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June 17, 2026

Dear Prairie-Hills Junior High School Parents, Guardians, and Families,

As we prepare for the 2026–2027 school year, we are pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Michael Kelly** as the new Principal of Prairie-Hills Junior High School.

Dr. Kelly brings 24 years of educational experience and a strong commitment to student achievement, family engagement, and creating a positive school culture. His diverse background includes serving as a Physical Education Teacher, Athletic Director, Dean, Assistant Principal, and Elementary Principal. He has also worked with the Illinois State Board of Education, gaining valuable insight into educational leadership and statewide initiatives.

Prairie-Hills has played an important role in Dr. Kelly's professional journey. He previously served as a Physical Education teacher at both Highlands Elementary School and Prairie-Hills Junior High School before returning to the district as the 6th Grade Dean during the 2024–2025 school year and the 8th Grade Assistant Principal during the 2025–2026 school year. He is honored to now serve as Principal of Prairie-Hills Junior High School.

In his new role, Dr. Kelly is committed to building meaningful relationships with students, staff, and families; fostering a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment; promoting academic excellence; and upholding the values of respect, responsibility, and integrity.

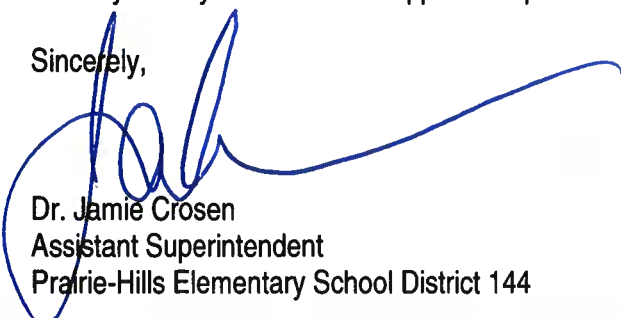
Dr. Kelly shares, "I believe schools are at their best when relationships are strong, expectations are clear, and every student feels valued and empowered to succeed. Prairie-Hills is a special place, and I am committed to helping every student reach their full potential. I look forward to partnering with our families and staff to ensure a successful school year for all students."

As a proud father of three daughters currently pursuing careers in Forensics, Occupational Therapy, and Nursing, Dr. Kelly understands the importance of supporting and encouraging young people as they work toward their goals. His passion for education and dedication to student success are at the heart of his leadership.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kelly to his new role. We are excited about the future of Prairie-Hills Junior High School and look forward to a successful 2026–2027 school year under his leadership.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jamie Crosen
Assistant Superintendent
Prairie-Hills Elementary School District 144