



# COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

September 2023



## A New Beginning

As we turn the pages on the first month of this school year together, I wanted to take a moment to say "thank you". The staff, the students, and the families of New Prairie High School have been incredible during this transition time for me, and I am grateful and humbled to be able to serve such a wonderful community. The past few weeks have included seeing familiar faces; meeting new students, families, and staff; setting short and long term goals; and laying the foundation for a school culture designed to ensure high levels of learning for ALL students. We've got a ways to go yet this year, but I am excited for the challenge that awaits us. Let's do this Cougars! - Mr. Heinold



Each month, we will be putting together a newsletter to highlight some important information that we would like to share with our NPHS families. You may always contact the school for more information.



## Homecoming Events

The High School Homecoming Football game is scheduled for Friday, September 29th. That week, there will be a number of activities and events for students to engage in: Powderpuff Football, Class Olympics, New Carlisle Parade, and the Homecoming Dance are just a few exciting things coming up this month!



2023 Homecoming Events	
<b>Class Shirts</b>	Sales: 9/5-9/8 Delivery: 9/25-9/28
<b>School Decorating</b>	9/21 2:20-4pm CST
<b>Ticket Sales</b>	9/25-9/29
<b>Spirit Week</b>	9/25-9/29
<b>Powderpuff</b>	9/25 5:30pm CST
<b>New Carlisle Parade</b>	9/27 5:00pm CST
<b>Class Olympics</b>	9/27 6:15pm CST
<b>Pep Rally</b>	9/29
<b>Homecoming Game</b>	9/29 6:30pm CST
<b>Homecoming Dance</b>	9/30 7-10pm CST

## NPHS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

New Prairie High School has welcomed a number of new staff members along with new students this year. We are excited to have these individuals help advance our mission of ensuring high levels of learning for all students. Together, we will do great things!

## Guidance Department

At this stage, many students have begun to make preparations for what they want to do after graduation. Some may choose to go to college while others plan to begin an apprenticeship or enlist in the military. Whatever the plan, it is our aim to help students and families with actionable steps to realize these dreams. Be sure to check out our NPHS Guidance Department Schoology group for updates and information!





## Success Time

New Prairie United School Corporation is heavily invested in the Professional Learning Communities at Work process. A critical part of this process includes staff being able to accurately assess a student's understanding of a learning target and determine next steps for continuous learning for each student.

Therefore, every Monday through Thursday, NPHS students have a 30-minute Success Time built into their day (9:50-10:20). This time allows for NPHS staff to meet the specific needs of our learners. By consistently monitoring student data, our staff are able to provide targeted remediation for struggling students as well as provide extension/enrichment activities for those who have already mastered the learning standard.

## GET INVOLVED

At the beginning of the year, Assistant Principal, Mr. Martin, shared with each grade level the various ways that students can get involved at NPHS. We have a number of athletic programs and clubs for students to explore their interests. Getting involved through these opportunities is a great way to gain positive high school experiences.



## NPHS Seeks Purple Star Designation

New Prairie High School is seeking a Purple Star Designation from the Indiana Department of Education. Indiana's Purple Star designation is awarded to schools for their significant display of commitment to service members, veterans, and students and families connected to our nation's military. Only 128 of Indiana's 1,769 schools have previously been awarded this designation which is valid for three years. Schools receiving the Purple Star designation must establish a trained point of contact, have a dedicated webpage providing resources and recognition for military families, host an annual military program/event, maintain a public military display which recognizes service members, and guarantee job interviews to qualified service members and families. Lastly, they must submit a school board resolution publicizing support for military students and families. Both the high school and the middle school have fulfilled these requirements and seek the board's approval and signature of this resolution needed for the application.





## Flex Day – September 22

On our scheduled FLEX Day, teachers will be engaged in all-day professional development training. On FLEX days, teachers will post assignments for students to complete at home. During specific times in the day, teachers will be able to respond to student work questions. There will be two more FLEX days this school year: February 16th and March 8th.

## After School Help Sessions

Students will be able to attend after school help sessions provided by NPHS teachers. Students can receive help in math, language arts, science, social studies, and world language. There is no cost for students to take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

## Curriculum Corner Newsletter

Along with this High School Newsletter is the Fall 2023 Curriculum Corner Newsletter from Mrs. Sass. It includes highlights from some of the curriculum work that has been done K-12 over the past year.

## IMPORTANT DATES

9/4 – Labor Day – No School

9/22 – FLEX Day

9/25 – School Board Meeting

9/25 – Powderpuff Football Games

9/27 – Homecoming Parade

9/29 – Homecoming Football  
Game

9/30 – Homecoming Dance

10/11 – End of Quarter 1

10/12 – PSAT/NMSQT Testing Day

10/16 and 10/18 – NPHS Parent-  
Teacher Conferences

10/20-10/23 – Fall Break – No  
School

### Contact Information

Phone: (574) 654-7271  
(219) 778-2215

<https://www.npusc.k12.in.us/new-prairie-high-school/>

<facebook.com/newprairiecougars>

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## MISSION

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



# NPUSC CURRICULUM CORNER

Welcome back!

We jumpstarted our year with a focus on using our assessments to drive our curriculum unit planning. We jumped into using our data from student assessments to drive our unit planning. Our Professional Learning Communities will receive support throughout the school year with Natalie from Solution Tree, meeting with teams throughout the year to provide teachers resources to help our teachers continue to work smarter not harder.



## SUMMER NEWS

102

4TH-8TH GRADERS  
PARTICIPATED IN OUR 3E  
GRANT SUMMER CAREER  
CAMPS

279

6TH-12TH GRADERS  
ATTENDED SUMMER  
SCHOOL

795

ATTENDED OUR  
COUGAR ATHLETIC  
CAMPS





## Smekens CompCon Training

We had over 25 elementary teachers attend a two day training this summer to work on Reading Comprehension. Our teachers across the district collaborated to learn new ways to reach ALL our students.

## Other Summer Trainings

Some of our AP (Advanced Placement) teachers and PRIME Math teachers spent time this summer learning new strategies.

Other trainings throughout the district included Smekens Writing, Youth Institute, Phonemic Awareness, Word Play and other individualized learning!

**OUR TEACHERS ARE LEARNING AND GROWING ALL YEAR LONG!**

## PLC Conference

For the 6th year in a row, NPUSC took a large group of educators to continue to grow in our Professional Learning Communities.

# ELA PRIORITY STANDARDS

Last school year, our K-12 teachers collaborated to prioritize our ELA State Standards. This was a year long process which included prioritizing the state standards and creating a common formative assessment for all the identified standards. These assessments help determine the specific skill needs of all our students. The teachers will use this data to determine groupings (reteaching or extensions) during RTI time. This is an ongoing process that our teachers will continue to collaborate to make adjustments, as needed. The hard work and dedication of the teachers on this process was appreciated and shows the commitment of high levels of learning for ALL students!

Check out the NPUSC ELA Priority Standards under the Curriculum tab at [npusc.k12.in.us](http://npusc.k12.in.us)

## MATH PRIORITY STANDARDS WORK

Our kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers will be unpacking the Indiana State Standards at each grade level to identify the "must know" standards. Our goal for the 2023-2024 school year is to identify our priority standards by grade level, aligned by quarter of when they will be covered, completed and common formative assessments (skill checks) will be created. Aligning our standards (skills) throughout the grade levels and using the common skill assessment will insure we are building a strong knowledge base skill by skill for all students every year.

## STEM GRANT

Our Science teachers will be provided with some resources to enhance their STEM development in the classroom. We will be identifying ways to implement STEM activities in our content areas.

## Shout Outs!

As we head into the new school year, please take a moment to reflect on all the NPUSC staff does to bring out the very best in every student. Often times, we get caught up in our day-to-day and forget to pause and say thanks to those who make a huge impact on our students daily. This year we will be highlighting different groups monthly, please check out our corporation website and NPUSC Facebook page to see who the focus is for the month and meet some of our employees. Thanks for supporting the hard work and dedication of our NPUSC staff.

JEN SASS, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR  
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