



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

September 2025



As the school year gets into full swing, a new month brings new opportunities. September at New Prairie High School is already off to a phenomenal start. It's a joy to see our classrooms alive with discussion and collaboration as teachers and students build on the strong foundation laid in August. We are on track for what I know will be an incredibly impactful year, and it's all thanks to the collective effort of our entire community.

Homecoming is one of my favorite times of the year--an opportunity to celebrate our traditions. It's a special time to showcase our Cougar pride, welcome back former students, and create new memories together. I encourage everyone to get involved and join the festivities. Whether you're lining the streets for the parade, cheering on our team under the Friday night lights, or dancing the night away at the Homecoming Dance, your presence makes a difference. Let's come together and make this Homecoming our most spirited one yet!

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. More information will be shared with Seniors through Schoology and in all-school announcements.



ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a crucial component for student success. If your student is going to be out for any reason, please contact the office to let our staff know.

At this time in the year, students should now be familiar with their classroom locations. Our administrative staff has been diligent about identifying habitual tardiness and truancy. Please reinforce the importance of punctuality with your students.

Back to School Information

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](#)

[District School Calendar](#)

[Military Opt Out Form](#)

[Grade 12 Vaccination Reminder](#)

[Building Map](#)

[Dismissal Procedures/Parking](#)

[Volunteer Background Check](#)



College Bound Cougars

Activities in August

Last month kicked off 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 August included:

Grade 9

My Life's Work – Students discovered how they can live their life's work vs. just going to a job every day. They also heard from a member of the Indiana National Guard about job opportunities in the military.

AchieveWorks Skills Assessment – Students completed this assessment to ensure they are prepared for college and work-ready with a greater understanding of their skillset and ways to develop individual skills.

Grade 10

AchieveWorks Personality Assessment – Students completed this assessment to identify their personality type and see how it relates to post-secondary settings.

Grade 11

AchieveWorks Intelligences Assessment – Students completed this assessment to help them recognize their unique intellect, boost confidence levels, strengthen both emotional and multiple intelligences, and explore personalized career recommendations.

Grade 12

Career Interest Profiler – The Career Interest Profiler is an online career interest assessment for students based on Holland's interest codes. When students completed the Career Interest Profiler, their results displayed their top Holland Code matches.

Types of Scholarships – Students learned about types of scholarships, reflected on how they will search, and made a plan for applying for scholarships.

National Scholarship Search – Students took part in a scholarship search demonstration to gather ideas on what scholarships might be right.

All Grades 9-12

Academic SMART Goal Setting – All students created a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Bound) goal related to their academic success.

Extracurricular Activities – All students received information on all of the available extracurricular activities at NPHS and identified ones in which they are interested in participating.

My College Assessments – All students learned the basics of the major standardized tests (SAT, PSAT, AP) required by many colleges and important for earning college credits and scholarship opportunities.

My Test Prep Plan – All students learned about the various ways to prepare for standardized tests such as PSAT, SAT, AP, etc., and planned their preparation route. Students also explored the free test preparation tools for all of these exams available to them in Naviance.

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



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.

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 40-minute Success Time built into their day (9:45-10:25). 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.



Homecoming Events

The New Prairie High School Homecoming Football game is scheduled for Friday, October 3rd against Mishawaka Marian. 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!

The Homecoming Dance will be on Saturday night, October 4th at the High School. For all those interested in attending, be sure you are aware of the criteria for purchasing tickets. Students must be eligible based on attendance, grades, and behavior as noted in the NPHS Student Handbook.

Clubs and organizations will be putting together their floats for the Homecoming Parade. This year, the parade will be in New Carlisle. Be on the lookout for more information about dates and locations for this and all Homecoming activities! Students will see this information in Schoology and all-school announcements. Additional information may be available on the school's social media platforms.



Athletics Online Store

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



FLEX Days

This year, New Prairie will have two FLEX Days in the first semester--one in September and one in December. They will be on Mondays this year. There will be an additional FLEX day on Monday, February 23rd. On our scheduled FLEX Days, 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.

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

9/22 - FLEX Day

9/29 - Picture Retake Day

9/29-10/3 - Homecoming Activities

10/4 - Homecoming Dance

10/9 - PSAT Testing Day

10/9 - End of 1st Quarter

10/14 - Parent-Teacher Conference

10/17-10/20 - Fall Break - No School

11/4 - Teacher Work Day - No Students

11/13 - Mobile Dentist

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.

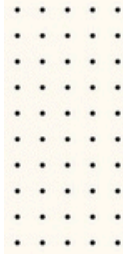
Contact Information

Phone: (574) 654-7271
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<https://www.npusc.k12.in.us/new-prairie-high-school/>

facebook.com/newprairiecougars

Mr. Justin Heinold, Principal
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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!

> **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.

Writing/Language -

Types of Questions:

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

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

satpractice.org