



PSE Weekly Howl

August 26th Edition

Thank you!

Thank you for joining our staff for Back to School Night. We were pleased to see such a great turnout and appreciate your partnership in helping launch the school year. Cheers to 24-25 school year.

Save the Dates!

No School on August 30th for Teacher Collaboration Day!

No School on September 2nd for Labor Day and the 3rd for Professional Learning!

Any child who did not have their pictures taken at Sneak Peek will have pictures on September 16th. We will also have class photos on this same day!

Wolf Walk Week is coming the week of September 16th-20th!

Our first Late Night at the Star is September 13th. Information coming soon!

Conferences will be on October 23rd from 4:00-7:00 and the 24th from 8:15-7:30.

Teacher Collaboration Day-August 30th

Reminder: August 30 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 priority standards.

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 4.

PSE Spirit Days

- 8/29-Favorite Football Team
- 9/5-Red Thursday-Wear you Chiefs apparel
- 9/13-PSE Spirit
- 9/20-Wolf Walk -PSE Spirit wear
- 10/4-BV high colors-wear black and gold
- 10/18-PSE Spirit Wear
- 11/11-Thank a Veteran-Red, White and Blue Day
- 11/22-Warm and cozy day-slipper day
- 12/12-12/20-7 Days of Holiday Cheer



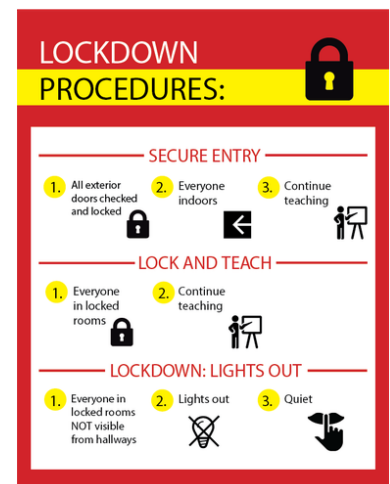
Safety Drills

We continue to make school safety a top priority at Prairie Star. Whether there is a medical emergency in the building, a weather emergency is imminent or an intruder is suspected, we want to ensure students and staff know what to do and where to go in an emergency situation.

Throughout the year, students and staff will be participating in a variety of emergency and lockdown drills. We spend time talking with students about what to expect during each type of drill. We also encourage families to engage in conversations with their child about what to do in the event of an emergency or safety situation.

We practiced a fire drill on Thursday and will complete a LockDown Lights Out this coming Thursday.

Please reach out with questions.



Social Detective work with Mrs. Furdek

This week at PSE, we learned about being social detectives. During the counselor lessons this week, there was an open discussion about school and social smarts and how to find clues to be a social detective. Mrs. Furdek reviewed examples of school smarts (math, reading, writing, etc.) and

said that social smarts are when you are around others (school, recess, the grocery store). Social smarts help us better guess how others feel or why they might act a certain way. For example, if someone seems upset, we can use our social smarts to consider if they had a bad day, if something might bother them, or if they need a friend.

In the book *You Are a Social Detective*, there are pictures for the students to observe. The goal for each student is to know **The Situation** = place + people + what is happening. To make a smart guess for **The Situation**, we have to use our eyes, ears, brain, and heart. Lastly, we discussed how when others are using expected behavior, it makes others have okay or calm thoughts and feelings.

Common Language this week:

Body in the group or whole body listening: Your body is in the group if others see and feel you are part of the group.

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:

- August 30
- September 27
- November 1
- December 6
- January 31
- February 28
- April 11
- 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!

LUNCH VISITORS BEGINNING September 4th!

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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Game Atmosphere

Blue Valley families,

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. Thanks for your help with this protocol 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

BusZone has replaced Bus Tracker

BusZone has replaced Bus Tracker - We have recently learned that *BusZone* has replaced *BusTracker* for Durham School Services Bus Transportation.

- Families who have registered for bus services should have received an email with directions (see below link) for downloading the *BusZone* app from Durham.

[BusZone Step-by-Step Directions for Families](#)

At this time, you do not need to communicate anything as we just wanted to make you aware. We hope to follow up with directions for administrators soon as Durham is working on a solution to provide administrators the opportunity to use this App as well.

Important Travel Outside of the USA Information

This important message is for any family or staff that will travel out of the United States during the school year. Please [click here](#) to read the restrictions and recommendations for Out of the Country travel. Blue Valley resources such as Canvas, Classlink, and school email are not accessible out of the country unless you have a personal device with a VPN on it.

PSE's view on cell phones and smart watches during the school day.

In an effort to provide the most effective learning spaces possible, the following guidelines are in effect concerning personal cell phones and associated personal technology devices (CP/PTD) at the elementary school level: CP/PTDs are defined as any device designed for personal communication, digital information transfer, or electronic gaming/play.

CP/PTDs are not allowed to be in use by elementary school students during the school day. The school day is defined as anytime the student is on campus property on a day in which school is in session. CP/PTDs are to be kept in backpacks out of sight and are to be powered off. Should the need arise for a student to contact parents during the school day the main office phone or the classroom phone should be used for such a call. Should the need arise for parents to contact their child, the main office phone should be used for such a call. CP/PTDs may be used by the student only at the request of the classroom teacher or other staff member. CP/PTDs used to monitor identified student health needs such as blood sugar levels are allowed and must be approved by the principal.

Event Information

Class Photo and Picture Day (those that missed Sneak Peek)

- **If you cannot make it, we will have retakes on September 16th during the school day.**

When?

Monday, Sep 16, 2024, 08:45 AM

Where?

Prairie Star Elementary

General Reminder for Visitors During the School Day:

We will welcome visitors into our buildings this year and would like to share a general reminder that all elementary schools in the district utilize the buzz-in entry system for visitors during the school day. Visitors will need to come to the front of the school. At the front entrance, visitors will press the buzzer, show a government-issued photo identification, and state the purpose of their visit each time they visit the school. We ask that guests not hold the door open for another visitor

once you have been buzzed in. Instead, allow the door to close for visitors to go through the procedures. Thank you for your support of our safety procedures.

Lunch Information

Lunch menus can be found online here: [Lunch menus](#)

You can also download the Nutrislice app for easy access for daily/weekly menus.

We will start visits to the lunchroom **after Labor Day on Wednesday, September 4th**. We will take the first weeks of school to learn and practice lunchroom routines and procedures. Thank you for understanding and waiting to enjoy lunch with your child until then!

Attendance Notification

Every day PSE opens its doors to students for a day filled with learning. When a student does not arrive at school or unexpectedly misses a portion of the school day, we are concerned and want to make sure you are aware that your child is absent.

Beginning Thursday, Aug. 17, families will be notified of unexpected absences through email, phone, text and optional push notifications. Prairie Star families can expect automated attendance messages by email, phone and text at 9:35 a.m. if a child is absent and his/her absence has not already been reported by a parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to call the school to report an absence or reply to the automated email or phone message.

Families who would also like a push notification can download the ParentVUE app and manage their notifications. If a child has an unreported absence when a teacher submits attendance, then a push notification will immediately be sent to the parent/guardian's mobile device.

Interested in push notifications? Simply download the ParentVUE app ([iTunes app store](#) or [Google Play](#)), enable push notifications in device settings and select attendance notifications through in-app settings.



Stacey Sperry

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

