



PRAIRIE KNOLLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

225 Nesler Road, Elgin, IL 60124 Phone: 847-717-8100 Fax: 847-717-8105

Principal: Mr. Matt Newquist

Assistant Principal: Ms. Megan Minehart Assistant Principal: Ms. Tamara Proberts

September 2024 Falcon Flyer

Important Dates

September 3-6
Map Testing

September 6
Fall Sports
Picture Day

September 11
Back to School
Night -6th Grade
5:30 pm.

September 12
301 Design Dive
At PK - 6:00pm.

September 16-20
Homecoming
Week

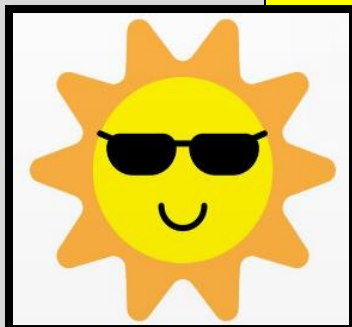
September 23
School Board
Meeting 6:00 pm.

September 25
Student Half Day

Back to School
Night - 7th Grade
5:30 pm.



**The future is so bright at
PKMS we need to wear
shades!!**



Mr. Newquist's Message

Falcon Families,

The school year is off to a great start, and we are all beginning to settle back into the school year routine. As we enter the month of September students are becoming more comfortable with their back-to-school adjustment. The hallways are buzzing, students are traveling their schedules and locating their classes quickly, and lockers are being opened on the first try!

I'd like to formally invite Prairie Knolls families to our upcoming "Back to School Nights." We are doing things a little differently this year as PK is set to host two "Back to School Nights," one for 6th Grade families and one for 7th Grade families. Holding a grade level night will allow parents/guardians to travel their students' schedules and visit with each of their child's teachers. This presents parents/guardians with the opportunity to have a more in depth understanding of what each of their child's classes has to offer. 6th Grade is set for Wednesday, September 11, and 7th Grade for Wednesday, September 25.

We are in the midst of finishing up our first administration of NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP). The MAP assessments will be administered three times per year (Fall, Winter, Spring). These assessments will help us efficiently gather performance data, set personalized student growth goals, and track student's growth over time.

Family involvement is important to us at Prairie Knolls, so I want to take the opportunity to share what our school goals are for the school year.

Goal 1: Enhance meaningful family engagement by fostering stronger relationships between families and the school community, thereby supporting student achievement and well-being.

Goal 2: We will demonstrate growth in our special populations in classroom achievement.

Goal 3: 80% of students will score 80% or higher on each Mathematics summative assessment.

In addition to these schoolwide goals, we are always looking to provide opportunities for our students to become involved in the school community. Falcon athletics are underway as the football, volleyball, and cross-country teams have opened up competition. We also have school activities such as STAR, Student Council, Yearbook, and Art Club which will be up and running shortly. If your student is interested in becoming involved, ask! The more your student can become engaged in middle school, the better. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact myself, Ms. Minehart, or Ms. Proberts.

Go Falcons!

General News Items

News From the Nurse

Welcome back!

My name is Lauren Sak, and I am the School Nurse at PKMS. I am so excited to meet all of our students new to PKMS and to reconnect with our returning 7th graders. I am looking forward to working with all of you to make this school year a healthy and successful one. If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 847-717-8103 or email me at lauren.sak@central301.net.



All 6th grade students *and* students new to the state of IL are required to have updated physicals and immunizations on file by October 15, 2024. Beginning October 16th, all non-compliant students will be excluded from school until these documents are received. If you have any questions or need assistance with physical/immunizations, please let me know.

All the Health Requirements and forms for District 301 can be found on our website at:

<https://central301.net/student-services/health-services/>

News from the Office

Reporting an Absence or Late Arrival

Student absences and late arrivals can be reported to the PK office 24/7 by using our new attendance specific email address of pkattendance@central301.net or by calling the PKMS office at 847-717-8100 and following the prompts to the Attendance Voicemail. Our attendance email is the preferred method of communication however, you may call the office during our regular office hours if necessary. It is recommended that you notify the school of any absence prior to 9:00 am. Please include the student's name, ID number, your name and relationship to the student, along with specific reasons and/or symptoms.

Students who arrive late will be required to sign-in using the QR code posted in the front entrance with their cell phone.

Picking up a Student Early

If you need to pick up your student early from school, it is recommended that you send a note. This note should include the student's name, pickup time, grade, and the person picking up the student. This note should be brought to the main office first thing in the morning. You must call the office if someone other than the student's parent/guardian will be picking up, an ID will be requested from this person. You will be required to sign-out your student using the QR code. After the verification process is complete, the student will be called down. Allow extra time for this process. If your student is returning to school, e.g.,

an orthodontist or doctor's appointment, please bring a note back with you from their office.

Dropping Off an Item for a Student

There is a Drop Off Zone cart in the front entrance vestibule. Be sure to have the item labeled with the student's name and grade. Place it on the shelf corresponding to the grade. If we have not acknowledged your drop off, press the intercom button to let the office know you have dropped an item off. We will then retrieve the item from the cart and notify the student.



Illness During School Hours

If a student is ill during the day, the student must report to the Nurse's Office. Students should not arrange for parents/ guardians to pick them up without having been seen by the nurse. The nurse will assess the situation and will call the parents.



September 23-27, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
Evening hours Wednesday, 8-25

It's Book Fair time! We're turning up the volume on this year's Fair with more books, more choices, and more fun than ever before. Don't forget to set up an eWallet for easy, worry free shopping. #ScholasticBookFairs

6th Grade Team News

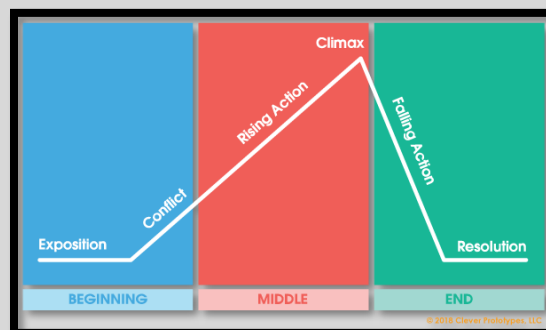
Math: We have had a fabulous start to 6th grade! In math, students are starting the year off learning about operations with decimals and fractions, least common multiple, greatest common factor, the distributive property, and how we can use these operations in daily life. Try it! How many 1/8-pound servings are in three 1/2 pounds of chocolate?

Science: It's been a great start to the school year and students are navigating their way through our Science and Engineering Unit. In this unit students are asked to make observations that lead to inferences. Inferencing is something we all do everyday and is very important in the world of science. Other areas covered will utilize measurements so we can calculate area, volume, mass, and density.

Social Studies: The year has gotten off to a great start! This month in SS we will be learning about Ancient China's history and its geography, philosophies, and achievements. Students will be learning how history is setting the stage to repeat itself throughout this year's historical studies. Stay tuned!



ELA: It has been a great start to ELA! Students have focused on how to annotate a text and what characteristics make up different genres and formats of books. Moving forward in our first unit, students will be studying plot, characterization, and character change. We will also be comparing and contrasting texts of different genres to analyze their portrayal of the same topic. Be sure to keep up with your 20 minutes of independent reading at home, students! Also, parents—we need your help! If you notice your child is struggling to read at home, please help them find a routine, comfy spot. Encourage them to read. Praise them when they do. Sometimes it takes a team effort, so thank you for your support!



7th Grade Team News

ELA: ELA is excited about starting this new school year! Students have chosen a book they want to read and will be getting time in class each day for independent reading. Our first whole-class read aloud has gotten underway or will be started very soon. With the first read aloud, we are exploring the genre of realistic fiction in a story where the main character demonstrates the character trait “determination”—this aligns with our first thematic unit. Before diving into that unit, we’re starting the year with building writing stamina and reviewing the basics for several topics: explanatory writing, revising skills, and literary elements (such as plot, theme, setting, conflict, and characterization).

Math: Math welcomes new faces to the department and are ready to start the school year on a great note! Students are working on gathering their materials to start the yearly interactive notebook. This notebook will pair with new frequent movement-based activities that promote problem-solving skills. Students are navigating through daily procedures along with some non-curricular based activities to support working in groups. Math 7’s First Unit (Rational Numbers) will be covering operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Compacted Math 7’s first unit (Real Numbers) covers rational and irrational numbers, approximating square roots, and using square roots and cube roots. This is the longest unit for the school year, so we encourage students who are absent, struggle, or fall behind to reach out to their math teacher for support!

Science: Students are starting the year learning how to be successful scientists. We studied metric measurement, lab safety, and the scientific method. Next, seventh-grade scientists will investigate what characteristics make something alive and use evidence to support their claims. They will then use scientific tools to organize and classify organisms. Towards the end of September, the 7th graders will discover a new organism and apply what they have learned about the characteristics and needs of living things.

Social Studies: The launch point of our new year will begin with our first unit on Explorers. During this unit, students will study the early explorers and their different voyages. They will also be learning about the Columbian Exchange and participating in a simulation where they will try to acquire various goods in order to show how difficult it was to acquire different items during this time. This will be their first simulation of the year, and it is always one that is exciting. The end of the unit will culminate in their first project where students will choose an explorer to research and create a post about.

Encore Team News

Physical Education Uniforms

The Physical Education teachers handed out PE uniforms on Tuesday, September 3rd. Any student that has not paid for their uniform needs to do so in Skyward. In order to pay online, follow these steps:

- Log into your skyward family account
- Click on "Fee Management"
- Click on "Add a Fee"
- Scroll down to PE Shirt and/or PE Short

After completing this purchase, please email your child's PE teacher to let them know that a payment was made. Teachers do not automatically receive a notification.

* Please note that the PE Staff only distributed one set of uniforms for now. If you ordered two or three uniforms for your child, the second and third set will be distributed in a few days.

Falcon Athletics/Activities

7th Grade Football Coaches: Jordan Pastorik and Doug Remrey

6th-8th Grade Cross Country Coach: Brent Ferstl

7th Grade Volleyball Coaches: Amy Bender and David Brannstrom

Fall Sports Picture Day: Friday, September 6, 2024

[Picture Day Order Link](#) – Order Code: 90505RA

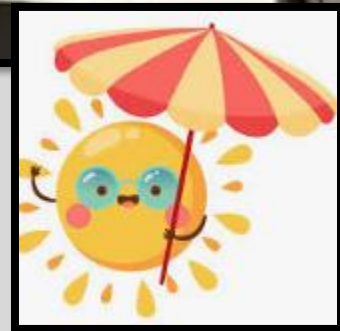
[PK/CMS Cross Country – Track and Field, Web Site](#)

[North Central Junior Conference \(Schedules\)](#)

Heat Day Fun



On a heat day, flexibility is the name of the game for us Falcons—because when things heat up, we’ve got to be cool enough to adjust our plans on the “fly”! Due to the extreme heat, instead of following a shortened schedule, PK students were organized into two engaging grade-level rotations. In one rotation, students attended an assembly, where they reviewed PK expectations, learned about Falcon Feathers, and participated in some fun activities designed to foster camaraderie and community spirit. (Ask your child what a Falcon Feather is and how they can earn them!) The second rotation focused on a creative project where each classroom was assigned a letter from our school slogan for the year: "Learning to Fly, Ready to Soar, PKMS 2024." Students decorated their letters with reflections on what it means to be a Falcon, what makes PK special, and the significance of being part of the PK and Central community. Each classroom then voted on the best letter, which will be proudly displayed in a PK common area.



Attached is the Prairie Knolls Middle School Traffic Flow for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please review the map to assist with these directions:

[Prairie Knolls Middle School Traffic Flow Map](#)

Student DROP OFF - PKMS Doors open at 7:50 AM

- Cars will enter the PK campus through the main entrance (lot by the football field).
- Upon entering, cars will travel along the perimeter of the athletic/activities parking lot.
- Cars will travel around the football parking lot, past the Student Loading Zone and enter two-way traffic.
- Cars will continue to travel until they reach the marked turnaround near the staff parking lot.
- Here, they will complete the turn, and travel back towards the Student Loading Zone (Door 25).
- Here, we ask that cars pull all the way up.
Drop your students off on the sidewalk outside of Door 25.
- Once the student(s) has been dropped off, cars will continue moving forward to exit campus.
- **Door 25 will be shut and locked at 8:05 AM.** If you arrive after 8:05, students need to go to Door #1.
- When exiting the campus, we ask that cars make a **right hand turn only** onto Nesler.
Making a right hand turn when exiting the campus will aid in overall traffic flow.
- If you are arriving late to school (past 8:05), we ask that you have your student enter the building through Door 1 (as mentioned above).

Student PICK UP - PKMS Students are dismissed at 2:43 PM




- We ask that you follow the same traffic flow as Student Drop off.
- Students being picked up from school will exit the building through Door 25.
- The Student Pick Up flow will conclude by 3:15 PM.
- After 3:15 PM, parents will be able to pick their student up at Door 1.

Bus DROP OFF - Buses will release students at 7:55 AM

- Buses will pull into the PKMS bus lot between 7:45 - 7:55 AM.
- At 7:55 AM, buses will release all students to enter the building.
- All bus students will enter through Doors 4, 6, or 7. There will be a teacher stationed at each door.

Walkers and Bike Riders - Students will enter through Doors 4, 6, or 7

- When entering campus, all students must travel using the crosswalk(s) until they reach a sidewalk (bike riders must walk bikes).
- Walkers and bike riders are able to enter the building through the side doors. These include **Doors 4, 6, and 7.** **These doors will open at 7:55 AM.** If a biker/walker arrives before 7:55 AM, they will need to enter at Door 25.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5	6
LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	Nachos: Beef or Black Bean Cold: Turkey Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Spicy Chicken Salad Vegetables: Black Bean Salsa Shredded Lettuce & Tomatoes Fruit: Applesauce	French Bread Pizza: Cheese or Pepperoni Cold: Turkey Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Taco Salad Vegetables: Cucumbers Radish Peas Fruit: Oranges	Cheese Ravioli (3) Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Grilled Chicken Salad Vegetables: Carroteenies Roasted Zucchini Fruit: Melon	Hamburger / Cheeseburger Cold: Turkey Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Breaded Chicken Salad Vegetables: Fries Cauliflower Tomatoes Fruit: Strawberries
9	10	11	12	13
Potstickers: Chicken or Vegetable Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Vegetables: Broccoli Radishes Cucumber Slices Fruit: Pear	Pancakes & Syrup (Choice of Sausage or Yogurt) Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Breaded Chicken & Cheese Wrap Vegetable: Hash Brown (2) Juice Box Fruit: Orange	Sliced Pizza: Cheese or Pepperoni Cold: Turkey Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Breaded Chicken Salad Vegetables: Carroteenies Cauliflower & Celery Fruit: Apple	Torpedo meatball sub 5", mozzarella cheese, sauce Cold: Turkey Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap Vegetable: Garden Salad Green Beans Fruit: Strawberries	Hot Dog on a Bun Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Spicy Chicken Salad Vegetables: Veggie Beans Fries Fruit: Melon (Variety)
16	17	18	19	20
Chicken Tenders (3): Regular or Spicy Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Vegetables: Vegetarian beans Carroteenies Fruit: Orange	Twin Taco's w/ cheese: Beef or Bean Cold: Turkey Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Spicy Chicken & Cheese Wrap Vegetable: Sweet Pepper strips Lettuce & tomatoes Fruit: Apple	Bosco Breadsticks (2): Cheese or Pepperoni Cold: Turkey Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Taco Salad Vegetable: Corn Celery Fruit: Pears	Chicken Alfredo & Noodles Alfredo with Noodles and a Cheese Stick Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Grilled chicken Caesar Wrap Vegetables: Broccoli Florets Peas Fruit: Melon (Variety)	Chicken Patty Sandwich Grilled Chicken Sandwich Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Breaded Chicken Salad Vegetable: Fries Green Beans Fruit: Grapes
23	24	25	26	27
Orange Chicken w/ Brown Rice Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Vegetable: Broccoli Florets Roasted Zucchini Fruit: Orange	Nacho: Chicken or Bean Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Vegetable: Black Bean Salsa Shredded Lettuce & Tomatoes Fruit: Pears	NO LUNCH	Chicken Parm Sandwich Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Grilled Chicken Wrap (Caesar) Vegetable: Green Beans Carroteenies Fruit: Pears / Grapes	Hamburger / Cheeseburger Cold: Turkey Cheese Sandwich Large Salad/ Wrap: Breaded Chicken Salad Vegetable: Fries Cauliflower Tomatoes Fruit: Melon (Variety)
30	MIDDLE SCHOOL MENU - SEPTEMBER 2024			
Chicken & Waffles with Syrup Cold: Ham & Cheese Sandwich Vegetable: Waffle Fries Carroteenies Fruit: Apple	Offered Daily Plant Based - Chicken Patties Uncrustables Grape or Strawberry Garden Side Salad, Carroteenies Fresh Fruit, Fruit Cup, Fruit Juice Box 1% Low-Fat White Milk, Fat Free Chocolate	Lunch Prices Student: \$3.30 Reduced: \$4.40 Adult: \$3.95 Milk: \$4.40		
				



Learning to Fly, Ready to Soar, PKMS 2024

Join Us for the 301 Design Dive: Diving into the Plans for Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle and High School

The Central 301 community is invited to participate in an interactive conversation to shape the future for our students, staff and community. This isn't just about a proposed new high school building, it's an opportunity to look at blueprints to see the potential layouts for the following:

- Prairie Knolls as a 5th elementary school
- The current Central Middle School building as an early childhood center
- The current Central High School as a unified Middle School

At the "301 Design Dive," you'll have the opportunity to explore blueprints and designs, plus share your feedback and engage in discussions with district leaders and neighbors. This is more than a presentation—it's a hands-on opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions you might have.

Join us on September 11th at Central High School or September 12th at Prairie Knolls Middle School, from 6 PM to 8 PM.

Light refreshments will be provided. Please fill out the [sign-up form](#) to let us know you'll be attending. We value your input as we move forward together.

301 Design Dive

Shaping the Future for Our Students, Staff and Community

- September 11 - Central High School
- September 12 - Prairie Knolls Middle School
- Both Days 6 PM - 8 PM

An interactive conversation where you can

- View the Blueprints
- Share Feedback
- Engage in Dynamic Discussion

