

**ENROLL  
NOW!**



**We are already making plans for staffing classrooms next year.**

If you have a new neighbor or friends or family members that have moved to Sun Prairie recently, please encourage them to enroll their child(ren) as soon as possible for the 2022–2023 school year. We can plan staffing and classrooms better the sooner we have enrollment information. Learn more about the enrollment process by clicking on the ENROLLMENT icon on the District homepage.

# The Sun Prairie Experience

A Community Newsletter | SPRING 2022

## From the Superintendent

Dear Sun Prairie Area School District,

This newsletter, named *The Sun Prairie Experience*, is our opportunity to inform the community about the inner workings of the Sun Prairie Area School District. As many of us have had to change our way of being in the last two years, our students and staff have had to adjust too. The events and circumstances that have happened in the 2021–2022 school year represent the incredible strength and resilience of our students, families, staff, and community. I imagine a highlight reel of athletic competitions and choir concerts, the Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force meetings, the Strategic Plan Refresh meetings, the decisions and planning that have gone into our collective response to this pandemic, and students on playgrounds and inside buses, in classrooms and hallways.

In many ways, the 2021–2022 school year is a year of “lasts” in preparation for a year of “firsts.” In this newsletter, you will see student success stories and staff celebrations. You will see planning to prepare for the next school year. You will see our efforts to respond to student needs. Above all, you will see how adaptable and strong our students and staff have been this year, examples from which we can all draw inspiration.

**Dr. Brad Saron,**  
Superintendent



## Strategic Plan Refresh

The Strategic Plan Refresh Steering Committee has begun sorting through analysis of the community feedback gathered in November 2021. They will make a recommendation to the School Board about how our District's strategic plan can be updated to keep our priorities aligned with those of our community. Stay tuned!

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Learn more about the work of SPASD staff and students and our community partnerships.

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*Note: Some photos in this publication were taken pre-pandemic.*



## STAY CONNECTED



**Sun Prairie Area  
School District**  
Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

# From the Board of Education

Dear Sun Prairie Area Community,

Welcome to this edition of *The Sun Prairie Experience*. We are excited for you to learn more about many of the wonderful opportunities happening in your School District. Over the past few years, the SPASD has worked hard to engage with you, our amazing community, about your School District. This newsletter is one way for us to keep you informed and up to date on the successes, challenges, and opportunities of the SPASD.



**School Board Members (left to right):**  
Tom Weber, Alwyn Foster, Caren Diedrich, Bryn Horton, Carol Sue Albright, Dave Hoekstra, Dr. Steve Schroeder, Sarah Rhoads, Carson Schmoltdt

I am often asked, What is the role of the School Board, and how does it differ from the role of the Superintendent? The easiest way I can explain the difference in roles is to point to the Board's Purpose Statement:

The Sun Prairie Area School District Board of Education is the governing board of the Sun Prairie Area School District. The Board leads, directs, and supervises the affairs of the District through policy development and accountability. The Board serves and is accountable to the community primarily by ensuring the district achieves the results described in the Board's Student Achievement Results Policies and that it operates according to the values expressed in the Board's Operational Expectations Policies.

The Board will govern lawfully and ethically with a primary focus on:

- Setting the vision and direction rather than internal preoccupation
- Strategic leadership more than management detail
- Future rather than past or present
- Clear distinction of Board and Superintendent roles
- Encouraging all voices be heard, especially the community whom we serve and represent
- Building trusting and respectful relationships
- And most importantly student achievement



The Board's primary mission is to set the direction for the School District. The Superintendent's primary mission is to ensure that the School District takes us there.

We encourage you to attend a School Board meeting, watch the meetings on KSUN, follow the District on social media, and reach out anytime. We are here to serve our community, our 1,300 staff members, and the 8,400 children in the Sun Prairie Area School District.

On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you for reading this newsletter. And more importantly, thank you for your trust, support, and commitment to public education.

**Dr. Steve Schroeder,**  
President, Board of Education



## REMINDER TO VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 5

Three School Board seats are up for election this spring. Current School Board President Steve Schroeder's term is ending, and he will seek reelection while Dave Hoekstra and Caren Diedrich will not seek reelection. There will be five names on the ballot, including (in alphabetical order): **Stephen Elmer, Lisa Goldsberry, Latoya Holiday, Diana McFarland, and Steve Schroeder.**

# Thanks & Well Wishes!

by Dr. Steve Schroeder, School Board President



**Dave Hoekstra:** Dave Hoekstra is “retiring” from the SPASD Board of Education after eight years of extraordinary servant leadership and pursuit to make us a better School District. I will miss Dave’s unwavering commitment to board governance, his ability to analyze situations, and the great questions he asked from the board table. I will also miss his sense of humor and laugh. Serving with Dave has been one of my highlights of being on the Board, and as Shakespeare wrote, we “shall not look upon his like again.” But thank goodness friendships continue.

On behalf of my Board colleagues, the administration and staff, this community, and most importantly the students of the SPASD, thank you for your service. We are better because of you both.

**Caren Diedrich:** After 23 years of service, Caren Diedrich has decided not to run for reelection to the SPASD Board of Education. In my opinion, her almost quarter of a century of service to the students, staff, and community is unrivaled. Caren was here for the building of the current high school (soon to be Sun Prairie East); the building of Creekside, Horizon, Meadow View, and Token Springs; the renovation of Ashley Field; and, of course, our current projects of Sun Prairie West, Central Heights, and Prairie Phoenix Academy. While this School District has grown tremendously in the past two decades, Caren’s dedication, preparation, and love of all children have not changed. I will always remember our car rides to and from meetings, our phone conversations, and the voicemails she has left me over the years. Caren Diedrich is one of a kind, and her legacy will always be alive in the SPASD. I will miss her, professionally and personally, terribly.



## Meet Our Student School Board Members

The Sun Prairie Area School District School Board believes it is important to seek out and consider students’ ideas, viewpoints, and reactions to educational programs. In order to provide student input and involvement, the School Board may include student representatives to the School Board. The current student members are:



**Sarah Rhoads** is a 12th grade student at Sun Prairie High School. Sarah is the vice president of the Drama Club and was the president of her choir her freshman year. She is actively involved in forensics and theater productions at the high school and at area theaters, and she volunteers for the Patrick Marsh Middle School Drama Club. She also teaches at her local dance studio, Dancing through Life.



**Carson Schmoldt** is an 11th grade student at Sun Prairie High School. Carson is an active member in: FBLA, DECA, and Future Investors of Sun Prairie. He is also on the Sun Prairie men’s varsity soccer team. Carson volunteers with the AP Human Geography mentor club and helps coach youth soccer with Sun Prairie Soccer Club. Outside of school, Carson enjoys playing soccer and golf and traveling with his family.

## Sun Prairie West High School Principal

We are excited to announce Mr. Jamie Sims has been selected as the inaugural principal of Sun Prairie West High School, pending Board approval. During his 17 years of service in education (including Madison and Middleton), Mr. Sims has brought transformational change regarding issues connected to race, equity, belonging, instructional leadership, and education-based athletics. We extend our sincere gratitude to the interview teams for volunteering their time to help with this critical decision.

## WELCOME TO SUN PRAIRIE!

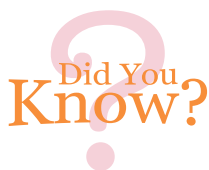


**Mr. Jamie Sims**  
Inaugural Principal of  
Sun Prairie West High School

Pending School Board approval on Monday, February 14

### The **BIG MOVE**

The **Big Move** is the moving of instructional materials in preparation for the realigned grade levels starting in 2022–2023 school year. The project is very detailed and includes an inventory of textbooks and learning materials.



- ⅔ of materials will move from Central Heights to Prairie View and Patrick Marsh (grade 8).
- Grades 6-7 materials from both Prairie View and Patrick Marsh will move to Central Heights.
- 100% of 9th grade materials will move to two comprehensive high schools.
- 100% of Prairie Phoenix Academy materials will move to their new site.
- About 50% of textbooks and instructional materials will move to Sun Prairie West from Sun Prairie East.

### The **BIG TRANSITION**

We are reassigning teachers from our 6th–8th grade teaching community to all three of our 6th–8th grade middle schools in order to create similar staffing levels of new and established staff at each school (e.g., Patrick Marsh Middle School staff may remain at Patrick Marsh, be reassigned to Central Heights, or be reassigned to Prairie View). Similarly, our 9th–12th grade teaching community will be equitably distributed and reassigned across our two comprehensive 9th–12th grade high schools, and in some instances, shifting to teach middle school. For those positions that are more operationally building specific (e.g., secretarial, custodial, school nutrition), the reassignment process will be less extensive and will occur in the coming months.



New school mascots are launching in summer 2022!

### The **BIG SHIFT**

The **Big Shift** will ensure that all students have relevant, innovative, and engaging learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom and are taught transferable skills. Another key component is making sure that staff have the opportunity to provide input about what professional development and training they may need prior to the start of the upcoming school year.

## Meet Our Youth Apprentice Students

Our Youth Apprentice students gain hands-on experience in a field they are interested in, while earning credit and getting paid!

**Evan Malcore**, Finance Apprentice at Summit Credit Union  
**Ally Olson**, Veterinary Science Apprentice at the Sun Prairie Pet Clinic  
**Sara Bedner & Reagan Zimmerman**, Health Apprentices at Oak Park Place  
**Emma Kleinfelt**, Youth Apprentice at Camp K9  
**Alex Wagner**, Engineering Apprentice at Trachte Building Systems



# An Update on Student Behavior & Discipline

It's no secret that schools across the nation are supporting dysregulated students as we come out of isolation due to mitigation strategies from the pandemic. Schools across the nation and across Wisconsin are supporting a complex set of student needs while also responding to increased student behavioral infractions.

**Some things we are doing in Sun Prairie to address these problems:**

- Creating strong adult-student relationships
- Hiring Social Workers, Deans of Students, and Youth Advocates
- Implementing Positive Behavior Interventions and Support
- Teaching Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum
- Implementing an anti-bullying and digital citizenship curriculum
- Utilizing Equity Teams in all of our schools
- Revising handbooks
- Creating behavior response charts

- Expanding Community Schools
- Providing students with mental health support, including on-site therapy with licensed mental health clinicians
- Ensuring behavioral interventions are being utilized
- Creating explicit guidelines related to disciplinary action

Please be careful of half-truths, misinformation, and unproductive virtual content, especially if it jeopardizes student privacy. Also, we know that this is going to take time, and we ask for your patience.

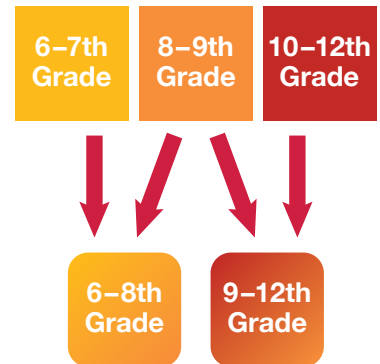
We are committed to supporting our students, preventing and responding to student misbehavior and disciplinary infractions, and providing a safe and productive environment for our current and future students and families.

We encourage you to watch a screencast to learn more about this topic. <https://tinyurl.com/2h3bhmvu>

## Course Changes

Beginning in the 2022–2023 school year, our District's middle schools will consist of students in grades 6–8, and our high schools will consist of students in grades 9–12. This reconfiguration required a reexamination of all courses offered in our secondary schools. As a result, we have created new courses and revised current course offerings for middle and high school students. **District staff and leadership spent over 1,000 hours creating course guides for our middle and high schools that capture all the changes for 2022–2023**, ensuring that students will have the opportunity to take a wide array of courses and explore their many interests. This change will benefit all students, especially 9th grade students, as they will now be able to take more advanced placement and elective courses, allowing them to earn additional college credits and further prepare for the workforce. It will also bring many more opportunities for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses into our middle schools.

### Current Course Guides



### 2022–2023 Course Guides

DID YOU KNOW WE OFFER  
**HALF-DAY  
4-YEAR-OLD  
KINDERGARTEN?**

WE ARE NOW ENROLLING FOR THE  
**2022–2023** SCHOOL YEAR

Any child who is 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2022 can register.

VISIT [WWW.SUNPRAIRIESHOOLS.ORG/SP4K/ENROLL](http://WWW.SUNPRAIRIESHOOLS.ORG/SP4K/ENROLL) TO START THE REGISTRATION PROCESS





## Reducing Food Waste at Patrick Marsh

Social studies and science teacher Angela Rivera Rautmann and her 7th grade students are working on a community action project focused on reducing food waste. They completed a food waste audit in the Patrick Marsh cafeteria. Now they are thinking critically about ways they can encourage their peers to reduce food waste and are trying to figure out ways they can redirect wasted food to people in the Sun Prairie community who need it.



## Sun Prairie High School Presents *The Nutcracker*

Over 80 high school students made up the cast and crew for the fall play this past November 11–14. They put on an excellent show! Be sure to mark April 22–24 on your calendar for the spring musical, *Mama Mia*!



Sun Prairie High School and Cardinal Heights Upper Middle Schools' **orchestra** students put on a great performance for their December concert!



Sun Prairie High School's **choir** did a great job at their recent concert. Thank you to our talented students, amazing directors, and accompanists!



Our **Formula Club** students recently got some new equipment. They meet every Tuesday and Thursday night to work on their skills.



Some of our Sun Prairie High School students participated in an **online training provided by Ford**. Ford also gifted our automotive students with a car to work on!



Congratulations to **Jared Cataggatan** from the Sun Prairie Varsity Dance Team for being a Division 1 All-State Solo Finalist!



**Did You Know?** Every school day, 7th grade students at Prairie View Middle School produce the school's **televised morning announcements**. Students work in front of the camera and behind the scenes to make "PVTv" possible!

Meadow View students spent weeks programming **Dash Robots**, which are real robots that respond to voice commands, so they were able to participate in a parade.



## Department of Systemic Equity & Inclusion Community Cabinet

Our District leaders and our Equity team continue improving in the area of establishing and building strong relationships with marginalized populations. We recently created the **Department of Systemic Equity & Inclusion Community Cabinet** (DSEICC).

The DSEICC will bring a diverse voice that represents parents and caregivers. Director of Systemic Equity & Inclusion **Michael Morgan** will meet with the DSEICC monthly to focus on matters related to diversity, equity, and inclusion across the District. DSEICC members will be invited to share their experiences, triumphs, and concerns and are encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback on the five identified priorities of focus and other equity-related matters for the 2021–2022 school year.

### FIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2021–2022 SCHOOL YEAR

- 1 Build relational trust among community members with a focus on historically marginalized populations.
- 2 Increase the presence of culturally responsive teaching and learning through the Ready for Rigor Adult Learning Framework (R4R ALF), the SPASD Instructional Framework, and the Curriculum Renewal and Design Process.
- 3 Collaborate with the Human Resources Department to recruit and retain diverse staff.
- 4 Facilitate and coach Race and Equity Teams as they address identified problems of practice related to race and equity.
- 5 Focus on the celebration of Black Excellence through Black History Month, Black Student Unions, and beyond.

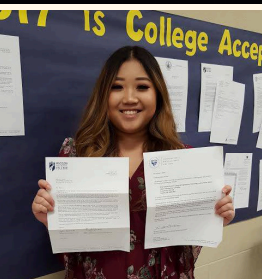
#### Our Race and Equity Teams

(E-Teams) met with our partners from the Pacific Educational Group (PEG) recently for professional development. During the session, E-Teams worked to refine their problems of practice related to equity and conducted a root cause analysis. E-Teams will continue the work of implementing strategic actions to address their problem of practice with their colleagues at their respective sites.

## Ajamu Olaniyan Named Wall of Success Honoree

The “Wall of Success” program aims to honor outstanding graduates of Sun Prairie High School for current students to admire and emulate. It demonstrates to students the relationship between the education they receive at Sun Prairie High School and success in life.

Ajamu Olaniyan, known as Dean Cash in high school, is a graduate of Sun Prairie High School's class of 1988. Mr. Olaniyan currently holds the school record for triple jump at Sun Prairie High School, UW-La Crosse, and in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. He works as an educator and also serves as a coach and the president at Top Flight Sports Performance Engineering, a program committed to helping athletes develop physically and mentally.



## Celebrating 10 Years of AVID

We are celebrating 10 years of AVID, a college readiness system designed to increase school-wide learning and improve academic performance for students in grades 8–12. AVID targets students in the academic middle who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard.

In the 2020–2021 school year:

- 100% of AVID graduates were accepted to college.
- Over \$4,000,000 was offered in scholarship funds.

#### Meet an AVID Alumnus:

**Korlia Yang**, cosmetologist and owner of Glow Up - Class of 2017

*“I think AVID has helped me understand how to work with people better. All the team-building activities really helped me become a leader by taking advantage of the opportunities presented to me.”*



- Educating staff and community members about student homelessness
- Collecting and analyzing student data for this population
- Assisting families with enrollment
- Coordinating school transportation if needed
- Consulting with families or school social workers and referring them to needed resources
- Communicating with homeless service providers about student/family needs

***“When you are unhoused, things like internet access, employment, food, clean clothing, or a good night’s sleep can be out of reach. We don’t always know who is experiencing homelessness in our community oftentimes, there is a lot more to the story!”***



**We are seeking to diversify our workforce.** Visit our website ([sunprairieschools.org](https://www.sunprairieschools.org)) and click on the employment icon on the right side of the page to learn more about how to apply.



Inspire learning in today's youth while having the ability to set your own schedule. Substitute teachers who work five or more days per month will receive a \$100 bonus and another \$100 bonus if working in a hard-to-fill position.



If you are interested, please visit [kobussen.com/employment.html](http://kobussen.com/employment.html). Kobussen offers paid training, flexible schedules, and top wages (starting route pay of \$16 to \$20 an hour)!



We are looking for crossing guards. Join our team and help protect Sun Prairie children as they walk to and from school every day. Seniors welcome! Must be 18 years or older to apply. Work a brief morning and afternoon shift, and earn \$27.50 per day. For more information, contact Sandy Prisbe at (608) 279-4763.

**Chris Sadler**, Human Resources Director  
**Isabel Simonetti**, Employee Relations Manager  
[humanresources@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:humanresources@sunprairieschools.org)

## Staff Wellness

This past year, the Wellness Program worked to increase the engagement and utilization of the **District's Employee Wellness Clinic**, an SSM Health clinic that offers free or low-cost appointments and over 20 services to District employees and their families. It also offers a wide variety of motivating wellness challenges and Weekly Wellness opportunities. Weekly Wellness opportunities include activities such as workout classes, discussions focusing on mental health and healthy living, mindfulness and meditation sessions, guest speaker presentations, clubs, and special events.

Recently, the Wellness Program was awarded:

- \$500 worth of promotional products with the SPASD Employee Wellness Department logo thanks to the 4imprint One-by-One Grant
- \$1,600 to help support wellness initiatives thanks to the Dean Health Plan Grant



**100%** of patients stated the likelihood they would recommend the District's Employee Wellness Clinic to others was good/very good.



"Thanks to all for trying your best to keep us healthy so that we can, in turn, be there 110% for our SPASD students and staff this school year!" – Stacy Darga

## Sun Prairie Area School District Named One of the Nation's Healthiest Organizations by the Wellness Council of America

The Sun Prairie Area School District was nationally recognized by the Wellness Council of America for prioritizing the health and wellness of its employees and their families.

The Wellness Council of America (WELCOA) is one of the nation's most respected resources for building high-performing, healthy workplaces. The Sun Prairie Area School District was one of the 26 organizations in the nation to be recognized, receiving the highest level of recognition possible: the Platinum Award.

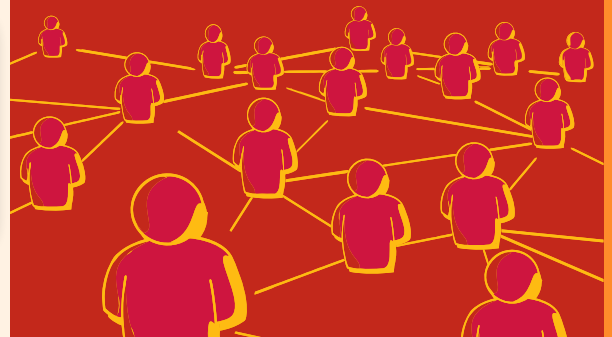


## Stay Interviews

Stay interviews are a Human Resources strategy this year, focused on **retention and employee engagement**. The purpose of a stay interview is to understand why an employee stays in their position and what the employee believes should be improved within their organization. The stay interview is a strategy that is more proactive than exit interviews as it focuses on improving employee retention. We will continue to provide exit interviews when someone does leave our organization, however, we want to dig deeper to find out why people stay. A small number of employees will participate in these interviews.



In the 2020–2021 school year, the Sun Prairie Area School District had a **90%** Educator Retention Rate.

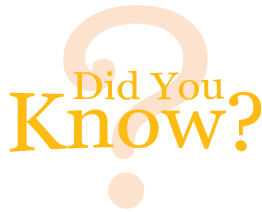
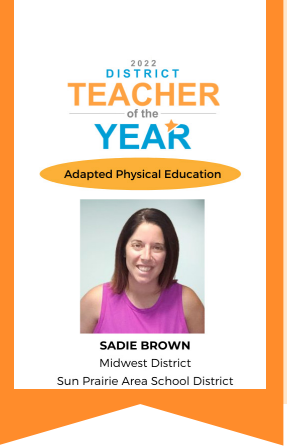


**Philharmonic Fridays** are a weekly wellness offering for SPASD staff

# WAY TO GO!

Patrick Marsh Middle School teacher **Sadie Brown** was recognized by SHAPE America as the Midwest District Teacher of the Year for adapted physical education.

SHAPE America is a Society of Health and Physical Educators serving over 200,000+ health and physical education professionals across the United States. The organization has defined excellence in physical education nationally and has affiliates in every state throughout the country.



The Sun Prairie Area School District has one of the best **adapted physical education** programs in the state. Adapted physical education teachers adapt or modify activities so that special needs students can be active with their peers and improve their gross motor skills. All students have the opportunity to bowl, ride bicycles, swim, and do other fun activities.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Our District would like to congratulate **Darlene Wilkinson** (left), a 1st grade teacher at Token Springs Elementary, **Kari Hemenway** (center), a cross categorical teacher at C. H. Bird Elementary, and **Kelly Murphy** (right), a social studies teacher at Cardinal Heights for passing their 2021–2022 National Board Certification. The 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.



We fully implemented the **Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** curriculum, which provides students with tools in the areas of emotion management, situational awareness, and skills for learning/academic achievement. As a strategy to increase SEL support, we hired two new Deans of Students at Cardinal Heights and two at Sun Prairie High School.

# Meet Cardinal Heights' New Deans of Students

**Kyree Brooks** and **Felix Giboney IV** recently began their new roles as Deans of Students at Cardinal Heights Upper Middle School.

Mr. Brooks previously served as Coordinator of Student Engagement and Positive Behavior Coordinator in the Madison Metropolitan School District. In that role, he focused on improving the schools' culture and climate, recognizing student and staff achievement, amplifying student voices, and communicating with caregivers.

Mr. Giboney holds experience working with elementary, middle, and high school students to manage and overcome trauma, identify leadership skills, navigate systems, and uncover their personal, academic, and career goals. His orientation toward solutions and emphasis on "doing it together" makes him effective and transformative.



**KYREE  
BROOKS**



**FELIX  
GIBONEY**



## Congratulations, Jamie Olson!

Varsity softball head coach **Jamie Olson** was recently selected as the 2020–2021 Wisconsin Girls Softball Fast-Pitch Coach of the Year!



## Congratulations, Joel Block!

Congratulations to Coach **Joel Block**, who was one of three coaches in the country to be named Coach of the Year by the USA Track and Field Pole Vault Development committee.



We were recognized with the **Business “Change of the Year” Award** by the Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce for our efforts to respond to the pandemic. Our staff put the needs of kids first and adapted quickly and as best as they could to a rapidly changing situation. It wasn't easy, and we didn't always get it right the first time, but we worked our hardest to support the needs of every child, every day, through unprecedented times. Thank you to our amazing teachers and staff for your inspiring dedication and effort, and thank you to our community for your continuing support.

The **Communications team** was recently honored by the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA) with two Spectrum Awards of Excellence and an Award of Merit for its work in school communications. WSPRA presented the awards to Patti Lux and Adam Mumm at its annual conference in November.



With all the negativity surrounding us these days, we want to shine a light on the positive. **Tell us something good!**

If you want to thank a staff member, congratulate a student on an accomplishment, or tell us something else amazing happening in the District, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycktb56t>

Thank you to everyone who has told us something good already! It has been wonderful and inspiring to read how Sun Prairie staff and students are making a positive impact in the lives of our community.

Here's a comment we received:

***“Seeing staff at Westside constantly giving praise and encouragement to their students whether it be in the classroom, hallways, or cafeteria. Hugs, high fives, and fist bumps are always given out when passing in the hallways. Love it!”***

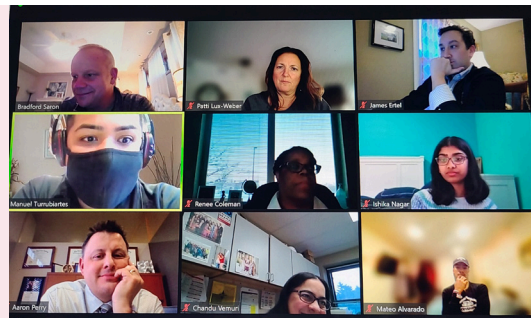
## Committee Work

Our Communications team is in the process of developing a two-year Communications plan **with the help of a committee**. The committee includes staff, students, administrators, School Board members, and caregivers. The new plan will incorporate best practices in communication and successful communication efforts for the District.



Our District created an **Instructional Framework Design Team** to engage the community in helping to create an instructional framework for our District. This framework is a set of systems and expectations that guide curriculum, instruction, assessment, and learning climate. Some of the goals of this team include engaging stakeholder voices and feedback, with a focus on historically silenced voices, and identifying themes related to learning experiences from student/community voices.

We have restarted the work of the **Ritual, Ceremony & Traditions Committee** as a part of our secondary transition planning work. The goals of this committee include creating a suite of traditions, rituals, and events of ceremony that will promote a sense of community pride, mutual support, and unity honoring the students of the SPASD. The committee plans to meet throughout the winter and early spring and will present their work to the Board with recommendations in late spring.



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. Every month, they meet with the Peloton Consulting Group to identify Equity in Practices for SCOs.



Several times a year, Superintendent Saron meets with community members so that they can ask him questions and learn about what is happening in the District.



Our volleyball team donated funds from their Pink Out game to the UW Carbone Cancer Center in honor of Kim McNabb, mother of a former SP volleyball player, who is battling gallbladder cancer.



SPASD distributed spirit banners at the Homecoming parade. Community members, students, and staff were asked to submit photos of themselves showing off their #SPSpirit. Keep sending us your photos so we can share them on our social media accounts!



Thank you to Prairie View Middle School 7th graders for hosting a winter clothing drive for CARDS Closet. They collected a total of 16 boxes of items. Way to go, Falcons!



Thank you to the Sun Prairie High School hockey team for helping out and serving meals at Sunshine Place in January!



# Community Schools

A Community School is the hub of its neighborhood, 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. Our mission is to inspire people to act to create equity and a sense of pride for all community members. We have five Community School sites in Sun Prairie: Westside Elementary, C. H. Bird Elementary, Northside Elementary, Patrick Marsh Middle School, and Prairie Phoenix Academy.

This past summer, Sun Prairie Community Schools teamed up with ten community partners to create an opportunity for Community Conversations on Race, Equity, and Inclusion. These conversations were facilitated by Courageous Conversation Global Foundation and brought together over 100 residents.

All Community Schools sites support out-of-school-time learning for students and adults. After-school programs at three sites (Westside, C. H. Bird, and PPA) are funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants. Students at Northside participate in a Walking School Bus five days a week to ensure they walk safely from Northside to the Boys & Girls Club for after-school programs.

Every Community School site also has a school-based food pantry to support the school community. These sites operate in partnership with the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry to provide a neighborhood-based, short-term support system for those in need. Community Schools, in partnership with Second Harvest, the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry, the YMCA, and the Boys & Girls Club, provides weekend food for students across the District. This is made possible through funding from the City of Sun Prairie ARPA funds.

To hear more about the work Community Schools is doing, reach out to **Jamie Racine**, Sun Prairie Community Schools Program Coordinator, at [jlracin@sunprairieschools.org](mailto:jlracin@sunprairieschools.org).



**Lettuce Dream Community Garden** celebrated its inaugural season with the 1st Annual Harvest Fest this past October. Over the course of the summer of 2021, all residents of the community were invited to plant, weed, and harvest from the community garden. Prairie Music & Arts ran a free art class in the park that resulted in a mural for the garden, which will be installed in summer 2022.

## THANK YOU!

Our students and families are so grateful!

**100 Black Men of Madison** donated backpacks for our students in transition, as well as gift cards for families who are struggling with basic needs.



**UW Rehab Hospital** sponsored a giving tree for students in transition, and employees shopped for holiday gifts for our students.

### Thank You to Our Community Partners!

Sun Prairie High School students had the opportunity to participate in mock interviews with local business owners and School District leaders to practice their interview skills. It is a great way to help students prepare for interviews and build confidence!

Thank you to BMO Harris, Prairie Kids Club, Park Bank, Prairie Music & Arts, Teddys Place, Maddison Kipp, the City of Sun Prairie, QBE, Public Health Madison & Dane County, Royle Printing, and Sun Prairie Public Library for volunteering and allowing us to make this opportunity possible! We appreciate having such amazing community partners!

### Our Partnership with the Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce

In the last six months, we have:

- Created a Marketing Internship for a senior student at the Chamber of Commerce.
- Partnered with three current local businesses for our ACCEL Academy students.
- Had two guest speakers (local CEOs and city leaders).
- Involved high school students in assisting with marketing efforts for Cornfest.



## Did You Know?

In 2022, Community Schools will be starting a **scale-up plan** that will take place over the next three years. Creekside will be the first Community School site added, followed by Prairie View and Central Heights in the 2022–2023 school year.





Photos from Findorff

## Sun Prairie West High School Update

The exterior of Sun Prairie West High School is complete, and the school is on schedule to open this fall! We have begun purchasing technology for the school. Interactive flat panels (large-format touchscreen displays) have been selected for the school. Installation will begin in mid-March and will be completed by mid-April. We have also purchased desktop computers for offices, as well as phones, networking equipment, and Mac computers for art and graphic design classes.

## Central Heights Office Area Renovations

This summer, work will continue on Cardinal Heights as it transitions to Central Heights, our third 6th–8th grade middle school. We have been working with Bray Architects and the Cardinal Heights administrative team to renovate the Central Heights office area. Because the Employee Wellness Clinic will occupy the current student services area, the large main office space will serve administrative and student services functions this fall. We have also reviewed interior finishes, as this will provide an opportunity to create a welcoming middle school office and main entrance, which will include the new “Huskies” branding colors.



## COVID-19 Testing Site for Students and Staff

We are offering drive-up COVID testing for all students and staff at Bank of Sun Prairie Stadium at Ashley Field, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants must pre-register by visiting [register.covidconnect.wi.gov](https://register.covidconnect.wi.gov).



Our **Nutrition Program** is giving students at different schools the opportunity to taste test and provide feedback on potential new menu items! Items that we are looking to possibly add to our menus include an Asian chicken salad with homemade dressing, orange poke cake, beef Vindaloo, Korean beef bowls with rice, and more!

**Sun Prairie Action Resource Coalition** brought a check representing their contributions through the **Hunger Hero Campaign** to help pay down student food account debt. Thank you to our community members for their donations to SPARC.

# New Bell Times for 2022–2023

The **Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force** met over a period of 13 months, conducted a community survey, and analyzed the results to recommend the following bell times for the 2022–2023 school year:

Bell Schedule (Fall 2022)	Start Time	End Time
4K - District Sites	7:40 a.m. / 11:42 a.m.	10:23 a.m. / 2:40 p.m.
4K - Partner Sites	7:50 a.m. / 11:32 a.m.	10:33 a.m. / 2:30 p.m.
Elementary School (Grades K–5)	7:40 a.m.	2:40 p.m.
Middle School (Grades 6–8)	8:25 a.m.	3:35 p.m.
High School (Grades 9–12)	8:35 a.m.	3:45 p.m.



## THANK YOU TO THE TASK FORCE FOR THEIR DEDICATION

On behalf of the Board, administration, and the entire Sun Prairie community, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force for their hours of taxing and detailed work invested throughout this process. The time sacrificed away from their families was significant. The task force never took their eyes or their hearts off the greater good of the District. Their work leaves a legacy for this District for years to come.

Scan the QR Code or visit [sunprairieschools.org/district/ref2019/boundary-task-force](https://sunprairieschools.org/district/ref2019/boundary-task-force) to learn more about the work they did.



LEARN MORE

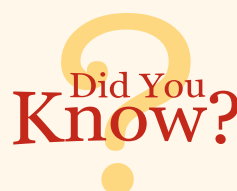
## Green and Healthy Schools Recognizes Patrick Marsh

Patrick Marsh Middle School was recently recognized by **Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin** for its focus on increasing the health and wellness of staff and students, commitment to reducing environmental impacts and costs, and efforts to improve students' environmental and sustainability literacy.

When selecting schools to recognize, Green & Healthy Schools looks at the state laws and regulations the District follows, School Board policies and proclamations, energy and waste audits of each school, along with curriculum and the conservation practices the school utilizes. Patrick Marsh ranked high, enabling them to receive this prestigious honor.



**Prairie Phoenix Academy** is preparing for a big change over the summer. PPA will move from its current home to a new location in a separate space at the current Cardinal Heights building. The existing PPA building on South Street will be torn down later this fall. Stay tuned for more details over the summer!



We offer **digital tickets** for all athletic events hosted at Sun Prairie High School. Purchase tickets in advance and show them at the door for immediate entry to the event. To get digital tickets, visit <https://tinyurl.com/digital-tickets>.

**Please note:** Beginning with the 2022–2023 school year, ticket sales for all high school athletic events for Sun Prairie East and West will be cashless through Ticket Spicket.



## Making HERstory!

Congratulations to Sun Prairie wrestlers, **Bopasoreya "Bopa" Quintana** and **Sophia Bassino**, who participated in the first ever WIAA women's wrestling state finals. Bopa was state champion in her weight class after landing three first-round pins and winning the semifinal match after two periods. Sophia took second place in her weight class after a first-round bye and two pins on her way to the championship match. Way to go!

## 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](http://sunprairieschools.org)



## DISTRICT CONTACTS

<b>Dr. Bradford Saron</b> Superintendent	608-834-6502	<b>Janet Rosseter</b> Assistant Superintendent of Operations	608-834-6683
<b>Stephanie Leonard-Witte</b> Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Equity	608-834-6516	<b>Patti Lux</b> Communications & Engagement Officer	608-834-6562
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<b>Janet Thomas</b> Associate Director of Student Services	608-834-6638	<b>Rhonda Page</b> Business Services Manager/Busing	608-834-6512
<b>Curtis Mould</b> Director of Digital Media, Innovation & Strategy	608-834-6531	<b>Dr. Chris Sadler</b> Director of Human Resources	608-834-6551
<b>Dr. Nick Reichhoff</b> Director of Student Policy & School Operations	608-834-6624	<b>Kathryn Walker</b> Director of School Nutrition	608-834-6527
<b>Dr. Sarah Chaja-Clardy</b> Director of Secondary Teaching, Learning & Equity	608-834-6572	<b>Kevin Sukow</b> Director of Facilities & Grounds	608-834-6567
<b>Rick Mueller</b> Director of Elementary Teaching, Learning & Equity	608-834-6506	<b>Eric Nee</b> Director of Athletics & Activities	608-834-6713
<b>Michael Morgan</b> Director of Systemic Equity & Inclusion	608-834-6599		
<b>Jamie Racine</b> Community Schools Program Coordinator	608-834-6534		

# 2022

## UPCOMING DATES

### FEBRUARY

- **Friday, February 25:** NO SCHOOL

### MARCH

- **Friday, March 11:** NO SCHOOL
- **Monday–Friday, March 21–25:** NO SCHOOL

### APRIL

- **Tuesday, April 5:** Election Day

### MAY

- **Friday, May 13:** NO SCHOOL
- **Thursday, May 26:** Last Day of School (K–12)  
**New Dismissal Times:**  
Elementary: 11:35 a.m.  
Middle: 11:10 a.m.  
Cardinal Heights: 11:15 a.m.  
High School: 11:35 a.m.  
PPA: 11:05 a.m.
- **Friday, May 27:** High School Graduation



### JUNE

- **Monday, June 13:** First Day of Summer School

### JULY

- **Thursday, July 14:** Last Day of Summer School

### SEPTEMBER

- **Tuesday, September 6:** First Day of School (Grades K–12)

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. Harassment is a form of discrimination and shall not be tolerated in the District. It is the responsibility of administrators, staff members and all students to ensure that student discrimination or harassment does not occur. (SPASD District Policy JB)

As mandated by the current provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and under the regulations set forth in Chapter 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("the federal Title IX regulations"), the Sun Prairie Area School District ("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 cover, but is not limited 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 a District Title IX Coordinator (as designated below), 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](http://sunprairieschools.org)