



September
2026
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No. 2

Dakota Prairie Knight Reader

<http://www.dakota-prairie.k12.nd.us>

A Few Things by Jay Slade, Superintendent



Hello everyone and welcome to September;

The month of harvest, the start of fall, and shorter days. In public education September is the month we get our first indication of how our students are doing after summer break, and what we need to work on moving forward. These indicators are found in several ways, but two of the most effective are classroom observations and standardized testing. At Dakota Prairie School District we utilize the ND A+ test as recommended by the state of North Dakota. We have used this test for the past three years and are beginning to get some good data that will not only lead to best teaching practices in the classroom, but that also shape what areas teachers should be focusing on. I know testing is not everyone's favorite topic, but please know it does assist us in educating your students.

Sports and activities are starting strong. Volleyball and Football have already had their respective season "openers" and the Elementary Girls Basketball team has begun practices. I have high hopes for our Fall student participants and wish them all the best of luck throughout the season. For our parents/grandparents/aunts/uncles/neighbors, if you get the opportunity, please come out and see these kids work towards their goals, work within a team, and in general have a blast with their friends! Lastly, the One Act Play (OAP) is also starting tryouts and line reading. As we get more concrete dates about various performances, we will send them out. If you get a chance to go to Pekin and watch the DP OAP performance, please do – past performances have been (wait for it) legend---ary.

A few housekeeping items

- Infinite Campus glitches continue but for the most part the transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus has been pretty successful. However, it is still a new program and we are working on improving our usage of it. Simply stated – If you have an issue or concern call us
- We are hiring for a paraprofessional at DPHS. The Special Education Department at DPHS is short staffed and could use another set of hands. If you like working in a collaborative environment aimed at helping students, then this is the job for you

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**CURRENT &
PREVIOUS
ISSUES
AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

**PRINT COPY
AVAILABLE BY
REQUEST**

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A Few Things continued.

- We have purchased a new bus and it should be arriving shortly. This is a medium sized bus (More than 14 but less than 72) and will be put on a route immediately where it is needed the most. We are still operating on the premise that we purchase a new bus every year or at the least every other year.

A message for our Seniors:

We have all been there. We know everything is annoying, or everything is pointless, or you have a million other things to do and no time to do it. I am simply asking you to try. Try to have fun this year, try to make memories, try to be safe, and most importantly try to enjoy the little things. I am asking you all to try – be a positive role model for our younger kids and be the leaders we all know you are. Had to take my chance to sound “Dadish”

Go Chargers! Go Knights!!

LIBRARY NEWS

The libraries are back in full swing! I’ve already gone through 4 preview boxes at the high school AND 4 at the elementary school to add some new content to our collections.

One frequently asked question I receive at the beginning of the school year — Did you get any new books? Well, of course! Throughout the summer, our Junior Library Guild subscriptions continued sending excellent new read aloud children’s books, chapter books, and graphic novels. Most are ready for circulation, with a couple items too new for MARC records.

Sometimes a new title slips the attention of a student in library classes later in the day. To see the latest books added to our libraries—visit <https://dakotaprairie.goalexandria.com> — when you go into Browse, the newest titles automatically appear. Click the map icon to see which library the title is located. (High school books start with their Dewey number or FIC. Elementary books start with J Dewey number, E, or J FIC.)

Another frequently asked question —how many books can a student have checked out? The answer depends on which grade said student is in. Students in grades K-3 are able to have one book checked out at a time. Students in grades 4-6 are able to have two books checked out at a time. Students in grades 7-8 are able to have five checked out at a time. Grade 9 can have seven books. And finally, students in grades 10-12 can have ten books checked out at a time.

Another question—when is my book due? To keep things simpler—the due date is the end of the quarter. Any books currently checked out are due October 14th. If you’re still actively reading something, or you’re really close to finishing, simply ask to renew.

And the final question — when does x grade have library? This year I have **Kindergarten, 2nd, 5th, and 6th on Tuesdays. And PK, 1st, 3rd, and 4th on Thursday.**

Keep reading!

SJ

GET PAID AND WATCH EXCITING CHARGERS SPORTS ACTION

If you're interested in helping with any home ball games in McVile this school year, please contact Hunter Sand (Dakota Prairie AD) at hunter.sand@k12.nd.us or 701-345-8233. You don't need to commit to every game, as some positions have already been filled, but we're always looking for additional help or people who can be available as substitutes when needed. We're currently seeking individuals to assist as line judges for volleyball, run the clock or shot clock during games, referee, keep the official book, or help with football games through announcing or working the chains. Your support is always appreciated!

The high school has 2 hamster enclosures and a large fish tank sitting in storage that we don't know what to do with. If you'd like to make an offer please contact the office. 701-345-8233



BLANKETS FOR SALE

FCCLA FUNDRAISER



contact renae.schanilec@k12.nd.us

A big thanks goes out to
Jack and Beth Donaghy and
Brian and Jodi Heikkila
for their school supply donations to
the elementary school.

Much appreciated!

Thank you to all 25-26 yearbook sponsors!

\$500

Bjorlie Construction

\$150

Berg Insurance

\$130

Ohnstad Electric

\$125

Brueckner Funeral Services

Cedar Ridge Apartments

Engen Insurance Agency

Farmers and Merchant Bank - Tolna

Ihry Insurance

Jensen Pioneer Seed

Lundeby Evergreens

Mork Insurance

Ottertail Power Co

SSR Pump Company

Stein Seed Company

\$100

Farmers Union Oil - Aneta

Farmers Union Oil - Tolna

First United Bank

Leading Edge Equipment

North Dakota Telephone Company

\$75

Polor Communications

\$70

Wallace Repair

\$50

Country Greenhouse

Tom Dunham O.D.

\$25

LFS Professional Services

Another thanks goes to Wallace Repair. They asked that a student receive a free copy of the yearbook. Amanda was randomly chosen and received her copy during our assembly on September 3rd.



~ UNOFFICIAL MINUTES~

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

DAKOTA PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

DAKOTA PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

REGULAR MEETING

- ◆ Mr. David Blasey—President
- ◆ Mr. Charlie Stein
- ◆ Mrs. Jennifer Rusten
- ◆ Mrs. Nikki Ohnstad
- ◆ Mrs. Anna Halvorson

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Blasey with members Charlie Stein, Nikki Ohnstad, Jennifer Rusten were present, Anna Halvorson was absent. Also present were Superintendent Jay Slade, Principals Jackie Bye, Clay Johnson and Lori Dahl Business Manager. Hunter Sand Activities director was also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at this time.

Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Jennifer Rusten to approve the agenda as printed.

There were no public comments.

The minutes and financial reports were presented for approval.

Motion by Nikki Ohnstad second by Jennifer Rusten to approve the minutes and financial reports as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

The bills were presented for payment.

Motion by Charlie Stein, second by Nikki Ohnstad to approve the bills for payment. All in favor, motion carried.

The board and staff introduced themselves and told how long they have been here and the area they teach.

Activity Director Report: Fall sports have started, the turf tank worked very well.

High School Principal Report: No major summer projects, in the future, we will need to look at the science room for updates remove 2 tables and replace the remaining 2. Current enrollment is 138, special ed case load is heavier, science will be monitored by Karen Retzlaff as we did not find a science teacher. We have 4 students out for cross country,

Elementary Principal Report: Professional Development has topics are mandated, tomorrow is a teacher work day, back to school night in both buildings tonight. School Wide Title information will be in the gym from 5-7. Report on elementary athletics, new math scores from spring testing, reading is still coming. Summer projects are wrapping up, will be piloting the positive action program that started with County Health and also able to expand to the entire elementary. New head cook and paraprofessional, current enrollment is 140

Superintendent Slade presented the updates from NDSBA for the board policy book BA, BC, BC-BR, CAAB, CAAB-E1, CABB-E2, CABB, CBAA, CBAB, FAAC, FDD, HDAA.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Nikki Ohnstad to approve the following policy updates BA, BC, BC-BR, CAAB, CAAB-E1, CABB-E2, CABB, CBAA, CBAB, FAAC, FDD, HDAA. All in favor, motion carried

Next board meeting September 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The Budget meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Charlie Stein to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.

DAKOTA PRAIRIE KNIGHTS BOOSTER CLUB SPONSORSHIP FORM

The Knights Booster Club is a parent run organization led by a committee that manages the concessions at all home games besides spring sports. The committee develops a menu, orders food, creates a serving schedule for parents in grades 7-12, and oversees the concessions at each game.

Parents of students in grades 7-12 are asked to serve at one game during the school year. The profits from these concessions are used to fund and sponsor Dakota Prairie students as they excel in the activities they participate in throughout the year. The Knights Booster Club also financially supports teachers and staff that request funds for special projects. Interested in becoming a sponsor? Sponsorship is \$15 for an individual, \$30 for a family, or \$100 for a business.

Thank you for your ongoing support. The Knights Booster Club looks forward to building the sponsor list and giving back to our awesome students each year. A list of our sponsors will be displayed on a tv screen in the gym at home games.

If interested in being a sponsorship, please make checks payable to "Knights Booster Club" and detach the bottom portion of this paper and mail to PO. Box 155, Michigan, ND 58259 or return to either Dakota Prairie High School or Elementary office.

Name: _____

Sponsorship Amount: _____ \$15 (individual) _____ \$30 (family) _____ \$100 (business)

NELSON COUNTY MUSIC DATES 2026-2027

September

VCSU Honor Band

October

30 Halloween Concert

November

Barnes County Music Festival

13 UJ Honor Band

December

1 Winter Concert Petersburg

January

22-24 UND Honor

February

VCSU Vocal day

March

10 Large Group Carrington

12-15 Music trip

April

8 Solo/Ensemble UJ

May

1 State Music Minot

4 Spring Concert

**A big thank you to
Bill Miller and
Darcy McGee for
their instrument
donations to the
Dakota Prairie Mu-
sic Department.**

Homecoming Week - September 21st-25th

- **Wednesday, September 23:** Coronation - **3:00 p.m.** DPHS gym
- **Wednesday, September 23:** Bonfire & Games **7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.** DPHS
- **Friday, September 25:** Homecoming Parade in Lakota – **1:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, September 25:** Homecoming Dance at LHS – **9:00 p.m.** (or immediately following the football game). - **12:00 a.m.**
- **TBD:** Girls 9-12 Powderpuff Game

Homecoming Parade Float Registration (Grades 7–12) Planning to have a class float in this year's **Homecoming Parade**? Please complete and submit the **Homecoming Parade Float Registration Form**.

DRESS UP DAYS

Monday: Merica' Wear red, white, and blue

Tuesday: Blue Collar vs. White Collar Dress like someone who works hands-on or in an office

Wednesday: Meme Day Dress as your favorite meme

Thursday: Color Drenched Wear your assigned class colors

Friday: Chargers Spirit Wear your Chargers gear

WEAR YOUR ASSIGNED CLASS COLORS					
7: PURPLE	8: BLACK	9: PINK	10: GREEN	11: BLUE	12: RED
TEACHERS: WHITE					

Juniors, remember that you are responsible for providing the firewood for the Homecoming bonfire. Please plan ahead so we have plenty of wood.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to the New School Year!

We are off to an incredible start! Walking through the halls, the energy is contagious. Our students have come back enthusiastic, engaged, and exceptionally respectful. It sets a fantastic tone for everything we hope to accomplish together this year.

Staff Updates & New Faces



Please join us in giving an official, warm welcome to our newest faculty members:

- ⇒ Mrs. Darcy McGee
- ⇒ Mr. Isaac Strom
- ⇒ Mrs. Madison Wheeler

We are thrilled to have them on our team!

We are also actively looking to hire another high school para professional or substitute teachers. If you or someone you know would be a great fit for our school community, please check our employment listings or reach out to the office.

Infinite Campus Transition

Switching systems always comes with a few growing pains, and our transition to Infinite Campus has had its share of minor headaches. However, thanks to the tireless hard work and dedication of Lori T., most of these bumps have been smoothed out quickly. We greatly appreciate her efforts—and your patience—as we finalize this rollout.

Online Science Classes

Our online science courses are up and running as smoothly as possible. As a reminder, each course has a dedicated online instructor. If you or your child ever have questions or need extra support, please feel free to email those instructors directly. A huge thank-you goes out to Mrs. Retzlaff for her incredible work keeping all of our students organized and on track with their coursework.

Looking Ahead to Fall

With August winding down and September right around the corner, autumn is officially upon us. Before we know it, Thanksgiving will be here! I'm especially looking forward to the cool fall breezes, school spirit, and all the excitement surrounding Homecoming.

As always, if you ever have questions, concerns, or feedback, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at the school.

Cheers to a great year ahead!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

GIRLS GOLF MIDSEASON CHECK IN

The Nelson County Girls Golf team started this year off with five golfers joining to learn and compete in a sport that they may play for the rest of their lives. Only one of the five golfers has golfed for the Nelson County Chargers before. We are competing in a schedule that is both a JV and a Varsity Schedule. The girls have been doing a great job of learning the skills of the sport during practice. We had a fun team bonding day going to Suite Shots in Fargo and learning how to have fun with the game of golf in a different venue. The early meets have been great learning experiences and time to make new friends from other teams. The girls have enjoyed cheering each other on and helping each other out while navigating a golf course they have never played before. Please consider coming to a meet for an hour or the whole thing! We have two varsity home regional qualifier meets in Lakota on August 28 and September 4th. Both start at 9am. Golf on!



Donovan Klein attended North Dakota Boy's State at NDSCS this summer. He was elected for many offices and was almost elected Attorney General. He said it was a fantastic experience. Boys and Girls State is held annually and juniors are eligible to attend.

Congratulations to Hadley Strand, who qualified for the State Cross Country Meet with an outstanding time of 24:13! All of the miles, hard work, and dedication have paid off. We are proud to have Hadley representing Dakota Prairie at State! Great job, Hadley, and good luck at State!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

College Visits

Visiting campuses has become more common during one's junior year which helps cut down time touring during their senior year. Most campuses offer tours on Saturday, but to really get a feel for campus life, it's encouraged to tour on a weekday. Often times, campuses like UND and NDSU will offer special event days for students studying in certain majors. Ms. Beckstrom can help seniors find these dates and help them arrange their tour. If there is a large interest in a certain college, we can possibly arrange for a group tour. We've done this to VCSU, UM Crookston, and NDSU in the past.

Applying to College

Seniors will receive a coupon code in October to cover a college application fee. Some colleges waive fees during the fall too. If a student already knows where they want to attend, I recommend applying early. It's one less thing to worry about! **Housing is another reason to apply early:** some housing applications open as early as October and rooms are assigned chronologically. If your student has a specific dorm in mind, being admitted early can improve their chances of getting it.

Financial Aid

FAFSA opens up October 1st. If your teen will be in college next fall (of 2027), then you will apply October 1st.

Parent Emails

I do send emails to parents on occasion sharing what's happening or career planning tidbits.

Former Graduates

Don't forget to contact your scholarship benefactors to ensure you get these sent to your colleges. Also, you have to apply for FAFSA each year too.

Career Counselor Contact

Grades 10th-12th

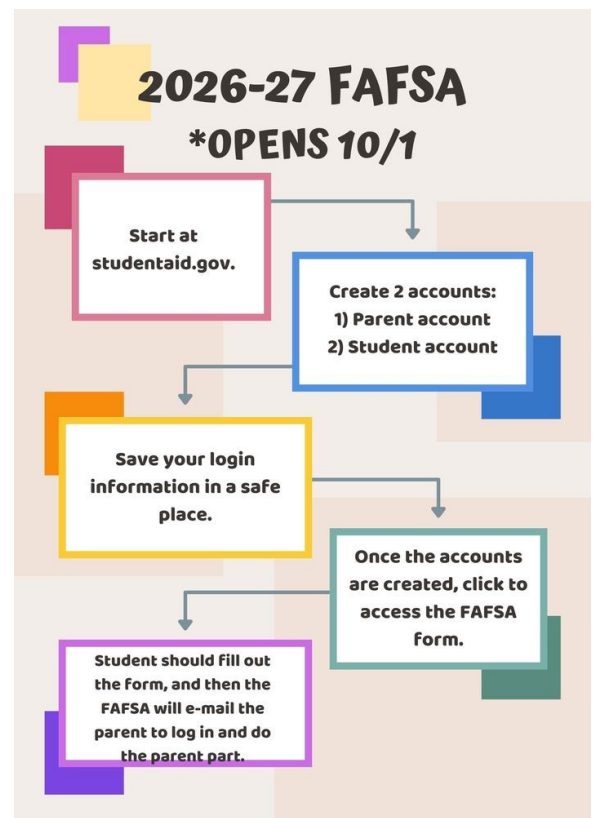
Kelsey Beckstrom

Kelsey.Beckstrom@k12.nd.us

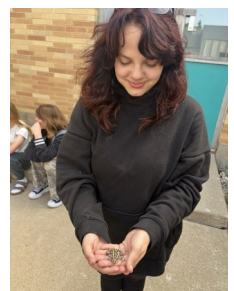
Upcoming Events

Sept 15th-10th and 11th graders to LRSC for a College and Occupational Fair

Oct 28th - 10th to Career Expo



It's been three years since our building went cell phone free. We're seeing some pretty great things: students chasing frogs during lunch, playing cards in the sunshine, talking, laughing, and simply being silly teenagers. Sometimes taking the phone away doesn't take something from kids; it gives something back.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Dakota Prairie's Close Up group spent much of the summer fundraising for its trip to Washington, D.C. These efforts would not have been possible without the generosity of our local sponsors. Tronson Grain sponsored a fundraising lunch during the 4-H Achievement Days, while the Pekin Elevator sponsored a dirty soda and coffee bar during the Tolna Baseball Tournament. We sincerely thank both sponsors for supporting our students and helping them earn their way to our nation's capital.



2026-2027 Student Council Members

7th: Rhett & Pepper

8th: Hunter & Siena

9th: Owen & Teagen

10th: Bennett & Hannah

11th: Cooper, Devyn, Brianna

12th: Donovan, Abbie, DoriAnn



Hayley, Amanda, and Marley attended ND Leadership Seminar this past summer. It's a camp for emerging leaders. Anyone in the 10th grade who is interested in going next summer is eligible to do so. The girls said they had an excellent time learning from all young leaders in our state.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Friendships in High School

From a development perspective, adolescence is a critical period for building identity, independence, and meaningful relationships outside the family. Erik Erikson described this stage as identity vs. role confusion; when young people are figuring out who they are and where they belong. Peer relationships become especially important during these years because teens learn communication, trust, cooperation, boundaries, and conflict resolution through friendships. Piaget's theory also recognizes adolescence as a time when young people develop more advanced reasoning and begin thinking more deeply about themselves and their relationships with others. So while friendships may not seem particularly important to adults, they are an important part of growing up. Encouraging teens to join activities, try new things, and find people who share their interests can help them develop confidence, belonging, and a stronger sense of self. If a student hasn't found their "people" yet, it might be worth trying out a camp or participating in multi-age club like 4-H, youth group, Student Council, golf, FCCLA, or work co-op.

Ms. Hurst's English classes had a Book Tasting to experience a variety of genres our library has to offer.



Parent Teacher Conference Dates

Wednesday, October 21: 8:00 a.m.— 6:00p.m.

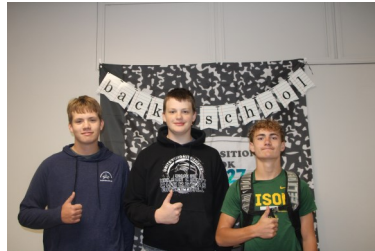
Friday, March 12: 8:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.

In Person & ZOOM Availabilities

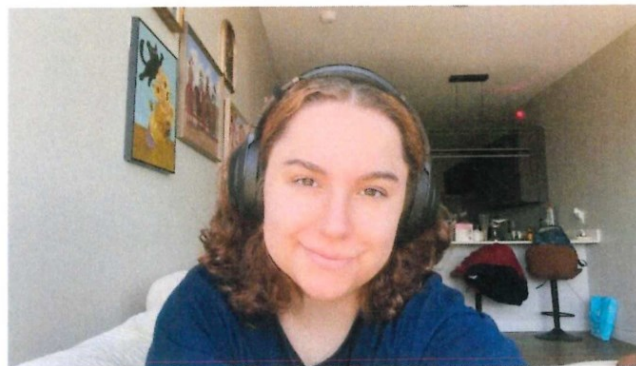
High School teachers will be at the high school; and the elementary teachers will be at the elementary. Sign Up Genius will be utilized for parents to choose the option that best fits their schedule.



FIRST DAY SNAPSHOTS



New Counselor Interns Coming to Dakota Prairie



Hi! My name is Erin, and I am currently getting my Master's in Counseling at UND. I grew up in Georgia and received my BA in Psychology from the University of Alabama! I have previously conducted research on language-based skills in early learning environments as well as the effects of ADHD and Anxiety on computerized educational task completion. I am currently working on becoming SPARCS certified and hoping to begin a doctorate program once I graduate from UND. Outside of school/work, I love to go to the gym, read, and spend time with my friends on the weekends! I am always looking for new show/movie recommendations, and I enjoy experimenting with new recipes! I am so excited for the coming school year, and cannot wait to get to know everyone!

Also meet Jonathan at the elementary on page 17

DAKOTA PRAIRIE SCHOOL

— Engage • Empower • Excel —



VISION

Provide an Innovative Educational Environment that promotes Engagement, Empowerment, and Excellence.



MISSION

Provide an Innovative Educational Environment that Empowers Engaged Learners.



OUR BELIEFS



We provide an innovative environment for student growth.



We create relationships that promote student engagement.



We empower students to be transition ready.



We deliver effective, rigorous, and relevant instruction.



We engage in data-driven decisions for school improvement and student growth.



CLIMATE & CULTURE

Creating a safe, healthy, respectful, and supportive environment where everyone can thrive.



STUDENT GROWTH

Preparing students to become transition ready for each step of their academic journey and future goals.



DIGITAL LITERACY

Empowering students and staff to be digitally innovative, responsible, and prepared for the future.



OUR OBJECTIVES



Promote a safe and healthy school climate and culture.



Prepare students to become transition ready for each step of their academic journey and future goals.



Students and staff will be digitally innovative and responsible.

— Together, we are preparing learners for their future. —

~ Elementary News ~

From the Desk of Dr. Jackie Bye, Elementary Principal

Back to School time has been exciting! The school year is off to a great start at Dakota Prairie Elementary. The enrollment PK-6th grade is 142 students. We have 8 new students this year. The enrollment numbers are wonderful news for the future of the Dakota Prairie School District.



With fall comes back-to-school sports seasons. The 5th/6th grade girls' basketball team began practice on August 24, with games continuing through October 5. You will find their schedule in the Knight Reader. Try to find a day to come and watch a game or two. They are a fun group to watch play. If you are unable to come in person, you can watch the games in McVile streamed on our HUDL channel available on the Dakota Prairie school website. There are five 6th grade girls and six 5th grade girls playing for Dakota Prairie this fall. The 6th Graders are: Ahnalee Kueber, Mallori Schock, Lily Walter, Mila Watkins and Gracie Schneider. The 5th Grade girls are: Lydia Dahl, Gracie Flom, Olive Folven, Kelsie Jones, Elsa Reinhart and Stella Stein. The coach for the girls is Mr. Gus Kueber.

The 5th & 6th grade boys will begin their season the beginning of October. Their coach will be Mr. Jason Beglau. More information will be sent home at the end of September with the exact starting date.

The 21st Century Knights Academy After School Program will continue this year. We offer a before school program from 7:00-8:00 every school day. We offer an after-school program Tuesdays and Thursdays in McVile from 3:30-6:00. Haley Klefstad is the site coordinator for this grant awarded 21st Century program. You can email her at haley.klefstad@k12.nd.us if you are interested in the morning program, or the after-school program. This program is free to all students.

Other events going on later in September include the 5th Graders participating in the McVile Arbor Day program, our elementary students going to Lakota to attend the Homecoming parade on Friday, September 25, and a visit from ND Department of Public Education Superintendent of Schools Levi Bachmeier. More information about these events will be sent home as we get closer to those dates.

I did share this in the August Knight Reader, but I think a summary of that is okay as we get into the school year because of so many questions surrounding the topic of devices. Technology is an important part of the world our students are growing up in. Our responsibility as a school is not only to teach students how to read, write, solve problems, and understand the world around them, but also to teach them how to use technology appropriately, responsibly, safely, and effectively, for their future.

Digital devices are tools. Like any tool, they are most valuable when they are used purposefully and in the right amount. **At the same time, technology is not the center of our elementary school day.**

The majority of our students' time at school is spent interacting directly with their teachers and classmates, participating in discussions, working with manipulatives, practicing math problems, and using hands-on materials, practicing skills, writing, reading actual books, and engaging in learning activities away from a screen.

YOU WILL STILL SEE DAKOTA PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS:

- Read books and listen to stories. Practice handwriting, writing, and vocabulary.
- Work with math manipulatives and other hands-on materials.

- Participate in science experiments and projects.
- Work with classmates and teachers face-to-face.
- Engage in music, physical education, art, and other activities.
- Discuss ideas, ask questions, collaborate, and solve problems together.
- Play on the playground. Go outside for recess, even in the winter.

We do use -10 degrees as our cutoff for going outside. Either regular temp or windchill. So, get a head start on the snow gear.

HOW MUCH TECHNOLOGY ARE STUDENTS ACTUALLY USING?

Our school devices, iPads and laptops, are used for **specific educational purposes**. As students are using these programs they are being monitored by teaching staff. The data from these programs is also used to help us determine ways to continue helping growth in academic areas also. The approximate use of these programs is:

1. **AMIRA &/or INSTRUCT- Reading-Language Arts**

Approximately **30-40 Minutes per Week**

AMIRA provides students with individualized reading practice and helps us identify areas where students may need additional support.

2. **XtraMath – Math**

Approximately **5-10 minutes per day**

XtraMath gives students focused practice with important math facts and fluency skills.

3. **Cybersecurity and Typing – Computer Class Laptop Activities**

Approximately **50 minutes per week**

Students also receive instruction and practice in areas such as keyboarding and cybersecurity. These are important practical skills that students will need as they continue through school and eventually enter the workforce.

4. **NAAVY – State Standards Practice**

Approximately **20-30 minutes per week**

Used the second semester to practice state standards for proficiency

5. **IXL – Intervention – Extra Practice**

Approximately **30-50 minutes per week**.

This really depends on the students age. Older students might use it more than younger students.

6. **Other Classroom Technology**

Technology may be used occasionally within classrooms when it adds value to a lesson. It is **not intended to be the primary method of instruction for our core subjects**. Students might use it for projects or presentations for example.

a. **Total: 135-180 per week**

The amount of time may vary by grade level, classroom, student needs, and instructional purpose. Our goal is always to use technology **when it improves learning—not simply because a device is available**. Technology, however, is only **one piece of the puzzle**. It **does not replace a highly qualified teacher**, meaningful discussion, hands-on learning, or the experience of sitting down with a good book.

Our students will graduate into a world where digital skills are essential. We want them to leave Dakota Prairie knowing not only how to operate a device, but also how to use technology **responsibly, safely, thoughtfully, and productively**. Learning when to use technology—and when to put it away—is an important skill in itself.

Thank you, for letting us all be an important part of your child's life. Enjoy the rest of your summer!! As always please reach out if you have any questions, or concerns, stop in, or give me a call (322-4771) or email me at Jackie.bye@k12.nd.us.

~ Elementary News ~

We are excited to begin another year of 21st Century Knight Academy, an after-school program designed to provide students with opportunities to learn, create, explore, and have fun!

Beginning September 8, Knight Academy will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30–6:00 p.m. and is open to students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Students may be picked up by parents or ride the activity shuttle afterwards.

Each afternoon will include a variety of engaging activities, including Literacy and STEAM activities, fun games, creative projects, and opportunities to develop problem-solving skills. Students will also have dedicated time in our Homework Lab to work on assignments and receive extra help when needed. Our goal is to create a fun and welcoming environment where students can explore their creativity, try new things, work together, and build confidence as problem solvers and learners.

Registration is required to attend. To request a registration form, contact **Haley Klefstad** at haley.klefstad@k12.nd.us or contact your child's classroom teacher and ask for a registration form to be sent home.

We can't wait to make this another fun and exciting year of learning afterschool!!

Hi everyone! My name is Jonathan!

I am a second-year graduate student enrolled in the community mental health counseling track at the University of North Dakota. I will be doing my masters in counseling internship at McVille this school year. I am so excited to work in a school environment, and I can't wait for this upcoming year!

Some of my favorite things to do are going for walks, reading at a coffee shop, and spending time with my friends and family. I am from the south, so I will often call my family or a friend back home while I go for a walk or study up here!

I will be working at McVille on Tuesdays and Thursdays under the supervision of Angela Longtin. Once again, I am so excited for this upcoming academic year!





DAKOTA PRAIRIE KNIGHTS

5TH & 6TH

GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE FALL 2026



5TH GRADE GAMES BEGIN AT 4:00 - FOLLOWED BY 6TH GRADE

COACH: MR. GUS KUEBER

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	GAME TIME	LEAVE TIME DRIVE
SEPTEMBER 3	PICTURE DAY	BIG GYM	2:00	
SEPTEMBER 3	GRIGGS COUNTY	COOPERSTOWN	4:00	2:35 SCHOOL BUS
SEPTEMBER 8	HATTON	PETERSBURG	4:00	3:05 SCHOOL BUS
SEPTEMBER 14	MIDKOTA	BINFORD	4:00	2:45 SCHOOL BUS
SEPTEMBER 15	LAKOTA	LAKOTA	4:00	2:55 SCHOOL BUS
SEPTEMBER 17	LARIMORE	LARIMORE ELEMENTARY GYM	4:00	2:40 SCHOOL BUS
SEPTEMBER 22	GRIGGS COUNTY	MCVILLE	4:00	
SEPTEMBER 26	JAMBOREE 5 TH & 6 TH	FOUR WINDS: FORT TOTEN	TBD	TBD PARENTS
SEPTEMBER 28	NORTHWOOD	NORTHWOOD	4:00	2:55 SCHOOL BUS
SEPTEMBER 29	LARIMORE	PETERSBURG	4:00	3:05 SCHOOL BUS
OCTOBER 1	LAKOTA	MCVILLE	4:00	
OCTOBER 5 LAST GAME	MIDKOTA	MCVILLE	4:00	

MCVILLE GAMES ON HUDL: YOU CAN FIND THE STREAM ON THE DAKOTA PRAIRIE SCHOOL WEBSITE. <https://www.dakota-prairie.k12.nd.us/>

SOCIAL MEDIA, STREAMING, YOUTUBE

Sports Streaming (Hudl)

DP ELEMENTARY Sports

- ◆ **HALLOWEEN CONCERT**
 - ◆ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30** **12:30** **HS CHARGER BAND & CHOIR**
 - ◆ **WITH 6TH GRADE BAND PERFORMING WITH THE CHARGER HS BAND**
- ◆ **FALL FAMILY HOOTENANNY HOEDOWN**
 - ◆ **NOVEMBER 12 OR 13: 19 OR 20** **6:00-8:30**
 - ◆ **DAKOTA PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY**
 - ◆ We hope your family will join us for a cozy evening of **autumn fun, food, music, games, and family time**. It's a chance to slow down, enjoy the season, and make some special fall memories together!
- ◆ **VALENTINE LUNCH BOX SOCIAL**
 - ◆ **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 11:20-12:30** **PK-6**
 - ◆ Students will be decorating Valentine Lunch Boxes with a lunch for themselves, and for parents. This will be held around their lunch time.
 - ◆ This year instead of a “*formal gym Valentine Concert*” there will be some small Valentine Musical Performances pop-up while you are enjoying your “Box Social”. There will be a Valentine cookie decorating station for dessert, and a silent auction item for each classroom. A note sent home will give more details closer to the time of the event.
- ◆ **SPRING FINE ARTS SHOW**
 - ◆ **DATE & TIME TBD**
 - ◆ The art displayed can be from home and/or from school.
- ◆ **ELEMENTARY TRACK MEET**
 - ◆ End of April or Beginning of May
 - ◆ TBD
 - ◆ Dakota Prairie Elementary
- ◆ **BOOK FAIRS**
 - ◆ December TBD
 - ◆ April TBD

September 2026

September 7—No School: Labor Day

September 9—School Board Meeting @ 7pm

September 21-25 HOCO Week

September 25 HOCO Parade in Lakota @ 1pm

**PLEASE CHECK THE DAKOTA PRAIRIE HOME PAGE
FOR THE MOST CURRENT ACTIVITIES SCHEDULES**

<https://www.dakota-prairie.k12.nd.us>

Future Dates of Interest

September 7—No school: Labor Day

October 21—No school: PT Conferences 8 am-6 pm

October 22nd and 23rd—No school: Ed Conference

November 11—No school: Veterans Day

November 25—Early out @ 1:30 pm

November 26th and 27th—No school: Thanksgiving

December 18— Early out @ 1:30 pm

December 21st through January 1st—No school

January 4—School Resumes

January 18—Professional Development

February 12—No school: Winter Break

February 15—No school: Presidents Day

March 5—No school: Spring Break

March 12= No school: PT Conferences 8 am-6 pm

March 19—No school: Spring Break

March 25, 26, and 29—No school: Easter Break

April 9—No school: Staff Storm Make up Day PD

May 26—Last Day of School

May 30—Graduation



Dakota Prairie School District

Box 37

Petersburg, ND 58272

Frequency of Publication Information:

Dakota Prairie Knight Reader is published monthly during the school year by Dakota Prairie School District, except for the summer months when a June/July and August issue appear. The main office for the district is located at 518 4th Ave. Petersburg, ND 58272.

Comments may be made in writing or by calling 701-345-8233 during school hours.

Discrimination
and Harassment
Grievance
Procedure

Nondiscrimina-
tion and Anti-
Harassment
Policy

Title IX Sexual
Harassment
Grievance
Procedure



Dakota Prairie does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age, in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Dakota Prairie Superintendent has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies. (Supt. Jay B. Slade, P.O. Box 37, Petersburg, ND, 58272, 701-345-8233, jay.slade@k12.nd.us).

Title IX Coordinator: Dakota Prairie Superintendent — District Office Phone Number 701-345-8233 (Supt. Jay B. Slade, P.O. Box 37, Petersburg, ND, 58272, 701-345-8233, jay.slade@k12.nd.us).

Dakota Prairie
Course Descriptions

