Prairie Winds Elementary
Parent Student Handbook

2026-2027



Prairie Winds Elementary
579 E. Earl Drive
Pueblo West, CO 81007

Principal: Lisa Medved
Dean of Students: Amanda Bohl

Welcome to Prairie Winds Elementary!

Principal's Message...

Welcome to Prairie Winds Elementary School! It is my privilege to serve as your principal and to welcome you to our wonderful school community. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning for another exciting year, I am grateful for the opportunity to partner with you in your child's educational journey.

At Prairie Winds, we believe every child can learn, grow, and succeed when surrounded by caring adults who believe in them. Our dedicated staff is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where students feel valued, challenged, and inspired to do their very best each day.

As Twisters, we strive for excellence in all we do. Excellence means more than strong academic achievement—it also means developing character, building meaningful relationships, and learning to make positive contributions to our school and community. We hold high expectations for our students while providing the encouragement and support they need to become confident learners, responsible citizens, and compassionate individuals.

I firmly believe that educating children is a shared responsibility. When schools, families, and our community work together with a common purpose, our students thrive. I encourage you to stay involved, communicate openly with our staff, and partner with us as we prepare each child for continued success in the years ahead.

Thank you for trusting Prairie Winds Elementary with your child's education. It is an honor to serve the north Pueblo West community, and I look forward to working alongside you as we make this a year filled with learning, growth, and excellence.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Lisa Medved, Principal

PRAIRIE WINDS ELEMENTARY MISSION AND VISION:

Our Mission:

Prairie Winds commits to building a foundation for success and instilling a passion for lifelong learning. Through inclusion, valuable experiences and collaboration in a safe environment, we, together, empower students to realize their future dreams and goals.

Our Vision:

Prairie Winds Elementary will empower students by developing an inclusive and safe environment where all students have access to social emotional development and academic success.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PRAIRIE WINDS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

579 East Earl Drive
Pueblo West, CO 81007
Phone: 719-647-9732
Fax: 719-647-9730

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Lisa Medved, Principal
Amanda Bohl, Dean of Students
Katie Brown, School Counselor

Pueblo District 70 Website: www.district70.org
Prairie Winds Website: pre.district70.org

SCHOOL HOURS

School in Session
7:40 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Office Hours 7:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PRE-SCHOOL HOURS

AM – 7:40 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
PM –12:00 pm. - 3:05 p.m.

Pueblo Boys and Girls Club
Pueblo West Location @ Prairie Winds Elementary
Director: Nelisa Palma (719) 565-9172 or (719) 647-5119
Programming begins August 17, 2026
Monday - Thursday = 3:05 pm - 5:30 pm
Friday = 9:00am - 5:30pm

SPECIFIC INFORMATION (ALPHABETICALLY)

ABSENCES

If your child will be absent or tardy, please call the office between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. (**719-647-9732**). If a student will be out of school for a family trip or other personal reasons, advanced arrangements are to be made with the teacher and the principal. Class work is to be completed during the absence or after the absence according to the arrangements made ahead with the student's teacher. Parents of students with excessive absences will be contacted in writing. Please help your child to succeed in school by making sure that he or she attends school regularly. Instructional day begins at 7:40am and ends at 3:05pm. Students arriving after 7:40am will be considered tardy.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE ROUTINES

ARRIVAL: Parents dropping students off in the loop should have students exit the vehicle on the right anywhere along the straight section along the sidewalk. Do not wait to let students out in front of the doors as this impedes the flow of the drop-off process. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT EXIT THE VEHICLE ON THE LEFT AT ANY TIME.

If you want to walk your student to the door, please park your vehicle in a designated parking spot in the lot. Please accompany your student through the lot to the crosswalk.

DEPARTURE: Parents picking students up in the loop should have your DRIVELINE number displayed clearly in your front window. Students will be called from their classrooms with that number and directed to wait behind the yellow line near the loop. Students are instructed to wait for staff to give permission to proceed to vehicles when it is safe. Please do not gesture your student to your vehicle as this causes confusion.

Parents walking up to pick up students need to know their DRIVELINE number. Please park in a designated spot and walk to the building to get in line. A staff member will enter your DRIVELINE number in order for your student to be called from their classroom.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES AND CHANGES TO ROUTINE

School begins at 7:40 a.m. and is dismissed at 3:05 p.m. Students should not arrive before 7:30 a.m. Late arrivals should report to the office before going to class. Students who are not picked up by 3:15 p.m. will wait in the office. Parents of students picked up after 3:15 p.m. from the office will be contacted for immediate pick-up. For the 1st-3rd late pick-ups, parents will be required to come to the office to sign-out their student. At the 4th instance, the School Resource Officer (SRO) will be contacted to help with transportation home.

EARLY DEPARTURES: Early departures must be arranged through the office. **Please notify the office (in writing if possible) of any change in a student's routine by 2:30pm (staying after school for an activity, not riding the bus, etc.).** We make every effort to protect students and we need to know of these

changes. **Without notification from a parent/guardian of a change, the student will be expected to follow their normal routine. Pulling students from the bus or shufflin students onto the bus at the last minute is distressful for students and will be avoided**

ATTENDANCE DEFINITIONS

Chronic Absenteeism: Missing 10% or more of school days (approx. 15 days in the district's 151-day academic year), regardless of excuse status.

Habitual Truancy: A student (ages 6–17) with 4 unexcused absences in one month or 10 unexcused absences in one academic year.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS- See Discipline Philosophy

BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, IN-LINE SKATES, HEELIES

Students who ride bicycles to and from school will be expected to lock up their bicycles at the rack in front of the school. In order to avoid heavy traffic, students riding bicycles home at the end of the day will be allowed to leave once bus and parent pickups are complete.

For safety reasons, skateboarding on the school grounds is prohibited during school sponsored activities. Skateboards, scooters, in-line skates and heelies are not to be brought to school — even for show-and-tell.

BIRTHDAYS AND BIRTHDAY PARTIES/TREATS

Birthday celebrations will be held in the classrooms. In order to make the most of our instructional time, birthday celebrations are limited to the last 20 minutes of the day. All visitors must sign in at the school office. Students are welcome to bring individually wrapped store bought treats to share with classmates.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The Pueblo Boys and Girls Club will continue their programming in Pueblo West at Prairie Winds Elementary after school ***beginning August 17th.*** If you are interested in having your child attend Boys and Girls Club after school please register online with Pueblo Boys and Girls Club or call 719-647-5119 or 719-565-9172. Please note Prairie Winds Elementary only houses the Boys and Girls Club program, we do not employ, facilitate, or enroll. Thank you!

BUS TRANSPORTATION First Student provides transportation for all students. The privilege of riding a school bus is contingent upon a student's good behavior and observance of the student code of conduct and established regulations for student conduct both at the bus stops and on-board buses. All bus passengers are expected to practice the Twister PRIDE; Twister will be prepared, show respect to self and others, practice involvement and inclusion of others, have determination, and give empathy toward others so everyone may enjoy a pleasant trip.

- Please allow a 10 minute window for arrival at bus stops.
- Kindergarten and preschool children will not be released at their bus stop without a parent, legal guardian, or sibling of appropriate age present

● **For more information regarding routes, please contact First Student at 544-7589.**

BUS LOADING/UNLOADING

● Walk in the bus area.
● Wait behind the yellow line to board after school.
● Board and unload one at a time.

BUS ROUTE & USAGE GUIDELINES

Due to expanding enrollment in the Pueblo West area, we are unable to accommodate requests for bus changes.

● Students will be assigned a seat on a bus. Changes in drop off points or pick up points which affect more than one bus are not available.
● Students arriving by bus will be expected to go home by bus unless parents have made other arrangements through the office.
● Students must get on and off the bus at assigned stops.
● Parents are encouraged to develop a "back-up" plan for transportation in emergency situations which does not include school buses.
● Secondary students (middle school and high school) will not be allowed to ride elementary buses.

BUS SAFETY RULES

A detailed set of bus behavior rules is sent home with each student, to be jointly reviewed by parents and students, signed and returned. For their own safety and the safety of others, students who do not follow the bus rules may lose the privilege of riding the bus. A summary of rules follows:

1. Sit in your assigned seat.
2. Eating on the bus will not be allowed.
3. Keep your arms and head away from the windows, and inside the bus.
4. Excessive noise; loud talking, yelling, singing, standing, and general misbehavior will not be allowed.

BUS CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Most students follow the bus rules. However, if a student chooses to break a safety rule, a Bus Conduct Referral Slip is written. Harmful or dangerous behavior may result in the immediate loss of bus riding privileges.

First Violation: Verbal warning and seat reassignment.
Second Violation: Written conduct report; parent signature required for return.
Third Violation: 1-day suspension of bus privileges.
Fourth Violation: 3-day suspension of bus privileges.
Fifth Violation: 5-day suspension of bus privileges; subsequent violations require a Student Services hearing.

Automatic Suspension Triggers: Physical harm/threats to the driver, property damage, or endangering vehicle safety. Parents are encouraged to monitor behavior and safety via the **FirstView app** (see Section 9).

CALENDAR - See 2026-2027 at the end of this handbook

CELL PHONES AND SMART DEVICES

Students are allowed to carry cell phones and wear watches to and from school. However, cell phones and smart devices must remain in student backpacks for the remainder of the school day, 7:30am-3:15pm. Any students carrying or using cell phones or smart device during the school day will have the cell phone confiscated. Parents will need to pick up the confiscated cell phone in the office. Continued cell phone carrying and/or use may result in further disciplinary action.

Consequence of cell phone use and trickling into the school

CHECK-OUT & CHECK-IN POLICY

The safety of our students is of utmost importance. During school hours, no student is to leave the school grounds at any time without first getting permission from the office. The parent/guardian must sign their child in or out of school in the office. Friends, neighbors, etc. must have permission from the parents before a student will be released to them. **Students will be called to the office after this has been done**. Students will not be called to the office until they have been signed out. *Thank you* for your cooperation in this important matter.

CHROMEBOOKS

All chromebooks are loaned to students with the completion of a contract. However, students are responsible for lost or damaged chromebooks and will be expected to pay for them before another is issued to the student. Students are encouraged to purchase covers to help reduce wear and tear throughout the year. All students are expected to follow all District and Prairie Winds policies for appropriate technology use. Students not using the chromebooks appropriately may have to return the chromebook to the school. **Please see: Pueblo County School District 70 Student Acceptable Use Policy File: JS**

CLASSROOM TREATS

Because of the risk of students eating anything at school outside of what their parents have provided or that has been commercially prepared, we require that treats brought to share in the classroom be store bought and pre-packaged items (individually wrapped). We also have students with numerous allergies, so we ask that classroom treats be nut-free. Please check with the classroom teacher prior to bringing treats for a class.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOL & FAMILIES

It is important for the school and families to keep lines of communication open at all times. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers with concerns or questions before contacting the office. Appointments are always appreciated. Good ways of staying in touch are checking with your student each day for notes, reading the parent and student newsletters, parent email, volunteering in the school, and participating in organizations.

COUNSELOR

Ms. Brown's role is to provide support services to students, parents, and staff members. All students participate in a Tier 1 classroom lesson rotation with the school counselor, where core skills such as social skills, conflict management, problem-solving, and an awareness and appreciation of differences are taught. The school counselor also offers small groups depending on student need; students need parental permission to participate in small groups. School counselors are not therapists — there are times the counselor will contact parents to suggest outside therapy for a student and/or family. Ms. Brown follows American School Counselor Association (ASCA) standards and partners closely with families to support every student's success. Prairie Winds' counseling program holds RAMP (Recognized ASCA Model Program) designation, a national distinction awarded to school counseling programs that demonstrate evidence of effectiveness in supporting student achievement. Please feel free to contact the school counselor regarding any concerns.

CURRICULUM

Prairie Winds Elementary follows the curriculum approved by the Board of Education of Pueblo School District 70 and the Colorado Department of Education. Copies of all Pueblo School District 70 curriculum guides and textbooks as well as Colorado State Standards used at Prairie Winds are available for parents to view at school or at the District 70 Administrative Services Center. Please contact the school office for additional information.

English/Language Arts: UFLI (K-2), CKLA, Handwriting without Tears (K-2)
Math: Ready Math

DISCIPLINE PHILOSOPHY

At Prairie Winds Elementary, all students and staff have the right to learn and work in a safe, respectful environment. We will ensure that those rights are protected by setting clear and consistent expectations, providing corrective instruction and support, holding students accountable for behavior, and restoring relationships whenever possible.

Expectations are taught through Twister Pride behaviors. These behaviors are expected throughout the school day and are communicated to students, parents, and staff. Students are expected to be:

- Prepared
- Respectful
- Involved
- Determined
- Empathic

Corrective instruction and support for students not meeting expectations are provided both individually and collectively. Students exhibiting repeated and persistent difficulties following expectations may work with the school counselor and/or Dean in a small group, be paired with an older student mentor, or be referred to the MTSS team for formal interventions. Parents and guardians will be kept informed of any

concerns and may be asked to attend a conference or meeting. The goal is always to help our students stay safe and learn as much as possible.

Students will be held accountable for their behavior. Accountability can be restorative conversations with peers or adults, the loss of a privilege, an alternative activity, eating lunch in an assigned area or the office, or time out of the classroom in the form of in-school suspension (ISS) or out of school suspension (OSS). Parents will be notified of consequences either by the teacher or administration.

Restoring relationships is always the goal of discipline at Prairie Winds. In order to mend relationships with peers or staff, students are expected to take responsibility for their mistakes, apologize, and fix the behavior in the future. By doing this, our students grow in integrity, responsibility, and respect for self and others.

DRESS CODE: complies with the following Pueblo School District 70 Board policy.

Pueblo School District No. 70 Dress Code- Regulations

1. Pueblo School District No. 70 accepts shirts, blouses, sweaters and sweatshirts that are tucked in or that have finished bottoms that do not hang below the wearers' fingertips when holding their arms to their side. All tops should be traditional in nature without wording and or symbols that represent vulgarities, obscenities, gang affiliation, sexual behaviors or innuendoes, drugs, alcohol, or death/mutilation of other individuals or one's' self. Shirts, blouses, sweaters and sweatshirts should not contain any content that could be offensive to one's race, ethnicity or gender. Shirts or blouses that show excessive skin are not acceptable. Shirts or blouses that have at least a 2-inch shoulder are considered acceptable. Shirts, blouses, sweaters and sweatshirts that do not meet these criteria will be tucked in or removed and changed by the student if necessary.

2. Pueblo School District No. 70 accepts pants, shorts, and skirts that are traditional in nature and should be worn at the waistline. Pants or shorts that have ripped or cut up sections cannot show any skin above the student's fingertips when holding their arms to their side. Shorts and skirts will be no shorter than their fingertips when holding their arms to their side.

3. Pueblo School District No. 70 accepts coats that are traditional in nature and that are no longer than the wearers' fingertips.. Trench coats are not acceptable at any time.

4. Hats can be worn in the school buildings only on designated "hat days" used by the schools for various student participation exercises.

5. Pueblo School District No. 70 accepts all hair colors whether natural or colored through dyes.. Any hairstyle, haircut, hair arrangement, piercing or tattoo that distracts from the educational environment or presents a danger to the individual or others is considered unacceptable. Administrators at the school level will have the final authority to determine educational

distractibility pertaining to their building and students. – see policy JICA

6. Other additions to one's self that are considered distracting to the educational environment will not be acceptable. Administrators at the school level will have the final authority to determine educational distractibility pertaining to their building and students. – see policy JICA

7. Pueblo School District No. 70 School Board reserves the right to make any modifications or changes to the dress code, as it deems necessary.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

It is vital that every child has on file current emergency phone numbers where parents can be reached. Please designate two local individuals for the school to call in the event of an emergency if a parent cannot be reached. Contact the school office if your address, phone, or the name and phone of the person you want contacted in an emergency changes during the school year. It is extremely distressing for a child to have an emergency and have to wait while we try to find someone in his or her family. Please provide changes of contact information on PowerSchool and to the school office.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire, Shelter, Lockdown, and Reverse Evacuation drills are held as important safety precautions. Students are given instructions in each classroom. Routes, exits, and protected areas are designated for each classroom.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event of extreme weather conditions or any unforeseen reason for a school closure, announcements relative to the closing and/or early dismissal of school will be announced on PowerSchool System phone call, emails, and text messages, school website, Facebook Page, and television stations Channel 5 KOAA-TV, Channel 11 (KKTV), and Channel 13 (KRDO). Television stations are notified by 6:00 a.m. of any closings. Please do not call the school or administration office until you have checked your messages, website, and/or television announcements. Parents, please instruct your child regarding an emergency plan if they should arrive at home and no one is there. This information should be included with your child's school registration.

FACILITY/BUILDING USE

Those wishing to use the building must complete an Application for Building or Facility Use Form, which can be obtained through the school office **and provide proof of liability insurance.** All applications must be approved by the Principal/District.

FIELD TRIPS

Due to insurance liability, all students participating in a field trip will be expected to ride the bus to and from the field trip. A permission slip will be sent home prior to each trip with necessary information for parents. Permission slips for students must be signed by caregivers and returned prior to the trip. Students not eligible to attend the field trip will be placed in another classroom for the day. Students are

also asked, in some cases, to bring a small fee for each trip to cover the cost of transportation. Field trips are a learning opportunity. *However, they are also a privilege and lack of appropriate student behavior prior to a trip may result in the loss of this privilege.* Only Prairie Winds Elementary students and field trip sponsors are allowed on school field trip buses.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION

Gifted/talented students are identified through a screening process through the MTSS Procedures. Advanced Learning Plans (ALP) are written to provide activities to challenge the abilities of these students along with a variety of special programs.

HEALTH SERVICES

The school district provides a nurse and/or aide who is available in the school office several times a week. During the year, they will be conducting vision and hearing screenings, as well as verifying immunization records. Students who have weaknesses in any of these areas will receive parental notification from the nurse.

HOMEWORK Students and families are encouraged to read together 20 minutes each night. Please support your students' homework given by classroom teachers. Any questions regarding homework should be directed to the classroom teacher.

PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO HELP STUDENTS STUDY AT HOME BY

1. Cooperating with the school in encouraging a positive attitude toward homework and academic achievement.
2. Providing your children with suitable study conditions and supervision.
3. Consistently reserving time for homework.
4. Encouraging your children without placing them under undue pressure.
5. Showing interest in what your children are doing without doing the work for them.
6. Developing an understanding of what your child's teachers expect homework to accomplish.

ILLNESS

Keep your child home if they exhibit:

[ ] Temperature above 100.4 degrees.
[ ] Sore throat diagnosed as Strep (until 24 hours of antibiotics).
[ ] Vomiting or diarrhea.
[ ] Constant cough or brown/green nasal discharge.
[ ] Frequent or severe seizures compared to their baseline.
[ ] Lice or nits (until treated).
[ ] Contagious diseases (e.g., chicken pox).

ILLNESS OR INJURY AT SCHOOL

If a child becomes ill or is injured at school, the caregivers will be contacted and asked to come and get

the child. A parent is notified if the student vomits or when the student records a temperature of 100.4° or higher.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Colorado State law requires immunizations. Your child must have a certificate of immunization on file with the school. You must provide the school with the records of your child's immunizations. For grades K-6 the required vaccinations (with some exceptions) are:

Records for Hepatitis B, DTaP, IPV, MMR, Varicella, and Tdap (6th-grade entry) are required for enrollment. Medical and non-medical exemption certificates must be filed annually.

In addition to these requirements, beginning July 1, 1997 all kindergarten and seventh grade students must have had three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine. By July 1, 1999 all students in grades K-2 & 7-9 must comply. Please note, the Hepatitis B series takes 4-6 months to complete and needs to be completed before entry into kindergarten and/or seventh grade. Immunizations are available from your family doctor. The Pueblo Health Department offers vaccinations. Please call them for information and appointments.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child requires medication to be given at school, please obtain a medication form from the secretary or school nurse. Colorado Rules and Regulations for Health Services require that this form be completed and signed by a parent/guardian and the child's physician. ***The rules and regulations apply to any prescription and over the counter medication such as Tylenol, cough drops, cold remedies, natural medicines, etc.*** All medications must be brought to school in their original container. If a liquid medication is to be given, please send an appropriate measuring device with the medication. At the end of the school year, please pick up any remaining medication. (We cannot send it home with the student.) It cannot be stored at the school over the summer and will be destroyed after the last day of school.

If your child has asthma that requires the use of an inhaler, even occasionally, it is recommended that an inhaler be provided to the school in case of emergency. A medication form is needed for inhalers as well. *Please do not allow your child to bring an inhaler back and forth to school.* They sometimes get lost, shared with others or forgotten at home. If your child must carry an inhaler with him/her, written permission from the child's doctor and parent/guardian is required. The school nurse aide must also be notified.

Antibiotics are usually given three times a day and are best given in the morning before school, after school, and before bedtime. Therefore, these medications should not need to be given at school.

***STUDENTS CANNOT BRING ANY PRESCRIPTION OR OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATION INCLUDING COUGH DROPS TO SCHOOL.** Parents must transport needed medication to and from school as no meds can be transported on the school bus.

LEGAL CUSTODY OF STUDENTS

A LEGAL document is required to support any questions of custody between divorced or separated parents. Unless the principal is informed otherwise and provided with documentation, either a natural

parent is considered to have the right to request student information or early dismissal of a student.

LOST AND FOUND

Students are expected to take responsibility to safeguard their belongings. The school cannot be responsible for lost items. However, if reported immediately, staff members will try to assist in locating missing items. Small items (such as glasses, keys, and jewelry) are kept in the school office, while hoodies, jackets, shirts, water bottles, etc. are kept in the foyer of the school.. To avoid loss to the student, we encourage parents **to label ALL articles of clothing** which may be taken off during the day (jackets, sweaters, tennis shoes). Label lunchboxes, backpacks, and book bags. This will help in returning lost items to their rightful owner. The school WILL NOT be responsible for any personal items brought to school. Unclaimed items are donated to a charitable organization at the end of each quarter.

LUNCHROOM RULES

Students may either bring a cold lunch from home or participate in the school's lunch program. Students will line up quietly and in a single file for the lunch line. They will be courteous and quiet while in the serving line.

- Students are expected to be respectful, resourceful, and responsible in the lunchroom including saying, "Please" and "Thank you."
- Good table manners are expected. Sit on bottoms with feet under the table, talking quietly to classmates at the table.
- Staff will monitor the noise level.
- Food and drink are not to leave the cafeteria
- **Soda pop/carbonated beverages are not allowed**

MEALS

Breakfast and lunch is available for all students and will be free for all students. Any extra sides or meal will be charged to the students' lunch account. Deposits for extras sides and extra main should be made using the online program **My School Bucks**.This can be found on the district and school website under the Parent Tab/Nutrition. We are discouraging families sending money with their children to school for lunch. **In order to continue to provide these nutritional and education services to all families in our community it is very important that all families complete the Pueblo County District 70 Household Application for School Meals.**

MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is an extension of each classroom, designed to provide practice, remediation, interest or accelerated learning for students at the teacher's direction. Students are assisted and supervised by the Media Aide. Each class has a scheduled weekly opportunity to visit the Media Center in addition to individual student usage. Students may check out two books for a two-week period. Books checked out may be renewed for an additional two weeks. Students are responsible for overdue, damaged, or lost books.

MONEY SENT TO SCHOOL

When sending money to school, please send it in an envelope marked with the child's name, teacher's name, and the purpose. Checks are preferred, especially for school lunches. Caregivers can also add money to their student's My School Bucks account. We encourage children not to bring money to school that is not for a specific planned school purchase.

NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Unacceptable Uses: Personal safety risks (posting private info), illegal acts (hacking, drug sales), inappropriate language, and plagiarism.

Limited Privacy Expectation: The district reserves the right to search personal files and online activity on district systems if there is reasonable suspicion of a policy or law violation.

NEWSLETTERS

A monthly newsletter will be sent home and available online. The newsletter contains valuable information such as a calendar of the month's events, special grade level or classroom events, student recognition, and PTA announcements and activities.

PARENT/TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

The Parent/Teacher Association is the parent/teacher fundraising organization for Prairie Winds Elementary, which provides invaluable support for the school through fundraisers to purchase equipment, supplies, and services which would not be available through the school's budgetary means.

PARKING LOT AND STUDENT DROP-OFF and PICK UP AREAS

NO parking is allowed in the transportation loops. It is expected that caregivers park only in the front parking lot and walk students to and from the crosswalk. We ask that all families park your car in a designated parking spot and walk your student to the crosswalk. ***The parking lot is not a drop and go.***

All students being dropped off and picked up by families will enter and exit the building through the front doors. Students riding the bus will enter and exit the building through the bus loop doors. *****See map at the end of this handbook.

PETS

Children should not bring pets to school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing (especially tennis shoes) on days gym class is

scheduled. Students may not be able to participate safely if not dressed appropriately. If this occurs frequently, student learning and grades are impacted.

Students are requested to have a parent and/or physician's note to be exempt from physical activity due to a medical concern. The school also needs a note indicating that your child is ready to resume full physical activity following an illness or injury.

RECESS

Teachers have the option of providing short rest periods, physical activities, or recesses at times that are dictated by student need and classroom activities. At these times, their teachers supervise the students. Students have a 35-minute combined recess and lunch time each day. There will also be a morning and/or afternoon 10 minute recess. Students will go outside for recess on all but severe weather days. Please dress children for the weather. Individual students will be excused from recess for health reasons with a physician's and/or parent note.

REPORT CARDS AND CONFERENCES

Report cards will be issued for all students at the end of each quarter. Conference days are listed on the Pueblo School District 70 school calendar. Individual schools may need to change these dates and notification of conference dates will be updated in the newsletter as needed. In addition, conferences virtual or in person may also be requested at any time by parents regarding the progress or behavior of their child. The staff at Prairie Winds Elementary is committed to providing a quality education for all students. Communicating with parents about the progress of students is essential to student growth.

REQUEST FOR HOMEWORK

Parents requesting homework should make the request prior to 8:30 a.m. in order to allow teachers time to gather the materials and have them to the school office by 3:00 p.m.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Individual school pictures will be taken each fall. All students take an individual picture for school purposes, even if they do not want to purchase a picture packet. Class pictures will be taken in the spring and will be available for purchase. **School Pictures for the 2026-2027 School Year will be scheduled and advertised as soon as possible.**

SOLICITING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

There will be NO SOLICITING on school grounds without formal administrative approval. Posters or advertisements should not be hung in the halls, on the buildings, or on the bulletin boards without the permission of the Principal/District.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Students are not allowed in the school building or on school campus before or after school hours without faculty/staff supervision. Supervision of students on school grounds shall be provided from 7:35 a.m. (before classes start), until 3:15 p.m. (after classes are dismissed).

TARDIES

Any child that is tardy causes a disruption in the classroom and is missing morning activities that set the tone for the day. It is imperative that students get to school on time. The instructional day is 7:40 am to 3:05 pm. If possible, appointments should be made after school or on Fridays. If this is not possible and a child has an appointment before school we ask that you notify the school. Students that are late (after 7:40 am) must come to the front office for health screening and tardy pass before going to class. The person bringing the child to school must sign the child in at the office.

TELEPHONE MESSAGES & USAGE

Please take time to discuss changes in your child's daily routine, such as being picked up early for appointments, being picked up by someone other than a parent or guardian, etc., prior to sending them to school in the morning. In emergency or unexpected circumstances, we will deliver messages to students. **Please call before 2:30 p.m.** Requests received after 2:30 p.m. may not have time to be delivered. In order to promote responsibility in our students, they will be discouraged from calling home to ask parents to bring "forgotten items" to school or to ask permission to go home with a friend. In the event of early dismissal because of weather or other emergencies, parents' emergency plans will be followed. Students are not allowed to use cell phones during school hours. It will need to remain in their backpack or should remain at home.

THERAPY DOG

Prairie Winds Elementary is happy to welcome Clementine, our certified therapy dog, as part of our school counseling program! Clementine works alongside School Counselor Katie Brown. She has been evaluated for temperament and behavior, and is up to date on all veterinary care.

Clementine may be present during individual counseling sessions, small groups, classroom lessons, or school events, and can offer comfort, motivation, and connection for many of our Twisters. Participation is always a choice — no student is ever required to interact with Clementine, and families may let the school counselor know at any time if they would prefer their child not participate in animal-assisted activities.

Before working with Clementine, students are taught simple safety rules for interacting with a therapy dog, including:

- Always ask permission before petting
- Use a calm voice and gentle hands
- Let Clementine come to you rather than approaching quickly
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer after contact

If your child has an allergy or fear related to dogs, please let the school counselor or your child's teacher

know so accommodations can be made. We're grateful for the opportunity Clementine brings to support our students' social-emotional wellbeing!

SCHOOL MATERIALS/RESOURCES

All school materials, resources, and computers are loaned to students free of charge. However, students are responsible for lost or damaged materials. Fines will be assessed and paid through the office.

TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOLS

In order to promote the general health, welfare and well being of students and staff, smoking, chewing, or any other use of any tobacco products or e-cigarettes by staff, students and members of the public is banned from all school property.

TOYS AND PERSONAL ITEMS

Students should not bring toys or other personal items to school. If an item is brought for show and tell or after school use, it is expected to stay in the student's backpack except for the show and tell time.

Toys will be taken from students at school, as will other items causing a problem or distracting students from their educational program. The teacher or the principal will hold these items until picked up by parents. Unclaimed items will be discarded at the end of the school year. Please do not send flowers, balloons, etc. to students at school as they cannot be transported on the bus and will have to be left at school.

VISITOR AND CIVILITY PROTOCOLS

The Board encourages parents and other citizens of the district to be engaged with the school community. In order to ensure that no unauthorized persons enter the building with wrongful intent, all visitors to the school are requested to check in at the office when entering the school, present a photo ID, sign a visitor registration notebook and wear a visitor badge. Parents or guardians who are picking up their children should wait in the foyer.

Interactions between staff and parents or community members are expected to be mutually respectful, exhibiting civil behavior at all times as required by the District Civility Policy. Staff may terminate interactions that become hostile or disruptive.

WALKING

Not discouraged, but families are expected to have safety protocols in place for their students and family. Schools are no longer responsible for students once they leave the school campus.

WITHDRAWING

If you must withdraw your child from Prairie Winds Elementary, please notify the teacher and the

school office a few days in advance of your move so we can help make your transfer speedy and efficient. Library books and textbooks are to be returned and lunch charges need to be paid before a student withdraws. The new school will need to send a request of records to Prairie Winds Elementary. Should you move out of the Prairie Winds Elementary attendance neighborhood, we hope you will remember your experience as being positive and rewarding for both you and your child.

DECLARATION OF NO DISCRIMINATION:

In compliance with Titles VI & VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Pueblo County School District 70 does not unlawfully discriminate against otherwise qualified students, employees, applicants for employment, or members of the public on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services. Discrimination against employees and applicants for employment based on age, genetic information, and conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is prohibited accordance with state and/or federal law.

Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees, and members of the public. The following person(s) have been identified as the compliance officer for the district:

DECLARACIÓN DE NO DISCRIMINACIÓN:

El Distrito Escolar 70 del Condado de Pueblo no discrimina ilegalmente por motivos de raza, credo, color, sexo, orientación sexual, identidad/expresión de género, estado civil, origen nacional, religión, origen nacional, edad, discapacidad, necesidad de servicios de educación especial, información genética, estado de embarazo o parto, u otro estado protegido por la ley en la admisión o acceso, tratamiento o empleo en sus programas o actividades educativas. Además, la falta de habilidades en el idioma inglés no es una barrera para la admisión o participación en actividades. Las consultas sobre ADA, Sección 504, Título VI y Título IX pueden dirigirse al Superintendente de Escuelas, 301 28th Lane, Pueblo,

Colorado 81001. 719-295-6548 or krein@district70.org

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PUEBLO County SCHOOL DISTRICT 70

2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CENTER
24951 East Highway 50 • Pueblo, CO 81006
719-542-0220 • www.district70.org

JULY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

3 | 0

AUGUST 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

17 | 13

SEPTEMBER 2026

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18 | 17

OCTOBER 2026

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17 | 18

NOVEMBER 2026

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29	30					

13 | 13

DECEMBER 2026

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12 | 11

JANUARY 2027

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31						

18 | 16

FEBRUARY 2027

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28						

16 | 16

MARCH 2027

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28	29	30	31			

15 | 16

APRIL 2027

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18 | 17

MAY 2027

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30	31					

17 | 16

JUNE 2027

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

0 | 0

BLUE – Staff Contact Day
No School For Students

- Transitional Day 6th Grade / 9th Grade
  Regular day for Elementary School
- All Students Begin/End
- Holiday – No School
- Parent/Teacher Conferences

BLACK – School is in Session

- End of Grading Period
- Elementary Literacy Testing
- Elementary/Middle Literacy Testing
  (High School - Regular Day)

RED – School is NOT in Session

- 1/2 Teacher Workday -
  1/2 Professional Development Day
- District Professional Development Day
- New Teacher Professional Development Week
- Teacher Workday

DISTRICT 70 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Anne Bennett ..... President
Dr. A. J. Wilson ..... Vice President
Mr. Susannah Carnes ..... Director
Mr. Mark Emery ..... Director
Mrs. Michelle Erickson ..... Director

Ms. Kimberly Rein ..... Secretary/Treasurer

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Ronda Rein ..... Superintendent

GRADUATION

District 70 Online ..... May 19, 2027
Pueblo West High School ..... May 21, 2027
Rye High School ..... May 20, 2027
Pueblo County High School ..... May 22, 2027

SCHOOL DAYS

First Day of School ..... August 10, 2026
Last Day of School ..... May 27, 2027
Preschool Begins ..... August 10, 2026
Preschool Ends ..... May 20, 2027

NINE WEEK PERIODS END

October 8, 2026 ..... 1st Quarter: 35 Days
December 17, 2026 ..... 2nd Quarter: 36 Days
March 11, 2027 ..... 3rd Quarter: 40 Days
May 27, 2027 ..... 4th Quarter: 40 Days

1st Semester Ends, December 17, 2026 ..... 71 Days
2nd Semester Ends, May 27, 2027 ..... 80 Days
151 Days

HOLIDAYS

Labor Day ..... September 7, 2026
Thanksgiving ..... November 23 – 26, 2026
Winter Break ..... December 21 – 31, 2026
Spring Break ..... March 22 - 25, 2027
Memorial Day ..... May 31, 2027

TEACHER WORK DAYS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

August 3, 4, 5, 6, 2026
September 25, 2026
October 9, 2026
December 18, 2026
January 22, 2027
March 12, 2027
May 28, 2027

NEW TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

July 28, 29, 30, 2026 August 28, 2026 September 11, 2026

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Begins: Sunday, March 8, 2026
Ends: Sunday, November 1, 2026

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 3rd, 2026