



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

December 2023



Wrapping Up the First Semester

We are in the last month of the 2023 calendar year, and while things are cooling down significantly outside, NPHS students are warming up to finish the semester strong! We have had so many successes to celebrate during these first few months of school. It makes me proud to be part of our Cougar Nation. Students on our teams and clubs have been performing at very high levels, and it is incredible to watch the growth and transformation of their efforts and character.

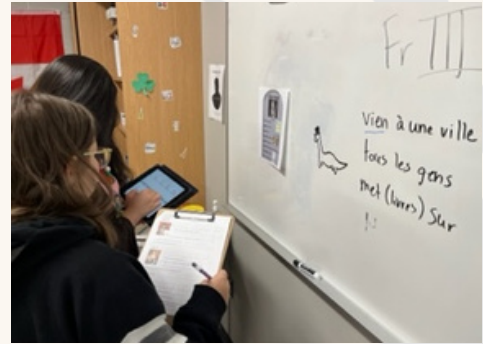
Inside the classrooms, students are churning out innovative ideas for use in hospital emergency departments; connecting with career experts to create sparks for future employment opportunities; and routinely showing up to solve derivatives, argue thesis statements, meet exercise goals, and so much more. I wish you all the best of the holiday season. Stay warm, stay safe, and enjoy time with loved ones. – 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.

PSAT Student Results

Earlier this year, students in grades 9-11 completed the PSAT 8/9 or PSAT/NMSQT assessment. Scores were released to students through CollegeBoard.com earlier this month. This diagnostic exam has many benefits in identifying students for college scholarships as well as provide a predictive measurement for the Junior year SAT exam. NPHS staff has set a school goal on improving SAT scores for our Juniors, and we will be actively assisting students in understanding the assessment format, types and rigor of questions, and strategies useful for standardized testing.



NPHS Receives the Purple Heart Designation

The Indiana Purple Star School Designation honors schools that have displayed a significant commitment to service members, veterans, students and families connected to our nation's military. On November 9th, our school was honored to join the list of this year's Purple Star recipients. New Prairie has always had a proud history of supporting our nation's military and those who fight to defend our freedoms. We recognize the tremendous courage and sacrifice made by all who serve our great nation and strive to support their families by connecting them with resources that can help inform and encourage them wherever they are in their journey. We're grateful for the designation and for the values that their service instills in our community.

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

Students identified as 21st Century Scholars met with the school counselors during the last week of November. Information was shared about the requirements to maintain the scholarship and the Scholar Track program. Students created accounts in Scholar Track, checked their contact information and began completing activities aligned with their grade level. Parents/guardians of participants were emailed with additional information. All information about this program can be accessed at <https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars/>.



Attendance

Student attendance continues to be one of the biggest challenges that schools face today. When students are present in class, they have a better opportunity to learn new materials and master content with their teachers. It is also worth noting that student attendance rates must be above 90% in order to be approved for school-sponsored activities such as field trips and school dances.

We do understand at times that students are ill and need to stay home. We also encourage exercising healthy habits to maintain overall positive health. If you know that your student is going to be out, please contact the main office as soon as possible.

WINTER DRIVING

As the Winter weather approaches, I would like to take a moment to encourage cautious driving when outside conditions are dangerous. Roads can be slippery, so give yourself extra room to slow down, especially with children nearby. We will be reminding student drivers to be careful on the roads so that they can arrive safely to school and home.



Scheduling Information

Scheduling for the 24-25 school year will begin in January. The Guidance Department will hold class meetings during Success Time after Winter Break to introduce the scheduling process to students in grades 9-11.

Students will then meet individually with their school counselor to review graduation requirements and select courses for next year. Student course selections will be entered in PowerSchool during the student's meeting. After the scheduling meeting, student course selection sheets will be emailed to students and parents for review. School Counselors can be contacted with any questions or concerns. The master schedule for the 24-25 school year will be created based on the student course requests.

The 24-25 Curriculum Guide link will be emailed and posted on the NPHS website in January. We encourage students to use careful thought when selecting courses for next year. Students choosing year-long courses are making a commitment for two semesters. Students will not be taken out of a year-long course at semester. We will do our best to schedule the requested courses; however, we **do not** honor specific teacher or lunch requests.

School counselors are always available throughout this process, please feel free to contact your student's assigned counselor with questions.





NPBS OPEN TUTORING SCHEDULE 2023

ALL TIMES ARE 2:30-3:30PM CST

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 MATH WORLD LANGUAGE | 5 MATH | 6 SCIENCE | 7 ENGLISH | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 MATH WORLD LANGUAGE | 12 MATH | 13 SCIENCE | 14 ENGLISH | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 MATH WORLD LANGUAGE | 19 MATH | 20 SCIENCE | 21 ENGLISH | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

----- WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL -----

After School Tutoring

NPBS will continue to offer after school tutoring for the following subjects: math, english, science, and world language. A calendar will be published each month on our NPBS Facebook page and through Schoology. Tutoring is from 2:30-3:30pm. Students will meet the tutors in the cafeteria annex on the assigned days. There is no need to pre-register for a tutoring session.

NPBS Final Exams

Semester 1 final exams will be on the last two student days before Winter Break. A special schedule will be used to allow for sufficient time in the testing rooms with short breaks in between for additional studying/preparation. Odd period classes (1, 3, 5, and 7) will give finals on Thursday, December 21. Even period finals will be on Friday, December 22.

NAEP Testing Date

New Prairie High School was selected by National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) to administer both a reading and math exam for all 12th graders on February 1st. Also known as the Nation's Report card, NAEP is a national resource for continuous assessment of what students know and can do. More information can be found at the following website:
<https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

IMPORTANT DATES

12/10 - Santa's Workshop (1-3pm)
hosted by the National Honor Society

12/11 - Winter Choir Concert (MS/HS)

12/14 - Winter Band Concert

12/21 - Final Exams Day 1

12/22 - Final Exams Day 2

12/22 - Last day of Semester 1

12/23-1/7 - Winter Break

1/8 - Teacher Work Day - No students

1/15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

2/1 - NAEP Testing Date - SENIORS ONLY

2/6 - Course Selection Night - Incoming NPBS Freshman

Also, check out npcougars.com for athletic dates/times, ticket information, and post-event summaries.

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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