



Prairie Elementary School

September 2020 Newsletter



Welcome Back, Prairie Families!

Our teachers and students are doing an amazing job with our new safety precautions, and we are very proud of our students and staff.

Just a few reminders:

1. Please be sure to complete the APS Home COVID screening daily with your student before coming to school. This data is for your records, and does not need to be turned in to school.
2. School begins at 8:35, and dismissal is at 2:00. Students should not be on school grounds until 8:25.
3. If you are dropping your student off late or picking them up early, please come to the front door and ring the buzzer. Parents will not be able to enter the building.
4. If a student forgets a necessary item at home, parents may bring it to the office.
5. Birthday Treats must be store-bought and prepackaged. Home-made foods cannot be given to other students.

September 17 is Constitution Day

On this date in 1787, our Founding Fathers signed the U.S. Constitution. Be sure to ask your student about the special programming they had today, and check out <https://constitutioncenter.org/learn/civic-calendar/constitution-day-civic-holiday> for virtual events and educational videos.

What's Happening in September

NWEA testing—Our testing window begins in mid-September, with older grades going first. Both in person and virtual students will take these tests (more info to come for virtual students).

Tips to Help Your Child Prepare for Tests

1. Make sure that your child is in school during the testing sessions. Do not plan any doctor or dental appointments on test dates.
2. Encourage your child to listen carefully to all test-taking directions given by the teacher and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.
3. See that your child gets his/her regular amount of sleep before the tests and is well-rested.
4. Make sure that your child eats his/her usual breakfast on the day of the test. Hunger can detract from a good test performance.
5. Encourage your child to do his/her best.
6. Make sure that you are aware of your child's performance and that you can help interpret the results when they become available.
7. If there are major differences between last years standardized test scores and this years school grades, find out why before the test.



For a full list of Back to School FAQs, go to adrianmaples.org/backtoschool.

Scholastic reports that 40% of kids 6-11 say their parents don't read aloud to them, and they wish they did. Keep reading to your older kids, and let them hear you think out loud. Make a prediction, comment on a character, or ask a question. You're showing your child that reading is an active process.

1. **What is NWEA?** A nonprofit organization founded by researchers and educators to provide the best possible assessment tools. 60% of Michigan schools use NWEA's MAP Growth testing.
2. **How does the test work?** This is a computer-adaptive test, which means that it starts with a question at the student's grade level, and gets easier or harder depending on whether or not the student answers correctly.
3. **How long does the test take?** Most students finish in under an hour.
4. **How does Prairie use NWEA test scores?** MAP growth scores help teachers track student progress, set goals, and group students together who are at similar instruction levels. It also helps us see how our students are performing and progressing as a whole.
5. **Where can I get more information?** Go to nwea.org or contact our PCC, Cathy Land, at cland@adrian.k12.mi.us or 517-265-5082 ext. 3435
6. **When will I get my student's results?** Student progress reports similar to the one below will be passed out at fall conferences in October.

