

a culture of excellence

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

WINTER 2023-24

NPUSC NAMED MODEL PLC DISTRICT

NPUSC is proud to share that on Sept. 22, 2023, the district was named a Model Professional Learning Communities at Work® School District! Only 37 total districts in the entire nation earned this award, which is only about one for every 500 districts. The award is through Solution Tree, a company that specializes in effective educational professional development. NPUSC has successfully implemented their Professional Learning Communities (PLC) process which has already shown to improve student achievement at NPUSC.

PLCs are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is on-going, job embedded learning for the adults who serve those students. The three big ideas of a PLC call upon educators to:

1. Focus on learning.
2. Build a collaborative culture.
3. Create a results orientation.

“We are honored to receive this award,” stated NPUSC Superintendent Dr. Paul White. “There is still much to be done, but this award shows we are on the right track to help all students learn at high levels. The NPUSC teachers and principals have been amazing in the implementation of this student learning approach—they deserve all the credit for this honor.”

Solution Tree’s recognition takes into account several aspects: demonstration of a commitment to PLC concepts, implementation of these concepts for at least three years and clear evidence of improved student learning over that period. Once measurable results can be seen, the school must explain its practices, structures and culture and submit its application for consideration by the PLC Review Committee.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work®, educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown



“a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud them and congratulate them for achieving this very significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey.”

Recognized Model PLC schools are listed on allthingsplc.info, where they share implementation strategies, structures and performance with other educators interested in improving their schools. Tools for team collaboration, articles and research about PLCs, blog posts and other related resources are also available on the site. The site was developed and is maintained by Solution Tree, a leading provider of educational strategies and tools that improve staff and student performance. For more than 20 years, Solution Tree resources have helped K-12 teachers and administrators create schools where all children succeed.



What's Inside:

- Rolling Prairie Elementary Earns National Blue Ribbon Status
- NPUSC Named Model PLC District
- 2023 Spring Athletic Championships Recap
- A Day In the Life of NPUSC





ROLLING PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY EARNS 2023 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON STATUS

NPUSC is proud to announce that on September 19 Rolling Prairie Elementary was named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2023 by the United States Department of Education! The National Blue Ribbon award is a prestigious honor given to schools that show excellence in overall academic performance and show substantial progress in closing achievement gaps on state assessments.



According to the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, a school that earns the Blue Ribbon Award is an inspiration and national example to other schools of what it looks like to “Raise the bar in education.” Cardona is passionate about “fostering academic excellence and building positive school cultures that support students of all backgrounds to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.”

This award validates the dedication and achievement of Rolling Prairie Elementary’s amazing community.

Well done, administration, teachers, staff, students, families and friends of Rolling Prairie Elementary!

Rolling Prairie Elementary Celebrates “Practice Makes Progress!”

On the day the National Blue Ribbon Schools were announced, all staff and students at Rolling Prairie Elementary gathered together to hear the names of which schools were officially named. Rolling Prairie Principal Dr. Pamela Moore shares about the experience, “When our school was announced, we cheered, celebrated with balloons and streamers, and gave each child a blue chocolate coin. Our mascot, Biscuit, cheered right alongside our school.” After that initial celebration, the school gathered a second time and wore t-shirts displaying the official National Blue Ribbon Schools logo. Rolling Prairie Elementary celebrated their hard work and chanted the school’s motto, “Practice Makes Progress!”



2023 SPRING ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS RECAP



Girls Softball Sectional, Regional, Semi-State and State Champions

The New Prairie softball team finished the season with a record of 31-5. During the regular season the Cougars were the champions of the prestigious Twin Lakes

Tournament. In the postseason, the Cougars were undefeated and won the first team IHSA state championship in school history. Head Coach Derek Hicks shares, “I am extremely proud of the ladies on and off the field. Not only were they state champions on the field, they had the honor of being named an academic all-state team.”

“Last year, 2022-23, was a banner year of success for New Prairie student-athletes. On top of all of our individual and team academic success which sets the foundation, we had numerous individual All-NIC, All-District and All-State honorees. Our teams captured six IHSA Sectional Championships, two IHSA Regional Championships, two IHSA Semi-State Championships, and New Prairie Softball earned our first IHSA Team State Championship in any sport. A big THANK YOU to our student-athletes/coaches for their time and effort and to all of our fans for their support of New Prairie High School!”

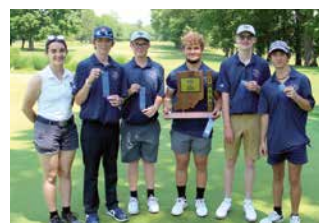
-NPUSC Athletic Director Ben Bachmann



Boys Baseball Sectional Champions

The New Prairie baseball team had a strong year, finishing 22-8-1 and ranking eighth in the state. The Cougars won their first sectional championship since 2005 before falling to state power Andean

in the regional competition. Coach Mark Schellinger shares, “We had a great group of guys that were unselfish. They were very enjoyable to be around, and that camaraderie was evident in the way they practiced and played. It started with our seniors, but we had a lot of underclassmen step up and take leadership roles as well. It was successful, not just because of our record, but because of the way our guys worked together as a group!”



Boys Golf Sectional Champions

The New Prairie boys golf team had a strong set of returning varsity players from previous years (one senior and three juniors) as well as a junior who joined the team and stepped up to take on a varsity spot.

The boys have worked hard over the past few seasons and their efforts have paid off, placing them as sectional champions for 2023. Coach Alex Homann shares, “Taking home the sectional trophy was a goal of mine since I started coaching in the 2021 season. We went into the 2023 season confident in our goals. I am confident in the returning seniors’ abilities and I’m looking forward to what the 2024 season will bring. Congratulations again on your championship seasons and thank you to everyone for all you do to help promote our New Prairie student-athletes.”




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



Superintendent's Message

We have had a great first few months of the 2023-24 school year! I am pleased to share about two major awards NPUSC has won in September: Rolling Prairie Elementary earned the National Blue Ribbon status and NPUSC earned Model PLC District Status! Both of these awards are very difficult to achieve. Congratulations to all who have worked hard to make these two distinctions a reality!

This newsletter will discuss these two awards more in depth as well as give a 2023 Spring Sports Update and some pictures of a day in the life of NPUSC students.



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

Teachers and Administration Share their Excitement about the National Blue Ribbon Status

"What an incredible honor for all of our staff and students! I am so thankful I get to be part of this journey with the most amazing and dedicated students and staff. The work we do together as a team to make sure every student is educated, loved and cared for makes this the best place to be."

—Krissy Surma, Kindergarten Rolling Prairie Elementary Teacher

"I am so proud to teach at Rolling Prairie. Our community of staff, parents and students work together to embrace change, fail forward and celebrate successes. I love the way we hold each other up, yet also hold each other accountable to ensure all students are making gains on high levels of learning."

—Michele Kenaga, Fourth Grade Rolling Prairie Elementary Teacher

"At Rolling Prairie Elementary School, we foster a culture that supports and believes in ALL of our students. I am so proud of the hard work of our students, staff, families and community. Our motto, "Practice Makes Progress," is what we believe contributes to our academic excellence. Great job, Bulldogs!"

—Dr. Pamela Moore, Principal of Rolling Prairie Elementary

"We are so proud of the students and staff at Rolling Prairie! This award is a testament to the dedication and work of our teachers and students at Rolling Prairie Elementary. This award is also an example of the additional positive impact schools have on student achievement when Professional Learning Community processes are fully implemented over a multi-year period. NPUSC is very proud of this incredible honor!"

—Dr. Paul White, NPUSC Superintendent



The Celebration Continues in Washington

Rolling Prairie representatives traveled to Washington, DC, mid-November as part of the National Blue Ribbon award event. While there, they gathered with other awardees, celebrated and received a plaque.



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

New Prairie United School Corporation
 5327 North Cougar Road, New Carlisle, IN 46552
 NPUSC District (574) 654-7273
 (219) 778-2814
 New Prairie High School..... (574) 654-7271
 (219) 778-2215
 New Prairie Middle School (574) 654-3070
 (219) 778-4435
 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



Visit Our Website for our up to date School Calendar



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

Non-Profit Org.
 US Postage
 PAID
 Milford, IN
 Permit No. 2

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

WANT TO TRANSFER TO NPUSC?

Your student(s) are welcome at New Prairie



NPUSC has so much to offer. If you're interested in transferring to NPUSC, it's not too late! Registration for 2023-24 New Students is still open!! Please visit our District Website and click "Online Registration" or call the NPUSC Corporation Office at (574) 654-7273. We are here to help!

A Day In the Life of NPUSC



Hawaiian Day at New Prairie MS

Teacher Training in a Writing Program at Prairie View Elementary



Olive Elementary Computer Lab now has New Modern Kid-Friendly Furniture

