



# THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

Wind Point, Wisconsin

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————— PRAIRIESCHOOL.COM —————

A LOOK INSIDE



# THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL





## OUR HISTORY

Since first opening its doors in 1965 with 84 students, Prairie has evolved into one of the Midwest's finest independent schools. We offer a top-notch faculty, challenging academics, unique educational offerings, state-of-the-art facilities, a beautiful Frank Lloyd Wright architecturally-styled campus, and a diverse and creative community committed to knowing, valuing, supporting, and challenging one another.

“

OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE ARE FOREVER LINKED BY THE TRADITIONS WE EMBRACE, THE INSPIRATION FOR LEARNING WE IGNITE, AND THE VISION TO CELEBRATE THAT WHICH IS UNIQUE IN EVERY CHILD.

”

IMOGENE P. JOHNSON, PRAIRIE FOUNDER



# OUR MISSION

The Prairie School nurtures the creativity, interests and abilities of every student, inspiring each to explore, thrive, and add value individually and in collaboration with others. Our community of students, faculty, and families works together to create a collaborative and supportive culture grounded in human values – celebrating both our differences and commonalities. Prairie graduates are prepared for college and life with the desire and skills to make the world a better place.



Dear Prospective Prairie Family,

At The Prairie School, we believe it is important to know, value, support, and challenge every child – from our youngest Early Schooler to the Senior preparing for graduation.

### *So what does that mean for your child?*

It means learning and thriving in a community without preconceived notions of who you ought to be, but which has great expectations of what you can accomplish.

It means enabling students to discover their passions while fostering a love of learning and the desire to know more. It means taking advantage of unique and ever-evolving opportunities – discovering the intricacies of glass blowing; competing in national poetry contests with your original work; participating on state-championship athletic teams where no-cut policies allow for growth and exploration; and demonstrating leadership through activities like stream and water testing in 3rd grade, or directing your own parent-teacher conferences in Middle School.

It means being inspired by a faculty that is passionate about a growth mindset, both for themselves and for their students. It is creating and collaborating in a classroom, in the Giving Garden, on stage, or on the field.

It means that we are all in this together – students, families, and faculty – to construct a limitless learning environment for each and every child.

Enclosed you will find information specific to your child's grade level and division, as well as details about co-curriculars, support programs, and the admission process. Take a few moments to learn about Prairie and find what speaks to you. Then come to campus and experience it all for yourself. It will be the visit that changes your child's life.

Sincerely,



**MOLLY LOFQUIST JOHNSON**

Senior Director of Admission



**ALIYA PITTS**

Chief Advancement Officer

# WHAT MAKES US PRAIRIE?

At Prairie, there's a strategic formula used to ensure our community is growing closer while its individuals are growing stronger: everyone, from teachers to coaches, works to make sure Prairie's students are **known, valued, supported, and challenged.**



## KNOWN

**Expert Innovators:** Most of our faculty hold advanced degrees and we devote significant resources to their development. It's common for educators to remain at Prairie because of the unique community and bonds formed between co-workers, students, and families. Small class sizes and a nurturing environment ensure genuine relationships and personal attention.



## VALUED

**Diverse Opportunities and Extensive Leadership Training:** Prairie offers a variety of co-curricular opportunities for students of every age group to balance and enhance the academic experience – performing arts, service organizations, athletics, and more.



## SUPPORTED

**Comprehensive College Counseling:** College Counseling begins freshman year when families are given the guidance needed to start the selection process. With over 70+ schools visiting campus annually, and with frequent one-on-one sessions to explore our students' abilities and interests, the College Counseling Office works to ensure informed and confident college decisions.



## CHALLENGED

**Balanced, Individualized, and Well-Rounded Academics:** Our broad curriculum exposes students to a diverse range of ideas, teaching methods, and leadership training. By utilizing methods both tried and true as well as bold and new, Prairie's process focuses on developing curious, well-rounded learners prepared to lead.



## NO CUT ATHLETICS

Any athlete willing to work hard and develop their potential will always make the team.



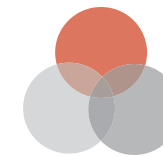
## MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH

Our full-time School Psychologist, School Counselor, and Registered Nurse work to ensure the well-being of our community.



## CULTURE OF CREATIVITY

At Prairie, art is everywhere. From our hallway exhibits to the John Mitchell Theatre to the Dave Drewek Glassblowing Studio, creativity is one of the cornerstones upon which we are built.



## CELEBRATING EACH OTHER

From Diwali to Rosh Hashanah, from Chinese New Year to Juneteenth, Prairie prides itself on celebrating all cultures and ethnicities.



## THE ADVISORY PROGRAM

In Middle and Upper School, every student has an advisor who serves as the primary liaison between school and home.



## LEARNING FROM THE BEST

With over fifty percent of our faculty members possessing advanced degrees, our students have access to a collection of teachers few institutions can match.



## THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

College Counseling's sole purpose is to ensure every student makes an informed and confident decision about the next phase of their educational career: that's why they begin meeting with students freshman year.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-DISCOVERY

With over 60 clubs and activities throughout Primary, Middle, and Upper School, our students are continually immersed in opportunity.



# PRIMARY SCHOOL

## TOGETHER WE GROW

The most important step in building something that stands the test of time is a strong foundation. The Primary School (PS) is where Preschool through 4th grade students grow academically, emotionally and socially.

In addition to core subjects like math, science, reading, writing and word study, PS students participate in physical education and fine or performing arts every day. They have regular access to world language instruction, computers and individual iPads.

Most importantly, all classes are conducted under the watchful eyes of Prairie's expert educators. Every PS classroom has a full-time teacher and teacher's assistant with an overall student:teacher ratio of 5:1. This allows our faculty to truly know, value, support, and challenge your child while focusing on their individual needs and skills.



### KNOWN

- Small classes, combined with a dedicated assistant teacher in each grade level, help children feel known and understood by their peers and teachers.
- Friendly, our K-8 social-emotional curriculum, is deployed throughout the year to help build relationships and resiliency in support of a positive school culture.



### VALUED

- Leadership begins in the Primary School, where classes take turns running the monthly Preschool - 5th Grade Community Meeting.
- In addition to the curricular lessons learned inside the classroom, co-curricular activities and clubs like Lego League, Scouts, Chess, and Basketball offer students ample chances to grow their curiosities and interests.



### SUPPORTED

- Study of thematic units give students the opportunity to understand the world around them, and the encouragement to dig deeper into topics that spark their curiosity.
- Cultivating a strong foundation in literacy starts at age 3 and is woven throughout every Primary School grade, where teachers are able to give their students one-one-attention.



### CHALLENGED

- Low student-teacher ratios and Compass Team support allow every child to continually push themselves as an individual learner.
- Whether it's building a robot prototype in Kindergarten, dissecting a shark in 1st Grade, or the 3rd Grade's creation and curation of their own museum exhibits, access to an incredible range of speakers, field trips, author visits, and hands-on opportunities bring learning to life.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## SUPPORT IN TRANSITION

If the seeds of a young mind take root in Primary School, Middle School (MS) is where they break through and accelerate. By emphasizing the social and emotional needs of students, our teachers are committed to ensuring every individual is not only excelling in math, science, social studies, English and the arts, but that they are growing ever more compassionate and self-aware.

Middle School is where students learn how to build and nurture relationships. They learn how to stand up for what they believe in. They come to understand the power of curiosity. They learn how to give selflessly through regular community service.



## KNOWN

- Students benefit from a balance of personal autonomy and mentorship from caring adults. Frequent and open communication between students, faculty, advisors, and parents contribute to this close-knit community that is crucial for student success.
- Advisory relationships begin in 6th Grade, where students build 1:1 rapport with a faculty member and a group of peers who regularly gather for discussion, fun, study, and community-building.



## VALUED

- Student-led conferences, held twice per year, put young people in the driver's seat as they lead the conversation with their parents and advisor to share their strengths and opportunities.
- If there isn't already a club that piques your child's interest, they can start one of their own. Recent, student-driven additions include Gardening Club and Rubik's Cube Club.



## SUPPORTED

- This is a time to explore your interests: students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of co-curriculars, including athletics, LEGO League, and fine and performing arts performances.
- Students are given ample opportunities to create. Those interested in music can choose from courses like World Drumming or Guitar. Aspiring artists can take Clay, 3D Drawing or Glassblowing. Tech-minded types can try Coding or Robotics.



## CHALLENGED

- Prairie's smallest class sizes can be found in the Middle School, allowing for the greatest amount of personalization at a time when young people are most developmentally in need of those personal connections.
- Trying new things can be scary, but it's also a way to find an unknown talent or passion. Every Middle School student will sing or play an instrument, learn to throw a football, participate in theater, and take a foreign language.



# UPPER SCHOOL

## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Discovering new ideas and theories; collaborating with master educators; learning the importance of compassion through community service; developing into outstanding communicators and critical problem-solvers; capitalizing on leadership opportunities – these are just a few ways Upper School (US) students become prepared to excel in the next stages of their lives.

Every teacher in Upper School possesses a Master's Degree or higher, a statistic few schools can match. Additionally, with every graduate being accepted to a four-year college or university, Prairie students begin considering their options early. College Counseling begins with Freshmen, and over the next four years, students are given the support and direction needed to make informed, confident decisions.



## KNOWN

- Students kick off each school year with a four-day trip to Camp Manito-wish, where they build relationships and self-confidence by participating in guided outdoor activities.
- Prairie's small Upper School class sizes allow teachers to really get to know their students' preferences and personalities. Familiarizing with each individual's learning style leads to a better mentor/student relationship and a more robust educational experience.



## VALUED

- Whether it's running our daily Morning Meeting or mentoring a younger student as part of Prairie's Buddy Program, leadership comes in dozens of different forms in the Upper School and everyone has the opportunity to step forward.
- Students maintain the integrity, trust, and openness of our community by adhering to the Honor System, a collection of tenets upheld by a student-led Honor Committee.



## SUPPORTED

- Every student benefits from the Advisory Program, where students build 1:1 rapport with a faculty member and a group of peers who regularly gather for discussion, fun, study, and community-building.
- Prairie's relationship-based educational model provides opportunities for connections that enable learning and personal growth: academic assistance from the Compass Team, mental health support from our School Counselor and Psychologist, or individualized training with our Strength & Conditioning Coach.



## CHALLENGED

- An array of Advanced Placement and Malone Schools Online Network classes allows for study of almost any topic – from Economics to Bioethics – at an accelerated level.
- Prairie's no-cut athletics policy means it's always possible to play a new sport, and the variety of available theater and musical performance opportunities allows for participation regardless of skill level.