

# np NEW PRAIRIE UNITED SCHOOL CORPORATION

*a culture of excellence*

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

FALL 2022



### What's Inside:

- State Testing Scores Rank High
- \$800,000 Grant Received
- NPUSC Board Presentation

# MISSION

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



## Superintendent's Message

The 2022-23 school year is off to a great start! I am encouraged to see our two new principals, Dr. Pamela Moore and Mr. J.R. Shelt, thriving in their new roles. Our campuses are once again busy with excitement. And let's not forget our fall athletics are back in full swing. Go Cougars!

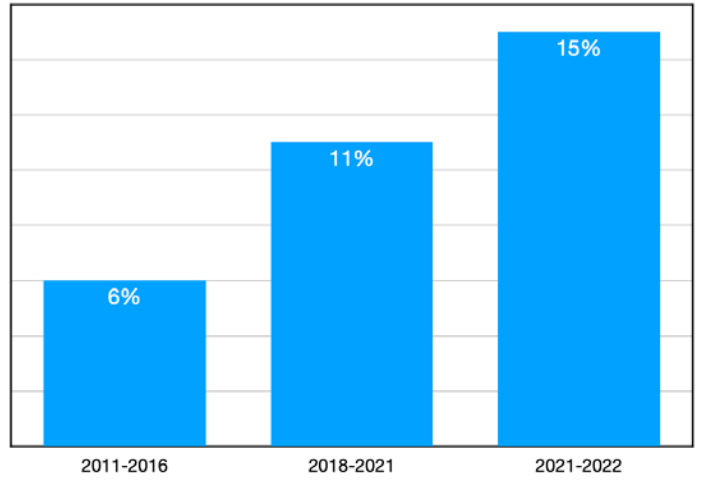


Looking ahead, I am so excited to share about a new \$800,000 grant we received for our Vocational Pathways and K-12 Career Exploration programming. This newsletter will cover details related to that as well as charts displaying NPUSC's state testing scores and a recent presentation the Board of Education and I made at the Indiana School Board Association Conference.

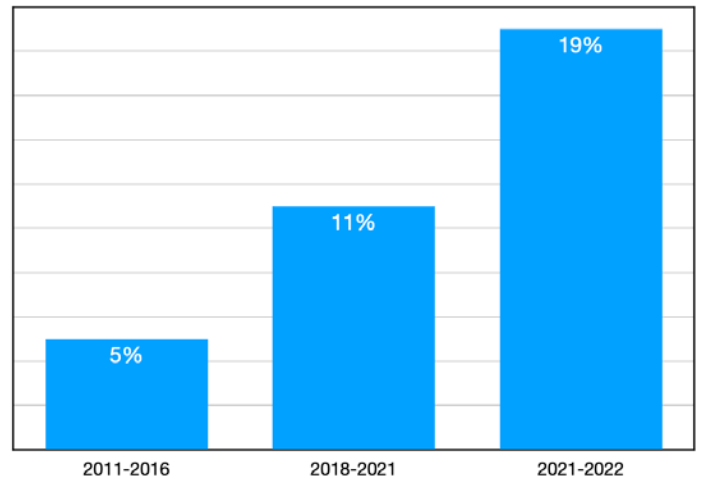
As always, I am grateful to serve our community as Superintendent of New Prairie United School Corporation.

*Dr. Paul White  
Superintendent of New Prairie United School Corporation*

## Language Arts Pass Rate Above State Average (Grades 3-8)



## Mathematics Pass Rate Above State Average (Grades 3-8)



## State Testing Scores Rank Significantly Above State Averages

NPUSC has seen *significant* increases above the state average on state I-Learn exams in Grades 3-8 since implementing Professional Learning Community (PLC) concepts in 2017. Prior to 2017, NPUSC was typically 5% points above state average. In recent years the schools have seen that performance double to 10% points above state average. Even more significantly, last spring NPUSC tests hit an all-time high of 15%-20% above state average.

This jump in scores further suggests that PLC concepts are greatly impacting the NPUSC learning environment. The PLC interdependent team, driven to improve student learning, has been consistently learning, researching and identifying the best approaches to help students thrive since 2017. Their efforts are clearly paying off as seen in these test scores as they lead students to greater success.



## Parent Teacher Conference Details

We encourage all parents to come on by during conference hours.

Olive Elementary .....2:30-6:00 pm October 17-18  
Prairie View &

Rolling Prairie Elementary.....3:30-7:00 pm October 17-18

New Prairie Middle School ..... 2:30-6:00 pm October 17 & 19

New Prairie High School..... 3:00-6:30 pm October 18-19



# \$800,000 Vocational Pathways and K-12 Career Exploration Grant

NPUSC has been awarded \$811,867.70 in federal ESSR funds to be used for K-12 programming aimed specifically at the three E's of college and career readiness--explore, engage and experience. Robyn Kubsch, Assistant Principal of NPHS, in collaboration with NPHS Principal Jen Sass and Superintendent Dr. Paul White, authored a comprehensive proposal in the spring of 2022 which was met with significant competition. While the grant funds available are a generous \$25 million, 104 school districts submitted applications totaling \$97 million proving the importance and excitement centering around this work. NPUSC is very excited to have been selected as a recipient for the 3E grant and eager to begin exploring, engaging and experiencing career pathways with ALL students Grades K-12.

## ***Explore - Elementary***

Students in Grades K-5 will explore careers in several ways. First, a partnership with Junior Achievement will bring community career partners into the classroom to blend financial literacy and math concepts with real life experiences. These volunteer-led experiences will help build relationships with economic partners while also exposing our community partners to the important work happening in our classrooms. Next, each grade level will have a set of 10 careers to explore; these careers are tied to the career pathways available for study at the high school. During the school year, students in a specific elementary grade level will read books related to these 10 careers, hear guest speakers, engage in virtual field trips, and visit local businesses and other community partners to gain real life experiences related to these career fields. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions, see and touch tools of the trade, hear the sounds of the workplace, and bring to life the career sparking their own interests and passions.

Working together with Kidder Media, each grade level will receive two newsletters each school year showcasing community partners from the 10 career paths of focus. Our goal is not only to help students explore careers but also to strengthen community relationships in order to lay groundwork for internship opportunities for our older students.

## ***Engage - Middle School***

As students become more interested and excited for specific career pathways, NPUSC wants to offer opportunities to engage. High school career pathway students will host a hands-on career fair for fifth grade students. Fifth grade students are preparing for the transition to middle school which means choices in courses and electives. New Prairie Middle School has several career aligned exploratory courses so fifth graders can see how their middle school options also have career pathway connections at the high school.

Summer camps in each of the pathways will be available beginning with the summer of 2023. The goal is to have a 5-day experience available for each of the 10 career pathways currently available at NPHS: Plant Science, Animal Science, Education, Engineering, Computer Science, Business Operation & Technology, Business Accounting, Business Marketing, Construction Trades and Biomedical Sciences. Camps will be offered for half days, free of cost to students, and transportation will be available.

Middle school students will also work with Junior Achievement programs. JA Biz Town will give NPMS students an opportunity to live financial literacy in action. After completing

learning modules in the classroom, a trip to Biz Town in Elkhart will expose students to a simulated economy just like the Game of Life. JA Job Spark is yet another opportunity for students to explore and engage career options. Exposure is the best tool for sparking interest and igniting passions!

Additionally, New Prairie eighth grade students complete aptitude "brain games" from YouScience to determine their careers of best fit. This program offers insightful data for students as well as educators. Students receive awesome career information based on their aptitudes but also careers that intersect with their interest. Educators are able to see the career pathways each student demonstrates aptitudes for, ensuring the program offerings align with student needs.

## ***Experience - High School***

Students at NPHS begin with a series of three courses in their selected career pathway. At this time, NPHS offers 10 career pathways with additional options available through AK Smith Career Center in Michigan City. Students begin, as a freshman, with a Principles course. This introductory course is designed to build a foundation in the career pathway and introduce the student to vocabulary terms and concepts crucial for success in the career pathway. It will also offer hands-on experiences to continue to foster the student's interest. Community partners will be brought into the classroom and students will be taken on trips to see real work environments, bringing learning to life. Junior Achievement financial literacy curriculum will also be part of the Principles courses: students learning the basics of their vocation should also learn how to manage the money that will come in their future paycheck!

The career pathway series of courses continues with a Concentrator A and Concentrator B set of courses designed to deepen the knowledge and understanding of the career pathway. Students that are "pathway completers" may even have opportunities to earn industry certifications and credentials that will allow them to step into higher paid positions right out of high school. Seniors will have the opportunity to enroll in a pathway capstone course. This course is designed as a partnership with community industry partners in the field students have been focused on through their coursework. These paid or unpaid internship programs count for three credits per semester for the high school student, offer labor solutions for the employer, assist with federal funding for the school district, and help build authentic learning experiences for our students.

Students with intentions of furthering their education will find significant benefits with these programs as well. Each career pathway offers opportunities at each level: straight to work, military enlistment, 2-year degree, trade school, 4-year or advanced degree. Stepping into the workplace as a high school senior will help ALL students have a real life understanding of the career demands, expectations, and opportunities of their chosen career pathway.

## ***Ready to Get Started***

The 3E grant has provided what seems to be unlimited opportunities for the students and community of New Prairie United School Corporation. Administration and staff are eager to begin this new work and look forward to building stronger community relationships with economic partners. If you or your business is interested in partnering, please contact Robyn Kubsch at rkubsch@npusc.k12.in.us.

# 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.



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

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## Contact Us

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



## Our Website

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



Visit Our Website for our  
**2022-23 School Calendar**



## NPUSC Board Presentation on Effective School Board-Superintendent Relations and Governance

On Oct. 3, 2022, NPUSC school board leaders Phil King, Al Williamson and Rich Shail, along with Superintendent Dr. Paul White, had the opportunity to present at the Indiana School Board Association (ISBA) Fall Conference in Indianapolis. The presentation focused on "Effective School Board-Superintendent Relations and Governance." NPUSC has enjoyed multiple years of consistency in school board and superintendent leadership, which has led to consistent academic performance and financial stability for the school system.

Mr. Phil King, current NPUSC School Board President serving in his 10th year on the NPUSC School Board, stated the following about the opportunity to share NPUSC's experiences, "Being given this opportunity to share our story of this incredible journey that NPUSC has taken these past 20 years with 291 other school districts throughout Indiana and educational leaders from other states is nothing short of amazing. I am proud of the accomplishments that we as a school district have attained thus far and of what we will accomplish in the coming years through our PLC journey. I am excited to be able to allow other district board members and their superintendents to catch a glimpse of what a successful board-superintendent relationship should look like."

The presentation was joined by retired NPUSC School Board President Rich Shail and long-time NPUSC School Board Vice-President Al Williamson. Both have served on the NPUSC Board for 20 years, with Mr. Williamson retiring from service at the end of this year. NPUSC's very own Dr. Paul White, NPUSC Superintendent since 2015, also presented alongside the Board.

