



Prairie Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! Mister Rogers used to start every day by inviting us into his neighborhood, and this year, we are inviting you into ours. Our theme centers on creating a supportive community where everyone belongs. More than anything, we want our students to hear Fred Rogers' most powerful message: *"I like you just the way you are."* We are so excited to learn and grow alongside you in a space built on kindness, acceptance, and connection.

Please join me in welcoming the following new staff members to the Prairie community:

- **Mrs. Ashley Dougherty** – Assistant Principal
- **Mrs. Jessica Connors** – Social Worker
- **Mrs. Lila Engelbrecht** – 2nd Grade
- **Ms. Cierra Johnson** – Psychologist
- **Mrs. Alisha Waters** – Learning Behavior Specialist
- **Ms. Angela Kerrigan** – Physical Therapist
- **Ms. Amali Premawardhana** – Orchestra

The **2026–2027 Back to School Update Information** can be found on our [website](#) by hovering your cursor over the "Our School" tab in the middle of the gray banner and then clicking on the "2026–2027 Back to School Update" tab in the drop-down menu. You can also click directly on the website's Back to School Update banner.

Below is some basic information to ensure that everyone has a positive start to the school year:

Classroom Assignments: Classroom and teacher assignments for kindergarten through fifth grade will be posted through Infinite Campus on **Wednesday, August 5th at 5:00 p.m.** Parents can access their child's assignment via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Visit the District 203 website (www.naperville203.org), click on the *Resources* tab on the far right in the gray banner, and click on the *Infinite Campus Parent Portal* link. Follow the prompts to create your account. If you need assistance, please email the help desk at **parentsupport@naperville203.org**.

Our staff worked diligently last spring and into the summer to ensure that all classrooms are well balanced and meet student needs. Class lists are final and



no changes will be made, as moving even one student creates a domino effect across classrooms.

Transportation: All bus riders will be met by staff members at the start of the school year to guide children to their grade-level classrooms. Transportation information can be accessed in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal starting August 5th at 5:00 p.m. Please check back frequently, including the day before school starts, as route and timing changes can occur. If you need assistance, contact the Transportation Department at **630-420-6464**.

New Family Tours CANCELLED: Unfortunately, due to ongoing construction in the building, tours for families new to Prairie School (originally scheduled for Friday, August 7th) have been cancelled. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Meet Your Teachers: Students in Grades K–5 are invited to meet their teacher on **Monday, August 10th from 2:00–3:00 p.m.** *Please note: Due to ongoing construction, building preparation, and summer cleaning, we may need to host 'Meet the Teachers' outdoors on the blacktop. Students will still be able to say a quick hello and enjoy a treat from Home and School! If we move to this contingency plan, families will not drop off school supplies during the event. We will share a final decision and additional logistics as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding!*

First Day of School: The first full day of school for students in grades K–5 is scheduled for **Thursday, August 13th**. Specific information regarding arrival and dismissal procedures will be shared in a later communication.

Our New Neighborhood Playground Space: Finally, in the spirit of Mister Rogers—who taught us that the best neighborhoods are the ones where everyone feels welcome—we are so proud to unveil our brand-new, fully inclusive playground! We know change can be hard, including the transition away from our second play area, but this amazing new space was designed so **all** of our neighbors can play, grow, and connect together. It's a wonderful, high-capacity upgrade built for every single student, and we can't wait to welcome our kids to their new play neighborhood!

Please reach out to the main office at **630-420-6348** with any questions. Enjoy these final days of summer!



Warmly,

Mr. Zallis, Principal