



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

October 2025



October is an important month at New Prairie High School, marking not just a change in season but also a significant milestone in our commitment to Ensuring High Levels of Learning for All students.

This month brings the end of our first quarter grading period—a critical moment to reflect on student progress and celebrate early successes. We look forward to connecting with all of you during Parent-Teacher Conferences. These conferences are important to our mission, providing time and space for discussions about your student's growth and the next steps in their educational journey.

Beyond of the classroom, we're filled with pride and excitement as our athletic teams head into post-season tournaments. It's a fantastic time to rally together and show our school spirit by supporting our student-athletes as they compete at the highest levels!

As always, Go Cougars!



- Mr. Heinold
NPHS Principal

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 Testing Information

Students in Grades 9–11 will be participating in PSAT Testing on Thursday, October 9th. The standardized PSAT test is used by educators as a predictor for success on the SAT exam that students take in the Spring of their Junior year. At NPHS, we use these exams to help track student growth from the beginning of their Freshman year to the end of their Junior year. The results also inform the collaborative work of our teams to create a guaranteed and viable curriculum for all.

During the testing time on October 9th, Seniors will have options of completing a service learning opportunity, job shadow experience, or college visit. Students will be provided a form to document the outcomes of their choice. Information has been shared with Seniors through Schoology, email, and in all-school announcements.

Parent Teacher Conferences

High School Parent Teacher Conferences will be slightly different this year. There will be one day in the Fall and one day in the Spring to accommodate meeting teachers in each semester. Our first conference date is coming up on Tuesday, October 14th from 3pm to 6:30pm CST. There will also be FAFSA information presented in the auditorium for students preparing for post-secondary opportunities.

Conferences are open house style and on a first come, first serve basis. Report cards will be available to be picked up during our conference night. Report cards not picked up at conference night will be given to students the following day.

The second Parent Teacher Conference night will be on Thursday, February 26th during the same time.



HEART SAFE REDESIGNATION

New Prairie High School, the first Heart Safe school in Indiana, was recently awarded a prestigious Heart Safe School redesignation sticker, affirming its commitment to student and staff well-being. This recognition highlights the school's preparedness to handle cardiac emergencies, including having easily accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and trained personnel ready to respond promptly and effectively. Achieving this status ensures a safer learning environment by meeting guidelines for sudden cardiac arrest prevention and response.



College Bound Cougars Activities in September

We continued this month with our College Bound Cougars programming, where all students in Grades 9-12 learned about the college process, as well as other career options so that they will be prepared to make the best possible decisions for their futures when they graduate from NPHS. Topics in September included:

Grade 9

My Foundation – High School – Students identified their foundations and made a plan to use them for success as they begin their high school experience.

Grade 10

Participating in My Life – Students learned that staying engaged in school and outside of school helps them discover interests and strengths.

What's Your Road? – Students began to combine their different interests in order to identify potential careers that fall within the overlap, thus broadening their scope of what is possible for their futures. As part of this, they heard from Nick Pollock, a representative from the Central Midwest Carpenters Union, who talked about job opportunities, education requirements, and desired employability skills for students interested in working in a trade union.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
FAFSA INFORMATION SESSIONS
NPHS AUDITORIUM

CHOOSE ONE THAT WORKS FOR YOU:

3:00-3:45 p.m.
4:00-4:45 p.m.
5:00-5:45 p.m.
6:00-6:45 p.m.

Grade 11

Challenging Myself – Students learned the value of pushing themselves to achieve success.

Grade 12

My Personal Brand – Students learned what a brand is and investigated their own.

For more information about College Bound Cougars, contact Tara White, Director of College & Career Readiness at twhite@npusc.k12.in.us.

5 REASONS

YOU SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA

Not really sure whether you or your child should fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or whether it affects you?
You should — and it probably does.

1
IT'S FREE.
The FAFSA doesn't cost anything to complete.

2
IT'S EASY.
The application has been majorly simplified over the past few years — and there are helpful pointers throughout.

3
IT'S FAST.
It takes most students just 23 minutes to complete the FAFSA: less time than it would take to watch your favorite show.

4
YOU PROBABLY QUALIFY.
More people qualify for federal student aid than you think — chances are, you're leaving money on the table by not applying.

5
IT MAY BE REQUIRED.
Many states, schools, and private scholarships require you to submit the FAFSA before they'll consider you for any financial aid.

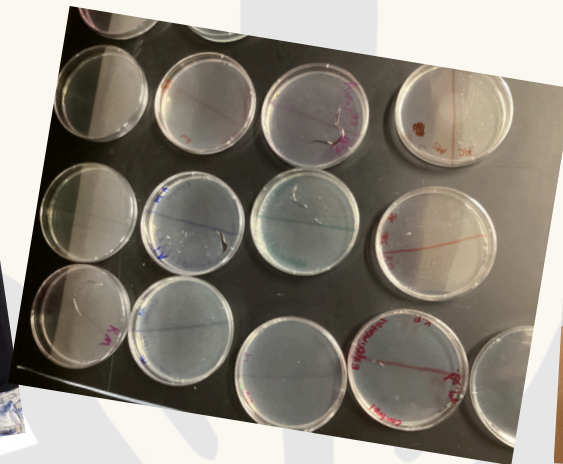
NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE FACTS — SHARE THEM AND THEN HEAD TO [FAFSA.GOV](https://fafsa.gov) TO GET IT DONE.

DON'T MISS THIS!

Science Spotlight

Biology classes recently conducted an investigation to determine if hand sanitizers do a better job cleaning hands of bacteria than traditional methods, like soap and water. Practicing what they learned about the science method, students designed and conducted a scientific investigation aimed at answering this question. Each group tested a different type of hand cleanser by collecting bacterial samples from their hands and plating them on petri dishes, then analyzed their data to share as a class to compare which cleanser was the most effective.

PLTW-Human Body Systems classes have been busy in the lab learning about how the human muscular and skeletal systems work together. Last week they conducted a chicken wing dissection, utilizing comparative anatomy to learn more about the anatomy of the human arm. This week they are building models of muscle groups on their Manikens - a tool students use throughout the year-long course to model a variety of anatomical structures with clay.



International Honor Society Induction

New Prairie High School celebrated academic excellence by inducting 18 high school students into the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH) and the Société Honoraire de Français (SHF) during a joint ceremony held on Sunday evening, September 28th.

These national societies honor students who have achieved outstanding scholastic success and demonstrated a commitment to Spanish, Portuguese, and Francophone languages and cultures. New Prairie's Chapter (Juan Carlos) of the SHH (Spanish/Portuguese) recognizes students who maintain an honor average (high GPA) through a minimum of three semesters of language study. New Prairie's Charter of the SHF (French) recognizes students for high scholarly excellence and mastery in French studies. Membership provides students with eligibility for exclusive national scholarships and travel awards, along with opportunities to participate in cultural service projects on campus and in the community.

The school congratulates the new inductees for earning this prestigious academic distinction!



Athletics Online Store

The New Prairie High School Athletic Department has an online store for NP Spirit Wear. You can access the store [here](#).



Back to School Info

In this section, there are a number of key pieces of information to get the school year started right. You can view documents using the links below. Please contact the Main Office if you have any questions.

[Daily Bell Schedule](#)

[Military Opt Out Form](#)

[Grade 12 Vaccination Reminder](#)

[Building Map](#)

[Dismissal Procedures/Parking](#)

[Volunteer Background Check](#)

NPUSC District Calendar

In mid-July, the School Board adopted an update to the 2025-2026 School Calendar, including modifying a select number of Late Start Friday dates. [Clicking on this link](#) will take you to the updated calendar located on the NPUSC website.

IMPORTANT DATES

10/9 – PSAT Testing Day; End of 1st Quarter

10/14 – Parent-Teacher Conferences

10/15 – Jostens Freshman Ring Meeting (during RTI)

10/17-10/20 – Fall Break – No School

10/22 – Jostens Senior Meeting (during RTI)

10/23 – Fall Blood Drive

10/29 – Jostens Ordering Deadline

11/4 – Teacher Work Day – No Students

11/12 – Jostens Delivery Date

11/26-11/28 – Thanksgiving Break

12/8 – FLEX Day

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

Mr. Justin Heinold, Principal
justinheinold@npusc.k12.in.us

NPHS PSAT Testing

October 9, 2025



Grades 9-11 take the PSAT on Thursday, October 9

Testing room locations will be posted on Schoology and in RTI Scheduler. Most students will test with their Cougar Mentor teacher but not all so make sure to check the rosters for your testing location. Students need to report to their testing room by 7:15am.

PSAT scores give NPHS staff information on potential for AP classes, predict SAT scores, can meet prerequisite requirements for dual credit at the Career Center and provide students a valuable tool for future test prep.

What to bring...

- CHARGED IPAD and charging cord/brick
- Acceptable Calculator - scientific and graphing recommended
- Earphones/ear buds
- for students with read aloud accommodation
- snacks/drinks (must be kept on the floor until break)

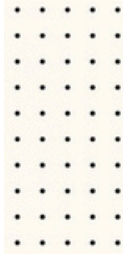
Prohibited Items...

ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED!! Cell phones, smartwatches, fitness trackers, etc will be collected by the teacher and kept until dismissal. All devices must be powered off before being collected.

For more information...

For more information on the PSAT/NMSQT for Grades 10 and 11, visit <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>.

For more information on the PSAT 8/9 for Grade 9, visit <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9>



SAT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

TO DO **HOW** TO PRACTICE

> Download the Daily Practice for the SAT app

> Khan Academy



THESE ARE THE FACTS:



Hard questions don't count any more than easy ones.

If you see a really advanced equation, you can always skip it and come back to it later. Every question is worth the same amount of points, so just answer the easiest ones first.



You get 200 points for free!

Both the Math section and the English section are scored from 200 to 800. So, you start the SAT with 200 points in each section. In other words, you cannot score lower than 400.



Take a guess!

On the SAT, you do not lose points for an incorrect answer. This means that you should always guess instead of leaving an answer blank. If you guess on 8 multiple choice questions, the odds are that you will answer at least 2 of them correctly.



MATH

Have teachers told you not to "guess and check?" Well, on the SAT, you can guess and check all you want!

Need a 530 +



Eliminate Wrong Answers:

If you can cross off one answer you know is wrong, then you have a 33% chance of guessing correctly. If you know that two answers are definitely wrong, then you have a 50% chance of guessing correctly!

READING + WRITING & LANGUAGE

NEED A 480 +

Reading: 52 question in 65 minutes

Writing and Language: 44 questions in 35 minutes



Reading-Types of Questions:

- How the Author Uses Evidence
- Understand Words in Context
- Analysis in History/ Social Studies and Science

Eliminate Wrong Answers:

If you can cross off one answer you know is wrong, then you have a 33% chance of guessing correctly. If you know that two answers are definitely wrong, then you have a 50% chance of guessing correctly!

Writing/Language -

Types of Questions:

- Expression of Ideas - development, organization, effective use of language
- Standard English Conventions

> **Calculators allowed:** With the digital SAT, you may use a calculator on every question.

> **You don't need to show your work:**

As long as you answer correctly, it doesn't matter what strategy you use.

> **What math is even on the SAT?**

Most of the math tested on the SAT is learned in Algebra I.

**LINK COLLEGE BOARD AND KHAN
ACADEMY ACCOUNTS FOR A
PERSONALIZED SAT STUDY PLAN.**

satpractice.org