



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

December 2025



As we begin the month of December, we enter our final push toward the end of the first semester. We want to thank our supportive community once again for the continuous dedication and positive energy that makes New Prairie a truly exceptional place to learn and grow. We saw our students and families go above and beyond to give generously during our Fall Food Drive which will go directly to provide for those in need!

This season, we also want to invite you to experience the vibrant life of our school. Come cheer on our winter sports teams—your presence in the stands makes a real difference! Also, don't miss our performing arts celebrations this month, as our talented students showcase their hard work.

As this semester concludes and the winter break begins, we wish all of our families a peaceful, restful, and happy holiday season!

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.



Cougar PRIDE

The P.R.I.D.E. values—Preparation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence—are far more than just school rules. They are the essential building blocks for social and academic achievement, strong character development, and future professional success. By consistently teaching these values and holding students accountable for them daily, we are directly preparing them for life beyond high school.

- Preparation and Determination ensure your student is developing the skills needed to manage complex college workloads and meet career deadlines.
- Respect cultivates the ability to collaborate effectively in diverse teams, a necessity in every workplace.
- Integrity builds the trust and ethical foundation that employers, universities, and communities rely upon.
- Excellence motivates students to pursue growth and achieve their full potential in all endeavors.



COUGAR CONNECT

New Prairie United School Corporation has partnered with Indiana Online to provide virtual courses to New Prairie students. Student must meet eligibility requirements. For students and families exploring virtual learning options, an informational meeting will be held at NPHS on Wednesday, December 3rd in the Cougar Den. The presentation will begin at 5:30pm. For more information, you can contact Mrs. Brennan, NPUSC Online Coordinator.

New Prairie United School Corporation



Kortney Brennan

NPUSC Online Coordinator

574-654-0411

kbrennan@npusc.k12.in.us

SEMESTER 1 FINAL EXAMS

The first semester is coming to an end. Our Final Exams will be during the school day on Thursday and Friday, December 18th and 19th.

A modified bell schedule is used to allow for additional time to complete the assessments. Students will meet and test in their ODD period classes on Thursday and EVEN period classes on Friday. Students are expected to be in attendance for the entirety of both days.

Please contact the office and your student's teachers immediately if you know your student will be out for any portion of these days. If students miss their final exam, they will be expected to come in on the Teacher Work Day (January 5th) in order to make up their exams.



Winter Weather

As the winter season approaches, we want to remind all of our families about our corporation policy on snow days versus eLearning days. NPUSC will utilize the following guidelines for weather cancellation days: the first weather cancellation day will be made up on 2/9/26. If there is a second cancellation day, it will be made up on 3/16/26. On cancellation days 3-7, we will be instructing LIVE through Zoom. Any weather cancellation days beyond that will be made up in late May/early June. A daily eLearning schedule is attached at the end of this newsletter.



NPHS Food Pantry

Our on-site food pantry has officially launched, supporting students and families in our school community. How it works:

- Submit your food request by Wednesday of each week, and your items will be ready for Friday pickup.
- Stop in before (6:50-7:15am) or after school (until 2:35pm) to pick your own items.
- We gladly accept non-perishable food, toiletries, and even pet food to help meet the full range of student needs.
- All items are donated and provided in good faith. Thank you for helping us care for one another.

Please consider donating throughout the school year if you're able. Every item, big or small, makes a difference. Together, we can make sure no student goes without.



College Bound Cougars Activities in November

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 November included:

Grade 9

My Learning Style – Students discovered their learning preference and created a plan to use it in the future.

Grade 10

My Success Habits – Students learned that creating certain habits can set them up for success.

Grade 11

Volunteering & Community Involvement – Students learned about the importance of giving back to the community and the ways that volunteering can enhance resumes and college applications.



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

Building Self-Confidence – Students started to think about areas in their own lives where they might be lacking self-confidence and started to identify ways in which to replace self-doubting feelings with more positive actions.

Grade 12

Beyond the Acceptance Letter – As students began to receive college acceptance letters, they learned there are important steps they must take before their first day on campus.

Employability Skills – Students heard from a local professional about the skills needed to be successful in today's job market, from interviewing tips to best practices as a new employee.

How Can Good AP Exam Scores Save You Money?

Here's an example...



NPHS Student takes 5 AP Exams and receives the following scores:

AP Art History - 3 AP Chemistry - 5
AP Language & Composition - 4 AP Precalculus - 4
AP U.S. History - 3

NPHS Student decides to attend Indiana University. Here's how those scores transfer into earned credits:

AP Art History = 3 credits
AP Language & Composition = 3 credits
AP U.S. History = 3 credits
AP Chemistry = 3 credits
AP Precalculus = 5 credits

17

total earned credits



These 17 total earned credits would have cost approximately \$357.12 per credit, so the total savings in tuition would be:

\$6,071.00

These 17 total earned credits would equal **one full semester** of classes, so this could be one less semester NPHS Student would need to live on campus. Those savings in room & board would total approximately:

\$6,992.00



Estimated **overall savings** for NPHS Student:

\$13,063.00



AP credits transfer to most school across the US, so check out [this site](https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies) or go to <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies> to find out what the savings might be for any campus you might be thinking about attending!

FINANCIAL AID & FAFSA WORKSHOPS

Get expert assistance with the 2026-27 FAFSA—a free step toward financial aid for college!

FAFSA WORKSHOP DATES

- October 22nd
- November 5th
- November 12th
- December 3rd
- December 9th

SAVE THE DATE!

- College & Financial Aid Night January 28th, 2026

Documents Necessary:

- 2024 Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings, and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses, and farms

AT LA CASA DE AMISTAD
3423 S MICHIGAN ST. SOUTH
BEND, IN 46614
6PM - 7:30PM

TALLERES SOBRE AYUDA FINANCIERA Y FAFSA

Obtenga ayuda de expertos con la FAFSA 2026-27: un paso gratuito hacia la ayuda financiera para la universidad!

FECHAS DEL TALLER DE FAFSA

- 22 de octubre
- 5 de noviembre
- 12 de noviembre
- 3 de diciembre
- 9 de diciembre

¡RESERVA LA FECHA!

- Noche de ayuda universitaria y financiera, 28 de enero de 2026

Documentos Necesarios:

- Declaración de impuestos de 2024
- Registros de manutención recibida a favor de los hijos
- Saldo actual de efectivo, ahorros y cuentas corrientes
- Valores netos de inversiones, negocios y fincas

LA CASA DE AMISTAD
3423 S MICHIGAN ST. SOUTH
BEND, IN 46614
6:00 - 7:30PM

Athletics Online Store

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



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](#)

[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

12/3 - Cougar Connect Information Night - 5:30pm CST (Cougar Den)

12/5 - Cap & Gown Ordering Deadline

12/8 - FLEX Day

12/13 - Frost and Flourish - Visual and Performing Arts Event

12/15 - NPHS Choir Holiday Concert

12/20-1/4 - Winter Recess

1/5 - Teacher Work Day - No Students

1/6 - First Student Day of Semester 2

1/15 - Blood Drive

1/19 - MLK Day - No School

1/23 - Two-Hour Delay Schedule

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



Frost & Flourish

Proudly Presented by
NPHS Visual & Performing Arts

Bring the Family and Join us for...

Food
Arts & Crafts
Photos
Small Group Performances
Musical Concert

At New Prairie High School
December 13th from 1-4 CST

Event is **Free to enter**. Donations welcome.
Snack bar is cash only

2025-2026 NPHS Synchronous eLearning Schedule

Begin at 9, 25 minute sessions

Teacher Preparation	7:00 -- 9:00 (2 hours)
Class period	Monday - Friday
1	9:00 – 9:25 (25 mins)
2	9:30 – 9:55 (25 mins)
3	10:00 – 10:25 (25 mins)
M: Cougar Mentor Time T-TH: Success	N/A
4	10:30 – 10:55 (25 mins)
5	11:00 --11:25 (25 mins)
6	11:30 – 11:55 (25 mins)
7	12:00 – 12:25 (25 mins)
Lunch	12:25 -- 12:55 (30 mins)
Independent Work, Teachers Available for Questions by Email	12:55 -- 2:30 (1 hr 35 min)