

# PSE Weekly Howl

Week of August 25th!

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## ☆☆ Being Kind, Safe, and Responsible at PSE! ☆☆

We are so proud of our students! Each day, they continue to show us what it means to be **kind, safe, and responsible**—the core values of our school community. Let's keep celebrating their successes and reminding them how much their positive choices matter. We can't wait to see how our students continue to grow and thrive throughout the year.

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## Annual Assessment Notice

Now that the school year is off and running, I wanted to provide a little more information around district and state assessments in 2025-26.

Please click [here](#) to view the district assessment webpage, which contains a link to the 2025-26 Annual Assessment Notice.

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## PickUp Patrol-Please register this weekend!

**Great News!** Prairie Star Elementary has partnered with [PickUp Patrol](#) to help better manage our dismissal process ([en español/em português](#)).

PickUp Patrol provides a layer of safety to our dismissal process by authorizing plan changes and automatically tracking dismissal plans. The application reduces interruptions, speeds up dismissal time, and is administered by our own staff.

***ALL plan changes should now be submitted through PickUp Patrol. When making changes, please do not send notes, emails, or call the office, except in an emergency.***

I **need** to take a few minutes to set up your account so that we can accurately dismiss your child(ren).

- **Register using the email Mrs. Sperry sent on Thursday evening and Friday afternoon. Link expires within 48 hours.**

Username: email@email.com

Returning Parents: If you have already registered with this email address, you do not need to re-register.

- **Confirm your children's Default Dismissal Plan**

Log in to your account and enter your child's regular daily dismissal plan.

- **Learn more about PickUp Patrol**

Access: [Add PickUp Patrol to your Home Screen](#)

Read: [PickUp Patrol Parent Guide](#)

Video: [Getting Started w/ PickUp Patrol](#)

We use PickUp Patrol to track: Plan Changes, Absences, Early Dismissals, Late Arrivals, and Daily Dismissal Plans (default plans).

If you have questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with Prairie Star Elementary at [slsperry@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:slsperry@bluevalleyk12.org) or [support@pickuppatrol.net](mailto:support@pickuppatrol.net).

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## Elementary Collaboration Days

Reminder: August 29 is a K-5 non-student attendance day for teacher collaboration time. During this time, elementary educators will be in their buildings and classrooms working on our new reading resource and reviewing beginning of the year data.

This time is vital to ensuring the best possible preparation for our elementary students and supporting student learning outcomes.

School will be back in session on September 3.

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## Battle of the Brains!

Join the 4th grade teachers in a Battle of the Brains! The 4th grade team is happy to host a club for any **3rd-5th graders** who want to participate in Burns & McDonnell's Battle of the Brains competition. **BotB** is a STEM competition with other Kansas City area schools, where students are invited to create a proposal of a new Science City exhibit. Proposals will include written components, graphic components, and a video. One lucky proposal will be chosen to be made into an actual exhibit for Science City patrons to enjoy!

Your student has two opportunities to participate in this club! Mrs. Bosselman will be hosting morning sessions once a week for the early birds, while Mrs. Walter will be holding afternoon sessions once a week after school. Mrs. Greenwald will be assisting with both groups, as needed! We will be submitting two separate project proposals, one for each group.

To sign up, please visit [this link](#) to indicate which group your child is interested in joining and provide more information (AM or PM). **Please note:** Each group will be capped at a maximum of 20 students to make coordination easier. Entries will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

[Battle of the Brains Club Sign-Up](#)

docs.google.com

See below for the dates for the club! If we are able to wrap up our proposals sooner, we will update families on the change in schedule!

## MORNING SESSIONS

Sessions will be held  
from 7:30-8:15 AM

Wednesday, Sept. 3

Monday, Sept. 8

Monday, Sept. 15

Monday, Sept. 22

Monday, Sept. 29

Monday, Oct. 6

Monday, Oct. 13

Monday Oct. 27

## AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Sessions will be held  
from 3:45-4:30 PM

Wednesday, Sept. 3

Tuesday, Sept. 9

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Tuesday, Sept. 23

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Tuesday Oct. 28



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### Wolf Wellness Week

Wolf Wellness Week (September 15-19)—Students engage in fun, health, and wellness activities while raising money to fund ALL PTO endeavors to enhance our school, support staff, and teachers. Our top goal for this year's event is to raise enough to cover all students' field trips and bus fees for the year, while also acquiring new music instruments, books for the vending machine, and enhancing bike and scooter racks.

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Upcoming Dates:

**Friday, August 29:** No School | Teacher Professional Collaboration

## **September**

**Monday, September 1:** No School | Labor Day

**Tuesday, September 2:** No School | Professional Learning

**Thursday, September 4:** PTO Meeting 8:30 AM

Wolf Walk Pep Assembly-Date coming soon!

**Monday, September 15:** Wolf Walk WEEK!

**Friday, September 19:** Wolf Walk

**Thursday, September 25:** Class Photos, Pictures for students who missed Sneak Peek and Retakes

**Friday, September 26:** No School | Teacher Professional Collaboration

**Tuesday, September 30:** PSE Hearing/Vision

## **October**

**Thursday, October 2:** PTO 8:30 AM

**Wednesday, October 8:** Book Fair & Donuts with Dudes

**Thursday, October 9:** Book Fair & Donuts with Dudes

**Friday, October 10:** No School EC-12, End of Quarter

**Tuesday, October 21:** Conferences 4:00 PM-7:30 PM

**Wednesday, October 22:** Conferences 4:00 PM- 7:30 PM

**Thursday, October 23:** Conferences 8:15 AM-4:00 PM

**Friday, October 24:** No School

**Friday, October 31:** Fall Class Parties

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**Lots of PSE Information for the 25-26 year!**

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## **Scooter Safety**

We want to remind families of our districtwide expectations for students who ride motorized scooters or electric bikes to school. We understand these devices can be a helpful option for families juggling busy schedules or navigating limited transportation options. With more students using these devices to get to and from school, concerns around safety, traffic flow and property damage have grown, especially during arrival, dismissal and after-school hours.

As part of our commitment to safe, respectful campuses, please review the following expectations:

- Riders must turn off the motor, dismount and walk their device once on school property, including sidewalks, parking lots and playgrounds.
- Motors may not be re-engaged until students have exited the campus.
- Riders should follow all [traffic laws](#), including stopping at lights and using crosswalks.
- Mrs. Sperry will be handing out student permits at Back to School Night for parents and students to sign.

- Devices must be locked in designated areas and may not be used during the school day.

We are grateful for our continued partnership with families in reinforcing safe habits and modeling respectful use of school property. For helpful guidance, visit [Children's Mercy](#) or review local scooter regulations through the [City of Overland Park](#).

Not sure where to start? Ask your student:

- Does your route have sidewalks or bike lanes?
- Are you watching for cars?
- Do you understand school rules for walking and parking your device?
- Watch this video together-[25.08 Motorized Scooters V3.mp4](#)

Thank you for helping us create a safe, respectful and student-centered school environment.

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## Reminder of Personal Electronic Device Expectations for BV Students

Blue Valley Schools is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive learning environment for its students. To support this commitment and to limit distractions for all in the learning environment, the Board of Education approved the Student Use of Cell Phones and Related Personal Electronic Devices policy in 2024.

As a reminder, the following guidelines were implemented last school year and will be continued in 2025-26:

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Student personal electronic devices (PEDs) are to be silenced and stowed away at all times.

- If a student needs to contact their family during the school day, they can use either the main office or classroom phone, with permission.
  - If family members need to reach their child, they should call the main office phone.
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## Quick Links!

- Lunch Account & Payment Information - <https://lincconnect.com/main>
  - Lunch Menus - [Lunch menus](#)
  - Weekly Howl for Incoming Kindergarten families - <https://secure.smores.com/n/tqzcr>
  - Last week's HOWL- <https://secure.smores.com/n/60e2g>
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**Save the Dates for Late Night at the Star!**

Prairie Star staff is excited to continue **Late Night at the Star!** Late Night at the Star classes are after-school enrichment programs offered to the students here at Prairie Star. Each Friday night class costs \$50 and will run from after school until 6:30. If you enroll in Late Night, you will not need to pick up your child until 6:30. Please assume that your child is enrolled in each class that they have requested unless you hear from the office. Camp scholarships are now available. Please reach out to Mrs. Sperry for more information. Here are the dates for the year:

- September 12th
  - October 17th
  - November 14th
  - December 12th
  - January 23rd
  - February 20th
  - March 27th
  - May 8th
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## 5th Grade Families

### 🎻 Welcome to 5th Grade Strings at PSE! 🎻

Hello PSE 5th Grade Families,

My name is **Sheri Cain**, and I'm the Strings teacher for both **Prairie Star Elementary (PSE)** and **Prairie Star Middle (PSM)**. I'm excited to let you know that your child is now eligible to join our **5th Grade Strings program!**

Each year, we have so much fun learning to play the **violin, viola, cello, or bass**. Your child will get to choose one of these four instruments to explore!

#### 🎻 Class Schedule:

- **M, W, F | 8:00–8:30 AM** at **PSM** (Strings Room)
- **T, Th | 2:30–3:00 PM** at **PSE** (Cafeteria)

📅 *Students in advanced Math typically attend only the afternoon classes. All other students attend every day.*

We're fortunate that the **Blue Valley School District** allows us to meet with our 5th graders daily!

#### 🎻 Upcoming Events:

##### 🎻 PSM 8th Grade Orchestra Visit

📅 *Monday, August 25*

🎻 *PSE*

Our 5th graders will hear the 8th-grade orchestra perform, both individually and as a group. We'll also help them start thinking about which instrument they might enjoy playing!

##### 🎻 Try-It Night (Open House)

📅 *Tuesday, August 26 | 4:00–6:00 PM*

🎻 *Blue Valley High School Commons*

Families can come and go as they please—no formal presentation.

**Parents must attend with their student** (not a drop-off event).

Students can try out all four instruments and hear high school students perform. I'll also be there to help with instrument sizing and to share information about trusted local music stores and what to avoid when shopping online.



🎵 *Stringed instruments come in fractional sizes—perfect for beginners!*

#### 📄 **Enroll Now:**

Please fill out the enrollment form here:

🔗 [PSE 5th Grade Strings Enrollment Form](#)

If you have any questions at all, feel free to email me:

✉️ [sdcain@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:sdcain@bluevalleyk12.org)

I look forward to a wonderful year of music-making with your child!

Warmly,

**Sheri Cain**

PSE/PSM Strings Teacher

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## **LUNCH VISITORS BEGINNING September 3rd!**

Lunch Visitors: If you would like to visit the lunchroom during your child's lunch, you are welcome to join us after Labor Day. This is a chance to come during special occasions or when your schedule allows. The students are always so excited to have lunch visitors.

Here are some guidelines we ask you to follow:

- You will need your government-issued photo ID to enter the building
  - Check in at the office and obtain a visitor's sticker
  - If a grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc., want to visit for lunch, they must be listed as an Emergency Contact in our student information system or not be allowed to enter the building. Please call the office to add people before the visit.
  - If a visitor brings food, it can only be shared with your student
  - We will have a visitor's table in the lunchroom for you and your student to sit and eat
  - Check out at the office after your student's lunch
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## **First PSE PTO Restaurant Fundraiser**

Join us at Andy's on September 9 at our Prairiefire store from 4-8pm.



## **Code of Conduct**

As we begin the school year, we would like to remind you to review the *Blue Valley Student Code of Conduct*. It can be found on [www.bluevalleyk12.org](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org) under the "Student Quick Links" section at the bottom main home page. It can also be found on our school website home page as well.

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## Game Atmosphere

We are excited to have your families come to support our high school activities and athletics. It is great to see the entire community at these events. It is imperative that our parent community partner with us as we work to encourage positive elementary and middle school behavior at high school games or events.

We are asking that all elementary and middle school students enter the game with an adult and sit with that adult throughout the game. Please do not drop your child off at a district event without supervision, as they will not be allowed to enter. It is challenging to monitor and keep all students safe without the help of our parent community.

As we see more students using motorized scooters and electric bikes to get to and from school, we want to ensure these devices are used responsibly, especially during busy events. Students are allowed to ride these devices to Blue Valley athletic and activity events, but they must dismount, turn off and secure their device in designated areas once on campus. This includes sidewalks, parking lots and other areas on campus. We appreciate your partnership in keeping our events safe and welcoming for all attendees.

Thanks for your help with these protocols to make district events a great experience for all who attend. We hope to see your family cheering for our Blue Valley teams this school year.

Matt Ortman  
Director of School Administration, Athletics and Activities  
Blue Valley School District



**Stacey Sperry**

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters