



COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

October 2026



The momentum from our strong start continues to build across New Prairie High School! Crisp fall weather brings a bustling schedule full of opportunities for academic growth, athletic achievement, and well-earned rest for our Cougars.

October is a pivotal month for our students on multiple fronts. Academically, our students will be taking the PSAT, offering valuable insight and preparation for their post-secondary plans. We are looking forward to connecting directly with you during Parent-Teacher Conferences to discuss your child's progress and partner together for their continued success. Outside the classroom, many of our fall athletic teams and Marching Band are entering end-of-season competitions—we wish all of our students the best of luck as they represent NPHS! Finally, students and staff can look forward to a refreshing four-day Fall Break to recharge for the rest of the semester.

As this busy month unfolds, we encourage everyone to stay connected by following our NPHS Facebook Group and visiting our school website regularly. Thank you for your ongoing support!

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.



– Mr. Heinold
NPHS Principal

Parent Teacher Conferences – October 13th

Parent Teacher Conferences at New Prairie High School occur once in the Fall semester and once in the Spring semester. Our first date is coming up on Tuesday, October 13th. NPHS conferences will run from 3:00pm–6:30pm CST.

Our conferences will be in a first come, first served style. Teachers will have desks and chairs set up in the hallway outside of their classrooms to meet with parents/students. Take this time to ask questions and receive updates on your student's learning achievements.

Be sure that you have downloaded PowerSchool to be able to access your student's grades. Progress reports will not be printed for our conferences this year. We will have maps available.

Mosyle @ Home

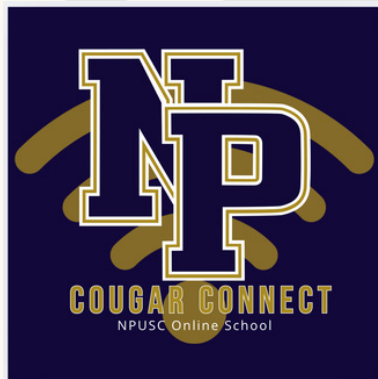
- Mosyle @ Home: Parents/Guardians can find information for a parent filtering software portal on our website. This allows parents to create an account to manage their student's screen time and web filtering preferences. This is provided in compliance with Indiana state law SEA 159. Instructions and a video tutorial are available on the Technology page of the district website:
<https://www.npusc.k12.in.us/technology/>

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.



Cougar Connect – Virtual Option



What is Cougar Connect?

Cougar Connect is a virtual learning option offered through New Prairie United School Corporation, providing students with a flexible alternative to traditional in-person instruction while allowing them to remain connected to the Cougar community.

Cougar Connect offers both full-time and hybrid learning options, allowing families to choose the structure that best meets their needs. Students stay in-district, stay a Cougar, and stay connected—participating in sports, extracurricular activities, clubs, and school events like dances and spirit events.

Contact Kortney Brennan  kbrennan@npusc.k12.in.us  574-654-0411 / 574-797-9374

Registration for Semester I of Cougar Connect Ends Sept 1st
Semester II openings are available for students who **qualify**

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](#)

Grading Periods/Report Cards

All progress reports and report cards this year will be digital. Please see the email sent from the Corporation with your student's PowerSchool login information. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this PowerSchool setup, you can contact Mrs. Krycka at melissakrycka@npusc.k12.in.us

If you need a paper report card for employment or other verification, you may contact our main office by phone or email, and a copy can be sent with your student.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Student attendance continues to be one of the biggest challenges that schools face today. When students are present in class, they have a better opportunity to learn new materials and master content with their teachers. NPHS is striving to increase attendance above 95% throughout the school year.

It is also worth noting that student attendance rates must be above 90% in order to be approved for school-sponsored activities such as field trips and school dances.

Navigating Senior Year: Postsecondary Planning & Important Deadlines for the Class of 2027

As we step into the 2026–2027 school year, New Prairie High School is excited to partner with you to support our Class of 2027 seniors as they prepare for life after graduation! All counselors have met with seniors and presented the information found [here](#). We have included a few highlights below, but please review these details with your student. Whether they plan to head straight to a four-year university, enroll in a community college, pursue vocational training, or enter the workforce, here your jumpstart to keep them on track.

The College Application Timeline

- Best Time to Apply: Students are strongly encouraged to submit their college applications between August and October of their senior year.
- What Makes a Complete Application?
 - The online application form (often via the college website or Common App), which may include resumes, essays, or personal statements.
 - Official High School Transcript (requested through Naviance).
 - Application fee (or fee waiver).
 - Official SAT/ACT scores (if required) sent directly through College Board or ACT.

SAT & ACT Testing

If your senior plans to take or retake standardized tests, do not wait until spring—register for fall exams!

- Upcoming SAT Dates:
 - Sept 12, 2026 (Registration deadline: Aug 28)
 - Oct 3, 2026 (Registration deadline: Sept 18)
 - Nov 7, 2026 (Registration deadline: Oct 23)
- Upcoming ACT Dates:
 - Sept 19, 2026 (Registration deadline: Aug 14)
 - Oct 17, 2026 (Registration deadline: Sept 11)

Note: NPHS is not currently a host site, so students will select a local testing site during registration on [College Board](#) or [ACT.org](#). Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch—contact your school counselor for details.

Financial Aid & FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required for federal and state financial aid, grants, loans, and work-study.

- State Requirement: Indiana law requires all seniors to file a FAFSA or submit a signed waiver.
- Key Dates: FAFSA typically opens October 1 (ensure you complete the 2027–2028 FAFSA). The Indiana state submission deadline is April 15.
- File online at studentaid.gov.

senior to reach out to their counselor with any questions about Naviance, fee waivers, or postsecondary planning. Let's make it a fantastic senior year for the Class of 2027!

Questions or Need Assistance? Our counseling team is here to support your family every step of the way. Encourage your senior to reach out to their counselor with any questions about Naviance, fee waivers, or postsecondary planning.

Save Money on Application Fees

Indiana's annual College GO! Week takes place September 21–25, 2026. During this week (and throughout September for select universities), many Indiana colleges waive their application fees.

- Fee Waiver Examples:
 - Indiana University Bloomington: Code BLCOLLGO
 - Indiana University Indianapolis: Code INCOLLGO
 - Purdue University Fort Wayne: Code COLLEGEGO26
 - Rose-Hulman: Code ALUM2027
 - Free for the Entire Month of September: Purdue University Northwest
 - Free Applications All Year / During GO Week: Ivy Tech Community College, Ball State, Butler, DePauw, Valparaiso, Indiana State, and many others!

Transcripts & Letters of Recommendation via Naviance

Students will use Naviance throughout the fall to manage their applications:

- Transcripts: Request Initial Transcripts directly through Naviance under Colleges I'm Applying To. (Mid-Year Transcripts with 7th-semester grades will be sent in mid-January, and Final Transcripts will go out in mid-June).
- Letters of Recommendation: Students can submit teacher and outside recommendation requests through Naviance. Remind your student to include a brief note highlighting key accomplishments or traits they would like the teacher to mention!
- Not College Bound? Students needing transcripts for employment, trades, or military programs can email their counselor (or Mrs. Chappell, Registrar, during summer/breaks).

Searching for Scholarships

Senior year is prime time for earning scholarship money! A former student tip: Try setting aside time each week for "Scholarship Sunday" to search and apply.

- Where to Look:
 - Local & School Postings: Check Naviance and the 26–27 Scholarships folder under the Resources tab on Schoology.
 - State & Local Foundations: 21st Century Scholars, Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, and Unity Foundation of LaPorte County.
 - National Search Engines: Fastweb.com, Scholarships.com, College Board BigFuture, and Scholly (linked in Naviance).

Advanced Placement Exam Registration & Ordering Details

New Prairie High School strongly encourages all students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses to take the corresponding AP exams this spring. Taking AP exams offers students the opportunity to earn college credit, build academic confidence, and fulfill key graduation requirements.

Key Deadline & Payment Details

- **Deadline:** All exam orders and payments are due by November 6, 2026.
- **Standard Fee:** \$99 per exam. Payments can be made via cash or check payable to NPHS.
- **Submission Location:** Return all registration forms and payments to Mrs. Ruby in the Guidance Office.

Financial Assistance & State Subsidies

- **Free & Reduced Lunch:** Students who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program can take AP exams at no cost (a completed registration form is still required).
- **Indiana State Coverage:** The State of Indiana covers the cost of up to two AP exams in Math, Science, English, Government, and U.S. History courses.

Honors Diploma & Enrollment Seal Eligibility

Taking corresponding AP exams and maintaining a grade of "C" or better in 4 AP credits is a critical requirement for students working toward specific graduation distinctions:

- **Classes of 2027 & 2028:** Academic Honors Diploma eligibility.
- **Classes of 2029 & 2030:** Enrollment Honors Seal eligibility.

Online Exam Ordering System

Students have already set up their online accounts at myap.collegeboard.org in their AP classes. Students will also receive paper copies of the letter and registration form, and it will be posted on Schoology. Parents will get an email with a call telling them to look for the email and students will get an email. We will also send reminders as it gets closer to the ordering deadline in November. Please note that the College Board system defaults every enrolled student to "Yes" for ordering an exam. NPHS guidance staff will update and finalize these order statuses manually based on the registration forms and payments turned in by November 6.

Please refer to the registration packet for the complete 2027 AP Exam schedule and attendance policies. For any questions, reach out directly to Mrs. Ruby in Guidance or your child's AP teachers.

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!

FREE FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID) COMPLETION EVENT

New Prairie High School FAFSA Completion Workshop

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Join Us in the Cougar Den from 4-7 PM

CONNECT WITH US

317.715.9007

Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org



[INvestEdIndiana](https://www.INvestEdIndiana.org)





NPHS COUGARS

LPCCTE APPLICATIONS

SOPHOMORES — LPCCTE APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!



Interested in attending an LPCCTE program during your junior year? Now is the time to apply!



Monday, October 12: RTI Meeting with the Sophomore Class.
Explanation of LPCCTE programs, application process, and next steps.

IMPORTANT — READ BEFORE YOU START!

- **Timestamped Application:** Complete and submit it as soon as possible.
- **Complete Application:** Fill out COMPLETELY, including your Social Security number. Failure to provide it could result in application not being processed.

[LPCCTE Application Form](#)



Complete the Counselor Recommendation Form: 2027-28 LPCCTE Enrollment Confirmation Form

Counselor Recommendation Form Requirements

- Student AND parent/guardian must sign.
- SSN included where requested.

SSN

DO NOT FILL BELOW THIS LINE

VERY IMPORTANT: DO NOT FILL OUT ANYTHING BELOW THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER!
 EVERYTHING BELOW THE SSN IS FOR YOUR COUNSELOR TO COMPLETE.

Bring the form to your counselor once your portion and your parent/guardian's portion are completely filled out and signed.

If considering LPCCTE for next year, don't wait! Get your application on file. Decide later if you want to attend. We'll go over everything during RTI on October 12!

Student can pick up paper copies in the Guidance Office during passing period or lunch. They should not ask a teacher for a pass.

NPHS

PSAT Testing

October 8, 2026



Grades 9-11 take the PSAT on Thursday, October 8

Testing room locations will be posted on Schoology and in RTI Scheduler by October 5. Most students will test with their Cougar Mentor teacher but not all so make sure to check the rosters for testing locations. Students need to report to their testing room by 7:15am.

All students including Career Center, Hybrid and Cougar Connect need to report to NPHS by 7:15am ready for testing.

PSAT scores give NPHS staff information on potential for AP classes, predict SAT scores, can meet prerequisite requirements for dual credit at the Career Center and provide students a valuable tool for future test prep.

What to bring...

- CHARGED Macbook and charging cord
- Acceptable Calculator - scientific and graphing recommended
- WIRED Earphones/ear buds for students with read aloud accommodation
- snacks/drinks (must be kept on the floor until break)

Prohibited Items...

ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED!! Cell phones, smartwatches, fitness trackers, etc will be powered off, put in bags and bags will be placed in a designated area of the room. Students will not be able to access bags until testing is complete.

For more information...

For more information on the PSAT/NMSQT for Grades 10 and 11, visit <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>.

For more information on the PSAT 8/9 for Grade 9, visit <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9>.

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

10/8 - PSAT Testing Day

10/8 - End of 1st Quarter

10/13 - NPHS Parent-Teacher Conference (3:00-6:30pm)

10/13 - FAFSA Completion Workshop (4pm-7pm)

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

10/28 - Senior Informational Meeting - Jostens

11/3 - Flex Day

11/5 - Freshman Ring Meeting - Jostens

11/25-11/29 - Thanksgiving Break - No School

12/17-12/18 - Semester I Final Exams

[NPHS Events Calendar](#)

Also, check out npcougars.com for athletic dates/times, ticket information, and post-event summaries.

Contact Information

Phone: (574) 654-7271
(219) 778-2215

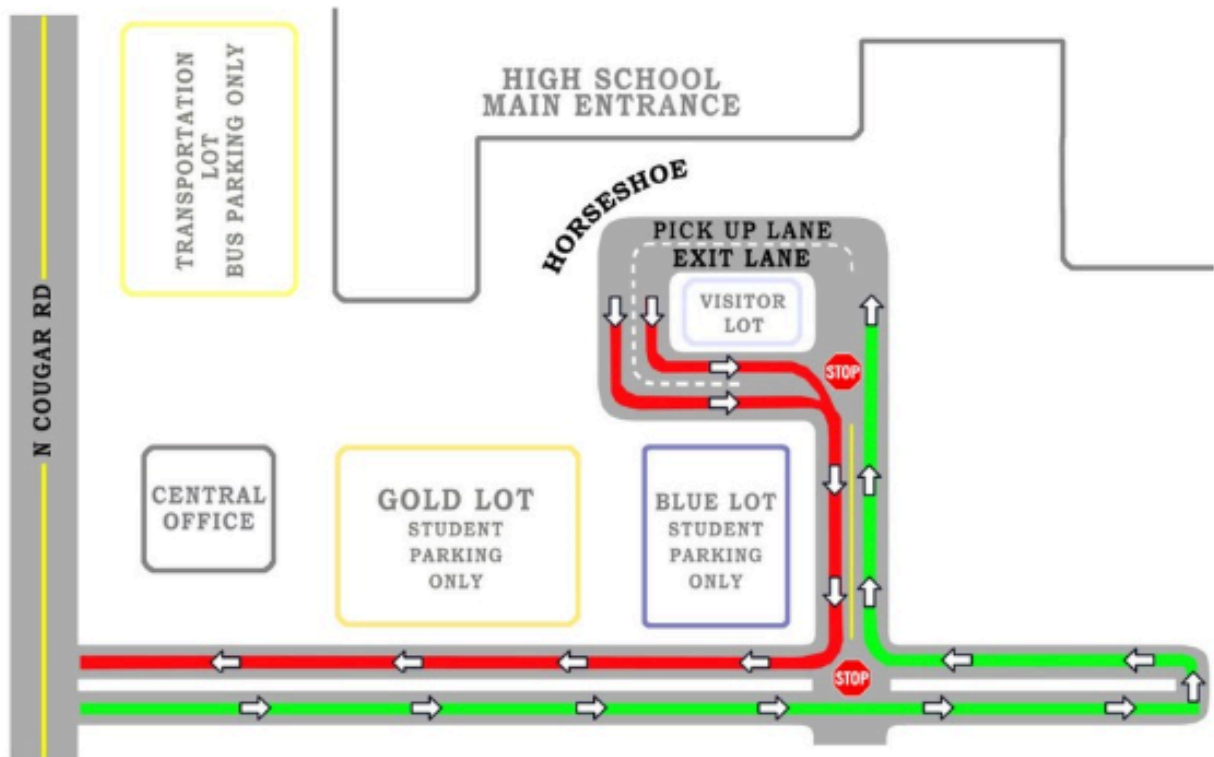
<https://www.npusc.k12.in.us/new-prairie-high-school/>

facebook.com/newprairiecougars

Mr. Justin Heinold, Principal
justinheinold@npusc.k12.in.us

NEW PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

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.