

PSE Weekly Howl

Week of April 14th!

Blue Valley Board of Education names Dr. Gillian Chapman incoming superintendent

After a comprehensive national search and meaningful engagement with the community, the Blue Valley Board of Education is honored to announce the unanimous selection of Dr. Gillian Chapman as the district's next superintendent.

"I am honored to join a community where students are at the heart of every decision," said Dr. Chapman. "Blue Valley's commitment to academic excellence, personalized learning and strong community partnerships aligns closely with my values. I look forward to listening, learning and building meaningful relationships as we work together to support every student's success in school and life."

Dr. Chapman currently serves as superintendent of Teton County School District #1 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Before that, she served in the Shawnee Mission School District for 21 years, including 10 years in district-level leadership and seven years in building-level leadership. With more than 25 years of educational leadership experience, she brings a proven track record of championing student-centered innovation, developing staff recruitment and retention programs, leading strategic planning efforts and overseeing facilities and infrastructure growth. Dr. Chapman will officially begin as superintendent on July 1, 2025.

To learn more about Dr. Chapman's announcement, visit the [Incoming Superintendent webpage](#).

Green Thumbs Beautification Years

Thank you to those volunteers who helped make PSE beautiful for spring. We appreciate all of your work.



No school for students-April 11th

Our staff is gathering on April 11 for teacher-professional collaboration time. I want to share details about how our staff will spend the day. Several staff members will welcome about fifty incoming Kindergarten students and their families in the morning. Please join me in welcoming the Class of 2038! In the afternoon, we will look at structured expectations, perfect for this time of the year, and review data to help guide our instruction. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. These days are a significant benefit for our elementary staff that will, in turn, support our students' academic success. Have a great weekend!

Motorized Vehicle Safety

To help keep our campus as safe as possible for pedestrians and motorists, we kindly ask that students who ride electric or motorized bikes or scooters to school turn off the motor once they arrive on district property. Students should dismount and walk their bikes or scooters to the bike rack using marked crosswalks.

At dismissal, we also ask that students wait to engage the motor until they have fully exited the school campus.

Thank you for taking a moment to talk with your children about safe and respectful riding habits—we truly appreciate your support!

Donuts with Divas

Join us for Donuts with Divas! Bring your favorite "diva" to the cafeteria on April 23rd and 24th from 7:45-8:25. Students can attend with a parent or another amazing adult to enjoy a free breakfast, including donuts, fruit, milk, juice, and coffee. Last names A-M come on Wednesday, April 23rd, and N-Z on Thursday, April 24th. If you need to switch days, that is fine. We hope to have about half the families each day to spread out the crowd and help with parking.

- April 23th- A-M
- April 24th-N-Z

7:45-8:25 Donuts with Divas (cafeteria)/ Book fair (library)

Reminder: Diva's must stay with their student until 8:25 *

We are looking for volunteers to help us run this fun event! Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B45A4AD2EA7FE3-56110482-donuts>

Sign-up genius for Book Fair Volunteers

: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AAFA62DA0FBC43-56113295-prairie>

PRAIRIE STAR ELEMENTARY'S
spring
BOOK FAIR
APRIL 23RD & 24TH
**VOLUNTEERS
NEED**

Volunteers Receive 20% Off
Their Book Fair Purchases!



PSE STEM CLUB LAST SESSION

It's time for our last session (4/17) of the 24-25 PSE STEM Club for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders! We will dive into the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, and math through fun, hands-on activities that challenge your student to think outside the box. Our session will run from 3:45 - 5:00pm with Mrs. Bonner and Mr. Ramsey. Reminder that these sessions are dependent from one another. You must sign up on the PTO website for each individual session to attend STEM club.

Pick up will be at 5pm in front of the building. Parents/Guardians must pick up in person - carline is not an option for this event.





SPIRIT WEAR TODAY!

www.bvhstigersinc.com 

Optional form for Parent Input on Class Placement

One of the biggest concerns of most parents is classroom placement each year for their students at school. I'm sharing our current procedure for placing students in classes with that in mind. In the spring, current grade classroom teachers, building learning specialists, the counselor, and the principal meet to discuss student needs and form initial classes for the upcoming year. There are always changes during the summer due to new students that may enroll. With over 400 students to consider at Prairie Star Elementary, we take this task very seriously to end up with classes where students can thrive. We work hard to develop classes that include:

- A mix of boys and girls
- A range of academic abilities
- Compatible student personalities
- Overall class sizes that are approximately equal across the grade level

Parent input in this process is undoubtedly welcome if parents want to share information about their child that we might not already know. The parent input form (attached) has been designed for this purpose. Parents who complete the optional input form will need to have the form **completed and turned in to the office by April 15, 2025.**



PSE Parent Input 25-26.pdf

Download

45.4 KB

The Weekly Howl Podcast - New Episodes on Mondays

The PSE PTO is launching the Weekly Howl Podcast! Hosted by 5th grade PSE students, now you can get all your weekly PSE community updates while you wait in the car line. New episodes every Monday! [Tune in here](#)



Purchase School Supplies for the 25-26 school year!

The **BEST** Way to Buy Back-To-School Supplies!



- ✓ The Exact School Supplies Your Teacher Requested
- ✓ Name Brand Products Like:



FISKARS



TICONDEROGA



SCAN HERE
TO ORDER

**Order by:
July 1st**

1stDaySchoolSupplies.com

School Supplies for PSMS- for incoming 6th grade students

School Supply ordering for 25-26 school year

Prairie Star Middle School has partnered with 1st Day School Supplies to make school supply shopping fast and easy! If you wish to purchase a school supply kit for your PSMS student, use the link below and be sure to save your receipt. School supplies will be delivered to PSMS in August and distributed before the first day of school. Order deadline is July 1 - no exceptions. If you have questions, please contact Erin Briggeman (erin_boomer@yahoo.com). Order link: [1st Day School Supplies - Select Your Grade](#)

Counselor Update - Mrs. Furdek

This week during counseling lessons, 3rd-5th grade talked about the Unthinkabot, Mean Bean, and the Thinkable, Nice Light. Students were also provided a heart shape paper which they were able to color and write their interests and the qualities that they like about themselves in the heart.

When discussing Mean Bean students learned about the characteristics, such as:

- Saying mean things about someone's clothes, hair, body, or how they do things
- Forget to think about other's feelings and call people mean names or yell at them
- Do mean things for no reason, like telling mean stories, gossiping, or hurting someone.

We then took the hearts we created and would start to crumble them when giving examples of what Mean Bean could say and do. The reason for the crumbling is for students to visualize what words and actions can do to our hearts.

We then discussed the Thinkable Nice Light and the strategies we can use, such as:

- using positive self-talk
- Remember to stand up when others are being unkind
- Understanding that it's okay to do things differently, look different, or play with things we wouldn't play with.

After discussing Nice Light, students were then given prompts on how our hearts can open back up from the crumbles by receiving compliments, asking for forgiveness, and using positive self-talk. Students were able to understand from their hearts how words and actions can impact us and others.

Incoming Kindergarten Information for 25-26

Hello, Incoming Kindergarten Families-

We are excited to welcome your new kindergarten student for the 2025-26 school year. I look forward to having you join our PSE family. Please reach out with any questions. Please review/complete the steps below. Your timely registration will make sure our team is prepared.

🌐 To read this email in a language other than English, [click here](#).



Step 1: Do you have questions about kindergarten programs in Blue Valley? (Click on the blue links below)

- What do kindergarten students experience during a [typical day](#)?
- How can I learn about the [Chinese immersion](#) option?

Step 2: Is there another language spoken in your home?

If so, please complete this [form](#). Otherwise, move to step 4.

Note: If your family speaks English *in addition* to another language, you will still need to complete the form.

Step 3: How do I register my child?

🌐 To view registration instructions in a language other than English, [click here](#).

To begin the registration process for the 2025-26 school year, simply go to

www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration and click **New Student Registration** in the Useful Links.

Families new to Blue Valley will be asked to create an online parent account. Online registration will take approximately 20 minutes to complete and it is an important step in getting your student started with kindergarten! You will be asked to pay fees later this spring.

Please note: If your child is currently enrolled in the Blue Valley early childhood program, you will not complete online registration at this time. Families transitioning from early childhood to kindergarten will have an opportunity to verify the information and complete the registration process later this spring.

To make Blue Valley's Online Registration process smooth and convenient, please have the following information available:

- Student proof of identity (birth certificate)
- Emergency contact name(s) and phone number(s)
- Doctor, dentist and preferred hospital contact info
- Immunization record and health assessment (physical)
- Proof of residency (purchase contract, lease or current utility bill)
- Custodial documentation (if applicable)
- Previous school records and contact info
- IEP or 504 Plan (if applicable)

Tip: As soon as your child's registration is complete, you will begin receiving all-school communication items that will help welcome you and your family into the school community.

If you have any questions, please call the Prairie Star Elementary office at 913-239-7100.

Important Dates for Kindergarten Families

- Kindergarten Online Registration Begins | Tuesday, February 18
- Kindergarten Kick-Off Sessions | Friday, April 11
- Kindergarten Orientation Sessions | Wednesday, August 13
- First full day of school for Kindergarten | Thursday, August 14

Kindergarten Kick-Off: Friday, April 11th

Thank you to all who were able to attend the Kindergarten Kick-Off this morning. Here is the link to the presentation with all of the information. <https://secure.smores.com/n/tqzcr>

Kindergarten Camp Information

If you are interesting in K Camp, please read the smore below. Thanks!

<https://secure.smores.com/n/8quxf>

Save the Dates for End of Year Activities!

Event Information

5th Grade Talent Show

When?

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 06:00 PM

Where?

Prairie Star Elementary School, West 143rd Street, Leawood, KS, USA

Event Information

5th Grade Farewell @ 9:00

We will say farewell to our 5th-grade students with a small ceremony in the gym.

This will be a fun day full of celebrations. We will start with the 5th-grade ceremony in our gym. After the ceremony, the class and families will enjoy a selfie station, donuts, juice, and a coffee truck. Yum! Then, we will have a grade-level lunch party in the afternoon before launching into a kickball tournament and Minute to Win It games.

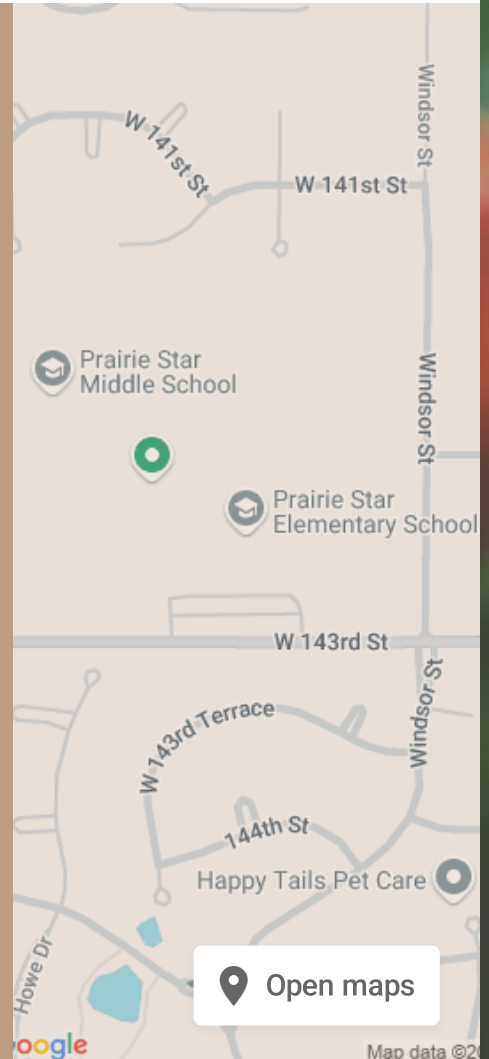
5th-grade parents can enter the gym doors at 8:45. We would like to start our day with students in their classes before the parents enter. Thanks!

When?

Monday, May 19, 2025, 09:00 AM

Where?

Prairie Star Elementary School, West 143rd Street,
Leawood, KS, USA



Event Information

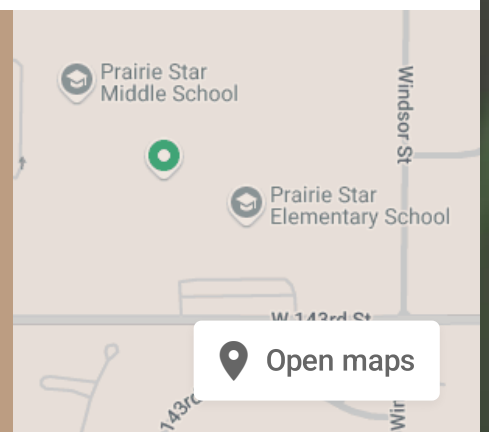
5th Grade Talent Show Matinee

When?

Tuesday, May 20, 2025, 09:00 AM

Where?

Prairie Star Elementary School, West 143rd Street,
Leawood, KS, USA



Event Information

Field Day- May 21st @ 12:45

Volunteers are needed for Field Day on May 21st. Please consider volunteering to work at a station for a couple of hours. We need you from 12:45-3:30. Thank you in advance! ~Coach and Stacey

- Field Day will be during the school day on **Wednesday, May 21st, from 12:45-3:20** (weather permitting).
- All students can **wear a PSE t-shirt, fun!**
- **Please apply sunscreen before school or send sunscreen that they will use themselves.**
- Students may wear a hat if they wish!
- Volunteer for a couple of hours by using this sign-up genius, [Volunteer for Field Day](#)

When?

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 12:45 PM

Event Information

5th Grade Clap Out

We are starting the 5th-grade clap-out on May 23rd at 11:15. All 5th-grade parents that would like to attend need to line the sidewalk from the parking lot (by PSMS track) to the playground by 11:10. We will walk outside from the old recess doors. When you see your child, please join them and walk with them. If you cannot attend, those students will step back in the front doors and to class and be dismissed as usual. This will allow us to keep everyone safe during dismissal and enable you to spend time with your child on the last day at PSE.

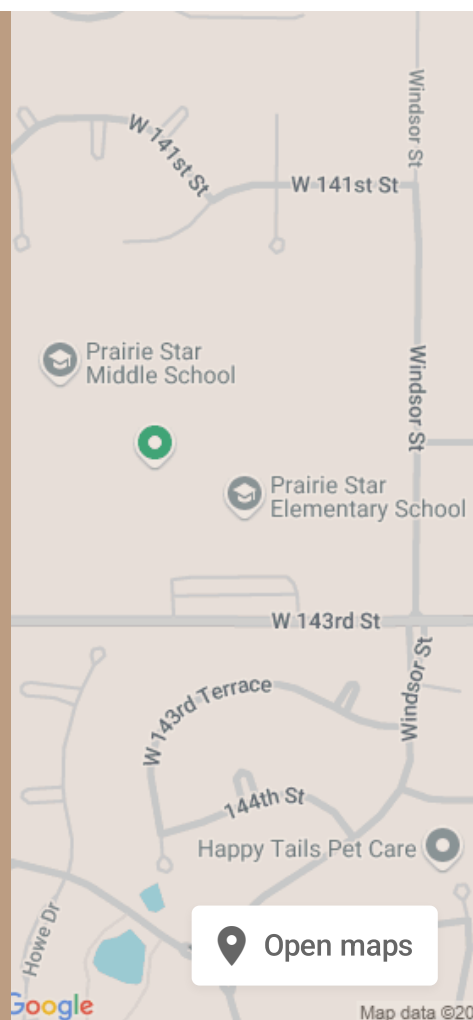
Grades K-4 will be dismissed starting at 11:35.

When?

Friday, May 23, 2025, 11:15 AM

Where?

**Prairie Star Elementary School, West 143rd Street,
Leawood, KS, USA**



District News:

Last day announced for 2024-25 school year

With the fourth quarter underway, the district has determined the last day of the 2024-25 school year for students. Assuming no unforeseen circumstances cause us to cancel school, the last day

for students in grades K-11 will be May 23. Students in the early childhood programs will have their last day on May 22.

High school finals will occur May 21-23, with building principals communicating the specific schedules to their school families and students at a later date. For more information or to subscribe to the district calendar, visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/calendar.

Summer Explorations enrollment now open

Looking for engaging summer learning opportunities for your child? Enrollment is now open for Blue Valley's Summer Explorations program! With a variety of one-week, hands-on experiences, there's something to spark every child's interest. Enrollment closes 4 p.m. April 7. For more information about the Summer Explorations program visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/summerprograms.

Mark your calendars for the 2024-25 K-5 teacher professional collaboration days.

As we kick off the 2024-25 school year, I want to remind families about the teacher professional collaboration days designed for teacher plan and collaboration time. These eight days, which occur throughout the school year, are non-student attendance days for K-5 students. These days are vital to ensure the best possible preparation for our elementary students and key to quality teacher retention.

The following days, which can be found in the [2024-25 calendar](#) on the district website, have been designated as teacher professional collaboration days:

- May 2

Thank you for your support and partnership as we ensure our educators have adequate plan and collaboration time. Have a wonderful school year!

Partnering for a Safe School Community

Ensuring our students' and staff's safety and well-being remains our highest priority. As we near the end of the school year, we want to take a moment to thank our families for their partnership. Your support and conversations at home have made a meaningful impact on student behaviors, reinforcing the importance of making good choices and reporting concerns appropriately.

How We Address Threats

We take every report of a threat seriously—whether that threat is made on social media, in person or through another means. Our administrators work closely with our Safety and Security team and local law enforcement to investigate each case thoroughly. This process includes reviewing past behavior, gathering input from families, and conducting interviews. If a credible threat is identified,

we will immediately notify staff and families. You can learn more about our safety protocols and threat assessment process on our [district website](#).

Partnering to Keep Schools Safe

This spring, we will continue our informational graphics through Canvas for grades 6-12 about the real consequences of making threats. Even offhand comments or social media posts can have serious repercussions, including school disciplinary action or legal consequences. It's important for students to think before they post or speak.

We encourage families to listen to our fall 2024 [BV Unmuted podcast episode: Understanding Threats and Their Consequences](#). In this episode, former Interim Chief Simon Happer (Overland Park Police Department), Dan Carney (Director of Safety & Security), and Dr. Katie Collier (Deputy Superintendent for Learning) discuss how Blue Valley ensures a safe and secure learning environment.

🎧 Listen here: [BV Unmuted: Understanding Threats and Their Consequences](#)

How You Can Help

- Report Concerns: Please remind your student to report any concerning behavior to school staff or use our [online reporting system](#).
- Avoid Spreading Rumors: Social media can spread misinformation and create unnecessary anxiety. Instead of sharing posts, report them directly to school administrators or law enforcement with as much detail as possible.

Your partnership plays a vital role in maintaining a safe school environment. Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.

Community Events:



Stacey Sperry

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters