

Tear here to display your SP spirit

#SP CONNECTION EXPERIENCE



Show your SP spirit by taking an individual or socially-distanced group photo holding this sign.
Send your photo to socialmedia@sunprairieschools.org.
Photos may be used on social media.



sunprairieschools.org



Sun Prairie Area
School District

United we stand together
for Every Child, Every Day.



#SPExperience

The Sun Prairie Experience

A Community Newsletter | SPRING 2021



From the Superintendent

Dear Sun Prairie Area School District,

Most generations have a defining moment. For my father, it was the assassination of President Kennedy. My dad can still tell me where he was and how he heard the news. For me, it was the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger. There I sat, in my fifth-grade classroom at Westside Elementary School in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, watching and listening to Ms. Ciganick draw on every ounce of her experience as a teacher to help her students understand what they had just witnessed.

For current students in the Sun Prairie Area School District, one of their defining moments will be this pandemic. In the beautiful clarity of hindsight, our students will look back on the defining moments of support, care, dedication, and love from our staff during this pandemic. The students of this generation will remember, more than anything else, how we helped them get through this and how we responded with compassion and initiative to meet their needs.

The last eleven months have been as remarkable as they have been demanding, and we have all been riding this powerful rollercoaster of anxiety and impatience. The Sun Prairie Area School District has collaboratively dealt with this difficult situation, minimizing loss and maximizing on our promise of serving Every Child, Every Day while ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and families. We've been measured in our reopening approach, we've established ourselves as the exemplar in the state for transparency and communication, and we've worked with our School Board, staff, and parents to find our way through a slow-burning crisis where there are no right answers.

It is the next eleven months, however, that represent the culmination of all our work, the resolution and final chapters to this complicated story. The mission and vision of the Sun Prairie Area School District will continue to inform our planning and responsiveness to the needs of our students while ensuring safety for our students, staff, and families. And as our students watch us respond, we accept the inspiring responsibility of living out our mission and vision while we continue to meet the challenges of this crisis.

In a concluding note, our staff has planned and implemented our response to this pandemic while simultaneously finishing the construction of the Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field, designing and constructing Sun Prairie West High School, and facilitating the Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force. One of these initiatives alone could be more than a year's work, testing the fortitude of an organization. In the Sun Prairie Area School District, we are orchestrating all of them concurrently. Join me in appreciation for the exceptional work of our staff; the successful work on these simultaneous initiatives serves as testimony to their dedication to our School District.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out.

Superintendent Brad Saron



IN THIS ISSUE

Read how our staff and students are living out our vision and mission

Teaching, Learning & Equity | 4-7

- Meet Our Technology Team
- Distance Learning 3.0
- ACCEL Academies
- What Will Our New Middle School Structure Look Like?

Workforce Focus | 8-9

- Teacher Salary Update
- We Are Hiring!
- Staff Wellness

Community Engagement | 10-11

- Community Schools
- Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force
- Task Force on Student Behavior and Bullying

Facilities & Operations | 12

- Nutrition Services
- Climate Champions



Sun Prairie Area
School District

Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

STAY CONNECTED



Sun Prairie Schools

 sunprairieschooldistrict

 sunprairie12

 Sun Prairie School District

 Sun Prairie School District



REMINDER TO VOTE!

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

Current School Board Member Bryn Horton will seek reelection, while Marilyn Ruffin will not. This leaves two seats available. In addition to **Bryn Horton**, two other names on the ballot: **Alwyn Foster** and **Becky McCright**.

From the Board of Education

Dear Sun Prairie Area Community,

Welcome to this edition of the *Sun Prairie Experience*! We are grateful for the opportunity to inform you, or perhaps remind you, of the amazing happenings in your School District. While we are quickly approaching the first anniversary of COVID-19 and its aftermath, this newsletter is a reminder to all of us that your School District has adjusted to this pandemic and has never stopped serving children.

In this newsletter, you will learn about many new initiatives the SPASD has undertaken to provide an even more exceptional education to the children in this community. But what is not new is the dedication and determination of the almost 1,400 employees of the SPASD. Every day I am reminded of their service. I have visited many classrooms during the past few months, and I am overwhelmed each time by what I witness: sitting in on a reading lesson with Dr. Pitts at Creekside, a math lesson by Mrs. Schmidt at Meadow View, or morning meetings led by Mrs. Boos at Royal Oaks and Mrs. Sullivan at Westside; our nutritional services staff, who have been working since March 2020 to ensure that every family has the food they need; our custodians, who have been working so hard to make sure our schools are clean and sanitized for our children and staff; our administrative staff, who answer phone calls and emails and provide love to students in all of our schools. The list goes on and on. I have seen the greatness of the SPASD through the service of our staff, and I could not be more grateful.

One initiative close to my heart that I would like to bring to your attention addressing is student hunger. We have far too many students who go hungry after school, on weekends, and during breaks from school. I am proud to work with Assistant Superintendent Janet Rosseter, Director of Nutrition Kathy Walker, Community Schools Director Jamie Racine, and our friends at Sunshine Place and Second Harvest Food Bank to bring food pantries and clothes closets into each of our school buildings. In an effort to “walk before we run,” we started at a few schools, but the goal is to bring food and clothes into every school. More to come on this, but I am grateful to my colleagues for their dedication to eliminating hunger in our schools and community.

There is no doubt in my mind that the brightest days for the SPASD are in front of us.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you to this wonderful community for your support of the SPASD and public education.

Dr. Steve Schroeder, School Board President



AT THE SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, **WE STAND** BY OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FAMILIES.

The Sun Prairie Area School District celebrates and values our diverse community. We support and are inclusive of all students, staff, families, and community members of all races, ethnicities, faiths, national origins, immigration statuses, political viewpoints, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

WE STAND by our Black and Brown students, staff, and families of color. We will continue to speak and act swiftly against statements of bigotry, social injustice, discrimination, racism, and hate that may plague members of our community.

WE STAND by our lower socio-economic status students and their families. We will do all we can to meet the nutritional, physical, and emotional needs of all students regardless of their economic status.

WE STAND by our immigrant students and families. All are welcome and safe in our schools regardless of immigration status.

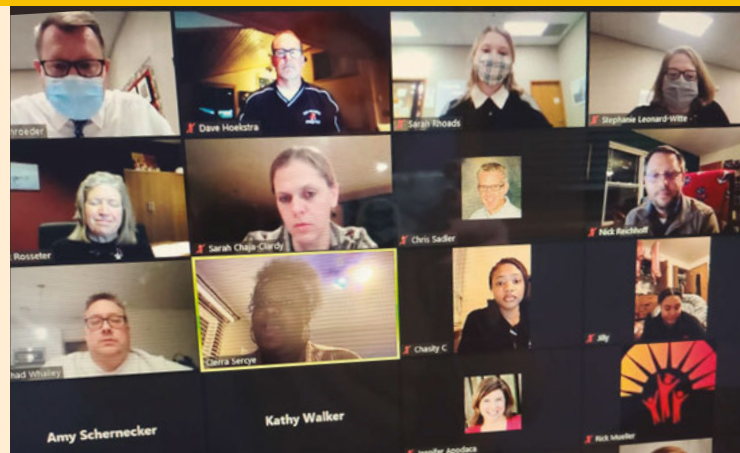
WE STAND by our students with disabilities and their families. We will continue to staunchly protect the rights of people of all abilities.

WE STAND by our LGBTQIA+ students and staff. We take seriously our responsibility to provide safe, nondiscriminatory, and inclusive environments for people of all orientations and identities, as they reflect our diverse community around us.

ALL CHILDREN WILL BE SAFE AND LOVED IN OUR SCHOOLS . . . **EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY.**

Secondary Handbook Revisions

The blackface incident at a basketball game in Sun Prairie in 2019 prompted a middle school and high school student-led walkout to the District Office. The students had some requests of the District, including co-creating and revising our handbook/policies, diversifying and educating staff, and enhancing the current curriculum. Over the past several months, a group of student leaders has been working with a team of administrators to update the student handbook, specifically the dress code and the area focused on discriminatory harassment. Additional feedback was gathered from the Black Student Union. Elements of the dress code were found to be racially insensitive, were focused on girls' clothing more than boys', were inconsistently enforced, and conflicted with the District's motto of **Every Child, Every Day**.



A team of students presented the handbook revisions at the School Board meeting on February 8th, highlighting the partnership between students, school staff and the District.

Shout Out to Scott Swingen, Technology Support Technician

Scott recently saw one of our 5th graders walking to school because he had missed the bus. The student had walked from Bird Street to the bowling alley, and Scott then brought him the rest of the way to school. This young man's mom who leaves for work pretty early, so missing the bus leaves him no other option than walking to school or missing a day of in-person instruction. We are super proud that the student took it upon himself to come to school and so incredibly grateful that Scott noticed him walking in bitter cold and picked him up. Three cheers for our technology support technician being committed to helping kids no matter what that help looks like. **THANK YOU, SCOTT!!!**

Meet a few members of our Technology Team!

This past year, our Technology Team has risen to the challenge to ensure technology was available for all students and staff. This did not mean just putting devices into kids' hands; it also meant maintaining and fixing devices when challenges arose and continuing that service as we continue virtual learning. We want to introduce you to just a few of our staff members who have been integral to the success of our students and staff being able to learn and teach virtually.



**JERREH
KUJABI**

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR YOU IN YOUR ROLE OVER THE LAST YEAR?

The biggest challenge for me was not just fulfilling a quick turnaround for getting devices into students' hands for distance learning, but also trying to troubleshoot those devices remotely. This was particularly challenging for families with younger students who were not too technically savvy. But through phone calls, video conferencing in some cases, and a lot of patience, we made it work.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST SURPRISE FOR YOU IN THIS PANDEMIC RELATED TO TECHNOLOGY?

I wasn't surprised by the flexibility of the Technology Team to pivot to allow for the success of the distance learning platform. The speed at which it happened is what surprised me.

YOU ARE A MAJOR PART OF SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS. WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE PARTS OF YOUR JOB?

Hearing from parents or educators about how a struggling student has reengaged in learning either because of a replacement Chromebook or being able to get back online by obtaining a hotspot just makes my day.



**JANELL
KELLETT**

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR YOU IN YOUR ROLE OVER THE LAST YEAR?

The biggest challenge has been trying to get teachers and students everything they need. The pandemic created a shortage of items, and distance learning required additional items we didn't normally need. Getting items purchased, delivered, and distributed to everyone required a lot of planning and help. We have worked very hard to make this happen.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST SURPRISE FOR YOU IN THIS PANDEMIC RELATED TO TECHNOLOGY?

I am pleasantly surprised that everyone has been so great at adapting to change.

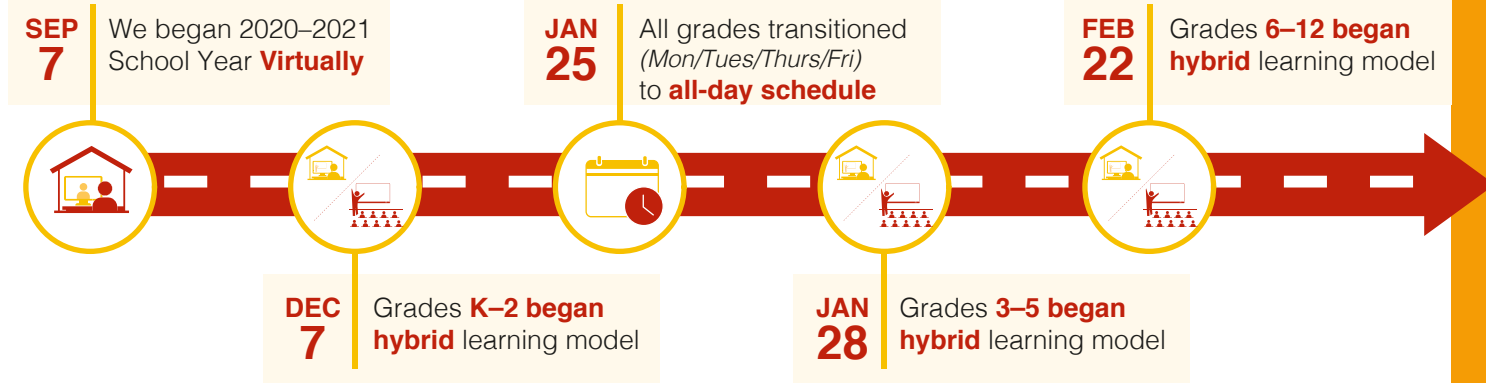
YOU ARE A MAJOR PART OF SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS. WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE PARTS OF YOUR JOB?

I enjoy helping people. I like that every day is different, with new challenges. I love working on a team. Our team has really pulled together and worked very hard to help our students and staff, and I am really proud of them.

Distance Learning 3.0

We continue to develop plans to enhance our distance learning experience. Our Distance Learning committee is a team of school staff and our Teaching, Learning & Equity department that have been meeting regularly to gather stakeholder input and to inform guidance for secondary staff around effective hybrid instructional practices. We also continue to develop and prepare professional learning around the models of concurrent teaching to be leveraged in SPASD.

LET'S CONTINUE TO MOVE **FORWARD**



The safety of our kids, families, and staff has been and will continue to be our top priority as we collaboratively work toward our vision of Every Child, Every Day, even in a pandemic.

www.sunprairieschools.org/district/covid19/health-safety

The district has comprehensive infection mitigation and response playbooks that outline efforts to reduce risk of transmission of the virus in school settings. This includes appropriate cleaning and disinfection, notifying others, and providing contact tracing. Visit the website to learn more about our COVID19 resources.

Closing the Digital Divide

Seven years ago, the Board of Education committed to an innovative plan to ensure that every student had access to a school-issued device. The emergence of COVID-19 and the shift to at-home learning resulted in accelerating the Board's plan to provide remaining students with a personal school-issued device. Using existing technology funds and CARES Act funding, the School District was able to purchase 1,800 iPads for primary grade students, 800 laptops for all of our teachers, and Chromebooks for many students and instructional assistants. 300 webcams and 200 document cameras were provided to assist in the delivery of content from teachers' homes and classrooms. In addition, the technology department opened up help-desk service to all students and families, providing an essential service to everyone served by our School District.

Many families in our District—some in town and some in rural areas—have limited access to wireless service. Through Community Schools, information was shared with families about partnerships to access low-cost wireless internet service. Nearly 200 wireless hotspots were distributed to students to ensure connectivity to learning resources and experiences. We continue



to work with community partners to determine wireless needs and provide devices where needed. Despite the challenges faced during COVID-19 and the historic global shortages of computer devices, the District has been able to provide for the technology needs of our students, families, and teachers.

The Sun Prairie Area School District is unique nationally in our ability to provide these resources. Erasing the digital divide for students in the Sun Prairie Area School District is something we can all be proud of and is a shining example of "We're all in this together." The years-long vision and commitment of our Board of Education, the thoughtful planning of District and school leadership, and the excellent service by our teaching staff made this all possible.

What is the Madison College STEM program?

The STEM Academy at Madison College is a partnership between the Sun Prairie Area School District and Madison College, designed to provide high school students access to college courses in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math), which are anticipated to be areas with high-demand and high-wage jobs. This opportunity to earn college credit is tuition-free for families and students.

Students enrolled in the program access courses at Madison College. Most of these courses transfer to a four-year college or university. Students can choose to focus on one area of interest or to explore multiple options, based on their personal goals. Students may earn their Associate of Science Degree and high school diploma simultaneously. The application process for this program starts as 10th-grade students look to schedule their 11th-grade courses.

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

The Associate of Science Degree prepares students to transfer to a major in a STEM field at a four-year college. The 60 credits required for the degree are transferable, so a student who completes the degree can enter a four-year college with junior standing. Most of the classes students will enroll in during the first year at the STEM Academy will satisfy requirements of the Associate of Science Degree.

The Applied Associate Degree is a two-year program that can lead directly to employment opportunities or serve as a starting point for completing a bachelor degree program. Coursework in the Applied Associate Degree program helps students prepare for college and career opportunities across a variety of in-demand STEM fields, including engineering (civil, electrical, mechanical); information technology (networks, web and mobile applications, cloud support); and additional technology fields (electronics, robotics, automation, architecture).

WHAT DOES THE DAY LOOK LIKE?

The schedule is similar to a typical high school day. Significant differences exist in comparing the weekly schedule for a student in the Early College program to a typical *weekly* high school schedule. Courses in the STEM Academy program will likely be scheduled on a Monday/Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule, so students attend class on 2 or 3 days during the week (compared to 5 days a week at a typical high school schedule). On alternate days, students will attend an academic support time, designed specifically to support students in the Early College STEM Academy program at Madison College.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS OPTION FOR MY STUDENT?

This option, and the many innovative options available to your student, can be found in the high school course catalog.

Please reach out to your student's school counselor for more information about important deadlines and program details.



The **Global Business Academy** and **Global Food and Sustainability Academy** opened this year with 21 and 20 students, respectively. Our students really enjoyed the real-life applications and project-based learning for real employers. Multiple project partners implemented student

projects at their companies upon completion. Our students' excitement from these real-life experiences in a school setting is what ACCEL is all about.

The students in ACCEL Experiential Learning Academies are working on their transferable skills and experience to better prepare themselves for internships, part-time jobs, and full-time jobs. As the job market continues to become more competitive, our students are working on the skills and experiences needed to separate themselves from the pack, all while receiving 3 credits toward graduation!

What Will Our New Middle School Structure Look Like?

In the fall of 2022, after 12 years serving as an 8th- and 9th-grade upper middle school, Cardinal Heights will convert to Central Heights, the third 6th- through 8th-grade middle school in the District. Prairie View Middle School, Patrick Marsh Middle School, and Central Heights Middle School will each house approximately one-third of the district's 6th- through 8th-grade middle school students. The shift in our secondary school grade-level configurations from grades 6–7, 8–9, and 10–12 to grades 6–8 and 9–12 was executed for two reasons: (1) to accommodate our growing community and (2) to eliminate one school transition for Sun Prairie students at the secondary level. Boundaries are currently being evaluated by the Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force. When this task force finishes its evaluation, it will make a recommendation to the School Board.

As Sun Prairie students mature and age, our goal is to provide more “voice and choice” throughout their instructional day. At the elementary level, all children take the same classes (e.g., reading, art, physical education, music). During the middle school years, a portion of the students’ instructional day is scheduled, with the opportunity to dive deeper into areas of interest through exploratory classes (e.g., computer science, physical education). We begin to offer students choice with a small number of electives to help them focus on areas of interest / career clusters for further study at the high school level (e.g., world languages, family and consumer sciences, orchestra).

Another benefit to the middle school structure is the opportunity for students to belong to a “house” or “team” with approximately 50–75 peers and 2–3 core teachers who form strong relationships with all of the

students in the “house.” Developmentally, middle school students tend to gravitate toward peers with similar interests. As students in grades 6–8 interact with more students on a daily basis than they did in elementary school, these “houses” increase the likelihood that they interact throughout the day with students who share similar interests.

In middle school, the concept of advisory is introduced as a class period and used to explore the passions, talents, skills, and interests of students that are then leveraged to align to an academic graduation plan in the high school years. Advisory is held daily and focuses on Academic and Career Planning (ACP).

ACP refers to both a process that helps students engage in academic and career development activities as well as a product that is created and maintained for students’ academic, career, and personal advancement. In Sun Prairie, the ACP process is an ongoing K–12 process that actively engages students, enabling them to:

- understand their own interests, strengths, values, learning styles
- create a vision of their future
- develop individual goals
- prepare a personal plan for achieving their academic and career goals

Students in Sun Prairie use the software program Xello to track their progress on their ACP plans between grades 6 and 12.

ACCEL Experiential Learning Academies had a great start to the year, finishing projects with partners like M3 Insurance, Trek, Cranberry Creek Cranberries, Marda Angus Farms, Statz Bros. Farms, Beans n Cream, Sassy Cow Creamery, and Findorff, just to name a few.

We look forward to our students being able to work out of our project partners’ businesses and farms in the near future. Until then, students continue to meet virtually with their project partners while receiving instruction from their teacher teams throughout their three ACCEL courses.

Did You Know?

Xello is the computer software that our students in grades 6–12 use to engage in Academic and Career Planning (ACP). Students

follow a scope and sequence that identifies activities, lessons, and assignments to complete.

These activities include learning style quizzes, college and career exploration, goal setting, and more. Additional resources are also available for test preparation, scholarships, course selection, and scheduling. Students work with their school counselors and teachers to complete the activities recommended for their ACP work.



• JOIN OUR TEAM • JOIN OUR TEAM • JOIN OUR TEAM •

Teacher Salary Referendum Update

In April 2019, the Sun Prairie community passed a referendum to build Sun Prairie West High School, to rebuild Ashley Field into the new Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field, and to provide funds to help support bringing teacher salaries in Sun Prairie to the Dane County average over a three-year period. At the point of passage, our overall average teacher salary was approximately \$3,000 below

the Dane County average teacher salary. Over the last two years, we have become more than \$2,000 closer (average of \$1,000 closer per year) to the Dane County average, meaning we are on track to be at or above the Dane County average by the end of the 2021–2022 school year. We are so thankful for the community support to make this movement a reality, allowing us to attract and retain the highest quality educators for Sun Prairie students.

Professional Development for Distance Learning

In addition to the professional learning being provided by school sites around instructional practices for distance learning from the *Distance Learning Playbook* (Corwin, 2020) and the three concurrent teaching models, SPASD is developing optional learning sessions for staff to support the use of technology and planning, engagement, feedback, and assessment in hybrid instruction. These opportunities will be a mixture of live and recorded events. More information about these opportunities, including dates, times, and registration/sign-ups will be provided in the near future as the session details are finalized.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Our District would like to congratulate **John Barth**, a teacher at Sun Prairie High School, who recently passed his 2020–2021 National Board Certification.

This certification is designed to develop, retain, and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. It is the most respected certification in K–12 education.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SUBSTITUTE?

Inspire learning in today's youth while having the ability to set your own schedule.

We are seeking to diversify our workforce. Go to our website (sunprairieschools.org) and click on the employment icon on the right side of the page to learn more about how to apply.

HUMAN RESOURCES CONTACTS:

Chris Sadler, Human Resources Director
Isabel Simonetti, Employee Relations Manager
humanresources@sunprairieschools.org

• JOIN OUR TEAM • JOIN OUR TEAM • JOIN OUR TEAM •

Staff Wellness

Our Staff Wellness Committee continues to work diligently to provide engaging wellness activities and opportunities for our staff and their family members, while continuously building and strengthening our supportive community partnerships. We strive to make our School District a great place to work! Our mission is to create a culture that supports and provides opportunities, tools, and resources that inspire all employees and their families to become full partners in managing their overall well-being.



EXAMPLES OF WELLNESS INITIATIVES AND SUPPORTS INCLUDE:

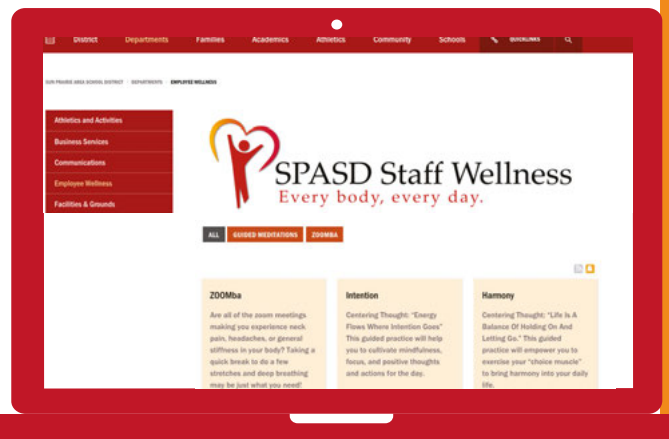
Complimentary:

- Daily wellness offerings
- Both live and recorded guided meditations and workouts
- Motivating, fun, and diverse monthly challenges with prize incentives
- Memberships to premium mindfulness apps
- Financial counseling and mental health therapy sessions through our Employee Achievement Program (EAP)
- Dean resources
- Weekly wellness tips
- SPASD Good News Network to share Shout-Outs and Good News
- Adult SEL (social emotional learning) trainings and support
- Employee wellness clinic
- Comprehensive **employee wellness web page** that includes an events calendar, resources, and challenges

Discounted:

- Fitness memberships
- Chiropractic care
- Acupuncture

OUR EMPLOYEE WELLNESS WEB PAGE IS UPDATED DAILY WITH RELEVANT RESOURCES AND CONTENT.



Community Schools

Community Schools is a strategy that is implemented at five schools in Sun Prairie: Westside Elementary, C. H. Bird Elementary, Northside Elementary, Patrick Marsh Middle School, and Prairie Phoenix Academy. This strategy makes our Community Schools the hub of their neighborhoods, uniting educators, community partners, and families to provide all students with top-quality academics, enrichment, health and social services, and opportunities to learn and thrive.

At the start of the 2020–2021 school year, the Community Schools site coordinators organized with their school leadership and their site leadership team to create and coordinate plans for the school year. Shared leadership is at the core of Community School work. Each site leadership team has representation from school leadership and staff, parents and family leaders, community leaders, and partner community organizations.

This school year, we have partnered with the Sun Prairie Food Pantry and local faith leaders to ensure that no child, no family, is hungry. Each of the Community Schools has a school-based pantry that is available to the community, modeled after the work that has been done at Westside, Sun Prairie's first Community School. We are grateful to the Sun Prairie Food Pantry, Door Creek Church, Heartland Church, United Methodist Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, and Life Church of Dane County for their support and partnership. We have also partnered with the YMCA and Second Harvest to offer a pop-up food pantry at Westside a few times a month. Coordinators have also supported neighborhood lunch service for kids under 18 in partnership with the Neighborhood Navigators and the YMCA.

If you are interested in getting involved with the work of Sun Prairie Community Schools, please reach out to **Jamie Racine**, SPCS Program Coordinator, jlracin@sunprairieschools.org.



Westside Elementary Community School's mobile food pantry.

While we have been limited in gathering, our celebration of community has not been tempered. During the first semester, we were able to safely host a variety of community programs and events. Northside hosted a family drive-in movie and coordinated a Winter Wonderland car parade. We partnered with the YMCA, Neighborhood Navigators, and the Parks and Recreation department to hold a Drive-Thru Boo and Trunk-or-Treat event. We are also working to bring families and community members together to discuss the important issues of our community, including hosting a town hall on fair housing with City Council members.

We continue to support out-of-school programs for our students as well, offering both in-person and virtual after-school programs at four of our five sites. We are grateful to our creative and supportive partners and funders that have made this possible this year, including the 21st-Century Community Learning Center grant staff, Oddly Arranged Media, Prairie Arts & Music, the YMCA, the Boys & Girls Club, QBE, CEOs of Tomorrow, and the many school staff who help to build a bridge for students from the school day to after school programs.

Parent Leadership Council

The Parent Leadership Council is made up of the officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) from each school's SCO (School Community Organization). This group meets monthly to learn from one another and find collaboration opportunities among our schools. Our focus this year has been equity and family engagement, which includes an equity speakers series.



Secondary Boundary & Bell Time Task Force

New boundaries will be effective September 1, 2022, after the district completes referendum projects that add an additional high school and an additional middle school.

ABOUT THE TASK FORCE

The School Board created a citizen-based task force that consists of school district residents to serve in an advisory capacity to the administration and School Board.



39

TASK FORCE
MEMBERS

(School District residents)



2

THIRD-PARTY
CONSULTANTS

(Joe Schroeder, MDROffers)



11

TASK FORCE
MEETINGS

(as of February 18th)



28.5

HOURS OF
PROCESSING

(so far)

BOARD DETERMINED PRIMARY CRITERIA:
EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND RACIAL COMPOSITION.

Task Force generated and board approved secondary factors (in no particular order):

- Student cohort / neighborhood continuity from elementary school to middle school to high school
- Transportation time, cost, and proximity
- Starting enrollments / resources reasonably balanced
- Longevity / sustainability of the boundaries

SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT TO VISIT
sunprairieschools.org/district/ref2019/boundary-task-force



Task Force on Student Behavior and Bullying

The Sun Prairie Area School District strives to maintain a learning environment that is safe and a culture that is respectful and conducive to learning. From August 2019 to February 2020, a 43-person task force of staff, students, guardians, and community members met to accomplish the following goals:

- to understand our current data and contributing factors in order to identify key issues
- to examine the current prevention, response, reporting, monitoring, and communication practices
- to advise the School Board and District Administration regarding improvements
- to provide avenues for community partnerships going forward

We have continued our work on the recommendations from the District Task Force on Student Behavior and Bullying. An update to the Board of Education on our work can be found on our District web page.

The Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field is Complete!

The Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field is complete and ready for events and competitions as soon as it is safe to do so.

Watch the full **virtual tour** of the stadium on the Sun Prairie School's YouTube or by scanning the QR code to the right!



Did You Know?

The Nutrition Services Department has been feeding Sun Prairie community students and their siblings **FREE** meals since March 18th! We surpassed 100,000 FREE breakfasts and 100,000 FREE lunches served in January!



Due to COVID-19, all meals--breakfast and lunch--are free for the entire 20/21 school year. We offer breakfast and lunch options for students attending hybrid school. We are also distributing meal boxes, which include 7 days of both breakfast and lunch, to children 18 years of age and under in our community.

Distribution happens Monday–Friday at many of our schools (please see the Food Resources area on the School District Website for details about meal box distribution). On Wednesdays, we deliver meal boxes to families due to lack of transportation.

Climate Champion

Our two newest elementary schools received Climate Champion 3-Star Status for Energy Use as part of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change Climate Champions program. The schools each feature energy efficient designs, including geothermal heating and cooling along with energy-saving practices that allow the buildings to use less than half the energy of a typical primary school. **Visit their website to read more:** tinyurl.com/k98sp6ym



We completed a hot-water system replacement project at both Prairie View and Patrick Marsh that replaced 82% efficient boilers with newer, 95% efficient units that can modulate. We also added VFDs to reduce the flow of hot water through the buildings, to better match demand. This will allow us to not only heat the buildings more efficiently during the winter but also to dehumidify the buildings during the summer without overheating the systems.

We have replaced over 20,000 bulbs in the District with LED lights, resulting in a monthly electrical demand reduction of 400 kW and to date avoiding more than 80,000 kWh in use, roughly equivalent to the electric use of 10 homes for a year. This results in an ongoing monthly savings of \$9,000 for the District.

Aided by the closure of buildings in March of 2020, we saw our lowest total cost of utilities per square foot since we started tracking, at \$0.73/sq ft. This is a reduction of 13% from the academic year 2018–2019, which was our previous low (\$0.84/sq ft) after the opening of Meadow View and Token Springs Elementary Schools in the fall of 2018. As a comparison, when we started tracking energy use and costs in 2005–2006, the District was spending \$1.38/sq ft and averaging \$0.94/sq ft in the five years prior to opening the two new elementary schools.



Construction Update

Sun Prairie West High School construction is well underway. If you glance behind Meadow View Elementary School, you will see the large areas of the building in progress. The steel structure for the three-story Learning Communities that house the academic classrooms is visible. The athletic fields are also taking shape. Watch the District web page to see the most recent construction updates.

DISTRICT CONTACTS

Dr. Bradford Saron (608) 834-6502
Superintendent

Stephanie Leonard-Witte (608) 834-6516
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Equity

Janet Rosseter (608) 834-6683
Assistant Superintendent of Operations

Patti Lux (608) 834-6562
Communications & Engagement Officer

TEACHING, LEARNING & EQUITY

Jennifer Apodaca (608) 834-6520
Director of Student Services

Janet Thomas (608) 834-6638
Associate Director of Student Services

Curtis Mould (608) 834-6531
Director of Digital Media, Innovation & Strategy

Nick Reichhoff (608) 834-6624
Director of Student Policy & School Operations

Sarah Chaja-Clardy (608) 834-6572
Director of Secondary Teaching, Learning & Equity

Rick Mueller (608) 834-6506
Director of Elementary Teaching, Learning & Equity

Jamie Racine (608) 834-6534
Community Schools Program Coordinator

OPERATIONS

Phil Frei (608) 834-6510
Director of Business & Finance

Rhonda Page (608) 834-6512
Business Services Manager/Busing

Chris Sadler (608) 834-6551
Director of Human Resources

Kathryn Walker (608) 834-6527
Director of School Nutrition

Kevin Sukow (608) 834-6567
Director of Facilities & Grounds

Eric Nee (608) 834-6713
Director of Athletics and Activities

We Are Listening

If you have questions, please contact us.

DISTRICT SUPPORT CENTER:

501 S. Bird Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590
608-834-6500 | sunprairieschools.org



OUR AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM

Contact the District Support Center at **608-834-6500**. By using the menu below, you can reach our schools and departments directly. If you know your party's extension, you may enter it directly. **Press 8 to dial by name, or select one of the following options:**

1 Menu of Individual Schools

1 Sun Prairie High School

2 Upper Middle and Middle Schools

- 1. Patrick Marsh 3. Cardinal Heights
- 2. Prairie View

3 Elementary Schools

- 1. Northside 6. Creekside
- 2. Royal Oaks 7. Horizon
- 3. C. H. Bird 8. Meadow View
- 4. Eastside 9. Token Springs
- 5. Westside

4 Prairie Phoenix Academy

5 Early Learning Resource Center

2 School Closing Info

3 Enrollment

4 School Nutrition

5 Infinite Campus

6 Payroll

7 SP4K

WE HAVE A NEW APP

School news in the palm of your hand. Designed specifically to keep you better informed.



Point the camera on your mobile device at the QR code above to download.

Available for both Apple and Android devices.

Did You Know?



We are already making plans for staffing classrooms next year. If you have a new neighbor or know of a family that has moved to Sun Prairie recently, please encourage them to enroll their child(ren) as soon as possible for the 2021–2022 school year. We can better plan for staffing and classrooms if we have enrollment information sooner. Learn more about the enrollment process by clicking on the **ENROLLMENT** icon on the District home page.

2021 UPCOMING DATES

FEBRUARY

- **Friday, February 26:** NO SCHOOL

MARCH

- **Friday, March 12:** NO SCHOOL
- **Monday–Friday, March 22–26:** NO SCHOOL

APRIL

- **Friday, April 2:** NO SCHOOL
- **Tuesday, April 6:** Election Day

MAY

- **Friday, May 28:** NO SCHOOL
- **Monday, May 31:** NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day

JUNE

- **Friday, June 4:** Last Day of School for 4K
- **Thursday, June 10:** Last Day of School (Grades K–12)
- **Friday, June 11:** High School Graduation

The 2021-2022 school year will begin on August 23, 2021, and end on May 26, 2022, to allow the completion of construction projects in time for the 2022-2023 school year.

Thank You to Our **AMAZING** Custodial Staff!

In order to have our staff teaching from their classrooms and students learning in a hybrid model, it takes a lot of coordination to ensure that we are following the infection mitigation strategies. Our Facilities & Grounds and Custodial Staff have been amazing in ensuring that this could safely happen so our staff and students could return to the classroom.

Thank you to this team for all of their hard work and effort.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!



No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs, activities or in facilities usage because of the student's sex (gender identity, gender expressions, and non-conformity to gender role stereotypes), color, religion, profession, or demonstration of belief or non-belief, race, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, homelessness status, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. (SPASD District Policy JB)

As mandated by the federal Title IX statutes and the regulations set forth in Chapter 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("the federal Title IX regulations"), the District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that the District operates. Title IX's requirement not to discriminate in any education program or activity extends to District students, certain admissions processes, and District employment. Inquiries regarding how Title IX and the federal Title IX regulations apply to the District may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, or to both.

The Sun Prairie Experience is published by the Sun Prairie Area School District. The District Support Center is located at 501 S. Bird Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590. 608-834-6500
Visit the District website for more information: sunprairieschools.org