunter Whitenack (wrestling), who each received Northern Indiana Conference (NIC) MVP awards. Coaches Bruce Watson (Girls Golf) and Ashley Wojtysiak (Boys Swimming) received NIC Coach of the Year awards. Our student-athletes also performed well off the court, as the school boasted 58 All-Academic NIC Honorees over the course of the year.

New Prairie is proud of each and every student who chose to participate in the 2020-21 season despite great uncertainty and unprecedented challenges, and the Cougars look forward to another successful season ahead.

All-School Calendar, 2021-22

Aug 5-6, 9-10.....	Teacher Work Days
Aug 11.....	First Day of School for Students
Sept 6.....	Labor Day (no school)
Sept 24.....	Flex Day (students eLearning and teachers report for PD)
Oct 12.....	Last Day of Q1
Oct 21-22.....	Fall Break (no school)
Nov 24-26.....	Thanksgiving (no school)
Dec 21.....	Last Student Day-End S1
Dec 22-Jan 4.....	Winter Recess (no school)
Jan 5.....	Teacher Work Day
Jan 6.....	Students Back to School
Jan 17.....	MLK Day (no school)
Feb 25.....	No School
March 11.....	Last Day of Q3
April 4-8.....	Spring Break (no school)
April 15.....	Good Friday (no school)
May 24.....	Last Student Day
May 25.....	Last Teacher Day
May 30.....	Memorial Day
June 5.....	Graduation Day