



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

February 2026



We finally made it to February! I am incredible grateful to our staff, students, and community for coming together to navigate the successive eLearning days we had in January, and I am looking forward to re-establishing our routines at NPHS.

This semester, our Juniors have been preparing for their SAT School Day exam, which is coming up on March 10th. Students are using class time and RTI sessions to review and refine critical math and english/language arts skills as well as practice test taking strategies. Be sure to talk with your Juniors about their preparation for this important day.

We also have our second Parent-Teacher Conference night coming up for the High School at the end of the month on February 26th. We encourage all families to take advantage of meeting with their student's second semester teachers to continue our school community effort to ensure high levels of learning for all students.

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.

NPHS TOP TEN 2026

Congratulations to this year's Top Ten students! These students have maintained the highest academic achievement through New Prairie's most rigorous coursework over the past four years. The entire NPHS staff applauds the work ethic, perseverance, attitude, and success of these individuals! We look forward to celebrating not only this group but all of our Seniors during their final semester of High School. Way to go, Cougars!!



Class of 2026

Alia Nix - Valedictorian
Jenna Kelly - Salutatorian
Ava Lux
CeCelia Walls
Colton Griffiths
Jenna Lenig
Gage McCallister
Blake Walker
Sullivan Kress
Delia Clark

SAT School Day Preparations

NPHS staff has set a school-wide goal for improving SAT scores for our junior class based on the SAT School Day Test. We will be actively assisting students in understanding the test format, types and rigor of questions, and strategies useful for standardized testing. These additional preparation sessions will be held during Success time, and students may be assigned multiple sessions based on student PSAT data. PSAT scores, along with a score report letter are available to all 9th-11th grade students who took the PSAT in October. The SAT School Day Test for all NPHS Juniors is scheduled for March 10th, 2026.



NPHS Food Pantry

The NPHS Food Pantry is still open and items are available! There are both food items and other non-food items for students and families. You can use the QR code below to request a prepackaged bag, which can also be delivered!

**NEW PRAIRIE
FOOD
PANTRY**
Opening Week of 11/17

REQUEST FORM:

<https://forms.gle/g2XmsXC4JAKDKyShZ>

College Bound Cougars Activities in January

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 January included:

Grade 9

Working With My Teachers – Students learned how to work to create a partnership with their teachers.

Grade 10

What Debt Looks Like – Students learned the basics of debt and discussed tips to manage it well.

Anatomy of a College Website – Students learned the components of a college website and how to navigate to find essential information about the school.

Grade 11

My Senior Year – Students reflected on what they have learned throughout their year and began to look forward to their senior year.

Grade 12

Leaving Home – Students explored how others have decided to leave home and listed pros and cons to leaving home after high school.



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.

FREE FAFSA COMPLETION SESSION



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 - 5-7 PM
COUGAR DEN @ NPHS



Students and families looking for help completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) are encouraged to attend this workshop. INvestEd will be at NPHS to help families complete the FAFSA and answer any financial aid questions. No sign up or registration needed. Stop by anytime from 5-7 PM for personalized help!

FLEX Day – February 23rd

On Monday, February 23rd, NPUSC has a planned Flex Day. These are professional development days for staff. Students are assigned work to complete on their iPads from home. Students are required to “check-in” for the day through Schoology, and then complete any tasks assigned by their teachers for that day. Staff will be able to respond to questions and emails at various times throughout the day until 3:00pm. If a student is having technical difficulties, they can reach out to our tech department at 574-654-0228 or 219-778-1496.

As a reminder, students do not report to the schools on Flex Days, and they do not have live instruction via Zoom. This is different than weather cancellation days, in which the synchronous learning plan at the end of this newsletter would be followed.



Meet Mooney

New Prairie High School welcomes it's newest member, Mooney! Mooney is a certified therapy dog specializing in anxiety and PTSD support. Mooney will be visiting the Guidance Department once a week.

More about Mooney:

- Provides comfort & helps reduce stress levels
- 2.5 year old Labradoodle (75% Poodle, 25% Lab)
- Hypoallergenic
- Blue Marle pattern
- Loves cuddles, pets, and being brushed

Mooney will be making her official visit at NPUSC on Thursday, February 5th.



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

2/5 - Boys and Girls Club Giveback

2/9 - Snow Make-Up Day--School in Session

2/12 - Step Up Day/Course Selection Night for Incoming Freshman

2/13 - Winter Blood Drive

2/23 - Flex Day

2/26 - HS Parent-Teacher Conferences; Current 9th Grade Parent Information Event; FAFSA Information Event

3/10 - SAT School Day Test (Juniors)

3/11 - End of Quarter 3

3/16 - Snow Make-Up Day--School in Session

4/6-4/10 - Spring Break - No School

5/2 - NPHS Prom

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

NEW PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL 9TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION NIGHT



**FEBRUARY 12,
2026**

**5:30PM IN THE HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM**

**CURRENT 8TH GRADE STUDENTS AND PARENTS, PLEASE
PLAN TO ATTEND! THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT AS WE WILL
BE DISCUSSING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENTS WILL BE COMPLETING
THEIR COURSE SELECTIONS FOR 9TH GRADE**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2026 IS PLANNED AS A BACK UP DATE IN
THE EVENT OF A E-LEARNING DAY**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

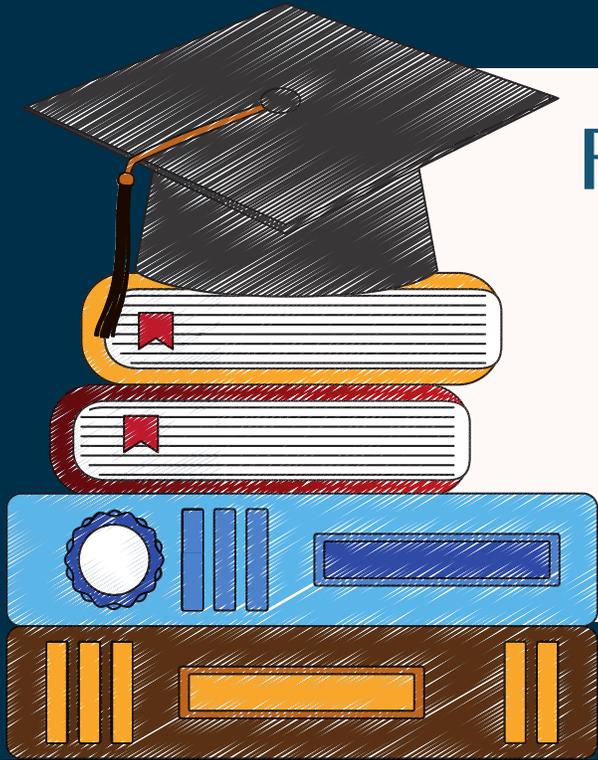
MRS. HORN (LAST NAMES A-G) | DAWNHORN@NPUSC.K12.IN.US | 574-654-0230

MRS. RUBY (LAST NAMES H-N) | ARUBY@NPUSC.K12.IN.US | 574-654-0437

MRS. KILCOYNE (LAST NAMES O-Z) | MICHELLEKILCOYNE@NPUSC.K12.IN.US | 574-654-0472

5333 N COUGAR RD | NEW CARLISLE, IN 46552

10th Grade Information Night



FEBRUARY 26, 2026
5:30 IN THE HIGH
SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM



Current 9TH GRADE
students and parents,
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!
THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT
as we will be discussing
new high school
graduation
requirements, new
courses and pathways,
and work based learning
opportunities.

QUESTIONS?

MRS. HORN (LAST NAMES A-G)

DAWNHORN@NPUSC.K12.IN.US | 574-654-
0230

MRS. RUBY (LAST NAMES H-N)

ARUBY@NPUSC.K12.IN.US | 574-654-0437

MRS. KILCOYNE (LAST NAMES O-Z)

MICHELLEKILCOYNE@NPUSC.K12.IN.US |
574-654-0472



25% GIVE BACK

WHO: New Prairie United School Corporation
for Boys & Girls Club

WHEN: Thursday, February 5th, 2026

HOW: Show this flyer to our staff and your Organization
will receive a 25% giveback of your total purchase



Full Tilt Arcade & Pinball
Address: 701 N Fail Rd, LaPorte, IN 46350
Phone: (219) 369-4469
Email: Info@FullTiltFun.com
www.FullTiltLP.com





TO DO **HOW** **TO PRACTICE**

- > Download the Daily Practice for the SAT app
- > Khan Academy 



SAT: **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

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



> **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.

Reading-Types of Questions:

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

Writing/Language -

Types of Questions:

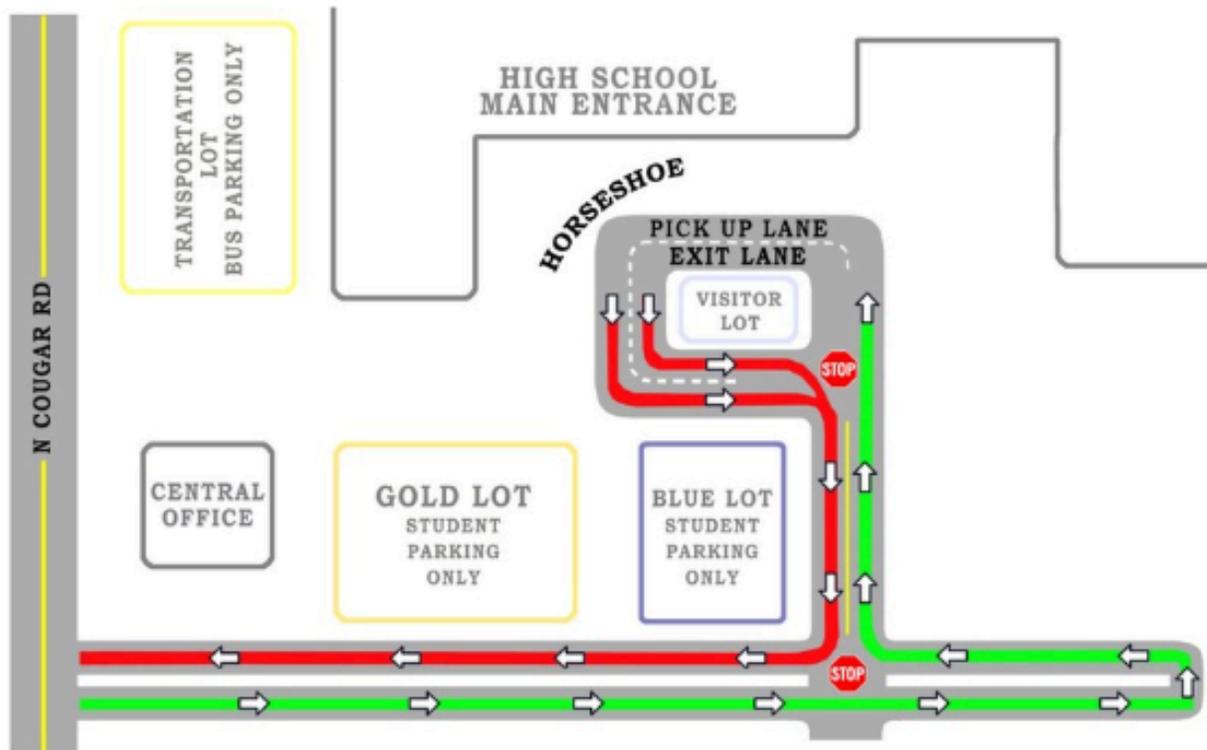
- Expression of Ideas - development, organization, effective use of language
- Standard English Conventions

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

satpractice.org

NEW PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Dismissal Expectations and Parking



Please follow these guidelines to ensure the safety of our students during pick up and drop off. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to a safe dismissal each day.

Guidelines:

- Please follow the green line for entering the pick-up line.
- Pull up NEXT to the sidewalk so your student can enter the vehicle safely.
- Once your student has entered the vehicle, pull carefully into the exit lane shown in red.
- We DO NOT want students crossing traffic to enter cars, for any reason.
- Please DO NOT park in any of our lots during pick-up and drop off.
- Anyone who needs to enter the building must park in the visitor lot only. These spaces are limited and cannot be used for picking up or dropping off students.
- DO NOT attempt to pick up students in ANY other areas on campus.

Important Times:

- First period begins at 7:15am M-Th. On Friday, 1st period begins at 8:00am.
- Our main entrance doors open for students 25 minutes before 1st period.
- The "warning bell" reminds students to head to class 5 minutes prior to 1st period.
- Our last period ends at 2:20pm and students are dismissed for the day.
- Buses depart from campus to take students home at 2:25pm sharp. Traffic on Cougar Rd will be stopped for approximately 3 minutes to allow buses to leave.

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)