

The Prairieland Press

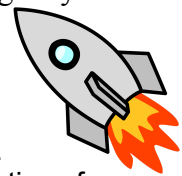
“It’s a Great Day to Be a Cougar!”

September 2023

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| <p>Attendance Line: 557-4473</p> <p>Please use the attendance line to report an absence or late arrival.</p> | <p>Principal: Scott Peters</p> <p>Office: 557-4424</p> <p>Office hours: 6:45-3:15</p> | <p>School Website:</p> <p>www.unit5.org/prairieland</p> <p>Calendar:</p> <p>http://www.unit5.org/Page/38</p> |
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Principal’s Message:

Hi everyone and once again welcome to the 2023-24 school year. It has been an “Out of This World” start and we are excited about our journey ahead! Our theme this year is Reach for the Stars: Anything is Possible! Throughout the year we will tie a variety of activities to our theme to bring it alive for the students. It was an unusually “hot” start during week two. This gave us an opportunity to teach the kids how we do inside recess when the weather doesn’t work out for us. Almost every month of the school year I will put out the Prairieland Press to inform you of ongoing and upcoming topics in our school world. I also encourage you to visit our Prairieland Website for the most up to date information. The address to the website can be found at the top of this newsletter. We are excited to partner with our families to work together to give your students a successful experience here at Prairieland!



Lockdown/Evacuation Drill: Wednesday, September 6, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Part of our mission to keep all of our stakeholders safe involves teaching best practices for responding to emergency situations. Over the past few years we have worked to strengthen these practices with our first responders throughout our area. Our school community has adopted and practiced the Standard Response Protocols by the ILoveUGuys Foundation. The standard response protocols are based on five actions that can be done to respond to all emergencies.

- **HOLD** - During a HOLD, students would stay in their classroom with the teacher and wait for an all-clear before moving to the next class. We might call a HOLD for a spill or other unsafe situation in the hallway.
- **SECURE** - We would call a SECURE if there was an unsafe event happening outside of the school. Exterior doors are all checked and students are not allowed to leave the building until it is safe.
- **LOCKDOWN** - A LOCKDOWN would be called if an extremely unsafe situation existed in the school. Students and staff would lockdown their classrooms until police could secure the building.
- **EVACUATE** - In the case of a fire, gas leak, or any other situations that make inside the building unsafe, we would EVACUATE the building using plans that are posted in each classroom.
- **SHELTER** - If weather conditions are unsafe, we would call a SHELTER which would cause students to move to the safest locations within our building.

For more details, a parent handout is linked [here](#). The handout is also available in Spanish and linked [here](#).

As a matter of teaching and learning how to respond in an emergency, each year the last three actions are practiced with our first responder agencies in our Law Enforcement and Fire Drills. Under the School Safety Drill Act, a law enforcement drill must be observed within the first 90 days of school.

****This year our lockdown/evacuation drill is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6 starting at 9:00a.m in the morning. This year we will be evacuating to the back part of our property.**

Students will not be accessible to leave during that time as they will be in the middle of our drill. Please take note of this date and time for appointments.

Also understand that when we do these drills, they are done in a very calm and organized manner. We never want to alarm the students in any way. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Peters in the office.

Prairieland's Back to School Social

When: Friday, September 8, 4:30-6:00 outside

Live Music by Kyle Yap Music!

Cold Sweet Treats & Outdoor Activities

Book Exchange! Bring books your family is no longer reading and take a new(to you) book home. Remaining children's books will be donated.



Recess/Lunch Times: Here are the recess and lunch times for this year:

4th and 5th grade: Lunch 11:00-11:25/Recess 11:25-11:50

2nd and 3rd grade: Lunch 11:30-11:55/Recess 11:55-12:20

K and 1st grade: Lunch 12:00-12:25/Recess 12:25-12:50

aReading & aMath Testing:

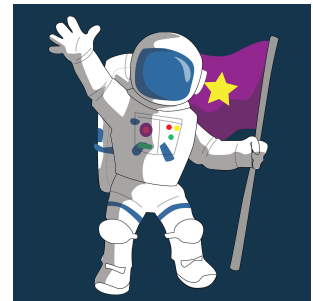
This year all of our students will be taking reading and math assessments three different times. This year we are again utilizing a system of testing called aReading and aMath. These are easy to navigate computerized assessments that generally take 20-30 minutes to complete. These assessments will provide us with a glimpse of the strengths and areas of opportunity for your students. The first assessment window is open and all students will be completing the assessments by September 8.

Curriculum Information: This year all of our classroom teachers will be sharing curriculum information, as well as, all the routines of their classrooms in either a paper or digital format. We will not be having any in-person curriculum nights for 1st-5th grade. I always encourage families to reach out to our staff with any questions you may have throughout the year. All classroom teachers have sent something home at this point. If for some reason you feel you did not receive, please reach out to your student’s teacher.

Parent/teacher conferences: P/T conferences will be held on Friday, November 3. In future weeks, information will be shared on scheduling a time with your child’s teacher. We will offer both in-person and virtual options for conferences. As always, please reach out to your child’s teacher well before this date if you have questions about anything.

New Staff to Prairieland for 2023-24

- Brylee Gambacorta-Kindergarten
- Ashley Miller-5th grade-moved internally from LBSI
- Sandy Mosher-5th grade-moved internally from paraprofessional



Volunteers:

If a teacher is in need of a volunteer during the year they may be reaching out for your assistance. We then will make sure the volunteers have gone through the appropriate steps to be cleared. All volunteers must be cleared before they can come in to work with students.

X, formally known as Twitter: I am going to be using X/Twitter to give you quick updates on upcoming events, as well as to highlight some of the fun things that are happening. Our twitter handle is @PrairielandUni5 if you would like to follow us. This will provide snapshots of activities going on at Prairieland. You will also see district updates on our feed!

High School Football Games:

High school football games are great events for junior high and elementary students to attend to start seeing what high school life is like. It is important to note that junior high and elementary students coming to a football game at either Normal Community or Normal West must be accompanied by an adult (18 or older). Junior high or elementary students without an adult will not be allowed to enter the stadium. We also ask that students not bring bags, footballs, or toys to the game.

Thank you for your cooperation and we invite you to come out and support our Unit 5 teams this fall!

Angie Codron, Principal of Normal West

Adam Zbrozek, Principal of Normal Community

Labeling Your Child's Materials:

This is a quick reminder to label items your students may bring to school such as lunchboxes and water bottles. We also recommend putting initials on the tags of sweatshirts and coats. Labeling items helps us reunite things with their owners.

Pick-up & Drop-off Reminders: We are off to a great start with our pickup and drop-off this year. Here are a couple reminders. In the morning, please have your child ready to get out of the car along the yellow cones or orange barricades. This keeps our traffic flowing. If your child struggles getting out of the car I ask that you please park in the back parking lot and bring them to the crosswalk where Mr.Peters, or another adult, can cross them safely so they can walk to their lines. At pickup I ask that you have a simple sign in the window of your car, or that you can hold up, with the name of your child so we can call out their name and get them to your vehicle. Thanks for your help with these things.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

September

- 4 Labor Day-NO SCHOOL**
- 6 Lockdown/Evacuation Drill-9:00-10:00 a.m.**

- 8 **P.I.E.C.E. Back to School Event: 4:30-6:00 at Carden Park**
- 11 **P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30: in-person in the K/2 Commons**
- 12 **Early Release-10:45-Please make sure you have made arrangements for your child**
- 29 **Teacher Institute-NO SCHOOL**

October

- 4 **NCWHS Homecoming Parade**
- 6 **NCWHS Homecoming**
Picture Retake Day
- 9 **Indigenous People Day-NO SCHOOL**
- 16 **PIECE Meeting-6:30-K/2 Commons**
- 18 **Early Release-10:45 a.m.**
- 31 **Happy Halloween!!! Parade at 1:15 & Parties to follow**

