



a culture of excellence

Publication of the New Prairie United School Corporation

SPRING 2026

NPUSC NEWSLETTER GOING DIGITAL IN FALL 2026

New Prairie United School Corporation began mailing newsletters to every NPUSC resident in 2015 to better inform taxpayers of school system updates and to celebrate the proud accomplishments of NPUSC students and staff. NPUSC has made the difficult, but necessary decision, to move our quarterly district newsletters to a digital version starting in the fall of 2026.

Reasons for the Change:

Stewardship of Taxpayer Funds: NPUSC has taken very seriously the concept of updating all households, whether the household has students in the school system or not, about NPUSC events and accomplishments. All of our residents and taxpayers financially contribute to the success of NPUSC. However, the postage costs of sending that many newsletters have become a concern, particularly in light of Indiana Legislature passed Senate Enrolled Act One (SEA 1). This law provides property tax relief to all Hoosiers beginning in 2026. Taxing entities such as a public school system will receive less financial resources as a result. NPUSC is enacting a collection of cost savings measures to account for the lost revenue. One of those cost cutting measures is the production and mailing of a print newsletter.

Moving to a Digital Newsletter (New Communication Platforms): NPUSC will begin in-house production of our district quarterly newsletter in 2026, which will be another savings. Also, by moving our newsletter to a digital format, NPUSC will be able to share the successes of our students and staff in a variety of new ways. One of the most exciting new media platforms we will be able to share will be a video podcast format. NPUSC students, staff and admin will be able to share interviews and stories of NPUSC successes in a new and exciting format. Also, with the support of a large donation from Amazon, NPUSC will have a podcast production studio for the first time. Our newsletter podcasts will be a great use of the space to update our taxpayers!

Please scan the QR code to sign up for this *exciting*, new communication platform. You may submit any email you would like the digital newsletter sent to.



What's Inside:

- NPUSC Newsletter Going Digital in Fall 2026
- Amazon Partners with NPHS to Open Indiana's First "Think Big Space"
- New Prairie High School Named a 2025 School of Excellence
- 2026 Winter Sports Highlights

MISSION

Our purpose is to Ensure High Levels of Learning for ALL Students



Superintendent's Message

What a great school year we've had here at New Prairie United School Corporation! I know this is a result of our outstanding teachers and staff, dedicated students and supportive community working together. When we collaborate to create a culture of excellence, students excel and thrive. I am excited to share

some of the success we've been celebrating in one last printed newsletter before we switch to our new digital format.

A special congratulations goes to our 2026 seniors. This graduation is only the beginning of a new journey as you venture into the world prepared to make a positive impact in whatever path you choose. We are incredibly proud of what you have accomplished thus far and look forward to hearing of your successes in the future! Our best wishes to all of you!

*Dr. Paul White,
Superintendent of New Prairie United School Corporation*

Amazon Partners with NPUSC to Open Indiana's First "Think Big Space"



New Prairie United School Corporation is thrilled to share that New Prairie High School is now home to the first Amazon Think Big Space in the state of Indiana!

May 18 marked the grand opening celebration of this new STEM education lab in partnership with Amazon, where NPUSC students will get hands-on experience with robotics, computer science, cloud computing and even a podcast recording room—a first for any Think Big Space! Thank you to Amazon for investing in students and the community for generations to come! NPUSC can't wait to see what students will create!

2026 Winter Sports Highlights

The New Prairie wrestling team had a great 2025-26 season, with a 6th-place finish at the IHSAA State Finals, capturing the first outright Northern Indiana Conference (NIC) championship in school history in any sport. The team also won sectionals in back to back years. The Cougars sophomore standout MJ Staples secured his second consecutive state title and is still undefeated. Senior James Hartleroad earned a state runner-up finish. Junior Aiden Fernandez and senior Jeffrey Huyvaert both reached the podium with 5th place finishes, with Jeffrey capping off his career by setting a new school record of 184 career wins.



Photo taken by Nick Farmer

Congratulations also to NPUSC sophomore diver, Grant Laskowski, who finished in 20th place at the IHSAA state meet.

Go Cougars!



NEW PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL NAMED A 2025 SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE BY ACT'S AMERICAN COLLEGE APPLICATION CAMPAIGN

NPBS is one of 26 schools in the country recognized for its commitment to student success after high school graduation

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education recently announced New Prairie High School as Indiana's American College Application Campaign (ACAC) School of Excellence Award winner. Indiana joins 25 other states in celebrating exemplary schools dedicated to increasing postsecondary success, specifically for first-generation college students.

NPBS earned the School of Excellence Award for building an increased awareness of the opportunities and benefits of going to college for all grade levels. In addition to daily trivia contests



and a spirit week, the school launched the College Bound Cougars program, offering grade-specific lessons on college exploration, financial aid, admissions, career planning and test preparation for all students in Grades 9-12. Every student completed multiple career interest inventories, as well as preparation sessions for the PSAT and SAT. During College Application Week, New Prairie's

seniors submitted 376 college applications.

"NPBS has shown a strong commitment to ensuring every student, including those who may be the first in their families to attend college, receives the support and confidence needed to make informed decisions about their future," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "Through the College Bound Cougars program, students begin planning for the college application process as early as their freshman year, helping them prepare for colleges and careers. Whether a student chooses to enroll in college, go straight into a career or serve in our nation's military, understanding the range of possibilities for their future is essential to being prepared for their unique next step."

Each year, ACAC partners with coordinators in nearly every state and the District of Columbia to host college application events that encourage students to apply to college.



As Indiana's coordinator, the Commission selects one school to receive ACAC's School of Excellence Award on behalf of the state.

"We are so excited and honored to receive this award for our state! Our student support services staff at NPUSC has spent a great deal of time preparing and executing an extensive and purposeful K-12 Career Exploration Plan, and this work culminates with our campaign to encourage and support students as they navigate the college application process," said Tara White, NPBS's Director of College and Career Readiness. "We make sure that when the time arrives, all of our students have as much information and opportunity as they need to make the best decisions about their postsecondary plans."

College Application Week is part of Indiana's annual College GO! initiative. Taking place every August through November, College GO! provides Hoosier K-12 students with information and resources to support their exploration of postsecondary education options. This was Indiana's 12th year participating in the initiative, with over 130 Indiana high schools participating. Additionally, over 30 Indiana higher education institutions opted in to promote free applications or provide fee waivers for students during the week.

To learn more about Indiana's College GO! program, visit Learn More Indiana's website. To learn more about ACT's national ACAC campaign, visit <https://impactandlearning.act.org>.



You're Invited

You are invited to attend meetings of the School Board of NPUSC. These meetings are generally conducted at 6 p.m. CST on the fourth Monday of each month in the Superintendent's Office, 5327 N Cougar Rd., New Carlisle, IN, unless otherwise advertised.

School Board

- Phillip King..... President
- Jason DeMeyer..... Vice President
- Jill Smith..... Secretary
- Rich Gadacz Member
- Rich Shail Member

Contact Us

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- New Prairie High School..... (574) 654-7271
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- New Prairie Middle School..... (574) 654-3070
(219) 778-4435
- Olive Township Elementary (574) 654-7531
(219) 778-4740
- Prairie View Elementary..... (574) 654-7258
(219) 778-9388
- Rolling Prairie Elementary..... (219) 778-2018

Our Website

www.npusc.k12.in.us



Visit Our Website for our
up to date School Calendar

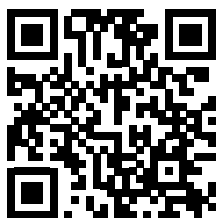
Interested in Becoming a Cougar?

Registration for 2026-27 is NOW OPEN!

Registration for all new and incoming students is now open! For more information, please visit the NPUSC district and school websites. Please scan the QR code or use the link below to complete the 2026-27 registration:

<https://newprairie-in.finalforms.com/>

If you reside outside our district and would like your child to attend NPUSC, please fill out a transfer form on our website to begin the process. For any questions regarding registration, call 574-654-0211.



New Prairie United School Corporation
5327 North Cougar Road,
New Carlisle, IN 46552

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Little Shop of Horrors

This April, "Little Shop of Horrors" was performed by the New Prairie Theatre Company by around 30 students in the cast and crew. Additional students played in the pit ensemble. Students from Mr. Artur Sorg's construction class helped with set construction.



Auditions started in January and within just a few months, students learned music, choreography, blocking and lines several days a week with some later rehearsals lasting up to six hours. Many of the cast and crew were new to the stage. Three puppeteers worked with four sizes of the man-eating plant. They quickly discovered that producing a show takes a lot of time and dedication. Students also learned to solve problems and support one another through good communication. Studies have shown that being involved with the arts bolsters academic achievement, develops social-emotional and interpersonal skills, improves focus and more. This was a win all around!

NPHS Staff included Monique Fredline, Director and sponsor of the New Prairie Theater Company; Mr. Everett Forrester, Vocal Director; and Mr. Jared Jaggi, Pit Ensemble Director. A number of adults in the corporation and community also contributed to the production including Casaday Costume Company in South Bend, Laporte Little Theater, Candice Scott, newly graduated choreographer Kaylee Haferkamp and Keith Hite. Many others contributed to the support students needed during Tech Week rehearsals, especially Mrs. Catanzarite, Mrs. Gallik and others. Thank you!

