

Middle School Overview

What Makes Prairie's Middle School So Special?

Small Class Sizes:

With a student-teacher ratio of 16:1 and an average class size of 20 students, every child in the Middle School receives the personal attention he or she needs in order to excel. Thanks in large part to these numbers, our experienced, dynamic educators are able to pay close attention to each student's social, emotional and physical well-being. Additionally, Prairie's dedication to professional development is evident in every classroom. By making significant, ongoing investments in our faculty's learning and growth, we enable them to reach their full potential — which in turn benefits our students and families.

An Emphasis on Social-Emotional Needs:

Understanding the nature and needs of young adolescents allows our faculty to promote intellectual development in every student. However, academic excellence is a challenge if a child's social and emotional health is neglected — proving exactly why this is a major area of focus in Prairie's Middle School. Our Advisory program ensures that each student has a daily opportunity to connect with a trusted member of the faculty as well as with their peers, providing a safe space for discussion of a variety of social and academic topics.

Child-Focused Scheduling:

Given that extensive research shows individuals perform differently at varying times each day, Prairie has implemented a six-day rotating schedule for the benefit of both students and faculty. Thanks to this model, for example, our students never have the same class 1st hour, nor the same subject after lunchtime. This rotating schedule also provides our students with a broad range of elective opportunities.

Outstanding Academics:

In addition to core classes (English, math, social studies, science) that emphasize exploratory, hands-on learning techniques, all Middle School students take physical education five out of six days and have access to a broad pool of fine and performing arts classes each semester. Aspiring musicians can participate in Band or Choir as well as World Drumming, String Orchestra, Music & Technology, Musical Production and Guitar. Fine art options include Clay, 3D Drawing & Glassblowing, and options in the Theatre Department provide students the opportunity to appear on-stage (with two Middle School productions occurring annually) or to work behind the scenes, learning the art of tech theatre design and implementation.

Technological Tools:

Students in grades 5-12 experience our 1:1 iPad program, which provides regular internet access and support, as well as a mobile solution for research and composition. As part of our commitment to personal accountability, we emphasize responsible and acceptable use of all technology tools. Classrooms incorporate online learning through various multimedia tools, including promethean boards, videos and podcasts. Students are also encouraged to use color and 3D printers located throughout the school.



Co-Curricular Enrichment:

Every morning at 10:00 a.m., Prairie's Middle School students run their own **Morning Meeting** — an engaging experience that fosters leadership, presentation, and public speaking skills. 5th and 6th graders participate in an annual **Outdoor Education Experience** at Camp Timber-lee; 7th graders take their curriculum on the road traveling to **Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Springfield**, while our 8th graders see first-hand the role of the U.S. government when visiting **Washington, D.C.** Throughout the Middle School, students participate in **service learning opportunities**, regularly raising funds to assist local food banks and shelters, as well as nationally-recognized charitable organizations. Our long-standing **Buddy Program** — a deliberate, meaningful pairing of Primary, Middle and Upper School students fostering mentor relationships across grade levels — continues to be a wonderful way to connect our students across the greater Prairie community.

Clubs and Sports:

In addition to our academics, Prairie enriches the whole child by offering a wide array of extra-curricular activities. Beginning in 5th grade, students have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic cross-country, soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis, golf, and track and field. There is a school-wide no-cut policy to encourage participation and camaraderie. Clubs are another way students can further explore their own unique interests; Middle School offerings include Technology, Tinkering, Rocket Science, World Languages, Coloring, Book Club, English Fest, the Student Activities (community service) Board, Math Club and Story Chasers.

The Compass Team

Every individual learns differently, and the mission of Prairie's multi-disciplinary Compass Program is to maximize the potential of each child regardless of his or her educational style and academic ability. We collaborate with teachers, students, parents, and one another to best support the diverse, school-related needs of all Prairie students. Whatever skills your child brings to Prairie, Compass is the guide that will ensure future success. The Compass Team is comprised of:

Learning Specialists, who work with teachers and families to holistically identify student strengths and challenges, encourage self-advocacy, and support learning and study strategies to ensure academic success.

Prairie's School Counselor, who supports emotionally secure relationships that positively impact academic and social success for each student.

A team of **Academic Support Teachers**, including Reading Specialists (providing support for the Wilson Reading Program), an ELL (English Language Learner) Teacher, a Math Specialist, and a Speech and Language Therapist.

Full-Time Registered Nurses, who provide medical care, health assessments and wellness counseling for the entire school community.



Questions?

Contact Bonnie Benes, Head of Middle School, at bbenes@prairieschool.com or 262.752.2550.



THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

Please call or email the
Admission Office to
schedule a tour



262.752.2525//262.752.2531



admissions@prairieschool.com



4050 Lighthouse Drive
Wind Point, WI 53402



Prairie School



www.PrairieSchool.info