

a culture of excellence

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

SUMMER 2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 GRADUATES!



A special congratulations goes out to all of the 2025 seniors! Here are some interesting stats on the graduating class of 2025:

- 220 students graduated
- 44 students earned a 4.0 GPA or higher
- Average overall SAT score of 970 points
(This is 43 points higher than the state average for Indiana's public schools.)

On Thursday, May 1, the New Prairie School Board hosted the NPHS Class of 2025 Top Ten Dinner. This event is provided to ten graduating seniors with the highest GPA at New Prairie High School.



Congratulations to Wyatt Keller for being named valedictorian and to Rachel Paul for being named salutatorian of the class of 2025. Both Wyatt and Rachel were recognized at

the Kiwanis KBF Builds Forever Awards Banquet May 21 at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium. Furthermore, Wyatt Keller was selected as an Indiana Academic All-Star. This program sponsored by the Indiana Association of School Principals hosted at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in Indianapolis recognizes seniors who excel in the classroom and are actively involved in their school and community. Wyatt was selected as 1 of 40 Academic All-Stars in the state with over 225 students being nominated by their schools.



Many students from New Prairie received top honors at the AK Smith LaPorte County Career and Technical Education Awards Night. Included in these awards were the first ever Robert Schaffer Fire Science Award, Top HOSA Winners, Red Hero Honor Scholarship, Ambassador of the Year, several Outstanding Program Students of the Year and the Director's Award. Congratulations are also in order for students who earned Technical Honors Awards, Dual Credit and the Governor's Work Ethic Certificate.

Congratulations to the class of 2025! We wish you all the best on your next endeavors!



What's Inside:

- HOSA Compete at State and Nationals!
- 2025 Career Fair Thanks to Amazon Sponsorship
- Congratulations to the 2025 Graduates!
- Wrestling Highlights

MISSION

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



Superintendent's Message

As we come to the close of the 2024-25 school year, I am once again pleased to share with you that we have had a great year in many ways! Student opportunity and achievement both continue to excel. This newsletter will share just some of those exciting stories, good news of what our students and staff have been up to the past few months. There are also basic instructions on registration for the 2025-26 school year.



I am grateful to serve this amazing community and wish everyone all a wonderful summer break.

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

Citizen of the Year Award



Congratulations to NPHS freshman Valeria Markiewicz for being one of two individuals to receive the Citizen of the Year award from LaPorte County EMS for her life-saving efforts in January! Here she is pictured with Eric Fenstermaker, LaPorte County EMS Administrator.

NPUSC HOSA

Nashville, Tennessee
June 18-22



HOSA Compete at State and Nationals!

This year NPUSC had 50 students compete at the Indiana State HOSA Competition held in Indianapolis on April 14-16. While there, students had the opportunity to compete in their chosen events, attend career workshops and combine their anatomy skills in the Anatomage Challenge. Additionally, NPUSC HOSA welcomed the Zac Mago Foundation who screened more than 75 Hoosier students for undetected heart conditions.

Students who were top finalists in their event will compete at the international competition in June. Good luck Cougars!

High School Qualifiers include:

- Madelyn Long – Interviewing Skills
- CeCe Walls – Job Seeking Skills
- Joseph Smith – Respiratory Therapy
- Faith Robbins – Community Awareness
- Abby McKinney – Occupational Therapy
- Olivia Rice – Community Awareness
- Meghan McCarthy – Home Health Aide

Middle School Qualifiers include:

- Olivia Hardy – Medical Terminology
- Olivia Smith – Health Education
- Lorelei Oakes – Life Threatening Situations
- Lydia Humes – Health Career Preparation
- Gabby Smith – Health Education
- Casey Jarosik – Health Living

GOODLUCK AT HOSA NATIONALS

2025 CAREER FAIR THANKS TO AMAZON SPONSORSHIP!

On Thursday, May 8, New Prairie United School Corporation hosted its second annual Community and Career Fun Fair, a dynamic event that connected students, families and local residents with educational, employment and community resources. This year's event was sponsored by Amazon, whose generous support helped to expand opportunities and access to career exploration for attendees of all ages. The Community and Career Fun Fair featured representatives from more than 50 colleges, trade schools, CTE pathway programs, local businesses, community organizations and major employers—all providing information, answering questions and engaging directly with students and families. From hands-on career demonstrations to job opportunities and postsecondary planning, the fair offered a variety of ways for students and families to explore career options.

In addition to career and education booths, Session 2 also featured free food (hot dogs, pretzels, snow cones, etc.), free games and a free raffle with lots of great prizes.

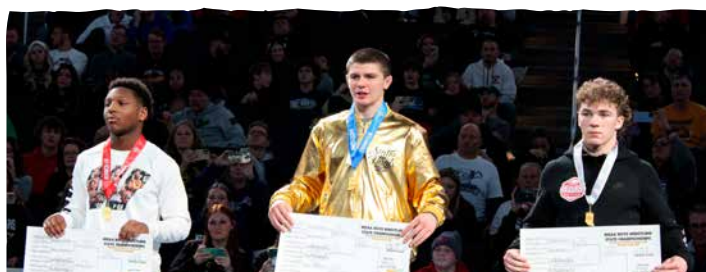


Wrestling Highlights

Individual State Champion and Team State Finals Appearance

The New Prairie Wrestling Team celebrated an extraordinary season with an impressive eighth place at the IHSAA State Finals. Freshman MJ Staples led the charge, becoming the program's first freshman state champion with an unblemished 45-0 record. He was joined in state success by junior Jeffrey Huyvaert, who earned his third state medal (fifth place) and senior Devin Kendrex, who placed sixth in his fourth consecutive state appearance. Hayden Whitenack also qualified for the state tournament.

As a team, New Prairie posted a strong 19-4 record, went undefeated in the NIC and achieved a landmark victory over Penn. Their dominance was further evident by winning the sectional title and sending all 14 wrestlers to regionals. The team had nine wrestlers earn All-Conference NIC and six Academic All-State honorees. Individual sectional titles were earned by Michael Skaggs, Nate Scott, Caleb Halfacre, Jeffrey Huyvaert, Jayden Lewis, MJ Staples, Hayden Whitenack, Devin Kendrex and Lee Atherton.



Thank you to all of our exhibitors who participated this year:

1st Source Bank
96.7 The Eagle/Rock 106.5 Radio
Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Pathways
Amazon
Boys & Girls Club
Building Trades Construction Pathway
Business Pathway
Carpenter's Daughter
D.A. Dobb
Digital Design Pathway
Family Advocates
General Insurance Services, Inc.
Goyette Mechanical
Handmade Studio
HealthLinc
Horizon Bank
Human Services/Education Pathways
Indiana Commission for Higher Education
Indiana Department of Transportation
Indiana University Northwest
Indiana University South Bend
International Motors Proving Ground
ITRCC
Ivy Tech Community College
Staymaker at Journeyman
Kankakee Township Fire Department
Kuert Concrete
Lake Michigan College
LaPorte County Public Library
LaPorte County EMS
LaPorte County Extension/4-H
McColly Real Estate
New Carlisle Public Library
New Prairie Rocket Football and Cheer
NPHS Business Professionals of America
NPHS Future Farmers of America/Agriculture Pathway
NPHS Music Program/Band and Choir Pathways
NPHS Robotics Club
Purdue University Northwest
Pyramid Equipment
Ryan Companies US, Inc.
Schneider Geomatics
South Bend Electrical JATC IBEW 153
St. Joseph County Police Department
Suffolk Construction
TalentSource
United Way of LaPorte County
US Army Recruiting Office
Visual Arts Pathway
Viterra
Walbridge

Indoor Percussion Ensemble Named State Champions!

The New Prairie High School Indoor Percussion Ensemble had a fantastic year as they put on an entertaining show, *The Depths of Destiny*. They started practicing this show in November and travelled throughout Indiana to compete in preparation for the IPA Regional A Finals in late March. After their competition, the group had the highest score out of all the schools that competed, earning them the title of State Champions for the first time in school history!



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

Philip King.....President
Jason DeMeyer.....Vice President
Jill Smith.....Secretary
Rich Gadacz.....Member
Rich Shail.....Member

Join us online!



Board meetings can now be viewed live through the district's YouTube channel. Search New Prairie Unified School District Board Meetings.

Scan the QR code to watch!

Have you Registered for the 2025-26 School Year Yet?

Registration for the 2025-26 school year is now open! This includes:

- Incoming kindergartners
- New students
- Returning students (parents/guardians should have received a code)

Please scan the following QR code for registration instructions:



Contact Us

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(219) 778-2814
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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



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Visit Our Website for our
up to date School Calendar



New Prairie United School Corporation
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New Carlisle, IN 46552

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Welcoming Two New Head Coaches



Drew Lutz
Head Basketball Coach

New Prairie Schools is excited to announce the hiring of Drew Lutz as the next Varsity Boys Basketball Coach of the New Prairie Cougars. Coach Lutz has been an assistant coach at the New College of Florida (NAIA) where he helped lead the team to immediate improvement, doubling team wins from the previous season. Coach Lutz is a 2019 graduate of Penn High School, where he amassed one of the most impactful high school careers in recent northern Indiana basketball. His standout high school career led to a division one scholarship at Incarnate Word University in San Antonio, Texas. Coach Lutz became a three-year starter at Incarnate Word, including earning Team Captain status as just a sophomore. Coach Lutz finished his career at Bethel University closer to home, where he was a two-time NAIA All-American and also served as Team Captain.

Coach Lutz brings considerable skills and attributes to his new role. He is a natural leader with a vision to impact NPHS Basketball K-12. He has already shown an ability to organize, motivate and lead. Finally, he is also passionate about the total development of young people and making a positive impact that goes beyond basketball.

Coach Lutz shares, "I am very grateful for the opportunity to be the Head Basketball Coach at New Prairie. Being a kid from Indiana, this is special. It has been a dream of mine to be a Head Basketball Coach especially in the basketball state. I am blessed to have had support from my amazing wife with making this decision. I am very thankful for the immediate support I have felt by everyone at New Prairie and I am excited to get to work."



Ryan O'Shea
Head Football Coach

NPUSC is excited to announce the hiring of Ryan O'Shea as the next Head Football Coach of the New Prairie Cougars. Coach O'Shea has spent the past five seasons as head football coach at Lakeland High School, where he has led the program to strong improvement by posting .500 or better records in each of the past two seasons while averaging over 30 points per game on offense.

Coach O'Shea brings many skills and attributes to the position. He is a passionate leader of young men and his coaching staff. He has established a proven track record as one of the leading offensive coaches in northern Indiana with a strong ability to develop quarterbacks and he is a strong organizer and program developer. Finally, he is also passionate about his work in the classroom with students and being a part of the larger school community. Coach O'Shea holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ball State University and is licensed in mathematics education. He will teach Business at NPHS.

Coach O'Shea is looking forward to this new role. He shares, "This is one of the premier programs in the state of Indiana, rich with tradition and high expectations. New Prairie is truly a dream job of mine. I'm excited to work with the staff, continue that tradition and build upon it. This program means a lot to me and my family, as my grandfather Frank O'Shea, who is a member of the Indiana Football Hall of Fame, graduated from New Carlisle High School along with my grandmother. I've also learned many lessons of the game from my father Kevin, who is also in the Indiana Football Hall of Fame. I have a passion for being a part of the community and also teaching in the classroom. I love seeing young people succeed in the classroom and on the field. New Prairie is like home to me, and I promise to work hard to make this community proud of the product we will put on the field on Friday nights. Go Cougars!"