

Prairie Press

Mr. Tyler Broders - Principal
Kathie Fiorillo - Assistant Principal
Mrs. Jen Young - Secretary
Mrs. Janice Dwyer - Secretary

Dr. Lori Motsch
Superintendent

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dear Nelson Prairie Community,

Welcome back parents and students! I hope all of our students and their families had a safe and enjoyable summer break. It is hard to believe another school year has already started! We have had a great start to this school year. Our students have done a wonderful job adjusting back into the school schedule. We are very proud of them!

I hope you were all able to join us for our Virtual Expectation Night that was held on August 24. If you were unable to attend, please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions.

This year our school-wide theme is *We Are the Prairie D.O.G.S.* - Dedicated, Organized, Growing, Students. As educators and parents, we can provide encouragement and support to make this year successful for every student.

We hope that you will find our website helpful and informative. All of the information for our upcoming school year will be located online at www.nlsd122.org. Our monthly newsletters are emailed to parents at the beginning of each month and a copy will be uploaded to our website. We have also entered dates for all events and activities into our Nelson Prairie calendar which can also be accessed on our website.

Thank you for a great start to the school year and I look forward to growing with you all year long!

Mr. Tyler Broders Mrs. Kathie Fiorillo
Principal Assistant Principal



September Important Dates

3 - Summer Reading Certificates due
6 - National Read a Book Day
6 - Labor Day - NO School
8 - PTO Dine & Donate at Creamery
14 - Young Rembrandts, 3:40 p.m.
16 - PTO Meeting, 7:30 p.m. @ Spencer Trail School
21 - PICTURE Day

September Important Dates

21 - Young Rembrandts, 3:40 p.m.
21 - NLSD 122 Board Meeting at District Office, 6:00 p.m..
24 - 1/2 day of school, 12:15 p.m. dismissal
28 - National Good Neighbor Day
28 - Young Rembrandts, 3:40 p.m.
29 - Midterm - Trimester 1
30 - PTO Dine & Donate at Tom Kelly's

NELSON PRAIRIE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Nelson Prairie School is to prepare all learners with the skills needed to become successful citizens of their community. We will provide our students with a positive learning environment that will enrich the development of each child's social, emotional, and academic growth.

Nelson Prairie Staff

Principal:	Mr. Tyler Broders
Asst. Principal:	Mrs. Kathie Fiorillo
Secretaries:	Mrs. Janice Dwyer Mrs. Jen Young
School Nurse:	Mrs. Andrea Rossborough
1st Grade Teachers:	Ms. Danielle Biedermann Mrs. Diana Ciocci Mrs. Stephanie Haupt Mrs. Susan Oster Ms. Brianna Schultz Mrs. Michele Willis
2nd Grade Teachers:	Mrs. Lauren Dixon Mrs. Tiffany Esser Mrs. Meghann Kloiber Mrs. Gina Losacco Ms. Nancy Mistro Mrs. Tanya Stevens Mrs. Heather Wagner
3rd Grade Teachers:	Ms. Ashley Ballerini Mrs. Liz Deckinga Mrs. Shannon Dughetti Ms. Kelly Eaker Mrs. Ashley Foglton Mrs. Sara Kostro Ms. Leah Roberts
Classroom Aides:	Mrs. Kay Hammond Ms. Gayle Hughes
LD Resource:	Mrs. Julianne Maher Mrs. Kim Ramirez
Speech Pathologist:	Mrs. Kalia Fjeldheim
Social Worker:	Mrs. Janet Willey
Psychologist:	Mrs. Amy Steele
Reading Specialist:	Mrs. Anita Butler
OT:	Ms. Sara Basile
PT:	Mrs. Tracy Riley
Music Teacher:	Ms. Jenny Bendy
Art Teacher:	Mrs. Tammy Kordik
Physical Education:	Mr. Joe Hammond
Library:	Mrs. Claire Lasak
Playground:	Mrs. Tara Calandriello Mrs. Jennifer DePolo Mrs. Adria Kachinsky Mrs. Ivette Robles-Salazar

QUARANTINE INFORMATION

Here are the current CDC quarantine options:

10 days - if your child does not develop any symptoms of COVID, they may return to school after day 10 of the quarantine period. Testing is not required.

7 days - if your child does not develop any symptoms of COVID and has a negative PCR test on day 6 of the quarantine, they may return to school after day 7 of the quarantine period.

Quarantine for a case within the home: If the affected individual lives in the home and is able to isolate from your child, the above quarantine guidelines apply. If you are not able to isolate the affected individual from your child, the quarantine period starts after the affected person's 10-day isolation ends. The reason for this is that the affected person is able to shed the virus for 10 days, which produces the potential for exposure to your child up until the affected person's isolation ends.

Example:

Mom is diagnosed with COVID on May 1st

Mom is contagious until May 10th.

Child's quarantine begins on May 11th and lasts for 7-10 days, depending on whether testing is performed.

Child is able to return to school on May 19th with testing or May 22nd without testing.

Special Circumstances:

Quarantine of 14 days is required in our classes with mask exemptions or in settings where 6 feet is unable to be maintained (Ex: early childhood settings and some self contained special education settings).

Student Absence Information

In order to ensure the safety of your child, we ask that you adhere to the following:

1. If your child will be absent or late to school, please call 815-462-2874 before 9:15 a.m. This is a 24 hour line, so you may leave a message after hours.
2. Please provide the student's name, grade, homeroom teacher, the reason for the absence, the name of the person calling, and the relationship to the student.
3. Calls will be accepted only from the parent or a responsible adult.
4. If a parent or a responsible adult has not contacted the school to report an absence within 45 minutes of the start of the school day, school officials will contact the New Lenox Police Department or Will County Sheriff's Department to perform a non-emergency wellness check on the student.
5. For longer absences, such as vacations or extended illnesses, it is not necessary to call every day. Instead, notify the school of the days your child will be absent.
6. Parents will receive notifications in writing if a student has excessive absences.

Technology Assistance

For those looking for troubleshooting assistance with technology, refer to the NLS122 website under the "Featured Pages" section located on the front page. You may email the NLS122 Tech Support Team for technology assistance at tech-help@nls122.org. When emailing, clearly state the technological issue you are experiencing along with your email address and phone number. Please call the school office with any additional assistance needed.



ACES

Our district is partnering with the New Lenox Park District ACES program. This program takes place at Nelson Prairie School to provide before and after school care. For more information, call 815-485-1737 or www.newlenoxparks.org. Click on programs on the left of the screen, then click on "ACES."

Bell Schedule

Full Day Hours:
9:15 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.



Half Day Hours:
9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Pet Safety



Parents, we love pets at Nelson Prairie; however, due to safety and health reasons please do not bring pets with you when picking up and dropping off students. If walking with your dog to school, please stay a safe distance from students. We recommend waiting on the sidewalk by Nelson Road or Foxwood Drive. Thanks for your cooperation with helping to keep our kids safe!

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Questions regarding the location or status of a bus or student: Please call the Transportation Office at (815) 717 - 3100 (available 7:00 - 4:30).

Questions regarding bus stop or route changes, paid rider busing, general concerns: Please call NLSD122 District Office at (815) 485 - 2169 (available 7:30 - 4:00).

Questions regarding your students: Please call your child's school directly (available until 45 minutes after student dismissal).

If you are not sure who to call, please just call NLSD122 District Office at (815) 485 - 2169 and we will direct your call accordingly.



District 122 Virtual Backpack

New Lenox School District is proud to support the "Going Green" initiative with our virtual backpack. Information regarding activities, special events, and registrations available for school aged children from outside organizations will be posted. You can find the virtual backpack by logging onto our NLSD website at www.nlsd122.org under the parent and students tab.

Summer Reading Program

Our Summer Reading program officially ends on September 3.

Thanks to all who participated! You will need to turn in your reading certificate to our school by September 3. A prize for those who participated will be sent home the week of September 13.



Spirit Wear Sale

Our online spirit wear store will be open soon!
Watch your email in September for more information.

Preschool Screenings

New Lenox School District will be screening children from ages three to five in the areas of motor, concepts, and speech and language development. Please contact the Cherry Hill office at 815-462-7831 for more information on preschool screening for the 2021-2022 school year.

Prairie Picture Day!

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
Picture Retake Day - Tuesday, November 2, 2021



School Lunches

NLSD122 partners with Quest Food Management Services, Inc. to provide high quality, nutritious box lunches. The weekly menus offer a great variety of nutritious options.

All lunches will be free for all students and children under 18 in the community for the 2021-2022 school year.



Information on the school lunch program can be found under the NLSD website at www.nlsd122.org located under the parents and students tab. Menus and ordering information can be found under the NLSD website located under the schools tab with your child's school. **Please note that in order for your child to receive a school lunch, it must be pre-ordered.**

Please contact your school building or District Office for any additional information needed.

MILK

To avoid any confusion with our milk options here at school. There are 3 kinds...it is all optional, too!

1. **Snack Milk:** This milk is **provided in the classrooms** during snack time. An order form will be sent home on the first day of school. Please be sure to send this to school with your child(ren). The cost of snack milk is \$52.20 per student for the entire school year and you select the flavor of milk on the form.

2. **Lunch Time Milk:** This milk can be purchased DAILY for \$.30 in the lunchroom to go along with a sack lunch. **CASH** will only be accepted and will be carried by the student to lunch.

3. **Box Lunch Milk:** If your child receives a box lunch, milk is part of the entrée. If your child has milk allergies, a doctor's note must be on file with our school nurse in order to receive a bottled water.



***Snack Milk and Lunch Time Milk are not included in the free school lunch program**



NEWS FROM OUR NURSE

Welcome back to school! As the 2021-2022 school year begins, please be sure to familiarize yourself with our District's general health procedures that are outlined in the *Health and Related Information* section of the Parent/Student Handbook.

MEDICATION:

Important to note is our medication policy. Our District's Board of Education has adopted a strict medication policy and requires a Student Medication Authorization Form to be completed by the physician and parent for **any medication** to be taken in school, including prescription as well as over-the-counter medications. (*Please note that over-the-counter medications such as Children's Tylenol and Children's Motrin are not supplied by the school.). If it is necessary for your child to take medication during school hours, please contact the Nurse's office.

FOOD ALLERGIES REQUIRING AN EPIPEN:

Children who have food allergies requiring an EpiPen are required to have an emergency action plan in place. If your child has a food allergy requiring an EpiPen, please make sure to turn in a completed ILLINOIS FOOD ALLERGY EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN AND TREATMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM. The form must be completed by a licensed health care provider and the parent/guardian.

I am always happy to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to contact me at 815-462-7808, or by email arossborough@nlsd122.org.

Mrs. Andrea Rossborough, RN

Nelson Prairie Nurse



From the Artists Studio

Welcome back to the 2021-22 school year! ! My name is Mrs. Kordik , and I am the Art teacher at Nelson Prairie and Nelson Ridge Schools. I am so excited to start the new school year in our Art Room! Your child will have Art every other day, two or three times a week for six weeks at a time.

We alternate this schedule with Music and Ms. Bendy, our Music teacher, (for instance, when I am at Prairie, Ms. Bendy will be at Ridge and vice versa).

All Art lessons are based on both the Illinois and National Visual Art Standards. Each grade level explores the elements and principles of Art. Each grade level also explores a variety of media. Art history, artists, and cultural art are an important part of the experiences.

I am looking forward to helping our students explore their creativity! I hope you have a great start to the school year!



Mrs. Kordik
Nelson Campus Art Teacher

"NOTE" WORTHY NEWS FROM THE PRAIRIE MUSIC ROOM

I hope everyone's school year is off to a great start. Students will be exploring the exciting world of music while singing, moving, playing instruments, and creating compositions on SeeSaw!

Students will be distinguishing the difference between rhythm and steady beat. We will be using body percussion and playing the sixteenth notes through folk songs. In addition, students will also be working on being able to keep a steady beat with movement and adding in percussion instruments using the book, Mortimer by Robert Muncsh and Rumble in the Jungle Giles Andreae.! By understanding the relationship between pitches, students will be able to figure out how to sing a simple melody using solfege.

Ms. Bendy
Nelson Campus Music Teacher



Lines from the LRC

Welcome back to another exciting year! I am thrilled to announce that our libraries are open and ready to welcome your child. My name is Claire Lasak, and I will be your child's librarian this school year. This will be my eleventh year working in the New Lenox School District and my third year as a librarian.

Students will be visiting the library for a thirty-minute session each week. During that time they will be taught library skills, read literature, and borrow books. The children will begin borrowing books the week of August 30th. All books are due one week from the day they are checked out. Books may be renewed, but the student must bring the book to the library in order to do so.

Students in first grade will begin by borrowing one book and then move up to two books mid-September. Students in second and third grades are able to check out up to two books. If new books are needed before the next check out date, they are more than welcome to visit the library and select new books. If a student is absent on their library day, they can return their books when they return to school.

The library is always in need of volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, or have any questions, please email me at: clasak@nlsd122.org

Thanks for reading!

Mrs. Lasak
Nelson Prairie Librarian



Welcome Back Students & Families to the 2021-22 school year!!

I hope you are as excited as I am to begin a new school year! My name is Mrs. Willey and I am the School Social Worker at Nelson Prairie School. This is my 10th year in the district and 18th year as a School Social Worker. My role at Prairie is multifaceted. I work with students at the classroom, group, and individual levels, as well as, with families, administrators, and outside agencies.

If you have any questions you can
contact me at jwilley@nlsd122.org

Mrs. Willey



The Character Corner

The School Social Worker will visit each grade level during the first week of the month for the entire school year presenting lessons from the *Safe & Caring Schools (CSC)* curriculum, while incorporating the six character traits, from the *Character Counts!* program. Lessons will focus on a certain skill, and character trait, which will be reinforced with an activity and class discussion. Please stay tuned to the Social Work Spotlight, and The Character Corner, in the monthly newsletters to read more about the highlighted skill, character trait, and ideas for reinforcement at home.

According to the Safe & Caring Schools (SCS) website, "the program complements and enhances the academic training students receive at school and is based upon sound Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) practices that target competencies in (1) self-awareness, (2) social awareness, (3) relationship skills, and (4) responsible decision making."

For the month of September, the students will be exposed to all the character traits (respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship) and the SCS skills of, *Me and My Safe & Caring School*, where classroom expectations and community and belonging will be highlighted.

I hope you will enjoy talking with your child(ren) about these skills and traits, as much as I have in presenting the lessons!



INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE

1. Our office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We are here to assist you and your child.
2. Remember to bring your photo identification when picking up your child from school. Your cooperation in this matter is beneficial to the safety of all our students and staff.
3. If you miss a ConnectEd automated message, call 1-877-REPLAY-1. (1-877-737-5291).
4. Whenever your child's routine will be changing, please call the office or send a note to inform the teacher and office staff. For example, if your child usually rides the bus home, but you will be picking him/her up from school that day, please call the office or send a note.

NLSD122 PTO CORNER

nlstd122pto@gmail.com



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

There will be another opportunity for calendars. Please make sure to be on the lookout for a form coming soon. We will have calendars to purchase at the September PTO meeting.

We have a lot of fun things planned for this year. Check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

If you would like to get involved with the PTO please visit our website.

Let's get involved in the PTO! The New Lenox School District 122 Parent Teacher Organization is a group of staff representatives from each of our 12 schools, District office, and parents who are invested in helping enhance the school district that our children attend.

Please join us for our monthly meetings, which are held every third Thursday of the month. The meetings will rotate from 9:30 a.m and 7:30 p.m. every month. Our next meeting is September 16th @ 7:30 p.m at Spencer Trail.

Check our website for any additional information:
<http://www.newlenoxpto.org>



UPCOMING EVENTS
September 8, 2021
Creamery New Lenox
4-9p.m.

Celebrity scooper, Mayor Tim
Baldermann 4-6:30p.m.
Celebrity scooper,
Dr. Motsch 6:30-9p.m.

September 30, 2021 Tom
Kelley's Dine and Donate

PARENTS + TEACHERS

SUCCESSFUL KIDS



Join in the Spanish Fun Afterschool at Nelson Prairie in October!

Spanish Quest is the #1 choice for New Lenox parents with proven success fostering 2nd language acquisition & learning for almost 30 years in our high quality, acclaimed programs. We will help your child learn and experience another language and culture all while having fun!

Our methods of teaching include, dynamic retention approach, voice recognition, and TPR coupled with bilingual and cultural immersion, play-based learning, and activities presented in a natural-context! Our language programs are affordable and convenient, provided virtually or right on-site at your school.

At **Nelson Prairie** our 24-week afterschool program begins in October and runs through May. Please look out for our registration flyer coming to you very soon in your child's school folder. It will give you all the information needed to reserve your spot in our program this year. For more information or to register online, please visit www.spanishladderandquest.org. Call our office today with any questions at (630) 229-0422!

Did you know that learning a second language at an early age has so many benefits? The younger children are when they learn a new language, the more probable it is that they will achieve native-like pronunciation. Research shows that learning a second language encourages empathy and boosts cognitive brain function. It has also been correlated with better academic outcomes--such as improved reading ability in sixth-graders, improved scores on the ACT/SAT, and academic success in college for high school students.

