



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

August 2026



Welcome Back!

I am honored to begin my fourth year serving as Principal of New Prairie High School, and I want to extend a warm welcome back to all of our families, staff, and students.

At NPHS, we remain dedicated to providing high-quality classroom instruction and exceptional experiences that prepare our students for life beyond high school. We achieve this by living our district's mission every day: to ensure high levels of learning for ALL students. Our commitment to exploring every possibility for your student's growth is stronger than ever, and our staff is prepared to make this upcoming year incredibly impactful.

We know that student success relies heavily on the connection between school and home. By working closely together, we can best support our students' academic and personal journeys. Thank you for your continued partnership. Let's make this a fantastic school year!

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.

Open House Information

The New Prairie High School Open House will be on Tuesday, August 4th from 5:00-7:00pm CST. During the evening, students will be able to pick up their schedules and find their classes. Administrators and Guidance Counselors will be available to answer any questions that you may have. If a student is unable to come to Open House to pick up their schedule, they will be available for students on the first day of school (Wednesday, August 5th) outside the main office. MacBook Neo pick up for high school students will be on the first day of classes.

NPHS Health Services will be available for questions or medication drop off. Representatives from various NPHS clubs and community organizations will be located in the cafeteria. Families may also pay for the iPad insurance at this event. A map of the event is located at the end of this newsletter.



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](#)

NPBS CELL PHONE POLICY

Effective July 1, 2026, the Indiana State legislature passed Senate Enrolled Act 78 that prohibits the use of personal communication devices (PCDs) during the entire school day (6:55am-2:20pm). This includes cell phones, smart watches/glasses, tablets, laptops, and gaming devices. All PCDs must be powered off and remain in a student's backpack, locker, or in a storage device in the main office.

At NPHS, this means that students cannot have their phones out during class, passing periods, assemblies, or lunch. A ladder of consequences has been established for students at NPHS who violate this school and state policy.



Cougar Connect

On Tuesday, August 4th, during the NPHS Open House, current Cougar Connect students and families should plan to stop in to receive more information about program expectations, testing requirements, and technology use. The presentation will be in the Cougar Den from 6–7pm CST.

For those looking for more information on New Prairie’s online program, should plan to stop by either during the presentation time or by reaching out to Mrs. Brennan, NPUSC Online Coordinator.



Transportation Services

Transportation information will be emailed to families who have registered their students needing transportation to and from NPHS. If you have not received this information after registering your student, be sure to check your Spam folder before contacting the transportation department.



Nutritional Services

Please review the following the documents from our Nutritional Services regarding dietary restrictions and meal applications.

[Special Dietary Needs](#)

[Milk Substitution Form](#)

[Parent Letter and Instruction](#)

[Parent Letter and Instruction \(Spanish\)](#)

[Meal Application](#)

[Meal Application \(Spanish\)](#)

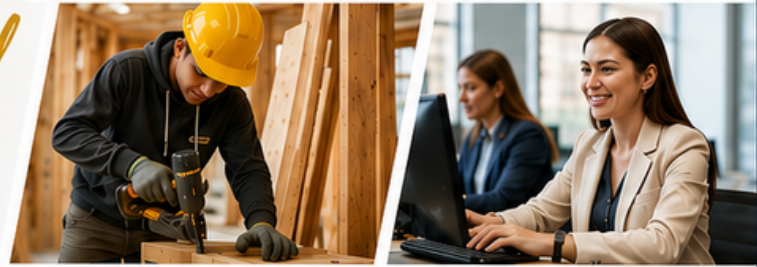
ATTENDANCE

Student attendance in high school is crucial for academic success as it directly correlates with the level of engagement and participation in classroom activities. Regular attendance not only enhances students' understanding of the curriculum but also fosters a sense of responsibility and discipline that are essential for future endeavors. Additionally, students must maintain an attendance rate of at least 90% to be eligible for school dances and field trips.

NEW PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

CTE *Advisory Board* WE NEED YOU!

Partner with us. Shape the future.
Empower our students.



AS A CTE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER, YOU WILL:

- ✓ Provide industry insight on programs and curriculum
- ✓ Help ensure students gain the skills employers need
- ✓ Offer guidance on industry trends and workforce needs
- ✓ Support real-world learning opportunities for students
- ✓ Strengthen the connection between school and community

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PROFESSIONALS IN:



HEALTHCARE



ENGINEERING



SKILLED TRADES



BUSINESS



AGRICULTURE



HUMAN SERVICES



EDUCATION
PROFESSIONS



FINE ARTS



APPLICATIONS CLOSE:
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

Get Involved.
Make an Impact.

Help shape opportunities.
Inspire the next generation.



APPLY TODAY!

Click link below to get started.



#FutureReadyNP

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE WORKFORCE!

New Prairie High School is seeking passionate professionals to serve on our Career & Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Boards. Your industry expertise can help ensure our programs prepare students with the skills and knowledge needed for success in today's workforce. Applications are open through September 16, 2026—[click this link](#) to get started!

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 November. There will be an additional FLEX day on Monday, February 22nd. 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 January, the School Board adopted an update to the 2026-2027 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

8/4 - NPHS Open House (5:00pm-7:00pm CST)

8/5 - First Student Day! Students receive their MacBooks during CMT

8/17 - Picture Day

9/1-9/2 - Corporation Work Days (No Students)

9/7- Labor Day - No School

9/28 - FLEX Day

9/29 - Picture Retake Day

10/8 - End of 1st Quarter

10/13 - NPHS Parent-Teacher Conference

10/16-10/19 - Fall Break - No School

11/3 - Flex Day

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

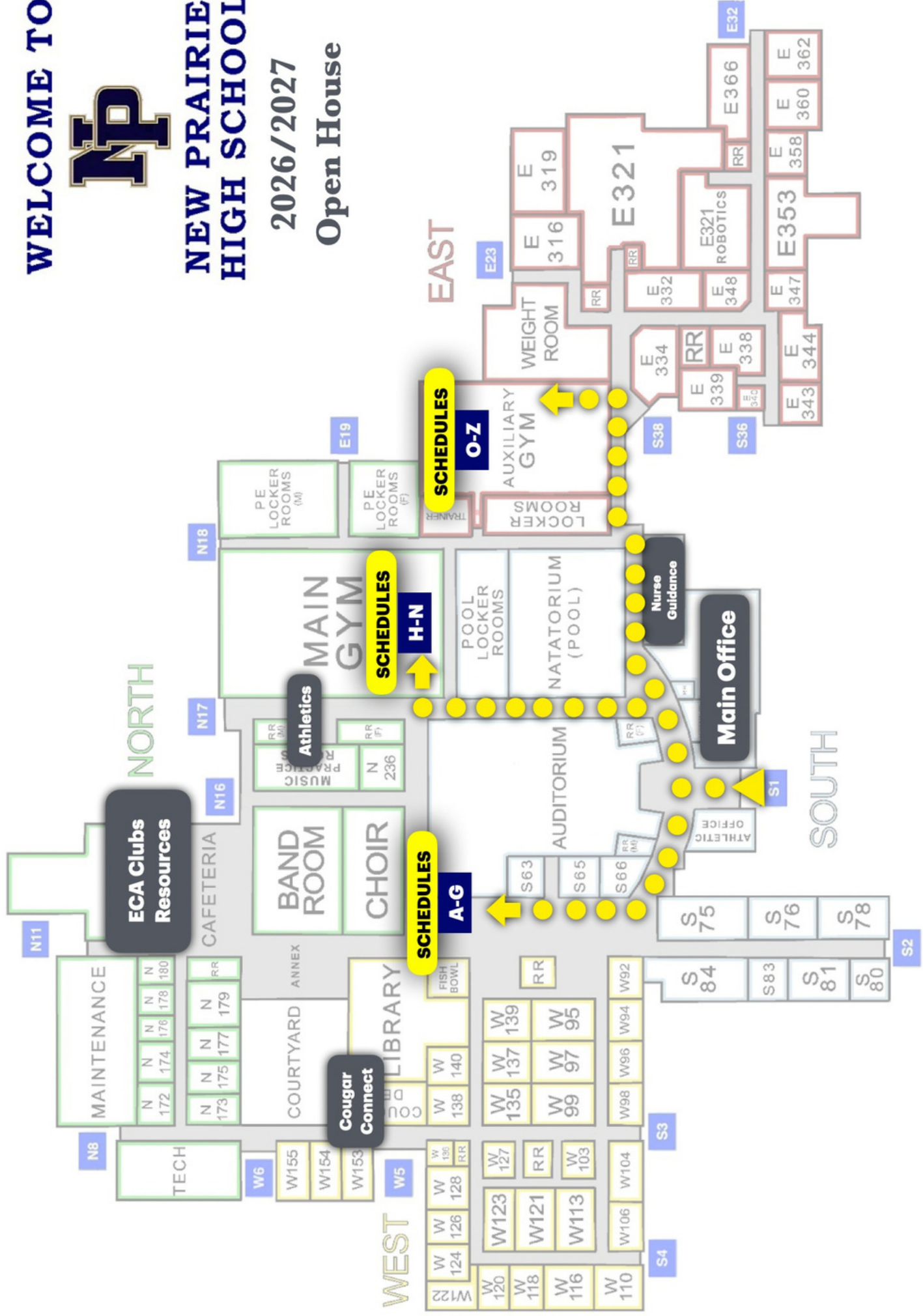
WELCOME TO



NEW PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

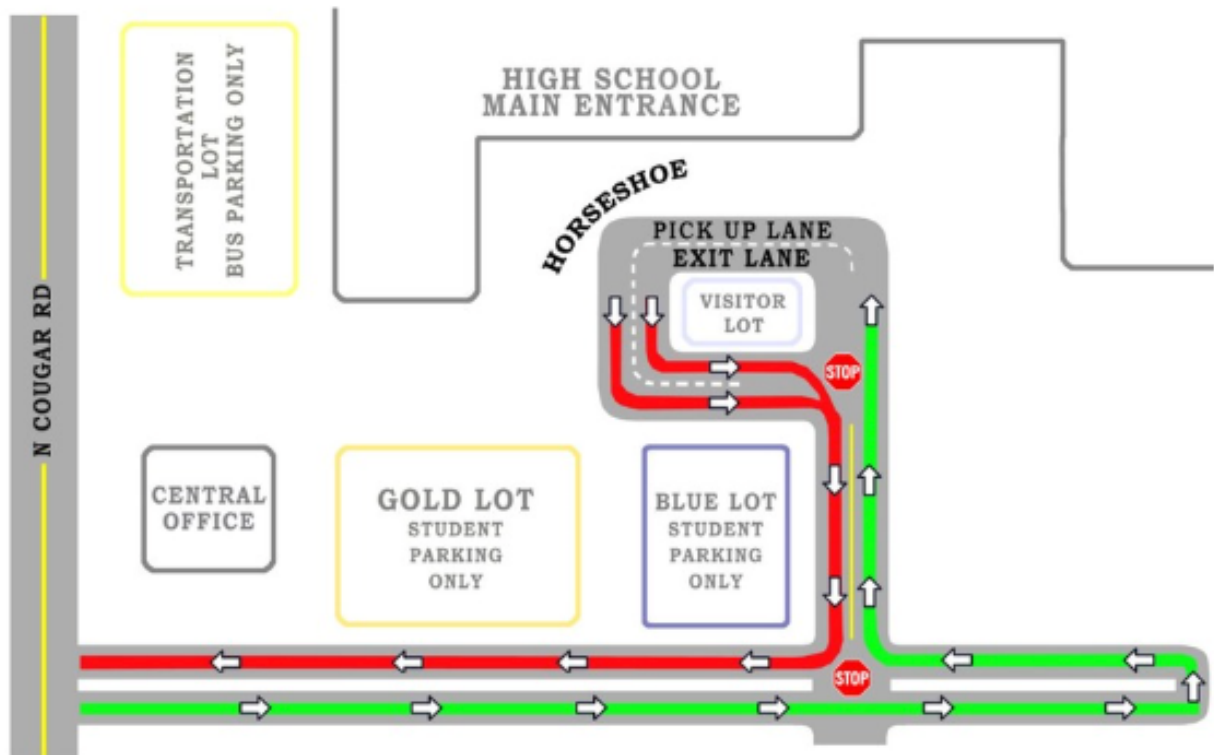
2026/2027

Open House



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.