
# Prairie Creeks Pioneers

## 2025-2026 Handbook

***Serving***

***Strasburg, Byers, Bennett,***

***Deer Trail Agate, & Kiowa School Districts***

***Prairie Creeks High School Mission Statement***

***We exist to serve the non-traditional student, who is at risk of not graduating or dropping out by role modeling positive behavior, providing a safe environment and nurturing their educational, emotional and physical well-being so that they have the skills to live life well.***

*"I know of no more encouraging fact than man's unquestionable ability to raise his life by conscious endeavor."*

*Henry David Thoreau*

*CORE Values*

*Our CORE values represent how we view ourselves at Prairie Creeks High School as well as how we want to be viewed by others. All of our rules, consequences and rewards are based on these three core values:*

*Respect Yourself*

*Respect Others*

*Respect Property*

## Strasburg's Profile of a Learner

| Empowered Collaborator | Resilient Achiever | Reflective Thinker | Engaged Communicator | Future-ready Contributor | Creative Solution-Seeker | Financially Responsible Citizen |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| • Personal responsibility<br>• Collaborator<br>• Responsibility to thoughts & actions<br>• People skills<br>• Open mindedness<br>• Emotional intelligence<br>• Coping skills<br>• Flexibility<br>• Responsible decision making | • Sustainability<br>• Stamina<br>• Follow through<br>• Adaptability to conditions<br>• Finish what you start<br>• Driver - go getter | • Thoughtful<br>• Knowledge<br>• Validity to individuality<br>• Perspective taking - seeing different sides of things<br>• Mindful | • Written & verbal communication<br>• Confident<br>• Eye contact / body language<br>• Good listening skills<br>• Active listener | • Postsecondary preparedness<br>• Career exploration<br>• Relevance to world<br>• Hands-on experience | • Creative problem solving<br>• Critical thinking<br>• Breaks problem down to manageable pieces<br>• Time management | • Financial awareness<br>• Understanding spending habits<br>• Real world finances |

*School Contact Information:*

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Thom Winter –Principal / Teacher

Denice Gonzalez– Office Manager/ Para/ Work Study

Marla Madrid, M.S.W. – Guidance Counselor

Tawny Gregory - Life Skills Technician

## *Admission Procedures*

Students at Prairie Creeks High School must be approved for admission by the Building Principal of the school they are transferring from and **by the Principal of PCHS**. Prior to approval the student and his/her parents must attend an interview with the Principal of Prairie Creeks High School or his designee and the building Principal of the student's home school. PCHS must have proof of employment and current transcripts and records for the student before student can enroll. All students at PCHS must be at least sixteen years of age. Based on experience, students younger than this may not have the maturity to work independently, have difficulty finding employment, and have difficulty getting to school. Any students younger than 16 or older than 18 need to request an exemption to our enrollment policy and may be required to sign a contract stipulating the conditions of enrollment.

Currently our school can accept up to 30 students (15 per session). Admission into the PCHS program is based on the recommendation from the principal and the interview with the student and parent. After reviewing all admission paperwork, meeting with the student and parents a determination will be made about when a student will begin classes and what session the student will be in.

## Class Hours

Regular, punctual attendance is an important part of success at PCHS. Students are required to attend one complete session each day and hold a part time job (40 hours per month). Although we regard individuals over

rules we recognize that success in school and in the work place begins with regular attendance. Session 1 is from 8:00 am-11:05 am, students are not allowed in the building until 7:45 am. Session 2 is from 12:00 pm to 3:05 pm, students are not allowed in the building until 11:45 am. PCHS is a closed campus and students must have permission from the Principal to leave campus during their session.

First Session runs from **8-11:20** everyday including **Wednesday's**

Second Session runs from **12-3:20** everyday including **Wednesday's**

**No School on Mondays**

## Cell Phones

**Cell Phones will not be permitted in school. Cell phones will be required to be put in slot with time card at the beginning of each day, cell phones can be removed to go on break. Upon return, cell must be put back in slot and can be picked up when class is dismissed.**

**Failure to comply will result in student being sent home and it will count as an unexcused absence.**

### Make-Up Work Policy

**Excused and Verified Absences**

Make-up work will be assigned the first class period that the student attends after the absence and will be due the next day. Full credit will be granted for this make-up work. Students will be given one day for each day absent to turn in work. Work assigned prior to the absence is due upon returning to school, unless arrangements are made between the teacher and the student.

**Prearranged Absences**

A pre-arranged absence is one in which approval by the school has been granted prior to the student's absence. The absence is verified unless it falls under the excused absence guidelines. Requests for pre-arranged absence forms must be made at least 2 days in advance. The student then takes a form around to all of his/her teachers requesting work to be done during the absence dates. (These forms will be given out only if a student is to miss at least 3 full days of school). When a student returns after a pre-arranged absence, he/she must meet with his/her teachers and agree when the work is to be turned in.

**School Related Activity Absences**

Students who miss school work due to a school related activity are responsible for making up any work due to the absence. Generally, students will be given one day to complete this work, but teachers may require the work turned in when the student returns to class. If the work was due on the day of the absence, then it must be turned in when the student returns to class. (The teacher may require this work to be turned in prior to the school activity).

**Unexcused Absences and Discipline**

All daily work that is assigned or due when a student is either suspended from school (in-school or out-of-school) or unexcused from class will be considered as late work when it is turned in (see late work policy below). No penalty will be given to work that is turned in prior to a suspension.

## Late Work Policy

Work that is not turned in will receive "0" credit. Work that is not turned in when due is considered late. Daily assignments that are turned in late will be given 50% credit (i.e., if the student would have received a grade of 80% on the assignment, if it is late the grade will be recorded as 40%). Please note that if the assignment is late but still turned in the day it is due, it will be penalized at the teacher's discretion up to 50% credit. Long term assignments will be reduced by 10% each day they are turned in late. Long term assignments will be accepted and penalized at the teacher's discretion if they are turned in more than three days late. As a rule, we do not accept late work that is from prior units (i.e., no late work will be accepted once the current unit of study is completed). Students may turn in late work from previous units only under special circumstances at the teacher's discretion, provided the student meets with the teacher first.

## Attendance Policy

***Anything over 12 verified and unexcused absences in one semester will result in a student losing credit for all of their core classes during that semester. To include: all lecture for math, language arts, social studies, science, and life skills. ***

Regular daily attendance in class is of prime importance in the educational process. All students are expected to attend school for all days of the established school calendar, as approved annually by the Board of Education and in compliance with the Colorado School Attendance Law. Vacations and appointments should be scheduled outside the student's scheduled classes.

Attendance is the responsibility of the student, parents, and the school. The importance of regular, daily attendance as a basis for academic achievement cannot be overemphasized. All absences have a negative effect upon instructional continuity, regardless of the attempts to make up work. The regular contact of students with one another in the classroom, and their participation in a well-planned, instructional activity, under the tutelage of a competent teacher are vital to this purpose. Absences resulting from temporary illness, injury, extended disability of the student, or family emergencies will, under normal circumstances, be acceptable reasons for a parent/guardian to verify a student's absence. However, students who choose to not attend school without a verifiable reason will face the appropriate consequences.

This policy defines absences of twelve (12) between August-December or January-May as being excessive. Every student and his/her parent/guardian are encouraged to establish a goal to have perfect attendance;

however, on a more practical level, the goal should be to not allow more than eight (8) verified and unexcused absences between August-December or January-May. It is our belief that up to eight absences during this these time periods should not adversely affect any student's educational growth in any individual class, and therefore be considered as exhibiting acceptable attendance habits.

The provision of this policy shall be applicable to all district students, including those above and below the age for compulsory attendance as required by law.

**PCHS Attendance Procedures:**

TYPES OF ABSENCES: (Please note: the term "per semester" is defined as either August-December or January-May).

EXCUSED (EXC) – **DO NOT** count toward the 12 absences allowed per semester. These include the following: illness with doctor's excuse, appointments for orthodontist or doctor (with proper paper work), funerals, and court dates.

ACTIVITY (ACT) – **DO NOT** count toward the 12 absences allowed per semester. These include absences due to a school sponsored activity (ie: school sponsored field trips, music concerts, sports trips, speech contests, etc.).

VERIFIED (VER) – **DO** count toward the 12 absences allowed per semester. These are absences verified by the parent, but do not fall under the guidelines as set above for excused absences (i.e., illness without doctor's excuse, trips, appointments, and prearranged absences for personal reasons, etc). Prior verification before the absence is preferred.

UNVERIFIED (UNV) – **DO** count toward the 12 absences allowed per semester. The nature of the absence has not been determined.

UNEXCUSED (UNX) – **DO** count toward the 12 absences allowed per semester. These are absences that are not excused by the parent and school. (The student was truant for that period).

SUSPENSIONS- **DO NOT** count towards the 12 absences allowed per semester. (In-school suspensions will be recorded as ISS and out-of-school suspensions as SUS).

**ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES:**

- Each time an unverified absence is recorded, PCHS will call the home. If you receive such a call, contact the attendance office as soon as possible to verify the absence.

- If a student misses at least 5 days or more in a semester (excluding excused or activity absences), a personal attendance contract will be mailed to the parent/guardian that has been signed by the student and Principal.

- If a student misses 8 days or more in a semester (excluding excused or activity absences), the office will contact the parent, notifying the parent/guardian that the student has at least 8 absences. Per the attendance

contract established previously between the student and the school, after 8 absences the student will start serving 3 hours of detention for each absence.

- If a student misses more than 12 days in a semester (verified and unexcused), the student will lose credit for the in class core credits for the semester (regular attendance and class participation is still required in order to maintain enrollment in PCHS and have access to PLATO.). Neither days/absences nor missing work can be made up. Exceptions to this policy will only be made at the discretion of administration.

- Appeals must be made directly to the Principal or Truancy Committee. Exceptions will be considered based upon legitimate medical reasons or extreme hardships encountered in the family.

- A parent/guardian must verify all absences by telephone or written note.

- Parents/Guardians should contact the attendance office if a student arrives late or leaves early.

- Students in PCHS who are over 10 minutes late to class will have an unexcused absence unless there is an accepted excuse for the student arriving late.

- Students will not be excused from one class to work on assignments for another course unless explicit permission is given by the instructor(s) and/or administration.

- A parent/guardian must notify the office (720-640-6186) within 24 hours of each absence if the absence is to be verified or excused.

**Condensed /Attendance Info**

Each verified/unexcused absence will generate a phone call from the attendance office. The following procedures will apply per semester: 1) After five absences, an attendance contract will be sent home. 2) After eight absences, the student will serve detention for each absence (does not make the absence go away). 3) After twelve absences, the student will lose all credit for the in class portion of school (regular attendance and class participation are still required). Exceptions to be made only with Principal's approval.

This attendance policy excuses absences for school related activities, funerals, doctor or dental appointments and court dates. The school will require medical verification or other documentation to excuse these absences. Verified absences will be excused by the administration only if they fall under the above reasons. Excused and activity absences will not count towards the number of absences considered for receiving no credit for a class.

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY**

An unexcused absence occurs when a student is absent from school without a verifiable excuse from the parent and school. When a student is unexcused, he/she is considered truant. The administration is the final judge as to whether an absence is verified/excused or unexcused. In making this determination, the Principal shall consider the best interests of the student and the school. An absence is unexcused or truant under the following conditions:

· An unauthorized absence- the student misses class without parental and school permission.

· A student is more than 10 minutes late to class without being excused by the parent and school.

· An unauthorized absence that is not cleared by the parent within 24 hours after the absence.

· A student leaves school without permission from the office and parent.

**CONSEQUENCES FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/TRUANCY:**

· First unexcused absence in a semester- 1 hour detention; 2nd and subsequent unexcused absences- 2 hours of detention per unexcused class. Detention will not remove or replace the absence.

· Any work that is due or assigned when a student is unexcused will be considered late when it is turned in (refer to grading procedures for consequences).

· Students who have an unexcused absence may not be able to participate in a minimum of one extra-curricular activity at the discretion of administration.

· Multiple unexcused absences will result in in-school suspension and/or multiple hours of detention at the discretion of administration. These students may not be able to participate or attend extra-curricular activities at the discretion of administration. Also, students will be placed on an attendance contract that will monitor their attendance and restrict their time out of class.

**HABITUALLY TRUANT**

Multiple cases of truancy will result in either a different educational placement or a referral to truancy court or social services.

**RETURNING AFTER AN ABSENCE**

Parents should call the school if a student is absent for any reason. It is best to call the school before 8:00 am on the day of an absence. Parents may call the school at any time and leave a message regarding an absence. The school must be notified within 24 hours after an absence occurs or the absence becomes unexcused.

**TARDY POLICY:**

***Anything over 10 minutes late will count as an absence.***

PCHS students are expected to be in class on time. Initially, the teachers will address tardiness and give appropriate classroom consequences, such as loss of participation points or bell work credit. A student is tardy if he/she is not in the room or seat when the bell rings per the teacher's classroom procedures

**CONSEQUENCES FOR TARDIES PER SEMESTER FOR EACH CLASS:**

· 1st 2 tardies- time late will be tripled and served in detention.

· 3rd tardy –1/2 hour detention.

· 4th and subsequent tardies- 1 hour of detention.

· 5th tardy will result in a tardy contract (consequences to be laid out within it).

· Excessive tardies will result in additional detention or other penalty at discretion of administration.

## School Cancellation

In the event 1-70 corridor schools are canceled due to inclement weather or for other reasons, PCHS will not hold classes (also see school calendar for holidays, quarters, etc.). If in doubt over whether school has been canceled, call the school at 720-640-6186 and if no one is there, a message on the answering machine will have information if school has been canceled. Local TV and radio stations also carry information regarding school closures (if Strasburg 31-J is closed, we are closed).

## Crew Meetings

Each day we may hold a Crew Meeting to update students on upcoming events and projects. This is also an opportunity for the staff to receive student feedback.

## Plato

Plato courses will be completed on a pass/fail basis. Students will have one academic year to complete four complete classes. If they are not complete by the assigned date, they will be reset to zero progress and started over at the beginning of the following school year. No additional classes will be assigned until the initial four are finished. Mastery tests must be completed at 80% (per the Plato requirements). All unit post tests and semester tests will be locked until the student has completed all mastery tests up to that point in the course. They must be passed at the 70% level (per PCHS) in order to receive credit for the course. *All Post tests and End of Semester tests will be completed at PCHS on a school issued computer.* Additionally, for graduating seniors, all Plato courses must be completed by April 30th of each academic year in order to count towards that year's graduation requirement.

If daily attendance becomes an issue (per administration), Plato access will be locked until attendance issues are resolved. ***PCHS is not an on-line school***.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic concern and is not tolerated. Plagiarized material will receive a score of 0 (zero) and further disciplinary action may result.

## Progress Reports/ Report Cards

Progress reports are mailed twice a semester. See school calendar for quarter start/end dates. If students are having academic problems, it is advised a conference with the parent/guardian and student be set up.

## Grade Scale

Grades are used to help students, parents, and our staff understand how they are performing in a class. The following grade scale is used:

A - 90-100, B - 80-89, C - 70-79, D - 60-69, F - 59 or below

A grade of 59 or lower is considered failing. Students must make up all failed courses.

## Graduation Requirements

Students that complete all of the educational requirements will graduate from PCHS with a high school diploma. PCHS holds its own graduation ceremony in the spring. Students who have completed all of the required coursework by December 20th, 2025 and May16th, 2026 may participate in Graduation Saturday, May 17, 2025 @ 11am in the Strasburg Big Gym.

Upon enrollment at Prairie Creeks High School, each student's transcript is evaluated to determine the credits required to graduate. A personal academic plan is created for each student, and a plan to make up any deficiencies will be included.
Students require following credits to graduate:

English - 4 credits

Social Studies – 4 credits

Science - 4 credits

Math - 4 credits

Electives – 8 credits

## Graduation Guidelines Policy

All students that graduate from Prairie Creeks High School will have completed and passed a standards based performance assessment that demonstrates essential skills for postsecondary and workforce readiness. That readiness will be exhibited by completion of required Plato courses in mathematics and English/language arts to include passage of all mastery tests, post tests and end of semester tests by district standards.

## Work Study

All students are required to hold a part time job with an employer who has a verified Tax ID number and work at least 40 hours per month. A business supervisor must sign off on the hours turned into PCHS. Paystubs from the business or checks with your name and hours will also be required to be turned in each month. A copy will then be made of said check and certain information will be blacked out. Maintaining accurate work hours is required for students to earn work-study credit and to ensure that Prairie Creeks receives funds from the state. The office manager will collect all work hours for students on the FIRST of every month and maintain contact with the student's employer. Students have until three weeks to have a verified work-study source (employment or volunteer) upon entering PCHS.

In the event a student is no longer employed (regardless of the reason), he/she will notify the office manager on the next school day. If student is fired from job, student will have 1 week to obtain another job or volunteer work. Failure to do this, or failure to document at least 40 hours/month, could result in the student being sent home (unexcused) for non-compliance with school policy. If compliance with PCHS work study policy is not met, students will be un-enrolled from PCHS. Home district will be notified and arrangements must be made with the student and their home district for enrollment in an alternative program.

**You can earn up to 3 credits per year for holding a job and turning in required work hours on the 1st of each month (hours turned in past the due date will not count toward earning of credit, but are still needed in order to stay enrolled at Prairie Creeks High School).**

**Hours will count toward graduation requirements as follows: 80 hours per semester = .5 credits, 120 hours = 1 credit, 160 hours or more = 1.5 credits (provided the hours are turned in on or before the due date, which is the first of every month).**

***Student Supplies***

Items required for the school year per student:

**Notebooks for Class Work - 5 subject or 5 notebooks**

**Pens Blue or Black (NO Red)**

**Pencils-mechanical or wood**

**24 pk or more Colored Pencils**

**Sketch Pad**

**Highlighters**

****Calculator**

****Composition Notebook for Life Skills Class**

**1 Box of Kleenex**

***It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for class every day.***

## Dress Code

Students should dress in clothing that would appropriate for a school and/or work environment. That means no bare midriffs, no PJ's, sagging, backless tops, low cut tops (cleavage), shorts/skirts that are above the lower thigh, hats, bandanas, chains, underwear used as outerwear, inappropriate language or anything that promotes drugs, alcohol, sex or the hatred of any group. Students that are in violation of the dress code must comply or will be sent home**.**

***Dress code is always left to the staff's discretion.***

## Parent Involvement

We feel that parent involvement is crucial to student success academically as well as socially.

Numerous studies have shown that parent involvement makes a dramatic impact on improving student achievement as well as decreases discipline problems. **Please see Strasburg School District's Parent and Family Engagement policy.**

## School Guidance Counselor

Prairie Creeks is dedicated to the overall well-being of students and provides a guidance counselor. The guidance counselor provides services to students on a voluntary basis, and individual participation is not mandatory.

## Field Trips

Occasionally students will participate in Field Trips. All students are required to travel in school provided transportation for any off--campus activities.

### Purpose

Field trips will be planned with three goals in mind:
Educational
Service Projects
Recreational

### Cost

Students will need to bring spending & lunch money on the day of the Field trip. Whenever possible, PCHS will pay the entrance fees to the activities. If funds are not available, students will have to pay their own way.

***Behavior sequence is subject to staff discretion**

***Rules of Conduct***

If a student's behavior becomes unmanageable or it becomes evident that the student is not being successful at Prairie Creeks, a meeting will be called to determine further action to be taken.

* In a proactive learning environment, students take responsibility for their own learning. As proactive learners, students develop the skills necessary to make responsible choices based on responses to accepted values, instead of reactions to emotions.

* Proactive learners practice habits of self-control, planning, time management and are willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

* Students will demonstrate a respectful attitude to the adults charged with their supervision and education.

* Students will respect the property of others.

* Students will refrain from bringing visitors to class.

*Student will not bring weapons of any type or objects that might be mistaken for weapons onto school grounds (could result in suspension or expulsion).

*Students will earn music privileges on an individual or group bases at staff discretion.

*Students will use appropriate language.

*Students will obey local, state, and federal laws, as well as school policies. *Students will refrain from using tobacco on the school campus.

## SCHOOL CRISIS PLAN

**At Prairie Creeks High School, each staff member has a copy of the school crisis plan which gives specific instructions for emergency situations. This plan is reviewed on an annual basis with the staff. A major component of the plan is to practice for different scenarios, emphasizing that preparation can ensure safety by minimizing confusion and panic. The major scenarios are as follows:**

LOCKOUT- A lockout is the purposeful act of keeping students and staff inside the building. The outside doors will be locked; students will be allowed to move from class to class but will not be allowed to exit the building. A lockout occurs when an emergency threatens the welfare of students and staff outside of the building.

LOCKDOWN- A lockdown is the purposeful act of keeping students and staff inside the building in a predetermined area, such as their classrooms. The purpose of a lockdown is to hide students and staff behind locked doors in as little time as possible. A lockdown occurs when a serious emergency threatens the welfare of students and staff inside the building, such as a threatening person.

SHELTER- Shelter is the purposeful act of keeping students inside the building when there is an emergency outside of the building. This procedure will be used when there is hazardous waste or threatening weather, such as a tornado watch. The outside doors will not be locked. Students and staff will either be able to move within the building (but will not be allowed to exit the building), or asked to remain in an enclosed area, if necessary.

SHELTER FOR TORNADO- If there is a tornado warning or similar emergency, students and staff will move to the high school boys and girls locker rooms.

EVACUATION: Evacuation is required when there is a dangerous situation within the school, such as a dangerous intruder, fire, or toxic gas, which requires the students and staff to evacuate and/or seek an alternate shelter.

· Evacuation Level I-Students will evacuate the school to designated areas outside the school. A map is provided in each classroom to illustrate this procedure. (This procedure would be used for a fire).

· Evacuation Level II-Procedures will be implemented for students and staff to be removed from school property (after Evacuation Level I) to a safe site. Parents would then be informed so they can pick up their students from the appropriate safe site when it is safe to do so.

In the advent of an emergency situation, these are the most likely ways the district will communicate to parents/guardians;

1) We have a reverse 9-1-1 capability that enables the district to call every family to inform them of an emergency and what procedures to follow.

2) Tune into the TV/Radio stations for information (Channel 4, 7, 9 and 850 AM).

3) Check the district web site for up-dated information.

Parent/guardian Responsibilities during a Crisis (from the Adams County Crisis Handbook):

During a crisis, parents/guardians should be advised to remain close to a phone, computer, or media source in order to receive the most accurate information in a timely matter. To facilitate this process, it is extremely important that parents/guardians maintain current contact information on file with the school.

Many parents will feel the need to respond to the school at first notice of any crisis. This can result in unintended negative consequences. For example, when parents/guardians arrive at schools during a crisis the district is forced to reassign resources dedicated to student safety to help manage parents arriving at schools. During a crisis, it is best to follow the district procedures and updates for the proper response.

Parent/Guardian Reunification with Student:

Although districts aim to reunite students with parents/guardians as soon as possible during times of crisis, this may not be able to occur during or even immediately following a school or community crisis. Strasburg School District will work in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and Fire Departments to determine when it is safe to reunite students and parents/guardians. In some cases, if the safest option is to keep students in schools while a crisis is being managed in the community, the reunification process could be delayed several hours in order to ensure students are not placed in a harmful situation. Once it has been determined that it is safe to allow reunification to occur, the details will be communicated to parents/guardians via our reverse 9-1-1 system and/or web site and other media sources.

Parents/guardians can be prepared for the reunification process by bringing the items specifically requested by reverse the 9-1-1call or web site to the reunification site. A minimum requirement of photo ID will most likely be necessary at these events. This information will be shared with parents/guardians via the communication methods outlined previously.

The procedures for a Controlled Release of students after Evacuation Level II are as follows:

Just like our students practice the many new skills that they learn throughout the year, we also like to have them practice fire drills, tornado drills and lockdown drills. Typically one of these occur each month and in the unlikely event that one of these actually occur, our students will be prepared. With that in mind, it is also important for our parents to be aware of the process we would like you to follow if we had to have a controlled release of our students. A controlled release is the release of a student to their parent/guardian in the event of an evacuation either from the individual school or an alternate location. As an added safety measure, you may also notice that picture ID is required to pick up your student. While we live in a small community, the safety of your child is important and the person or person(s) releasing your child may not know you personally. We appreciate your cooperation with this process.

1. Students will proceed to the designated evacuation sight

2. School will notify parents/guardians

3. Picture ID will be required of the parent/guardian, emergency contact listed in PowerSchool or adult designated by parent/guardian picking up their student.

4. The student will be taken to the parent/guardian.

5. Parent/Guardian will sign form

6. School then releases the student to the parent/guardian

## THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM

We have a district wide threat assessment team comprised of school administration. This team meets on a frequent basis to update our crisis plan and determine if a student is need of intervention or poses a threat to our the safety of other students and our staff.

**Differentiated Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (DCIA)**

The CSR grant also makes available training for instructors in DCIA. DCIA is a philosophy of teaching that attempts to provide compelling and effective instruction to all students regardless of ability level, educational background and learning style.

Differentiation means providing ... students with different tasks and activities than their age peers--tasks that lead to real learning for them. There are five elements of differentiation: content, process, product, environment, and assessment.

At its most basic level, differentiating instruction means "shaking up" what goes on in the classroom so that students have multiple options for taking in information, making sense of ideas, and expressing what they learn.

Who benefits from a differentiated curriculum?

* All students benefit from appropriately challenging learning experiences.

* Teachers benefit because they can target essential skills that all students must have in order to meet the school accountability requirements

**School-Level Comprehensive School Reform Parent Involvement Policy**

**(School/Parent Compact)**

This policy and compact has been jointly developed and agreed upon by the Prairie Creeks High School and parents of students served in the school.

## Policy

The administration, staff and parents of this school believe that the improved academic achievement of each student is a responsibility shared by the entire school community, including the school district, school, community members, school administration, staff, students, and parents (as defined for purposes of this policy to include guardians and all members of a student's family involved in the student's education).

* Parent involvement activities in the school will include opportunities for:

* Parents to volunteer and be involved in school activities

* Staff development and parent education

* Parents to provide home support for their student's education

* Parents to participate in school decision-making

* Effective communication between the school and parents

**Responsibilities of school**

**The school will:**

Provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling students to meet the state academic standards.

Involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of programs, plans and policies.

**With regards to the School Parent Involvement Policy, the administration will:**

Facilitate and implement the Parent Involvement policy.

Involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of the School Parent Involvement Policy at least annually.

Provide notice to parents of the School Parent Involvement Policy in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Make the School Parent Involvement Policy available to the community.

With regard to parent meetings, the administration will:

Convene annual meetings to inform parents of their school's participation in Comprehensive School Reform.

Inform parents of all meetings and encourage and invite parents to attend. Meetings shall be offered at various convenient dates and times to facilitate attendance by parents.

With regard to Comprehensive School Reform Programs and Plans, the administration will:

Inform parents about the goals and purposes of Comprehensive School Reform, any Comprehensive School Reform programs at the school, the curriculum used in the programs, the academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

Involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of any Comprehensive School Reform programs at the school.

If the Comprehensive School Reform plan is not satisfactory to the parents, submit any parent comments on the plan when it is submitted to the district.

If requested by parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings of parents and the school where parents may offer suggestions and ask questions regarding Comprehensive School Reform policies and programs.

Administrators will provide timely responses to parents' suggestions and questions.

Provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of Comprehensive School Reform, how to monitor their student's academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the student.

**With regard to professional development, the administration will:**

With the assistance of parents, educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in:

The value and utility of contributions of parents how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners implementing and coordinating parent programs

Building ties between parents and the school.

**Shared responsibilities of administration and staff**

**Administration and staff will:**

Provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of Comprehensive School Reform, how to monitor their student's academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the student.

Provide materials and training to help parents work with their student to improve the student's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents in a format that is understandable

Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

Provide access to educational resources for parents to use together with their students.

**Responsibilities of staff**

**The staff will:**

Assist the administration in facilitating and implementing the Comprehensive School Reform Parent Involvement policy and parent involvement activities.

Advise parents of their student's progress on a regular basis.

Be readily accessible to parents and provide opportunities for parents to meet with them on a regular basis to discuss their student's progress and to participate as appropriate in the decisions relating to their student's education.

Provide opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their student's class and observe classroom activities.

# WELCOME TO PCHS