

a culture of excellence

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

FALL 2023



Welcoming Two New Administrators

Casey Martin - Assistant Principal at NPHS

NPHS is excited to welcome Mr. Casey Martin as the new Assistant Principal! Principal Martin's diverse background and training in education make him a great fit for this role. After receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame, he got his first full time teaching job in Beijing, China, where he taught English between 2014 and 2015. He then moved back stateside and was hired as a social studies teacher at Marquette Catholic High School in Michigan City. During that time he completed a master's degree in history from Purdue University. In the spring of 2021, he was hired as the principal at Marquette and finished his second master's degree in building administration and educational leadership.



He now looks ahead to his new role, sharing, "I have a passion for education and firmly believe in the district's mission of ensuring high levels of learning for all students. Coming to New Prairie gives me the opportunity to join a larger community and support a greater number of students and families in the area." He went on to say, "I'm looking forward to building new relationships within the school community and learning about how my new role can contribute to the great goals of the school and the district. I'm excited about joining the team here at New Prairie and making a positive impact on the students and families we serve!"

In his free time, Principal Martin enjoys spending time woodworking and doing projects around his house. He and his wife also love being outside at the beach and hiking with their dog.

Heidi West - Assistant Principal at NPMS

NPMS is also excited to welcome Ms. Heidi West as their new Assistant Principal. West brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new role. She attended Indiana University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education English. She also has a master's degree in Education from Michigan State University and is currently attending Indiana University for her master's degree in Educational Leadership. Through her career, she has taught English for 22 years, with the last 17 years spent teaching ninth and tenth grade English at Portage High School.



She shares about her journey to New Prairie saying, "Over the last couple of years, I decided I wanted to work on my administrative license. It's important for teachers to have strong support so that they can best support students." She added, "I am most looking forward to getting to know the students and staff at the middle school so that I can best support them to be successful."

In her free time, she likes to spend time with her three kids, hike, go to the beach, do yoga, read and foster dogs.



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MISSION

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



Superintendent's Message

New Prairie United School Corporation has successfully started the 2023-24 school year, and I am excited to share some of the good news going on within our walls. With two new assistant principals, our leadership looks promising for the year. We have been so blessed by many of our classified staff members working behind the scenes and helping our school run smoothly. This edition will showcase and celebrate some of their stories. Additionally, with NPHS marching band's director in his second year, we look forward to another triumphant season.



I am confident that this school year will be one of our best yet. Again, we would like to thank students, staff and families for your continued support and flexibility.

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



NPHS Marching Band Director

Last year, NPHS hired Jared Jaggi as the new band director. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Western



Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Now in his second year at NPHS, he shares, "I strongly believe that music education provides learning opportunities that show how music affects people, cultures and communities. In music classes, students develop and learn how to manage their social, emotional and intellectual skills, which will

make them feel that they are thriving and can be utilized to enhance their cultures and communities."

NPHS Band Marches Together in Unity

This fall, the NPHS Marching Band has embraced their new vision-mission statement for the high school band program: Together in Unity, commanding Respect, encouraging Resilience and striving for Excellence. This is the Sound of Cougar Pride. Created by student leaders, this reminds band members of both their purpose and their expectations. Whether practicing or performing, this vision-mission drives how students operate and why band exists.

Now nearing the end of a great season, Band Director Jared Jaggi loves seeing the growth from when students start in June to when they finish in mid-October. He states, "Competitive marching band is a rigorous musical activity. Students get put through the wringer with the amount of responsibilities they hold and the musical aspects they have to master in band. They are all on their own personal journeys through band and their band experience gives them opportunities to grow as musicians but most importantly as people."

This season was built on the momentum of a very close-knit group of students. The collaborative learning environment allows student leaders and upperclassmen to support and model the band traditions to other students. Jaggi adds, "Every single student in band has significant value, because it takes all members of a band to perform an excellent marching band show. When we step on the field, every single student is a starter and every single student matters. I think this is what makes band a special activity. I strongly encourage anyone to ask a high school band student about their experience in band, how they perform in a marching band, and wish them luck as they complete their 2023 season." All members of the community are welcomed to attend their performances at athletic events and school concerts.



DISTRICT EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

NPUSC is grateful to each and every employee. This year we are highlighting a few classified staff members each month on our website and Facebook page. Here are some of the ones we've done so far. Make sure to check out our district page or Facebook for next month's highlights!

Janet Pfeil - Olive Township Elementary Sub

Janet Pfeil retired in 2020 from Olive Township Elementary after 30 years of teaching! She has now been subbing at Olive for a year. Her favorite colors are Cubbie Blue and Colts Blue and her favorite food is chocolate. Since retirement she has increased her reading and is an avid True Crime watcher and listener. Janet enjoys going on bike rides, walking and being with her family. Her favorite vacation destination is London. She also has two grandchildren who attend NP schools.



Angel Rosas - High School Sub

While Angel Rosas has only been a sub in NP for less than a year, she enjoys getting to know the students. Her favorite color is white and her favorite food is tacos. She loves spending time with her family, coaching soccer and crafting. Her favorite vacation destination is Niagara Falls.



Amy Talboom - Prairie View Elementary Sub

Amy Talboom has worked for NP for about four years and she loves seeing the students. Her favorite color is blue and her favorite food is macaroni and cheese. She has five boys who all love sports. She and her family enjoy traveling, and her favorite vacation destination is Jamaica.



Bronson Ellenwine - Prairie View Elementary Custodian

Bronson Ellenwine has worked for NP for over four years and he enjoys keeping the school clean and putting smiles on the staff and students' faces. His favorite color is cyan and his favorite food is anything Italian. He likes baseball, writing his own music, retro video games, R.L. Stine's Goosebumps and spending time with his fiancé of five years and his daughter.



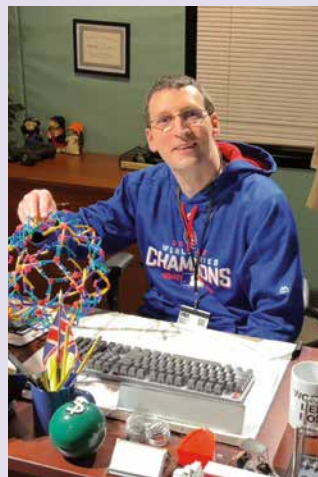
Christy Michaels - Olive Township Elementary Lead Custodian

Christy Michaels has worked for NP for nine years and she enjoys getting to know the kids. Her favorite color is black and her favorite food is pizza. She is married and has two kids. Her favorite vacation destination is Disney World.



Cindy Pardy - IT at Prairie View and Olive Township Elementaries

Cindy Pardy has worked for NP for almost 14 years and she loves working with students. Cindy's favorite color is orange and her favorite food is steak. Cindy enjoys being with her family, fishing, mushroom hunting and anything outside. Her favorite vacations are cruises.



Steven Hand Network/Systems Admin

NPUSC is saddened by Steve Hand's recent passing. Steve worked admirably for New Prairie for 17 years. He enjoyed being part of a team and impacting students. He enjoyed disc golf, board games, spending time with friends and deep couch sitting on NFL Sundays.

Condolences from Dr. White and the entire New Prairie community go out to Steve's family. He was an integral part of New Prairie and he will be missed.



John Mathews - High School Custodian

John Mathews has worked for NP for over four years and he likes making things look nice for everyone at school. John's favorite color is blue and his favorite food is fried chicken. He likes to travel, eat out, be at home and spend time with his dog. His favorite vacation spot is Miami.



Kelli Grahl - Olive Township Elementary Custodian

Kelli Grahl has worked for NP for seven years and she enjoys the people she works with. Her favorite color is blue and her favorite food is vegetables. She loves to be outdoors where she can fish, kayak, camp and go hiking. Her favorite vacation destination is being in a cabin anywhere.



Kim Rehlander - Prairie View Elementary Sub

For 31 years, Kim Rehlander worked as a teacher and principal. She has now been subbing at NP for one year and enjoys seeing the students and friendly staff. Her favorite color is purple and she loves crab cakes. Her favorite vacation destination is Aruba.



Mary Jane Shkroba - Sub

Mary Jane Shkroba has been a NP sub for several years and enjoys helping students. Her favorite color is pink and she likes sweet tea. She likes to take walks, read and play cards for fun. Her favorite vacation destination is anywhere near a river or lake.



Michelle Harrison: Prairie View Elementary Building Sub

Michelle Harrison has been with NP for nine years, and she accepted the building sub position this year at Prairie View. Her favorite part of her job is reading and working with the students. Her favorite color is red and she loves pasta. She loves animals, cooking, baking, reading, hiking, teaching, sewing and game nights with friends and family. Her favorite vacation destination is Marathon, Florida.



Valaina Jongkind - High School Sub

Valaina Jongkind has worked for NP for eight years and loves being a part of the school and community. Her favorite color is hot pink and she likes to drink Dr. Pepper. She is a mother of seven and loves spending her time helping shape future minds at home and at work. Her favorite vacation destination is Key West.



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
Jason DeMeyer.....	Vice President
Jill Smith.....	Secretary
Dale Groves	Member
Rich Gadacz	Member

Contact Us

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New Prairie Middle School (574) 654-3070
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Olive Township Elementary (574) 654-7531
(219) 778-4740
Prairie View Elementary..... (574) 654-7258
(219) 778-9388
Rolling Prairie Elementary..... (219) 778-2018

Our Website

www.npusc.k12.in.us



Find us on
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**Visit Our Website for our
up to date School Calendar**



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Fall Parent-Teacher Conference Details

Haven't met your child's teacher yet? Have specific questions or concerns, or just want an inside look of what your child's day is like? Mark your calendar for this fall's Parent-Teacher Conferences!

NP Middle School

Oct 16	2:30-6 pm
Oct 17	3-6:30 pm

NP High School

Oct 163-6:30 pm
Oct 183-6:30 pm

Olive

Oct 172:30-6 pm
Oct 182:30-6 pm

Prairie View

Oct 17	4-7:30 pm
Oct 18	4-7:30 pm

Rolling Prairie

Oct 174-7:30 pm
Oct 184-7:30 pm

**These are all in central time*

