



Week of September 2nd!

Save the Dates!

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.

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

Late Night at the Star-September 13th!

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 get in touch with Mrs. Sperry for more information.

To enroll in camps, please see the website link:

<https://prairiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/home>. **Registration closes the day before at 6:00 pm.**

All Late Night at the STAR questions go to Melissa Bonner. Her email is mabonner@bluevalleyk12.org.

Backpack Bling and Back to School Bash (Arquieta) Grades 1-5

Be creative and have a blast with us as we create "backpack bling." A variety of materials (beads and charms) will be provided to make personalized keychains to hang on your backpack - you'll be walking in style! Games, prizes, yummy snacks, and a dance party will also be part of our evening!

STARRY String Art NIGHT (Wilson) K-5

Make cool and beautiful string art stars in the art room with Mr. Wilson!

There is lots of cool string, lots of design options, pizza, and candy! We will have so much fun hanging out together and making beautiful stuff! Check out Mr. Wilson's samples in his room.

DIY Dollhouse (First grade teachers) K-5

Give your dolls a home of their own! In this late night with the first-grade teachers, you'll create personalized dollhouses using shoe boxes with scrapbook paper for walls, sponges for beds, popsicle sticks for fences, and so much more! Bring at least one shoebox/or box, but if you want more, bring as many as you want! Snacks and dinner included!

Kansas City Sports Night Mrs. Purcell, Mrs. Wayland, and Mrs. Philips K-5

HOW BOUT THOSE CHIEFS & ROYALS?! Join us for an evening full of great games & outdoor activities with fantastic friends! We will do creative competitions and enjoy super ballpark food. Activities and competitions for all ages and ability levels. Come and get your game on with us!!!

Pirate Paradise Rasette K-2

Ahoy! Aaaargh ye ready for some pirate shenanigans? We will dress up like pirates, blast some cannonballs, visit the tattoo parlor, decorate treasure chests, and go on a treasure hunt! Snacks and light dinner included.

Teacher Collaboration Day

Our staff gathered on August 30 for our first teacher collaboration day of the 2024-25 school year. First, the PSE staff wants to express appreciation and support of our families for allowing this collaboration time to occur. While our educators love seeing your children each day, we know having adequate plan and collaboration time benefits students in the long run.

These days are a significant benefit for our elementary staff that will, in turn, support our students' academic success. I want to share some details about how our staff spent the day.

The PSE staff was able to review all of our beginning-of-the-year data to make appropriate instructional decisions for each child. We also reviewed our common expectations to focus on teaching skills that need to be reinforced. We were thankful for the day!

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to another great school year!

Reporting Religious Absences:

Did you know? Families can select “Religious Holiday” as an option for a child’s absence in ParentVue, when applicable. This notation could be helpful to our school staff so they can plan accordingly for your student’s absence.

PSE Spirit Days

- 9/5-Red Thursday-Wear your 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



Proactive School Safety: How Blue Valley Addresses and Assesses Threats

At Blue Valley Schools, student safety is our top priority. Our approach to safety blends proactive prevention, fostering strong adult-student relationships and maintaining robust physical security measures. Central to our strategy is understanding and addressing potential threats.

What Constitutes a Threat?

A threat includes any expression of intent to harm, whether spoken or written. Identifying and responding to these expressions is crucial to the safety of our school community.

The Role of Threat Assessments

Blue Valley’s comprehensive threat assessment process has two primary objectives:

- Preventing Violence: We work to intervene before potential threats escalate.
- Resolving Underlying Issues: By understanding the reasons behind a threat, we can resolve conflicts and provide necessary support.

Structured, Evidence-Based Approach

Blue Valley Schools follows the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG), a nationally recognized, evidence-based program. This approach ensures that we not only prevent violence but also support individuals in need.

Since the fall of 2023, Blue Valley building leaders have been trained in and actively using this Threat Assessment approach. This consistent use of CSTAG has equipped leaders with a common vocabulary and protocol, enabling them to resolve situations more effectively when threats arise.

By staying committed to this structured and compassionate approach, Blue Valley Schools ensures that students and staff are supported, safe and able to focus on what truly matters—learning through extraordinary educational opportunities.

More information about Blue Valley’s threat assessment process is available on the [district website](#).

Social Detective work with Mrs. Furdek

The 3rd- 5th graders completed Quest 1 of our Social Thinking Curriculum this week. The objective of the lesson this week was to learn how to become a flexible thinker. We read a story that involved two children having “stuck” thinking. The story describes how others feel when we have “stuck” thinking. It also showed the power of flexible thinking and how it affects others when we are flexible. As a class, we would look at facial expressions using our Social Detective skills (using our eyes, ears, brain, and heart) to figure out what others are thinking and feeling.

Next week, K-2 will continue to examine the possibility of becoming a Social Detective. We will continue to read *Are You a Social Detective*, which will teach us skills for collecting social clues, making smart guesses, and discussing hidden expectations.

Common Language:

Flexible thinking: Happens in our brains. It means we think about things in more than one way.

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:

- 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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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.

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



Stacey Sperry

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters