

ABOUT

The Prairie School is a selective, independent day school located 30 miles south of Milwaukee and 60 miles north of Chicago. The school is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and the only Malone School in Wisconsin, and is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. Prairie is among the most socioeconomically diverse independent schools in the country.

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 work 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.

DISTINCTIVE PRAIRIE OFFERINGS

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Students are required to attend an annual four-day experience in Wisconsin's north woods that kicks off each school year. Each year builds on the one before, developing skills in collaboration, problem-solving, and leadership. From in-camp team building as freshmen to kayaking as seniors, students engage in self-discovery and learn important life lessons.

MALONE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Malone Schools Online Network (MSON) provides intellectually curious and motivated upper-level students with a variety of challenging courses. The courses (often beyond AP-level) are taught by experienced independent school educators and enhance Prairie's college-preparatory curriculum. Each course is limited to 16 participants and requires each student to maintain independence, commitment, and active engagement in a discussion seminar setting. MSON courses are weighted an additional 1.0 point.

J-TERM

Students are required to participate in a J-Term (January) course each of their four years of high school. J-Term offers experiential and hands-on learning experiences that would not be otherwise available in the regular curriculum. The two-week runtime allows for a deep dive into specialized topics meant to broaden students' interests and skillsets. J-Term was established in the fall of 2023.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & BUDDY PROGRAM

Through sustained voluntary efforts, service becomes a life-long commitment. Working together with those they serve, students learn to embrace the commonalities of all humans, overcome bias, develop organizational and leadership skills, and instill a sense of civic responsibility into their daily lives. There is a 25-hour service requirement that must be met each year. Through the Buddy Program, every high school student mentors a middle or primary school student to develop their leadership skills and serve as a role model throughout the school year.

CO-CURRICULAR

Participation in theatre, music, interscholastic athletics, and various clubs supports students' personal growth. Students must engage in at least 75 hours of co-curricular activity each year. In instances where participation in school-sponsored activities is not possible, comparable growth opportunities such as community drama productions and club sports suffice.



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STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

220
Enrollment

14
Average
Class Size

7:1
Student-Faculty
Ratio

5% International

40% Students
of Color

54% Receiving Financial
Assistance

FACULTY BY THE NUMBERS

31 Full-Time
Teaching Faculty

20% Hold Ph.D.s

77% Hold Advanced
Degrees

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Each year, students complete a combination of yearlong and semester long courses. Given the rigorous demands, the standard workload consists of five core academic classes per semester. Students cannot exceed seven courses. Class scheduling often does not permit students to enroll in all courses for which they are eligible. Additional notes for consideration:

- Prairie does not rank its students.
- AP and Malone (MSON) courses are weighted an additional 1.0.
- There are no 9th grade AP courses offered. One AP is offered in 10th. Two are offered in 11th.
- Students may not take more than three AP courses in 12th grade without petitioning.
- With the exception of Chemistry and Intermediate Algebra, all academic courses are taught at the honors level or higher. However, only AP and MSON courses are weighted.
- Inspired by our architecturally-significant building and world-class, permanent art collection, our students graduate with a deep appreciation of the arts. Coursework includes but is not limited to photography, ceramics, glassblowing, visual art, architecture, choir, and theatre.

GRADING

A	/ 4.0	93-100
A-	/ 3.7	90-92
B+	/ 3.3	87-89
B	/ 3.0	83-86
B-	/ 2.7	80-82
C+	/ 2.3	77-79
C	/ 2.0	73-76
C-	/ 1.7	70-72
D+	/ 1.3	67-69
D	/ 1.0	63-66
D-	/ 0.7	60-62
F	/ 0.0	<60

Class of 2026 Profile • Total Class 52 Students

GPA Distribution Through Junior Year	
4.20+	4
4.00-4.19	6
3.70-3.99	14
3.21-3.69	15
<3.20	13

ACT Results (Middle 50%)*	
Composite	20-30
English	20-30
Math	18-27
Reading	21-33
Science	20-30
*38 students accounted for 56 tests taken	

Historical Profile • 2021-2025

Mean GPA Through Junior Year	
2025	3.75
2024	3.71
2023	3.53
2022	3.69
2021	3.43

ACT Composite (Middle 50%)	
2025	21-30
2024	21-29
2023	21-29
2022	22-31
2021	22-28

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- 85% of students in the class of 2026 will have taken at least one AP course.
- 97% of testers earned a passing grade on an AP exam through junior year.
- 77% achieved a 4 or 5.

AP Students with a score of 3+

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
89%	84%	86%

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & CORE ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

22.75 academic credits are required to graduate. Additional requirements include 25 hrs./year of volunteer service, 75 hrs./year of co-curricular activities, a minimum of 3 times/week of physical activity, and a comprehensive long-term research paper in junior year on a historical or literary topic.

World Language

3 credits required

- Chinese 1, 2, 3, 4
- French 1, 2, 3, 4
- Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4
- AP French 5 (language)
- AP Spanish 5 (language)
- Heritage Spanish 1

Mathematics

3 credits required

- Algebra 1 & 2
- Intermediate Algebra
- Accelerated Algebra 2
- Geometry
- Precalculus A
- Precalculus AB
- Calculus
- Probability & Statistics
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- Discrete Mathematics (semester/discrete courses)

Science

3 credits required

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Honors Chemistry
- Physics
- Honors Physics
- Environmental Science (semester/discrete courses)
- Advanced Anatomy & Physiology (semester/discrete courses)
- Architectural Engineering (semester/discrete courses)
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics 2
- Earth Science (semester/discrete courses)

English

4 credits + public speaking required

- English 9, 10, 11, 12
- English 12: Art of Film
- English 12: Literary Labyrinths (semester)
- Public Speaking (semester)
- AP English 12 (literature)

Computer Science

- Computer Science Discoveries (semester)
- Introduction to Data Science (semester)
- AP Computer Science Principles

Social Studies

3 credits required

- History of the Classical World
- History of the Modern World
- U.S. History
- Comparative Religions (semester)
- Economics (semester)
- Government and Politics (semester)
- History on Film (semester)
- History of Warfare (semester)
- AP Comparative Government & Politics (semester)
- AP U.S. History
- AP World History

Visual and Performing Arts*

1.75 credits required

- AP Music Theory
- AP 2-D Art and Design

*only academic courses listed