



a culture of excellence

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

SUMMER 2019



What's Inside:

New Prairie High School Names
New Head Basketball Coach

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Leadership Skills While Fundraising
for Ronald McDonald House

We are ready to begin the new school year strong at New Prairie United School Corporation! Check out in this issue what is happening to make the 2019-20 school year the best one yet!

MISSION

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



Superintendent's Message

The tables are turning this summer. While our students are taking a break from learning this summer, their teachers are soaking up new knowledge to bring back to the classroom in August for the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.



This July, more than 100 teachers from our district will head to Chicago to attend the Professional Learning Communities at Work Institute to learn from leading experts on how to best build a collaborative culture in our schools that will deliver big results and increase student achievement.

We first implemented the professional learning communities last year, and we are proud to report that the time we have invested into collaboration has helped our teachers get on the same page about what students need to be successful in the long run. We already saw a positive impact in the classroom last year, and we cannot wait to see what our teachers will bring back from the training in Chicago for the 2019-20 school year.

This professional development is just one way we are ensuring high levels of learning for all students. Last year, we spent time thinking about our district's mission, vision and the commitments we make to families to ensure the needs of their children are being met. I am confident our professional learning communities within New Prairie schools will help us keep each of those commitments as we begin a new school year.

Yours in Education,
Paul White, Superintendent

COMMITMENTS



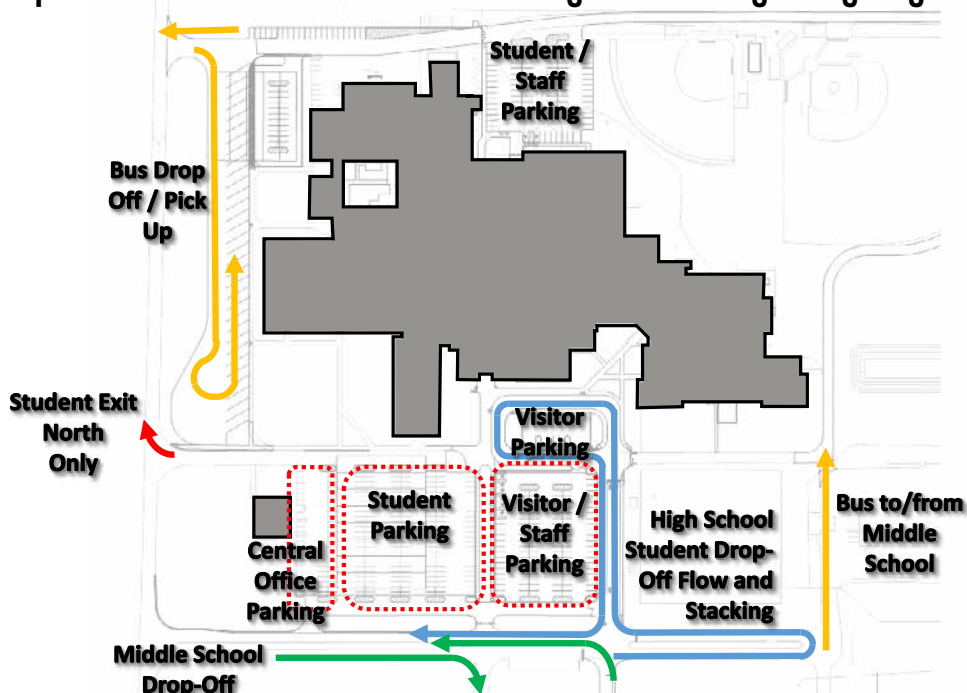
- Commitment 1:** Build a Foundation of Learning for ALL Students.
- Commitment 2:** Create Collaborative Teams to Collectively Develop Best Practice.
- Commitment 3:** Collaborative Teams will identify Essential Standards from a Guaranteed Curriculum.
- Commitment 4:** All Students will have access to grade or course level identified Essential Standards with additional opportunities to show learning.
- Commitment 5:** Collaborative Teams will create Common, Formative Assessments based on identified Essential Standards.
- Commitment 6:** We will Create a Systematic Plan to Provide Additional Time, Support, Re-Teaching, and Extension of Learning.
- Commitment 7:** We will set SMART goals at the team, building, and district level based on critical academic needs tied to Essential Standards. Data and Progress Reviews will be developed at all levels.
- Commitment 8:** We will examine our current grading and homework policies/practices to evaluate what is needed for student success and to foster true accountability.
- Commitment 9:** We will collectively identify key student social & academic behaviors necessary for student success & explicitly teach/model these behaviors.
- Commitment 10:** We will collectively build a Shared Vision for Best Practice Instruction in our classrooms (What We Will See/What We Will Not See).



New Prairie Band Wins All-Music Award from ISSMA

New Prairie High School's marching band has been recognized by the state's premiere music association for offering a well-rounded music education to students. The New Prairie band program was one of less than 100 marching bands across the state honored with the All-Music Award by the Indiana State School Music Association. The awards are given annually to programs whose students earn a gold rating in various ISSMA competitions, including group marching band performances and solo and ensemble performances.

Updated Traffic Flow Pattern at the High School beginning August 2019



New Prairie Names New Head Basketball Coach

New Prairie High School has named a new head basketball coach who is ready to roll up his sleeves and stick with the program for the long haul. Michael Bauer, who most recently taught and coached at St. Joseph High School in South Bend, was chosen from a pool of more than 20 applicants for the position. Bauer became known at the school for being an engaging classroom teacher and a successful basketball coach.



Michael Bauer

Bauer will also serve as a social studies teacher at New Prairie High School. He was approved for the position by the New Prairie United School Corp. School Board of Trustees at its June 17 meeting.

"Coach Bauer is known for being a straightforward coach that values honesty, defining roles for players, calm and consistency under pressure and finally that players represent the program in a positive way at all times," Athletic Director Ben Bachmann said. "He hopes to implement an uptempo style of play that places emphasis on disruption defensively."

At St. Joseph High School, Bauer amassed a 77-44 win/loss record, winning two sectional championships and two Northern Indiana Conference Division Titles.

"I am honored to become a part of the New Prairie family and get to work installing our system," he said. "We are excited about the players in the program and look forward to getting started."

Baseball Coach Mark Schellinger Celebrates 100 Career Wins During Big New Prairie Season

When New Prairie United School Corp. staff attended a South Bend Cubs game together to celebrate the end of the school year in June, it was only appropriate that Mark Schellinger hoisted the "W" flag to celebrate the Cubs' win over the Bowling Green Hot Rods. If high schools shared the same habit of flying a "W" flag after each win, it would have been raised more than 100 times in honor of Schellinger. In the IHSBCA North-South All-Star Series, Schellinger served as the head coach of the North squad.

Schellinger, a 2002 graduate of LaPorte High School, celebrated his 100th career coaching win in April during an impressive season that caused the South Bend Tribune to call New Prairie's baseball team "one of the best kept secrets in Northern Indiana." Schellinger spent nine seasons coaching at Merrillville before coming to New Prairie High School.

Schellinger was named the Northern Indiana Conference Coach of the Year in 2019.



The Healthcare Foundation of La Porte awarded NPUISC \$125,582.00 to sustain its elementary afterschool programming, Empower Hour.



Students Show Leadership Skills While Fundraising for Ronald McDonald House

After participating in a four-day leadership conference, two New Prairie High School students quickly put their new skills into action.

Abby and Paige collected donations through a hot dog stand and an online fundraiser. With the support of the New Prairie community, the students raised \$1,621.26 for the Ronald McDonald House.

The CEO of the Ronald McDonald House, Kierstin Miller, offered Abby and Paige a permanent spot on the charity's "Bubble Wall" of donors. Abby and Paige were also invited to visit the pediatric and NICU floors of the hospital to deliver treats and smiles.

Back-to-School Registration Information

A registration event for all grades (kindergarten through 12th grade) will take place from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST on Tuesday, July 30, inside the New Prairie Middle School gymnasium.

Parents or guardians may complete ALL paperwork (textbook fees, free- and reduced-price lunch applications, emergency information, optional iPad insurance) through the Power School Registration website at any time. After Aug. 5, parents can visit their child's school to access school computers to register.

Families without internet access at home can use computers at the registration event to complete the necessary forms. iCoaches will be available to assist in any way.

K-5th Registration Details:

Families only need to attend the registration event if they wish to pay textbook fees by check or cash, or to obtain a payment plan for the iPad insurance or textbook fees. Children will not be receiving their iPads during the registration event and will instead receive their device at the start of the school year with their classroom teacher.

6th-12th Registration Details:

iPads will be available for pickup at the registration event. Families who complete paperwork online ahead of the event will have a very short wait time for iPad pickup. New Prairie strongly recommends attending the registration event so students can pick up their iPad before the start of the school year. Those who cannot make the registration event will not receive their iPad until after the start of the school year.

All class schedules for Grades 6-12 will also be completed in time for the registration event. Parking passes for high school students will be available for purchase at the event (they cannot be purchased beforehand on the registration website).

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
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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.

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Our Website

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There is something to smile about at New Prairie!



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Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte Continues Support for NPUSC

New Prairie is pleased to announce that the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte has awarded the district with more than \$370,000.00 in funding for two separate grant projects. The district is grateful for the continued support and dedication of the Healthcare Foundation.

Partners in Prevention Grant

NPUSC will be participating in the Partners in Prevention grant program, an initiative that will help area schools identify, implement and sustain evidence-based substance use prevention programs. More than 17,500 La Porte County students will be served by curriculum that supports positive peer relationships and social competencies to avoid the use of addictive substances. New Prairie United School Corporation has been awarded \$244,635.00 for the next three years to implement these programs.

Empower Hour Afterschool Grant

For the second year in a row, NPUSC is pleased to announce that the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte awarded NPUSC \$125,582.00 to sustain elementary afterschool programming. This organization sees the value and impact of what afterschool programming does for students beyond school hours and wants to help continue the efforts being made. Schools will continue providing diverse enrichment and education opportunities after school with a focus on homework, remediation, health and wellness.

All-School Calendar

Aug. 5-6 Teacher Work Days
Aug. 7 First Day for Students
Aug. 14 Late Starts Begin Each Wednesday (schools start 45 minutes later)
Sept. 2 Labor Day (no school)
Sept. 11 Corporation Work Day (no school for students)
Sept. 27. Flex Day (students eLearning, teachers report for professional development)
Oct. 9 Last Day of Q1
Oct. 14-15 Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct. 17-18 Fall Break
Nov. 25-29 Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 20 Last Student Day of Semester 1
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