

PSE Weekly Howl

August 5th Edition

Welcome to the 2024-25 School YEAR!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

Fast Facts:

Doors will open this year at **8:25 am** for students to begin arriving.

School starts at **8:40 am**

Walkers dismiss at **3:45 pm**

Car lane starts at **3:40 pm to relieve congestion on 143rd Street (It will begin around 3:35 the first couple of weeks as we learn our dismissal routine. Thank you for your patience!)**

School starts for Grades 1- 5: Tuesday, August 13th

Kindergarten Orientation sessions: Tuesday, August 13th, 9:00 and 10:30

Back to School Events: Building Visitors and Safety/Security

We are so excited to see all of our school community back on campus soon. Back to School events are just around the corner and we would like to share our plans for welcoming everyone back and keeping everyone safe and secure.

Class Assignment on ParentVue - Friday, August 9

This year, the Blue Valley calendar has provided a unique opportunity. We will be finalizing class lists and families can log into [ParentVue](#) to find out their classroom assignment for the 2024-25 school year on Friday, August 9th at 4:00pm. Please take note that our Sneak Peek event will not occur until Monday, August 12th when students can come to the school to officially meet their teacher and see their classroom.

Sneak Peek - Monday, August 12

Sneak a Peek event on August 12 from 4:30-5:30. This is the event where you will have the opportunity to walk your child into the school, see their classroom, meet their teacher, take pictures, and see our wonderful learning spaces. This is not a required event, but it will be a great opportunity for adults to enter the building with their child.

First Day of School (Grades 1-5) - Tuesday, August 13

The first day of school is always an exciting day! Our PSE staff is excited to help welcome our students back for another great school year on Tuesday, August 13th. All elementary schools in Blue Valley will follow our normal safety procedures at arrival time and only let students into the building at arrival. This plan helps us utilize our normal arrival procedures and ensure safety—even on the first day of school. Feel free to come to campus and plan a goodbye, hug, and/or first day photo with your child on our front lawn before wishing them well on their first day. Thank you for understanding the importance of a safe and secure arrival.

Kindergarten Orientation - Tuesday, August 13

Kindergarten families will receive a separate email with instructions for the Kindergarten Orientation sessions on this day. We will have a specific safety plan for Kindergarten guests during these sessions.

**Join our team at
Prairie Star
Elementary!**

we need:
instructional paras
special education I paras
special education II paras

apply online or call
our front office at
913-239-7100

Event Information

Back to School Movie Night at PSE

We are excited about our movie night at PSE! **We will show a family friendly movie** at 6:00. We will open the doors to the gym at 5:45 for everyone to get situated. Please plan to bring a blanket for your family to sit on. Chairs are welcome but must be towards the back of the gym so they don't block the view of our children and parents sitting on the floor.

5th Grade Fundraiser @ PSE Movie Night

PSE's Annual Back to School Movie Night is Thursday, August 8th from 6-8pm.

Our 5th graders will be selling candy and water as a fundraiser towards their class gift and 5th grade farewell activities. 5th grade families can help in a couple ways:

~If you are interested in donating \$10 to purchase candy and water, please venmo Laura Eakin @Laura-Eakin-1 (last 4 digits 5139)

~If your 5th grader would like to **volunteer** to work the concession stand during the movie or help clean up afterwards, please refer to the **SignUp Genius**.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B4DA9AE28A46-50427675-5thgrade>

When?

Thursday, Aug 8, 2024, 06:00 PM

Where?

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

Note from Stacey

Happy New School Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break. I always look forward to this time of year with Back to School, and this year is no different. It is my 25th year in education, 13th in school administration, and 8th year as principal at Prairie Star. There is no job I would rather do!

I was able to spend much-needed time with my family before we gear up for another busy school year! This year Brock is a 11th grader, and Tate is a 8th grader. I truly understand that the days can be long, but the years are short.

I know firsthand that going back to school is an exciting time but also can be a time of anxious anticipation. We ALL want what is best for our kids, and we ALL want them to have a successful, fun-filled, happy year. Please know that the Prairie Star staff is committed to doing all we can to strive for success for your students.

Our school theme this year is Shine Bright at PSE. I am excited to partner with you as we work together for all our kids.

There is a ton of information below for the start of school. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. Tell your kids we miss them and can't wait to see them soon! Time is a

precious gift; enjoy the last few weeks of summer.

Serving the PSE community is a privilege and an honor. I am looking forward to a great year ahead!

Sincerely,
Stacey

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.

Please make sure that you have completed your registration for the 2024-25 school year!

REGISTER FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR TODAY

[Elementary school registration](#) for the 2024-25 school year is open and [online now](#) for current students. Registration is required annually and is the time to update your child's information and pay fees. Completing registration confirms that your child will attend school in August. Thank you for providing important information as part of the registration process. For more information about registration, visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/registration.

PSE Kindergarten Information

Please use the following link for all the PSE Kindergarten information.

<https://www.smores.com/n/ue70s>

Sign up for Kindergarten orientation if you have not already done so! [Kindergarten Orientation](#)

Heads up for Kindergarten Parents:

Watch for my email on or around the first day of school. The email will describe a couple of surveys we kindly request you complete. These surveys provide us with great information for helping your child.

Important Dates for Kindergarten Families

Kindergarten Orientation Sessions | Tuesday, August 13

First full day of school for Kindergarten | Wednesday August 14

Event Information

Fall Individual School Photos

- We will have school photos as an option from 3:00-5:00 in the gym before and during Sneak Peek. You cannot visit classrooms until 4:30, but the gym will be open from 3:00-5:00 for come-and-go school pictures. If you cannot make it, we will have retakes on September 16th during the school day.

When?

Monday, Aug 12, 2024, 03:00 PM

Where?

Prairie Star Elementary -Gym DOORS

Save the Date for Back to School Night!

Back to School Night: August 22nd (adult-only event)

- Come and listen to a presentation by your student's classroom teacher and find out classroom information for the year. Teachers will present two sessions to accommodate families with multiple students.
 - Session 1: 5:00-5:30pm
 - Session 2: 5:45-6:15 pm, this is a repeat of Session 1 for families with multiple students or who couldn't attend Session 1
-

District Calendar for 2024-25

Click on the link for the district calendar for the year.



Calendar 24-25.pdf

Download

260.6 KB

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.

PSE School Supplies

If you need to purchase school supplies, you can find them on the PSE website or view the pdf below.



PSE School Supply List 2024-2025.pdf

[Download](#)

179.0 KB

PSE Spirit Wear

Get ready to show your school spirit!

Orders placed NOW through **Aug. 1** will be ready by **Back-to-School Night!**

Guarantee your color & size preferences by placing your **order NOW** in the preorder window.

**When placing your order, please make sure you select the correct location for your items. If you have a different last name than your student, please provide your student's name in the comment box.

<https://www.bvhstigersinc.com/pse-spirit-wear>

Arrival at PSE

Arrival at PSE

As you and your family are getting back into a school routine, please remember that doors will open at 8:25.

Arrival → Doors open at 8:25 AM. Students arrive naturally anytime between 8:25 and 8:40 when class starts. Walkers will continue to use the front entrance. Bus riders will continue using the exterior door on the side of the gym. Car riders will continue entering using the front doors. As students enter the building, they will go directly to their classroom.

Dismissal at PSE

Dismissal time will be staggered by a sequential order and in terms of which exit doors are used:

- Car riders will be in the gym at 3:35 and remain in their until they are called on the walkie, starting a little before 3:40 PM, when their car has arrived in the car loop. Car riders will leave out the gym doors to the car loop. We will give you a car tag to place in your car.
 - If you pick up your children on the PSE property, we will radio your child out when we see you on the school grounds at 3:35 PM.
 - Y-Club students will be dismissed at 3:40 PM to go to the cafeteria, where Y-Club is held.
 - **Walkers will be dismissed at 3:45 PM. They will exit the main entrance.**
 - Bus riders will remain in their classroom until it is announced over the intercom that their bus has arrived in the bus lane. Bus riders will leave out the exterior side door in the gym.
-

Traffic Pattern at PSE

Traffic Pattern for PSE

- **Vehicles should follow the two-lane outer loop of the circle at the end of the outer loop both lanes will merge into one lane to turn back towards the school when approaching the curb for pickup.**
- Pulling up as far as possible in the loading zone reduces the number of cars stuck on 143rd. Similar to last year, we will have staff directing the traffic flow for the beginning of the year to help you familiarize yourself with our traffic patterns. If every vehicle stops right by the front door/crosswalk to let out student(s), we will have a very inefficient and congested process. Please pull forward as far as you can before stopping and letting out your student.
- All students exiting vehicles need to do so on the curb/school side – do not open left-side vehicle doors, as there is exiting traffic in that area.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and efficient arrival and dismissal process.



PSE Traffic Map.pdf

[Download](#)

244.9 KB

YMCA Y Club enrollment

For parents who are not familiar with Y Club, we operate inside district elementary schools during the school year. We open at 7:00 AM daily for early drop-off and stay open until 6:00 PM. Our program is fully-licensed, and we offer children a great opportunity to extend daily learning and have fun with their friends.

Enrolling for Y Club is easy! Go to our website, <https://kansascityymca.org/programs/before-and-after-school> and click on your school district's button. From there, click on the school your child attends to enroll. We do have limited scholarships available for parents interested in financial assistance. The application can be found under the FAQs & FORMS button. If you need assistance, please email yclubsupport@kansascityymca.org for a quick response.

We are looking forward to a great 2023-24 School Year!

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.

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
-

REGISTER FOR SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

REGISTER FOR SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

- **Online registration** is available on the [website](#). Complete a registration form online and submit the registration and payment (if required) electronically. You may also complete a registration form online, print it, and mail it to Durham with payment (if required).
- **Registration forms** are available on the Blue Valley School District [website](#). Registration forms can be found on the right-hand side of the page under Useful Links. Please print the form, complete the information requested, and mail it with payment (if required) to Durham.

Questions or concerns about bus routes or transportation fees should be directed to Durham School Services at (913) 681-2492. We look forward to a great school year!

APPLY FOR THE FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM

Blue Valley Food and Nutrition Services is again participating in the Child Nutrition Program, which offers qualifying families Free and Reduced meal benefits. This is an annual program, and a new application is required each school year to qualify for benefits.

1. Verify your family meets the [Free & Reduced Meal income guidelines](#)
2. [Apply online](#) using the Chrome browser. If your default browser is not Chrome, please copy and paste this URL <https://linqconnect.com/> into a Chrome browser to begin the application process.
 1. Remember to complete the Consent for Disclosure section if you wish to obtain additional discounts for school fees or bus transportation fees based on your application status.

2. If a member of your household receives Food Assistance (FA), or Temporary Assistance to Families (TAF) from the State of Kansas, or you have a Foster student you may not need to apply. Contact Bobbi Valverde at bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org if you need to verify your status.

3. Need a paper application? Paper applications are available on the district [website](#), at all Blue Valley schools, or by contacting Bobbi Valverde at bvalverde@bluevalleyk12.org or (913) 239-4106.

3. Submit the completed application before August 16th for full meal benefits upon qualifying. All families that apply will receive a letter notifying the determination. Please allow at least 10 days before inquiring about your submission.

Thank you for your support as we work together to meet the nutritional needs of all Blue Valley students. More information about the [Free & Reduced Meal Program](#) is available online.

We look forward to a happy, healthy, and successful 2023-24 school year.

Charles Rathbun



Stacey Sperry

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters