



Welcome Back to School

FALL 2023



THE POWER OF PLAY

Learn more about our new middle school playgrounds and their benefits | Page 4

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sunprairieschools.org

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BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR MAIL
for our
SCHOOL EVENT CALENDAR!



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

SUPERINTENDENT'S WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

A sense of anticipation fills the air as we bid farewell to the sunny days of summer and embark on a brand new school year in Sun Prairie. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of you as we enter the 2023-2024 school year. With fresh beginnings, boundless possibilities, and a commitment to equity and excellence, we are poised to make this year an extraordinary one for our students.

Our dedicated team of educators and staff has been hard at work over the summer, meticulously planning and preparing for a relevant, engaging, and innovative educational journey for our students. We firmly believe in fostering a nurturing environment where every child, every day, can thrive, explore, and develop their unique talents. From the first day of school to the last, we will strive to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning, encouraging students to reach for the stars and embrace new challenges with confidence and enthusiasm.

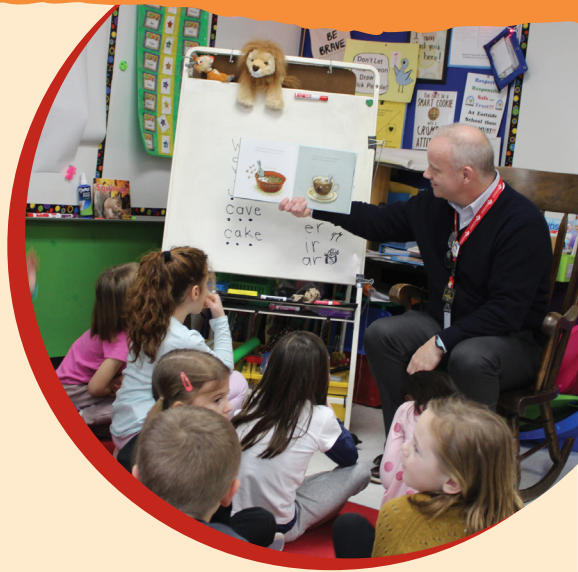
As a parent of SPASD students, I know how important it is to be ready for the start for the beginning of the school year. Parents and caregivers have a lot to do, including verifying enrollment, contributing to school lunch accounts, getting school supplies, and the list goes on. This newsletter is designed to be a resource for you and the entire community as we prepare for a new and exciting school year.

Be sure to save this newsletter to use over the next couple of weeks. Place it on the kitchen counter as a quick reference, like my wife and I do. However, know that the Sun Prairie Area School District is here for you to help you prepare for the year. Check our District website or our Facebook and Instagram pages to learn more about things happening in the SPASD. And, as always, reach out to the District Support Center if you have a question.

Wishing you a wonderful 2023-2024 school year!



Dr. Brad Saron, Superintendent



STUFF THE BUS 2023

Stuff the Bus, a Sunshine Place program, works to provide backpacks and school supplies to children and youth in the Sun Prairie Area School District.

For more information or to help the Stuff the Bus committee meet its fundraising goal, visit: sunshineplace.org/stuff-the-bus



OUR DISTRICT'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Sun Prairie Area School District aspires to be a recognized leader in education, empowered by the diverse community we serve. By providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom, we aim to help every child become the best version of themselves. Our Strategic Framework, created in collaboration with our community, guides our District's work as we move together to achieve our vision and mission.

Vision

Recognized as a high-performing district of choice that reflects the cultures of our diverse community.

Mission

Inspire and prepare every child, every day, by providing relevant, engaging, and innovative learning experiences in and out of the classroom.

Our Commitment to Equity and Excellence through Continuous Improvement



Culture of Educational Excellence



Student Experiences Goal
Educational experiences in Sun Prairie will be rigorous and aligned to standards. Exceptional experiences include student goal setting, active student participation in their learning, and multiple opportunities and means to demonstrate their learning.



Student Learning Environment Goal
The educational environment establishes the conditions where every child feels welcome and able to succeed. In order to create the necessary conditions for learning, educators create spaces where the classroom community accepts and supports the development of all students as people, where learning partnerships thrive between students and adults, and where there is an established culture of care.



Culture of Engagement and Inclusion



Community of Exceptional & Diverse Educators & Staff Goal
Strive to proactively recruit, retain, and engage diverse and exceptional talent.



Communications & Community Engagement Goal
Excel in how we collaborate and communicate with all careholders, and build relationships that promote positive outcomes for students.



Culture of Operational Excellence



Finance Goal
Prioritize the investment of our resources to support educational experiences in and out of the classroom, the physical environment for students and staff, and the teams serving our organizational mission.



Facilities Goal
Prioritize the investment of our resources to support educational experiences in and out of the classroom, the physical environment for students and staff, and the teams serving our organizational mission.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHECKLIST

MAKE SURE YOU ARE BACK-TO-SCHOOL READY BY CHECKING OFF THE ITEMS BELOW!

☐ CHECK YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS.

Lists for elementary schools and middle schools can be found on each school's web page under the "Academics" tab by grade or subject. Middle and high school students can purchase school supplies such as notebooks, folders, and pencils based on personal organizational style and needs.

☐ HAVE YOUR SECONDARY STUDENT CHARGE THEIR CHROMEBOOK.

It is a high priority in our District to support our students in continuous learning and in being good digital citizens. All students will undergo training on digital citizenship at the beginning of the school year. If they do not already have a Chromebook, students in middle and high school will receive one at school once this training is completed. Students with old devices, chargers, hotspots, or other electronics should return them as soon as possible.

☐ UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IN INFINITE CAMPUS.

We ask families to provide us with up-to-date contact information before the start of the school year. To do so, log in to Infinite Campus and click on the "Online Registration" button on the bottom left of the page. We know that phone numbers and email addresses change, and we want to be able to contact you in the case of an emergency. You can also sign the new permission slip and handbook agreement forms as a part of this process.

☐ JOIN YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.

Our elementary and middle schools have parent/caregiver groups, called School Community Organizations (SCOs). Joining your school's SCO is a great way to get connected to your school. There are various volunteer opportunities to choose from and monthly meetings you are invited to attend. You can find more information about your SCO on your school web page under the "About" tab.

☐ BE READY FOR SCHOOL PICTURE DAY.

We will be partnering with Empire Photography for school pictures. Details regarding each school's picture day will be provided to you by your school. If you have any questions about school picture services, please reach out to your school(s) via email or phone. *Yearbooks: Watch for info about how to purchase a yearbook for your student during the school year.*

☐ ATTEND YOUR SCHOOL'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT.

ELEMENTARY BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS

**C. H. BIRD**
Ready, Set, Go
Thursday, Aug. 31
5:00–7:00 pm

**CREEKSIDE**
Welcome Back Picnic
Wednesday, Aug. 30
5:00–7:00 pm

**EASTSIDE**
Ready, Set, Go
Wednesday, Aug. 30
4:00–6:00 pm

**HORIZON**
Ready, Set, Go
Tuesday, Aug. 29
4:00–5:30 pm

**MEADOW VIEW**
Ready, Set, Go
Wednesday, Aug. 30
4:00–6:00 pm

**NORTHSIDE**
Ready, Set, Go
Tuesday, Aug. 29
5:00–7:00 pm

**ROYAL OAKS**
Ready, Set, Go
Wednesday, Aug. 30
4:00–6:00 pm

**TOKEN SPRINGS**
Ready, Set, Go
Wednesday, Aug. 30
4:00–6:00 pm

**WESTSIDE**
Ready, Set, Go
Wednesday, Aug. 30
5:00–7:00 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN-HOUSE EVENTS

**CENTRAL HEIGHTS**
Wednesday, Aug. 30
5:30–7:00 pm

**PATRICK MARSH**
Wednesday, Aug. 30
5:30–7:00 pm

**PRAIRIE VIEW**
Wednesday, Aug. 30
5:30–7:00 pm

HIGH SCHOOL KICKOFF EVENTS

**SP EAST**
Registration
August 23–24
8:00 am–4:00 pm
Student Orientation Nights by Grade
9th Grade:
August 28, 7:00 pm
10th–12th Grade:
August 29, 7:00 pm

**SP WEST**
Registration
August 22–23
8:00 am–4:00 pm
Student Orientation Nights by Grade
9th Grade:
August 30, 7:00 pm
10th–12th Grade:
August 31, 7:00 pm

**PRAIRIE PHOENIX ACADEMY**
Back-to-School Gathering
August 31
4:00–6:00 pm

THE POWER OF PLAY

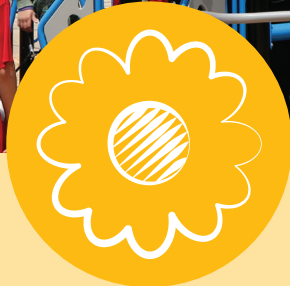
A LOOK AT OUR NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS AND THEIR BENEFITS

Middle school is a crucial time in a student's academic career because this is when their cognitive, social, and emotional skills significantly develop. Earlier this year, the District installed new playgrounds at all three middle schools. Although classrooms are essential for learning, a recent study indicates that middle school playgrounds can also be beneficial locations for development and instruction.



INCREASING ACADEMIC AND COGNITIVE RESULTS

Frontiers in Psychology: Play-based learning produces greater problem-solving skills, critical-thinking skills, and creativity scores than regular classroom training. Play helps students build necessary cognitive abilities beyond what they learn in the classroom, preparing them for future challenges.



REDUCING STRESS AND BEHAVIORAL CHALLENGES

Journal of School Health: Playgrounds support a balanced and complete educational experience by offering both physical activity and enjoyment. Additionally, students who spend more time playing at recess engage in academic activities far more and perform better in class than those who do not.



PROMOTING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Child Development Perspectives: The importance of play in promoting the development of social skills like cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution is highlighted by a review of research findings. Additionally, through play, students may express and control their emotions, which promotes emotional growth and resilience.



CREATING A PLAYFUL AND ENRICHING PLAYGROUND

To accommodate a range of interests and learning preferences, schools might include a number of play components, such as interactive installations, sports facilities, and creative areas. They might also encourage active involvement and positive conduct through enough recess time and monitoring.

Playgrounds in middle schools have the potential to become more than just places to have fun. They can be made into settings that encourage play-based learning, exercise, and social-emotional growth. According to research, including these aspects in a student's education can improve their cognitive and academic performance, as well as their behavior, stress levels, and development of social-emotional skills.



SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

2023–2024

REMINDER:

First day of school:

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, for K–12 students

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023, for SP4K students

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Labor Day
- 5 First Day of School (K–12)
- 11 First Day of School for SP4K

OCTOBER

- 2 No School • Staff Professional Development
- 19 Family/Teacher Conferences, 4–8 pm
- No School for SP4K
- 20 No School • Family/Teacher Conferences

NOVEMBER

- 7 End of 1st Quarter
- 22 No School
- 23 No School • Thanksgiving
- 24 No School

DECEMBER

- 11 No School • Staff Professional Development
- 25 No School • First Day of Winter Break

JANUARY

- 2 First Day Back from Winter Break
- 15 No School • Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 19 End of 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester
- 22 No School • Staff Professional Development

FEBRUARY

- 15 Family/Teacher Conferences, 4–8 pm
- No School for SP4K
- 16 No School • Family/Teacher Conferences

MARCH

- 25 No School • First Day of Spring Break

APRIL

- 1 First Day Back from Spring Break
- 2 End of 3rd Quarter
- 12 No School • Staff Professional Development

MAY

- 17 No School • Staff Professional Development
- 27 No School • Memorial Day
- 31 Last Day of School for SP4K

JUNE

- 6 Prairie Phoenix Academy Graduation
- 7 End of 4th Quarter / 2nd Semester
- Last Day of School (K–12)
- Elementary Dismissal at 11:10 am
- Middle School Dismissal at 12:05 pm
- High School Dismissal at 12:15 pm
- Prairie Phoenix Academy Dismissal at 11:50 am
- Sun Prairie East and Sun Prairie West Graduation**

SEPTEMBER 2023

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FEBRUARY 2024

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25	26	27	28	29		

OCTOBER 2023

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29	30	31				

MARCH 2024

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31						

NOVEMBER 2023

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APRIL 2024

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DECEMBER 2023

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MAY 2024

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

JANUARY 2024

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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28	29	30	31			

JUNE 2024

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

LEGEND:

No School – Holidays

No School

SP4K

KEEPING KIDS HEALTHY



HEALTH SERVICES TEAM

DISTRICT HEALTH NURSES

DEBBIE BROWN

608-318-8106

dlbrown@sunprairieschools.org

ELIZABETH FEISTHAMMEL

608-318-8107

eafeist@sunprairieschools.org

SCHOOL HEALTH ASSISTANTS

C. H. BIRD ELEMENTARY

Hope Goelzer • 608-834-7306

CREEKSIDE ELEMENTARY

Lindsay Collins • 608-834-7706

EASTSIDE ELEMENTARY

Emily McCabe • 608-834-7406

HORIZON ELEMENTARY

Salina Carr • 608-834-7906

MEADOW VIEW ELEMENTARY

Lisa Keller • 608-478-5006

NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY

Joy Foust • 608-834-7106

ROYAL OAKS ELEMENTARY

Lori Coulthart • 608-834-7206

TOKEN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Barb DeVenecia • 608-478-5106

WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY

Halina Sliva • 608-834-7506

CENTRAL HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tasha Harris • 608-318-8006

PATRICK MARSH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Nan Pieper • 608-834-7606

PRAIRIE VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Juanita Kranz • 608-834-7806

SUN PRAIRIE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Rhonda Gustafson • 608-834-6702

SUN PRAIRIE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Heidi Higgins • 608-478-1706

PRAIRIE PHOENIX ACADEMY

Stacey Billings-Hughes • 608-834-6900

Our Sun Prairie School Health Services Team is made up of two District Health Nurses and a Health Assistant at each school building. Together they work to remove health-related learning barriers and create a healthy and safe learning environment for all children.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY SCHOOL YEAR



Make sure your child is current on vaccination requirements. The state of Wisconsin requires that all students entering 7th grade get a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) booster. Kindergarteners need a booster of the MMR, Polio, Varicella, and DTaP vaccines. Be sure that sufficient documentation or a signed waiver is on file with your child's school.



Consult with your child's school nurse about any health updates or health needs your child may have for school this year.



If your child needs to keep medication at school, it must be in its original labeled container, and you must complete the Medication Administration form. For prescription medication, either contact your doctor's office for their school medication form or print it from our website. Bring the completed form with the medication to school.



Remind your child that handwashing is the number one way to prevent illness. Practice effective handwashing. Wash for at least 20 seconds, using friction, and wash the fronts and backs of hands and in between fingers. Soap and water are best, but hand sanitizer will do when those are not available.



Make sure your child gets enough sleep. Start practicing healthy sleep habits, such as limiting caffeine after dinner, getting regular exercise, turning off electronic devices an hour before bedtime, and getting into a regular sleep routine.



Be sure your child eats breakfast each day, at home or at school.





CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM



DID YOU KNOW?

The School Nutrition Program offers a more diverse menu from different cultural backgrounds. Menus also include more healthy options, such as daily salad bars at all schools, so that students can incorporate more healthy fresh fruits and vegetables into their diet.

Nutritious breakfasts and lunches are key to student learning. It is proven that well-fed bodies make for sharp minds. We want your student to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables, dishes made from scratch, and new and exciting cuisines with us every day! Our meals are carefully planned to meet the caloric needs of students while remaining low in fat and sodium, free of trans fats, and limited in artificial ingredients or dyes. Additionally, we offer a variety of menu items so students are empowered to make the right decisions when dining with us.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MENUS can be accessed by clicking the "Quicklinks" tab on your school's web page. Not only can you see breakfast and lunch menus, but you can also see the nutritional information!



SCHOOL MEAL PRICES FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Meal prices can be found on our District web page. To put money in your student's account, you can make a deposit in the Infinite Campus parent portal under the "Payments" tab. Payments can also be mailed or dropped off at the District Support Center, 501 S. Bird Street, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm.



#LunchSquad

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

Applications to qualify for free and reduced-price meals must be filled out each year. Free and reduced meal eligibility not only gives you access to discounted meals but also enables our District to receive more educational funding based on our eligibility rates. Students also receive waivers on numerous other fees. It is important to fill out an application if you believe you may qualify.

Applications are available online through your Infinite Campus parent portal and on the School Nutrition website. Hard copies are available at all schools and can be mailed to you directly. Call the Nutrition Department at 608-834-6544 or email them at nutritiondepartment@sunprairieschools.org for more information.



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or require assistance, email: nutritiondepartment@sunprairieschools.org or call: 608-834-6544



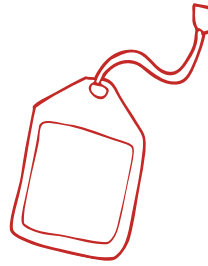
BUSING INFORMATION



Sun Prairie Area School District staff members work collaboratively with our District transportation provider, Kobussen Buses, to keep students safe while riding the bus.

BUS TAGS

All eligible bus riders must have their bus tags on their person when riding the bus. Drivers will ask to see bus tags and may deny rides to students they don't recognize who don't have a bus tag. If your child needs a replacement bus tag, please contact the school secretary. Students who carry smartphones can take a picture of their bus tag to show the driver.



- Secondary students will receive their bus tag at their school's Back-to-School registration event.
- Elementary students will receive their bus tag at their school's Ready, Set, Go event.

BUSING ELIGIBILITY

Busing services are provided to elementary, middle, and high school students who do not live within walking distance of their schools. For students to receive busing services, they must meet the following distance requirements:

- **Elementary School:** Must live more than 1 mile from school
- **Middle School:** Must live more than 1.5 miles from school
- **High School:** Must live more than 1.5 miles from school

You can verify your household's busing eligibility by using the Boundaries and Walking/Busing Areas interactive map located on our website. Students with disabilities are provided transportation services in accordance with their individualized education programs (IEPs).



KOBUSSEN CONTACT INFORMATION

BRINDA THOMPSON

Terminal Manager

608-825-8700 ext. 5509

brinda.thompson@kobussen.com

JOJO SPOEHR

Lead Dispatcher

608-825-8700 ext. 5510

jojo.spoehr@kobussen.com

TYARA BATES

Special Education Dispatcher

608-825-8700 ext. 5526

tyara.bates@kobussen.com

SKY CHRISTOPHERSON-TEUBERT

Router

608-825-8700 ext. 5512

sky.cteubert@kobussen.com

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

RHONDA PAGE

Business Services Manager

608-834-6512

rspage@sunprairieschools.org

LISA SPRINDIS

Transportation Coordinator

608-834-6511

lasprin@sunprairieschools.org

KOBUSSEN BUSES

1500 Forward Drive

Sun Prairie, WI

608-825-8700

Hours: 6:30 am–5:30 pm



BUS DRIVER SPOTLIGHT

SHARON GRINYER

In 2013, I retired from an insurance desk job. Retirement lasted one week, and then I started my “dream” job—driving for Kobussen. I’m now starting my eleventh year of driving. I drove a “big” bus for the first seven years and then a special education bus for the last three years. Besides the fact that my job is outside (I see that as a plus), I work with a group of great people and transport a group of phenomenal kids (two more positives!). In the summer, I garden, walk, and read. I am excited to return to driving in the fall, refreshed and raring to go!



BUSING FAQs



HOW DO I SIGN MY CHILD UP FOR THE BUS?

You don't have to! All students in grades K–12 who are eligible to/from their primary household are automatically routed. If you need transportation to/from a secondary household or childcare provider, please visit the website to learn more about those requests. Busing for SP4K students must be requested through the SP4K office at 608-834-6672.

WHERE CAN I FIND MY CHILD'S BUSING INFORMATION?

Parents can view their child's busing information for the regular school year through the Infinite Campus parent portal at least two weeks prior to the start of school. The District will also communicate busing information around the same time.

MY CHILD MISSED THE BUS, OR THE BUS IS RUNNING LATE. WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT?

Please contact Kobussen at 608-825-8700. If the bus arrived and left the stop before the scheduled pick-up time, they will send the driver back to pick up any students who were missed. Families are encouraged to have their child waiting at the stop at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.

I HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT OTHER CHILDREN ON THE BUS AND/OR MY CHILD'S BUS DRIVER. WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT?

Your first point of contact should be your child's school principal for any concerns regarding student behavior on the bus. The principal can talk with your child and any other students involved to determine if disciplinary measures need to be taken. If you have a concern regarding your child's bus driver, please contact Kobussen at 608-825-8700. They will review the concern and contact the appropriate District personnel.

I THINK MY CHILD MAY HAVE LEFT SOMETHING ON THE BUS. WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT?

Kobussen has a lost and found for all items left on the bus. Bus drivers usually keep lost items on the bus for a few days and then turn them in at the terminal. If your child has lost an item, don't forget to check with Kobussen. You may call or stop by the terminal to check the lost and found.



INFINITE CAMPUS

We use Infinite Campus to collect and store student information. This is the best place to find information about your student's progress. Let us give you a tour of Infinite Campus to highlight some of the features:

TIP: Please keep your Infinite Campus contact information current, as we use this information to contact families in the case of an emergency. We also ask parents and caregivers to provide student health and medication information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Student report cards are available electronically on Infinite Campus after each semester.



Select a **STUDENT** from the menu to get specific information, including a schedule, attendance, grades, transportation, and fees.

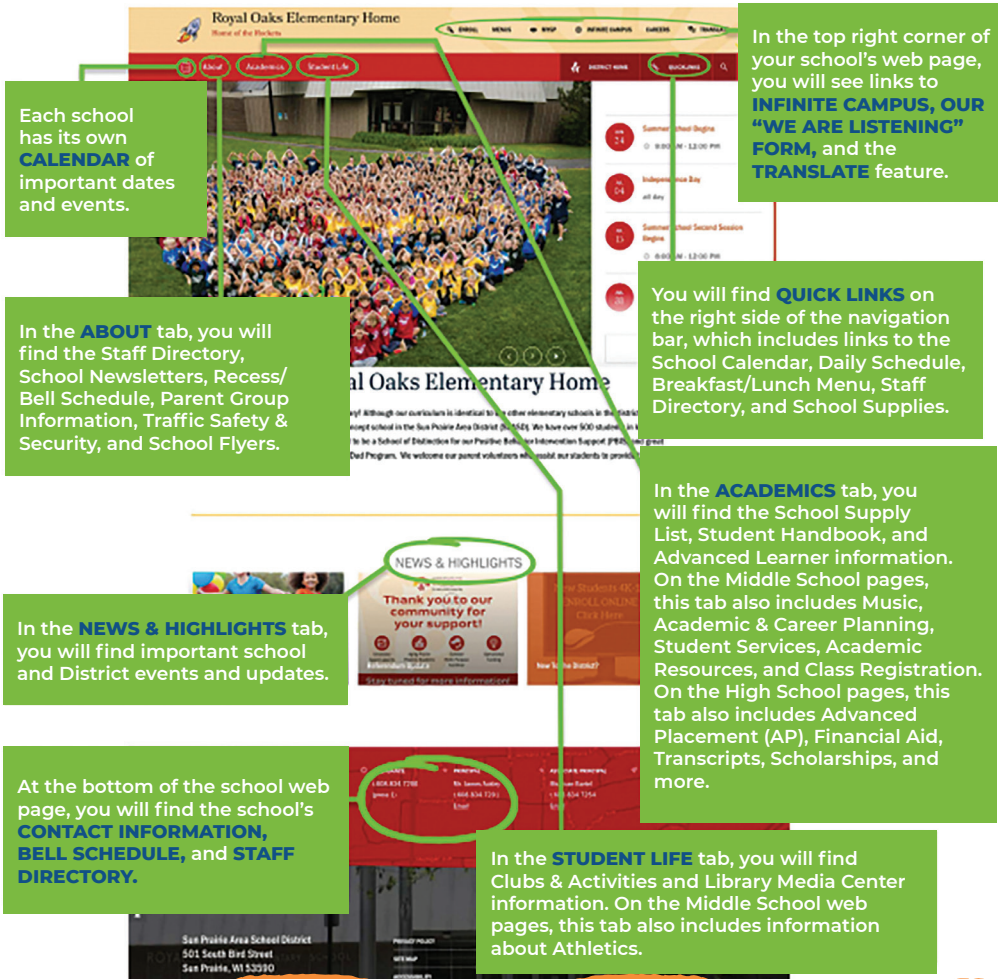
FAMILY Information Includes:

- Messages sent for you to view
- Household information
 - ◊ Manage your contact information
- Payments
 - ◊ Make payments and view payment history
- Food Service
 - ◊ Check lunch balances and all food transactions

USER ACCOUNT Includes:

- Account Settings
 - ◊ Change account settings including email, password, and PIN
- Contact Preferences
 - ◊ Manage your email contact information preference

SCHOOL WEB PAGES

Each school has its own **CALENDAR** of important dates and events.

In the **ABOUT** tab, you will find the Staff Directory, School Newsletters, Recess/Bell Schedule, Parent Group Information, Traffic Safety & Security, and School Flyers.

In the **NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS** tab, you will find important school and District events and updates.

At the bottom of the school web page, you will find the school's **CONTACT INFORMATION, BELL SCHEDULE, and STAFF DIRECTORY.**

In the top right corner of your school's web page, you will see links to **INFINITE CAMPUS, OUR "WE ARE LISTENING" FORM, and the TRANSLATE feature.**

You will find **QUICK LINKS** on the right side of the navigation bar, which includes links to the School Calendar, Daily Schedule, Breakfast/Lunch Menu, Staff Directory, and School Supplies.

In the **ACADEMICS** tab, you will find the School Supply List, Student Handbook, and Advanced Learner information. On the Middle School pages, this tab also includes Music, Academic & Career Planning, Student Services, Academic Resources, and Class Registration. On the High School pages, this tab also includes Advanced Placement (AP), Financial Aid, Transcripts, Scholarships, and more.

In the **STUDENT LIFE** tab, you will find Clubs & Activities and Library Media Center information. On the Middle School web pages, this tab also includes information about Athletics.

Your school web page is a great place to find information. From the lunch menu and school newsletters to contact information and important dates, key information is at your fingertips. At the left is a quick tour of a school web page:

NOTE: The District also has a comprehensive website that is a great source of information as well. Please check out sunprairieschools.org when you have questions about the District.

High Schools and Middle Schools have additional information on their web pages.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDERS

The Sun Prairie Area School District is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors a safe, welcoming environment. Here are a few conversation ideas for you and your child before school begins.

GENERAL

- **Communicate with your child, addressing any fears or concerns about returning to school.** Discuss “what if” situations, such as “What if you get on the wrong bus?”
- **Talk with your child about the emergency drills they participate in at school.** All students practice fire/evacuation, severe weather/shelter, and active threat drills throughout the year. Please reinforce the importance of following these procedures when there is an emergency.
- If you believe there are unresolved issues from the previous school year that may continue to affect your child’s experience at school, **follow up with the teacher or principal.**
- **Remind your child not to go anywhere after school unless they first check with a parent or caregiver.** They should never go home with a friendly neighbor without parent/caregiver permission. Remind your child to travel with friends whenever possible.
- **Ensure that your child knows their telephone number and address,** contact numbers for trusted adults, and how to call 911 for emergencies.

TRANSPORTATION

- Discuss transportation issues—How will your child get to and from school?
- Safety reminders—Cross streets at marked crosswalks, obey the school crossing guards, and don’t dart out in front of traffic.
- Bike riding—Discuss best routes, wear a helmet, and be visible. Lock your bike in the designated place.
- Have a backup plan in case you’re delayed and can’t pick up on time. Where should your child go? Who should they contact? What should they do? Decide on age-appropriate solutions.

DRIVER SAFETY

- Remember to slow down, observe 20 mph school zone speed limits, and look out for children who may dart out into traffic. Remind your teen drivers that the school parking lot should be navigated carefully. There is a lot of activity with pedestrians and cars.
- Please obey all signage displayed at the schools.
- Please do not attempt to pass other parked cars where there is no space for passing. Please wait.
- Please respect buses, particularly when children are loading/unloading. Always stop for buses with flashing red warning lights!

SECURE ACCESS TO OUR SCHOOLS

Safety and security are our number one priority, so all exterior doors to our schools are locked during the school day. If you visit, please push the call button on the audiovisual intercom located on the front of the building next to the main doors. Introduce yourself to office staff and state the reason for your visit. Once you are buzzed inside, you will need to provide photo identification. You will then receive a badge to wear during your visit.

Thank you for making it a habit to have your identification with you every time you visit!



BELL SCHEDULES

ODDS & ENDS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

7:40 am–2:40 pm (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)
7:40 am–1:30 pm (Thurs)

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

8:25 am–3:35 pm

EAST & WEST HIGH SCHOOLS

8:35 am–3:45 pm

PRAIRIE PHOENIX ACADEMY

8:45 am–3:20 pm

SP4KIDS

(4-Year-Old Program)

DISTRICT SITES

MORNING SESSION:

7:40 am–10:23 am (Mon–Fri)

AFTERNOON SESSION:

11:42 am–2:40 pm (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)
11:42 am–1:30 pm (Thurs)

COMMUNITY PARTNER SITES

MORNING SESSION:

7:50 am–10:33 am (Mon–Fri)

AFTERNOON SESSION:

11:32 am–2:30 pm (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)
11:32 am–1:20 pm (Thurs)



SCHOOL FLYER DISTRIBUTION

Peachjar, an electronic flyer communication tool, shares information about important school activities and events. It saves our schools paper and reduces copy costs by thousands of dollars.



To view school-approved e-flyers, click the Peachjar button on your school's web page. You also will receive weekly emails containing your school's Peachjar flyers.

Your family's email address is loaded directly into Peachjar and updated weekly, so there is no need to sign up. If multiple family members want to receive this information, go to Peachjar.com and add your name and school.

DID YOU KNOW?

By using Peachjar, the Sun Prairie Area School District has saved 18,526,577 sheets of paper and 2,223 trees!

GET YOUR DIGITAL TICKETS FOR EAST & WEST HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS!

Ticket sales for all high school athletic events for Sun Prairie East and Sun Prairie West are cashless through GoFan. If you are attending a Sun Prairie Athletics event, please be sure to purchase tickets in advance and show them at the door for immediate entry to the event. To access GoFan, go to the Athletics & Activities section of our website or scan the QR code for the school hosting the event you're attending.



FAMILY CURRICULUM GUIDES

Want to learn more about grade-level learning experiences for our elementary school families? Visit your school's website and search for "Parent Curriculum Guides" under the "Academics" tab.

Course guides for our secondary schools are also available on each middle and high school's website under the "Academics" tab.

Guides are available in both English and Spanish.



IN OTHER NEWS

UPDATES FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

INTRODUCING THE SUN PRAIRIE UNITED BOYS' VOLLEYBALL CO-OP!

The 2023–2024 school year will be Sun Prairie's first with a high school boys' volleyball team. As part of the Athletics & Activities Department's continuous improvement efforts, students are invited to participate in a student interest survey every year. Boys' volleyball has consistently been one of the top sports requested by students to be added to our athletics offerings. The program will start as a Sun Prairie United co-op team with students from both Sun Prairie East and West. Boys' volleyball is a WIAA-recognized sport, and Sun Prairie joins five other Big 8 Conference teams. This comes after recently adding girls' wrestling as a school-sponsored sport. We are excited to continue seeking and offering new opportunities for our students. Come see a game this year! The boys' volleyball co-op will play its home games at Sun Prairie West High School.



MEET OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

PANG KHANG
C. H. Bird Elementary



Please welcome Ms. Pang Khang to her new role as principal of C. H. Bird! Prior to her current position, she served as Dean of Students at Sun Prairie East High School, as a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Systems Coach and Advanced Learning Specialist, and as a first-grade teacher. ***Ms. Khang is the first Hmong principal in Sun Prairie Area School District history!***

CHECK OUT OUR DIGITAL HISTORY WALLS

We are committed to uplifting our alumni's achievements and our District's 150-year-old culture of excellence. The Professional Learning Center, located at the Hilltop Campus at 220 Kroncke Drive, Suite 28, hosts School Board meetings and is home to our Wall of Success plaques and framed class composite images. Sun Prairie East High School, Sun Prairie West High School, and Prairie Phoenix Academy have touchscreen digital exhibits showcasing class yearbooks dating back to 1917, class composites dating back to 1886, and Wall of Success profiles dating back to 1996. Additionally, we now have the yearbooks, class composites, and Wall of Success profiles located on our website. You no longer have to be in a District building to see these archives.



HELP US PRIORITIZE ATTENDANCE

There are many benefits to regular school attendance! These include:

- **ACHIEVEMENT** – Students who regularly attend school are more likely to pass reading and math assessments than students who do not.
- **OPPORTUNITY** – Being in school every day gives students a chance to learn about post-secondary opportunities, including colleges, apprenticeship or trade programs, and the military.
- **COMMUNITY** – When at school, children learn how to become good citizens and develop social skills and a broader worldview.

According to state law, a student is considered truant if they are absent without an acceptable excuse for all or part of one or more days during which school is held. A student qualifies to be habitually truant when they are absent without an acceptable excuse for all or part of five or more days in a school semester.



Did you know that anyone in the Sun Prairie community can apply for a grant to benefit Sun Prairie students?

New School Year, New Grant Cycle

SPEF's mission is to fund creative, out-of-the-box ideas that provide enriching hands-on learning experiences for Sun Prairie students. Have a great idea for a grant? Parents, teachers, business owners, community owners, etc. can apply for grants that benefit SPASD students. Check out our website for more information!

SunPrairieEducationFoundation.org

SPEF has awarded over HALF A MILLION DOLLARS over the last 15 years to every school in the District!

HOMECOMING, PROM & GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

Sun Prairie East High School:

- Homecoming Parade: Oct. 12
- Homecoming Game: Oct. 13
- Homecoming Dance: Oct. 14
- Prom: May 11
- Graduation: June 7 at 7:30 pm

Sun Prairie West High School:

- Homecoming Parade: Oct. 4
- Homecoming Game: Oct. 6
- Homecoming Dance: Oct. 7
- Prom: May 18
- Graduation: June 7 at 5:00 pm



Prairie Phoenix Academy:

- Graduation: June 6 at 1:00 pm
- PPA students will attend the prom and homecoming activities of their attendance-boundary high school.

SPREAD THE WORD WE ARE HIRING!

To view our open positions, visit our website or scan the QR code!

Dr. Chris Sadler,
Director of Human Resources

Isabel Simonetti,
Employee Relations Manager

Kelli Bialkowski,
Human Resources Manager

humanresources@sunprairieschools.org



BOARD OF EDUCATION

The community is always invited to attend Board meetings. The School Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.*

Meetings are held in the Board Room in the Professional Learning Center, located at the Hilltop Campus at 220 Kroncke Drive, Suite 28. Meetings begin at 6:00 pm and are televised live on Charter cable channel 983, streamed live online at ksun.tv, and broadcast on 103.5 FM, The Sun Community Radio.

School Board meeting notices, agendas, and minutes are posted on BoardDocs, our electronic system, which can be accessed from our website. There is also a form on the website to submit a written public comment. Comments must be submitted by 12:00 noon the day of the meeting

* Check the website for meeting dates.

ATTEND THE ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING

October 2 at 6:00 pm

Sun Prairie East High School Performing Arts Center

BOARD MEMBERS



DIANA MCFARLAND
President
dmmcfar@sunprairieschools.org



LATOYA HOLIDAY
Vice President / Governance Officer
lmhold@sunprairieschools.org



LISA GOLDSBERRY
Clerk/Treasurer
lrgolds@sunprairieschools.org



DR. STEVE SCHROEDER
Board Member
shscho@sunprairieschools.org



BRYN HORTON
Board Member
bmhorto@sunprairieschools.org



ALWYN FOSTER
Board Member
aafoste@sunprairieschools.org



KATEY KAMOKU
Board Member
klkamok@sunprairieschools.org

ELI GILLITZER
Student Representative
SP East High School Senior

ISABELLA ROBERTS
Student Representative
SP East High School Junior

MRINANK PANDA
Student Representative
SP West High School Senior

JOJO KNAUSS
Student Representative
SP West High School Junior

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs or activities or in usage of facilities because of the student's gender identity, gender expressions, or non-conformity to gender-role stereotypes; color; religion; demonstration of belief or non-belief; profession; 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.

DISTRICT CONTACTS

DR. BRAD SARON

Superintendent
608-834-6502

STEPHANIE LEONARD

Assistant Superintendent of
Teaching, Learning & Equity
608-834-6516

DR. NICK REICHHOFF

Assistant Superintendent of Operations
608-834-6683

PATTI LUX

Director of Communications & Engagement
608-834-6562

TEACHING, LEARNING & EQUITY

JENNIFER APODACA

Director of Student Services
608-834-6520

JANET THOMAS

Director of Student Services
608-834-6638

DR. CURT MOULD

Director of Digital Media,
Innovation & Strategy
608-834-6531

DR. SARAH CHAJA-CLARDY

Director of Secondary
Teaching, Learning & Equity
608-834-6572

RICK MUELLER

Director of Elementary
Teaching, Learning & Equity
608-834-6506

ANNEMARIE ENGDAHL

Director of Student Policy
& School Operations
608-834-6624

DR. MICHAEL MORGAN JR.

Director of Systemic Equity & Inclusion
608-834-6599

JAMIE RACINE

Community Schools Program Coordinator
608-318-8109

OPERATIONS

PHIL FREI

Director of Business & Finance
608-834-6510

RHONDA PAGE

Business Services Manager/Busing
608-834-6512

DR. CHRIS SADLER

Director of Human Resources
608-834-6551

BARB WAARA

Director of School Nutrition
608-834-6527

KEVIN SUKOW

Director of Facilities & Grounds
608-834-6567

ERIC NEE

Director of Athletics & Activities
608-478-1724

OUR SCHOOLS

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

608-478-5187

C. H. BIRD ELEMENTARY

Pang Khang, Principal
608-834-7300 • 1170 N. Bird St.

CREEKSIDE ELEMENTARY

Kyle Walsh, Principal
608-834-7700 • 1251 O'Keeffe Ave.

EASTSIDE ELEMENTARY

Craig Coulthart, Principal
608-834-7400 • 661 Elizabeth Ln.

HORIZON ELEMENTARY

Michelle Kelly, Principal
608-834-7900 • 625 N. Heatherstone Dr.

MEADOW VIEW ELEMENTARY

Cynthia Bell Jimenez, Principal
608-478-5000 • 200 N. Grand Ave.

NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY

Jillian Block, Principal
608-834-7100 • 230 W. Klubertanz Dr.

ROYAL OAKS ELEMENTARY

James Ackley, Principal
608-834-7200 • 2215 Pennsylvania Ave.

TOKEN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Mike Marincic, Principal
608-478-5100 • 1435 N. Thompson Rd.

WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY

Nikki Harcus, Principal
608-834-7500 • 1320 Buena Vista Dr.

CENTRAL HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sarah PrankeKlang, Principal
608-318-8000 • 220 Kroncke Dr., Suite 1

PATRICK MARSH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rebecca Zahn, Principal
608-834-7600 • 1351 Columbus St.

PRAIRIE VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Michelle Jensen, Principal
608-834-7800 • 400 N. Thompson Dr.

SUN PRAIRIE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Renee Coleman, Principal
608-834-6700 • 888 Grove St.

SUN PRAIRIE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Jennifer Ploeger, Principal
608-478-1700 • 2850 Ironwood Dr.

PRAIRIE PHOENIX ACADEMY

Nikole Sconiers, Principal
608-834-6900 • 220 Kroncke Dr., Suite 13

SUN PRAIRIE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

608-834-6901

SP4KIDS

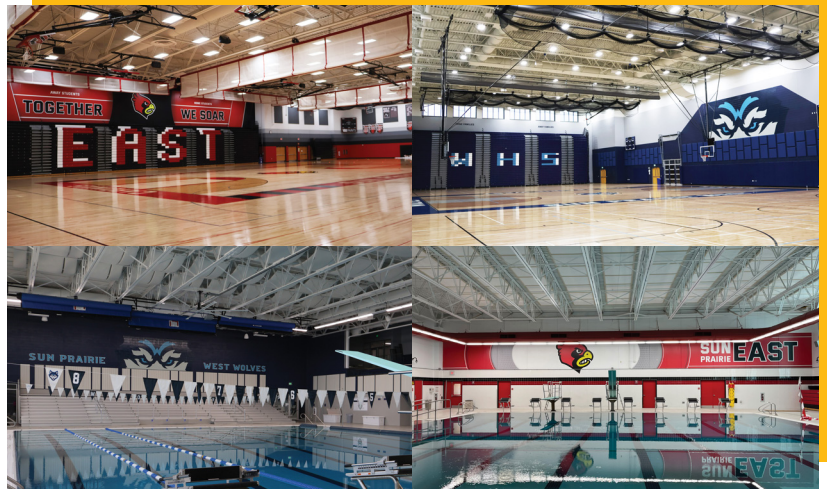
Elizabeth Knudten, Program Supervisor
608-478-5176



Sun Prairie Area
School District
501 S. Bird Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

WE MOVE TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY.

Many people volunteer in our schools as Schools of Hope volunteers, AVID tutors, Performing Arts Center ushers, chaperones for field trips, and more, making a world of difference in the education of our students. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the District website and click the "Community" tab and select "Volunteering in the District" to find more information and forms to submit. Thank you to our volunteers! We could not do this very important work without you.



Did you know that community members can reserve SPASD facilities upon request? We currently average 25,000 hours of public use of District facilities per year, which is spread among an average of 150 different locations inside and/or outside our buildings. Learn more by visiting the Facilities page on our website!

NEED HELP?

Our staff is available to assist you at the District Support Center

501 S. Bird Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590 | 7:30 am–4:00 pm | Monday–Friday
sunprairieschools.org | t: 608-834-6500 | f: 608-837-9311

Translators are also available.

¿SABÍAS?

El Distrito Escolar de Sun Prairie ofrece una página de Facebook en español. Manténgase en contacto con todos nuestros eventos, actividades y noticias.

@SPASDEnEspañol

STAY CONNECTED TO THE
SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



@sunprairieschools



Sun Prairie Area School District



sunprairieschooldistrict



Sun Prairie Area School District