



# COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

March 2026



It is hard to believe we are already stepping into March. As the days grow longer and the hints of spring begin to emerge, I am energized by the sense of new adventures that this season always brings to the halls of NPHS.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all the families who joined us last week for our Parent-Teacher Conferences and our 10th Grade Information Night. Your engagement is vital to our school community. If you were unable to attend, we still want to connect with you; please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teachers or guidance counselors to stay informed and involved.

We have a pivotal week approaching quickly. On Tuesday, March 10th, all of our Juniors will be taking the SAT School Day exam. Our students and staff have worked diligently to prepare for this milestone, and we look forward to seeing that hard work pay off. Immediately following testing, we will reach the end of the third grading period (Wednesday, March 11th). Please take a moment to review your student's progress as we transition into the final quarter of the year.



- Mr. Heinold  
NPHS Principal

As always, Go Cougars!

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 Connect: Supporting Every Cougar's Journey

Cougar Connect, New Prairie's virtual option, gives students the flexibility to learn online while staying fully connected to the Cougar community. As an alternative to the traditional classroom, it lets students learn in ways that work for them while still receiving the high-quality education they expect from New Prairie.

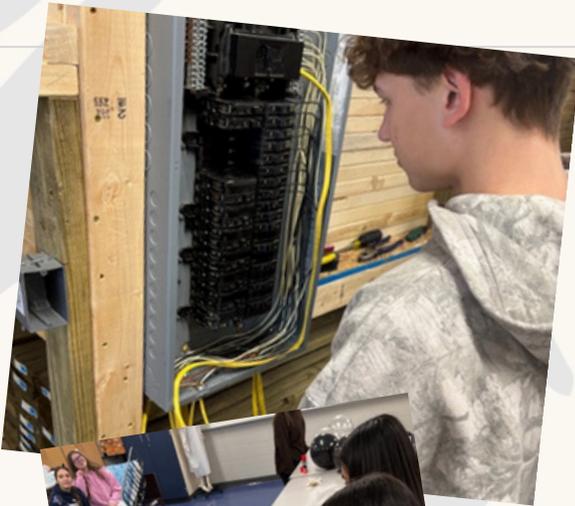
Students work independently with guidance and progress monitoring to stay on pace and engaged. Attendance is based on daily participation, and eligibility requirements apply.

Cougar Connect is more than an alternative. It's a flexible, supportive option that keeps students learning, growing, and proud to be Cougars.

Interested? Complete this intake form or contact our online coordinator, Kortney Brennan, to learn more.



**Kortney Brennan**  
NPUSC Online Coordinator  
574-654-0411  
kbrennan@npusc.k12.in.us



## 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. The SAT School Day Test for all NPHS Juniors is scheduled for March 10th, 2026.

Based on students' school day test scores, they can qualify for various incentives outlined in the flyer at the end of the newsletter. We encourage everyone to do their best on the test!

## WHY THE SAT MATTERS

- Doing well on the SAT demonstrates strong academic skills in critical reading, writing, and math. This not only boosts confidence but also provides a clear signal to colleges and future employers of a student's readiness to succeed in challenging environments.
- Many colleges and universities use SAT scores as part of their admissions process. A high score can make a student a more competitive candidate, increasing their chances of getting into their preferred schools.
- High SAT scores can qualify students for merit-based scholarships, reducing the financial burden of college. Some programs, such as National Merit Scholarships, are directly tied to standardized test performance.

## College Bound Cougars Activities in February

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

**Teamwork** - Students learned the benefits of being a productive team member.

### Grade 10

**The College Visit** - Students learned and discussed the basics of visiting college campuses.

**Support Networks** - Students discovered why it is important to identify their main support network as they begin the college and career search process.

### Grade 11

**College SuperMatch** - Students learned how to use The College SuperMatch™ program that allows them to find colleges right for them.



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

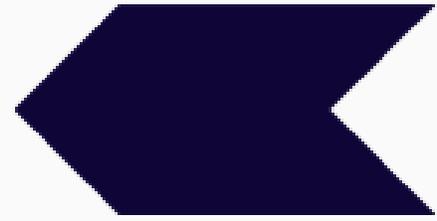
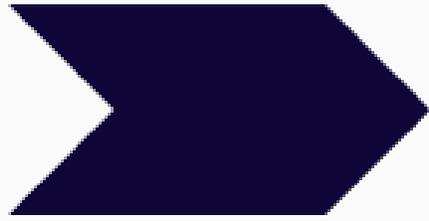
### IT MAY BE REQUIRED.

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.



Need help filing your FAFSA? InvestED offers free personalized service and support. Contact them at 317.715.9007



## Pre-Nursing Program & CSA Enrollment Parent/Student Night

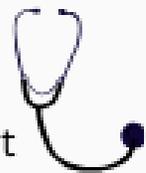
 **Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

 **Location: New Prairie High School, Cougar Den**

 **Time: 6:00 – 7:00 PM CST**

**Join New Prairie High School and Legacy Medical Academy for an informative evening about the Pre-Nursing Program!**

- **Enroll in the required CSA (Career Savings Account)**
- Get details about the Pre-Nursing pathway
- Meet representatives from Legacy Medical Academy
- Ask questions and explore opportunities for your student



This session is open to both parents and students—don't miss out on this important opportunity to plan for your future!

For more information, contact Tonya,  
[taerts@legacymedicalacademy.com](mailto:taerts@legacymedicalacademy.com)  
We look forward to seeing you there!



**Legacy**  
MEDICAL ACADEMY

## 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

3/8 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

3/10 - SAT School Day Test (all Juniors)

3/11 - End of Quarter 3

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

4/3 - Good Friday - No School

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

4/24 - Two Hour Delay Schedule

4/24-4/26 - Spring Musical

5/2 - NPHS Prom

5/7 - Career Fair

5/18 - Senior Awards Ceremony

5/22 - Last Day of Semester 2

6/7 - Class of 2026 Graduation Ceremony @ 2pm CST (Amzie Miller Field)

Also, check out [npcougars.com](http://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](https://facebook.com/newprairiecougars)

Mr. Justin Heinold, Principal  
[justinheinold@npusc.k12.in.us](mailto:justinheinold@npusc.k12.in.us)



## 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 +**



# 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

## 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!

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

[satpractice.org](https://satpractice.org)

Qualify for

# BENCHMARK

# BRUNCH

Any student who meets both benchmarks in ELA & Math will receive an invitation to the "Benchmark Brunch"

## IMPROVEMENT INCENTIVE

Students who show 100+ point growth from their overall Fall PSAT score have choice of three different rewards

## IMPROVEMENT EARNS CHOICE

\$30 value  
Athletic Punch Pass  
OR

\$35 value  
One FREE Prom ticket  
OR

\$40 value  
FREE Painted Parking Space

Students can be eligible for both the brunch and improvement incentives



# **Special Education Process For Ages 3-22 Understanding Article 7**

This session is a detailed study of Article 7, Indiana's special education law. It is designed to help parents understand their role in the special education process and their right to participate in decision making. Participants will practice using Article 7 to find information. Topics covered include referral and evaluation, the Individualized Education Program (IEP), services, placement and dispute resolution.

**LaPorte School Corporation  
1000 Harrison Street  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
Central Office "Door 1"**

**Wednesday  
March 25, 2026  
5:00-6:00 PM CT**

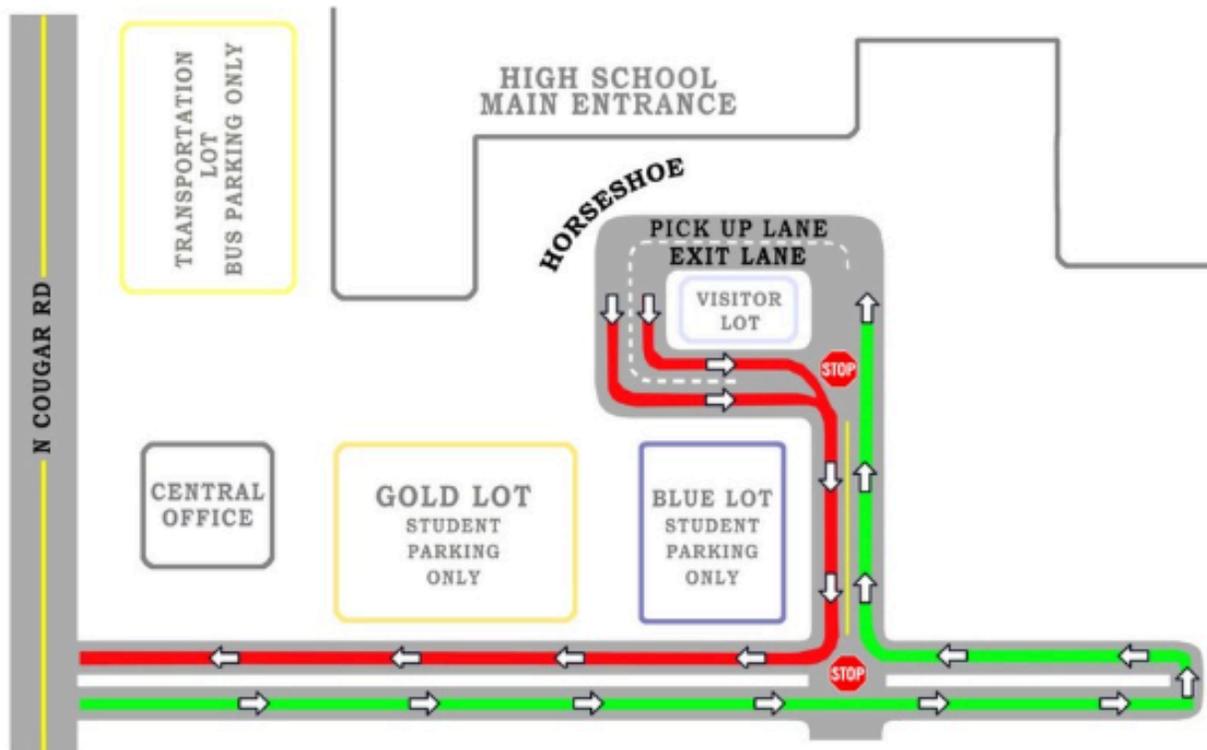
**Reach us by calling 574.234.7101, emailing  
insource@insource.org, or visiting our website at  
insource.org.**

IN\*SOURCE is a statewide organization, dedicated to providing families the support they need to effectively advocate for their children and young adults with disabilities.

All services are provided free of charge.

# 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	<b>Monday - Friday</b>
<b>1</b>	9:00 – 9:25 (25 mins)
<b>2</b>	9:30 – 9:55 (25 mins)
<b>3</b>	10:00 – 10:25 (25 mins)
M: Cougar Mentor Time T-TH: Success	N/A
<b>4</b>	10:30 – 10:55 (25 mins)
<b>5</b>	11:00 --11:25 (25 mins)
<b>6</b>	11:30 – 11:55 (25 mins)
<b>7</b>	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)