COUGAR NEWSLETTER

Publication of the New Prairie School Administration

November 2026



November is underway, and New Prairie High School continues to push forward with purpose and pride! At NPHS, our focus remains on Ensuring High Levels of Learning for all students. With Final Exams just around the corner in December, teachers and students are making every day count—maximizing classroom instruction, utilizing academic support resources, and preparing for end-of-semester assessments.

November is also time of honor and service. We proudly salute our local military heroes and express our deepest gratitude for their service. Our students are also putting leadership into action through seasonal volunteer drives and community initiatives to help those in need throughout our region this holiday season. To round out a busy month, our hard-working students and staff can look forward to a well-deserved Thanksgiving Break to recharge before the final push of the semester.



We appreciate the ongoing dedication of our families and community partners. Please continue to check our NPHS Facebook Group and school website regularly for the latest updates and announcements!

- 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 - 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



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/

Military Alumni Wall of Honor

November is a meaningful time for our community as we celebrate the extraordinary individuals who have answered the call to serve. At New Prairie High School, we take deep pride in our alumni military members. The Military Alumni Wall of Honor proudly displays the stories of sacrifice and commitment embodied by Cougars throughout the Armed Forces, inspiring our current students every single day.

Help us keep this tribute complete. If your picture and service details are not yet on the wall—or if you know a fellow New Prairie graduate whose service should be honored—please reach out to our main office. It is our privilege to celebrate every Cougar who has served our country.



Fall Activities Recap

New Prairie High School has wrapped up its Fall Sports/Activity Season. A few highlights include:

- Marching Band competing at ISSMA Scholastic A State Finals earning 7th overall
- Braden Bachmann and Janice Felker qualifying for the state championship in Boys and Girls Cross Country

Bonus!! Several NPHS students received academic and all-conference honors.

We can't wait to see what our Cougars accomplish next!







General 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





Flex Day - November 3rd

- Students may begin working on their assignments and/or virtual tasks starting at 8:00am CST and teachers will be available to correspond, support, and discuss any questions until 2:30 pm.
- Students will need to check in for attendance through their CMT teacher in Schoology before 2:00pm CST.
- If your student is having technology issues, they should contact 574-654-0469

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Sudent 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.chers.

Honors Diploma & Enrollment Seal Eligibility

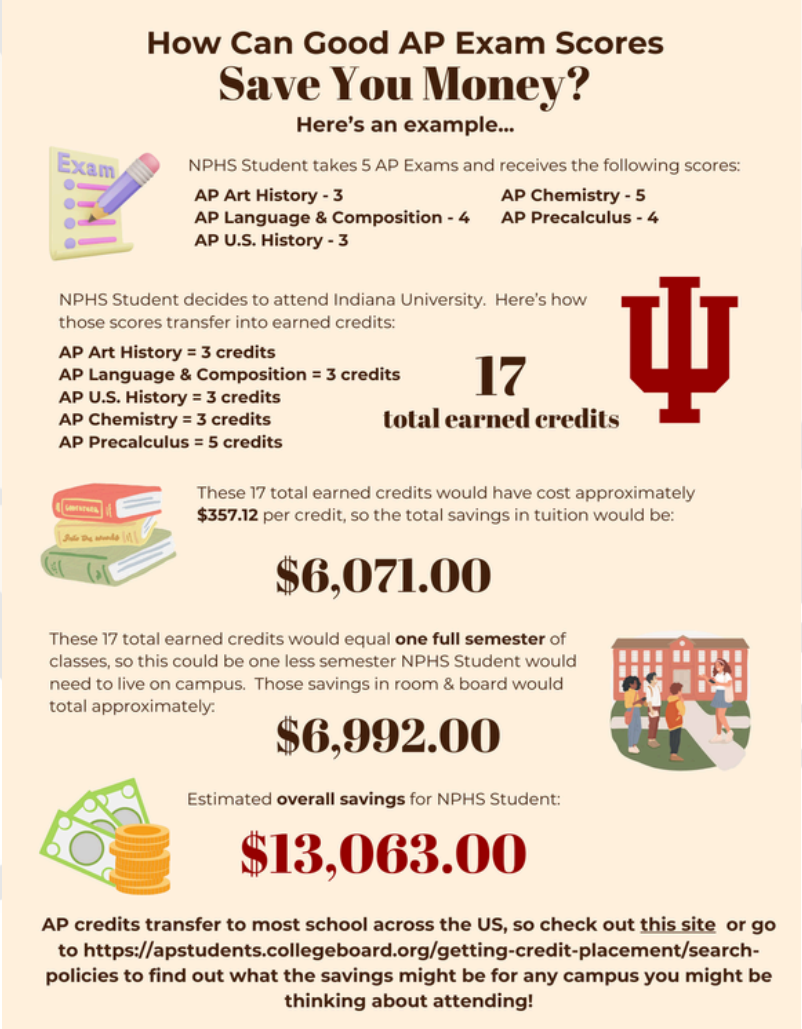
Taking corresponding AP exams and maintaining a grade of "C" or better in 4 AP credits is a critical requirement for students working toward specific graduation distinctions:

- 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.



Safer Smarter Teens Program Begins Next Month

MBF Teen Safety Matters® Program at Your Teen's School

This year, your student's school will be using the MBF Teen Safety Matters® program from the Monique Burr Foundation fer Children and Teens on December 10, 2026/December 11, 2026. The goal of the Program is to help keep your teen safe.





The Program empowers students to spot and respond to bullying, cyberbullying, the four types of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, neglect), relationship abuse, digital abuse, and other digital dangers. Most importantiy, it teaches that adults are responsible for their safety, but there are things they can do to help adults keep them safe. The Program is based on the latest research and has been reviewed and endorsed by national experts.

Why does your teen need a safety program?

- » 10% of children are abused before their 18th birthday
- » 14% of children have been solicited online
- » 28% of students have been bullied
- » 90% of children between 8 and 16 years have viewed explicit material online

When teens are taught safety information and rules to help them stay safe, they perform better in school and enjoy healthier, happier, and safer lives.

You can learn more about the Program at www.mbfpreventioneducation.org.

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

11/3 - Flex Day

11/5 - Freshman Ring Meeting - Jostens

11/13 - NPHS Blood Drive

11/20-11/22 - Fall Musical

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

12/17-12/18 - Semester 1 Final Exams

12/19-1/4 - Winter Break - No School

1/5 - Semester 2 Begins

1/18 - MLK Day - No School

2/22 - Flex Day

2/25 - Parent Teacher Conferences

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



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

Notre Dame Pre-College Programs provide exceptional high school students with a rigorous preview of higher education through immersive academic and social experiences. Taught by University of Notre Dame faculty, these programs offer college-level coursework, opportunities to earn transferable college credit, and a taste of campus life, global studies, or virtual learning.

PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Summer Scholars

A two-week residential program for rising juniors and seniors where students take intensive, credit-bearing courses across fields like philosophy, engineering, accounting, and neuroscience, while living in University residence halls.

Summer Scholars Session I
June 19 – July 3, 2027

Summer Scholars Session II
July 10 – July 24, 2027

Leadership Seminars

A highly competitive, fully-funded residential program for rising seniors focused on global issues, ethics, and leadership through collaborative research and community engagement.

Leadership Seminars Session I
June 19 – June 30, 2027

Leadership Seminars Session II
July 10 – July 21, 2027

Study Abroad

Embark on a life-changing adventure with Notre Dame's study abroad programs for rising seniors, offering immersive cultural and academic experiences in Mexico City, Rome, Ireland, or London led by University faculty. Discover historic architecture, dramatic landscapes, and vibrant cities while creating unforgettable lifelong memories.
Check the website for dates.
precollege.nd.edu/study-abroad

APPLICATION OPENS OCTOBER 19, 2026

It was an incredible lens into what college is like, but even more so the heart and soul of what makes ND and this community so special.

Ryan Fish, 2026 Summer Scholars alumnus

LEARN MORE ABOUT PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS!

FOLLOW US

@notredameprecollege @notredameprecollege @ndprecollege @ndprecollege

South Bend Medical Foundation
High School Red Cord Program

Donate just 3 times during your high school career & receive a red cord to wear at your graduation!

To qualify, donors can donate at their school blood drives or any SBMF Blood Donor Center. Donations must be made by April 12th and all forms submitted by April 30th.

Whole Blood Donation = 1 time / Platelet donation = 2 times

Donor Requirements:

Please eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water. Bring a photo ID. Eating extra iron-rich foods the week before can help prevent deferral.

- Must be at least 16 years old with parental consent or 17 years old without
- Must weigh at least 110 pounds
- Must have a fully healed tattoo or body piercing
- Must be symptom free of cold or flu for at least 72 hours

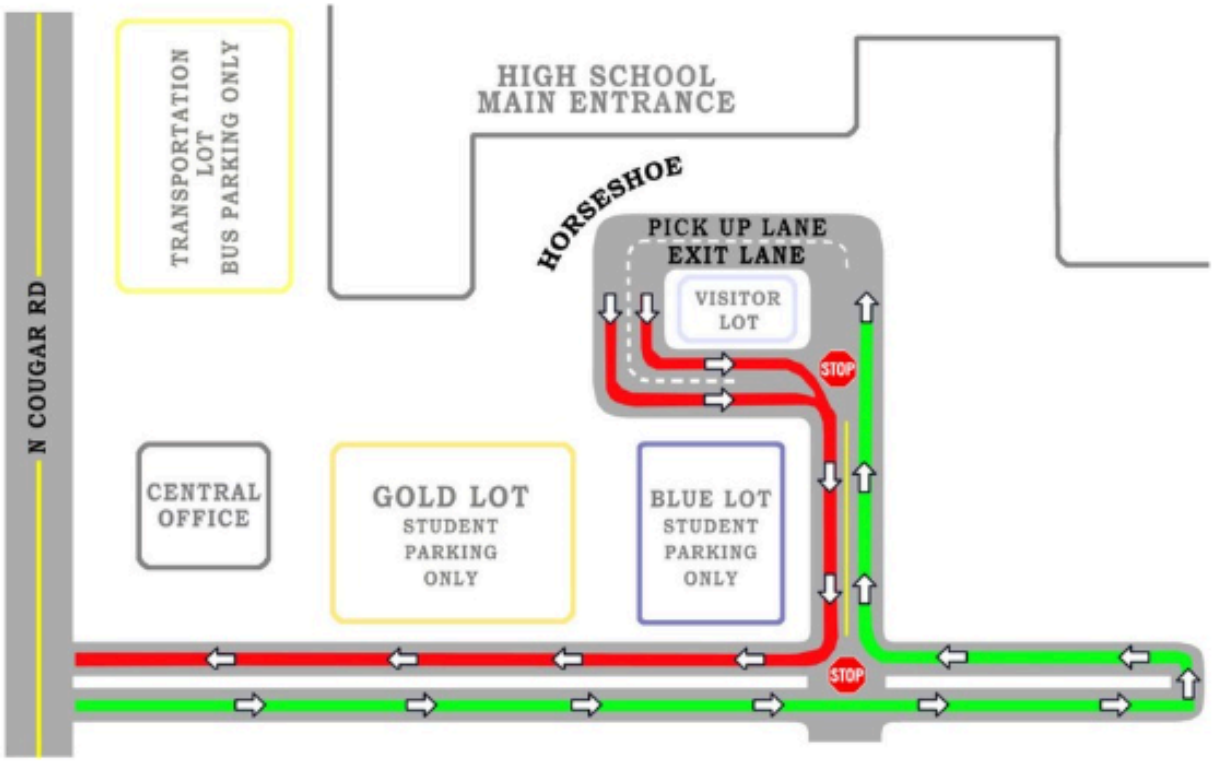


SBMF
www.GiveBloodNow.com

Students:
Scan the QR code each time you donate to record your donation with SBMF

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.