



The Prairieland Press

“It’s a Great Day to Be a Cougar!”

September 2022

<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>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 2022-23 school year. It has been a great start to the year! It has been wonderful to get back to normal routines and watch the kids interact more freely with their classmates both in the classrooms and lunchroom. Our theme this year is Learning is an Adventure: Explore More, Learn More. Our staff has once again done an incredible job of integrating the camping and outdoor deco into their spaces. We are also keeping a close watch on the progress of our new playground from the Town of Normal. It is coming along slowly but will be awesome when it is done. I’m proud of our students for adapting and making the best of the outdoor options that we have. 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 as well. The address to the website can be found at the top of this newsletter.

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 between now and September 9.

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 all of our 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.

Evacuation Drill: Monday, September 19, 8:45-11:00

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 I Love U Guys 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 evacuation drill is scheduled for Monday, September 19 starting at 8:45 in the morning. We will be evacuating all of the students on buses to Eastview Church in Normal. The drill will take approximately two hours to complete. 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.

Parent/teacher conferences: P/T conferences will be held this year on Monday, November 7. 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 2022-23

- Elizabeth Reeves-1st Grade
- Heather Hucal-5th Grade
- Danielle Estes-Speech Pathologist
- Ashley Miller-LBS1-Resource
- Kelly Cole-Nurse
- Diane Hinthorne-OT
- Heather Wheet-OT
- Jessie Brown-PT
- Kris Cannon-Interventionist-Assisting with literacy and math
- Sandy Mosher-Paraprofessional
- Brooke Reatherford-Paraprofessional
- Sarah Thomas-Paraprofessional
- Paul Toca-Head Custodian
- Sue Kessinger-Night Custodian



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.

Class Library Days

Each class comes to the library (IMC) one day each week. Books should be returned to school on this day each week so that students can check out new books. If students would like to renew a book to keep it for another week they should bring it with them to their library class period for renewal.

Monday - 5S, 4S, 3LS, 2H, 1M

Tuesday - 5T, 4M, 3SS, KA

Wednesday - 5H, 4H, 1B, 2S, KW

Thursday - 3R, 2W, KB

Friday - 1R

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Ford (fordng@unit5.org). Thank you!

Noon Supervisors Needed:

We currently have openings for Noon Hour Supervisor positions here at Prairieland! The role of the supervisor is to monitor and support students during their lunch/recess time. This is a great way to get involved with our school, get to know our students and staff a little better, and earn a little extra money! The position is 2 hours per day (10:55-12:55) anywhere between 3-5 days a week and pays \$13.00 an hour. If you think you may be interested in a position, please contact the office for more information. 557-4424

Twitter: This year again I am going to be using 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 as well 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. Junior high and elementary students coming to a football game at either NCHS or 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.

Dave Johnson, Principal of Normal West

Adam Zbrozek, Principal of Normal Community

Labeling Your Child's Materials:

This is a quick reminder to label as many things of your students as possible that they bring to school such as lunchboxes, water bottles, and even 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 also ask that you have a simple sign of some sort 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.

Being Good Neighbors:

I want to remind everyone to please be respectful of the driveways of our neighbors in the Aspen Trails(this is private property) area, as well as Wintergreen. If you are parked along either of those areas to drop off or pick up kids, please keep the neighbors driveways open so they can come and go as they need to.

State Farm Grant!-Thank you!

We want to thank State Farm for awarding our school a STEM grant at the end of last school year. This grant has allowed us to get coding materials that will be utilized throughout the school year with small groups of students, as well as the large screen TV's that are located in the foyer, IMC, and all the commons. These TV's can be used for prepared announcements, curricular material displays, and the IMC device can actually be used as a teaching and presentation tool. The goal is to eventually teach students to create slides with material that can be displayed on the TV.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

September

- 5 Labor Day-NO SCHOOL**
- 7 Fire Drill-1:15-with NFD**
- 12 P.I.E.C.E. Meeting-6:30: in-person in the K/2 Commons**
- 13 Early Release-10:45-Please make sure you have made arrangements for your child**
- 19 Evacuation Drill: 8:45-11:00**
- 21 NCWHS Homecoming Parade**
- 23 NCWHS Homecoming**
- 30 Teacher Institute-NO SCHOOL**

October

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

