



<https://prescottparents.com/> (773) 534-5505

**2019 National Blue Ribbon School**, Golden Apple Award Winner, 8 National Board Certified Teachers, 18 Google Certified Educators, Excelling Creative (Arts) Schools Certificate, Fully Healthy School

# Prescott School

Emails for this newsletter were pulled from Aspen on 8/2/22. If you have an updated email, please contact Clerk Ms. Williams at [clpalmer6@cps.edu](mailto:clpalmer6@cps.edu).

August 12, 2022

Prescott families and friends,

Greetings! In recent newsletters, I've written about the history of grading policy and practices at Prescott as well introducing one of several updates to the proposed grading policy and practices. Today, I'll continue to share the proposed changes. Thanks to the many teachers who have initiated the work, including Haley Birnbaum, Tayler Showalter, Nesy Moos, Kelly Abolt, Jennifer Phares, and to many others for their input. In June, I met with the *Student Voice Committee* to get helpful feedback from many students. At the July LSC meeting, parent and community representatives also shared helpful insights. Much of the school's grading policy and practices is founded on *Grading for Equity* by Joe Feldman. The below has been abbreviated for space considerations.

## **Purpose of Prescott School's grading policy**

Prescott's grading policy is grounded in **accuracy, bias resistance, and self-determination**, so students are empowered to achieve high, holistic growth. The school expects each students' grades to represent their mastery of concepts and content. Teachers, parents, and staff engage with students to facilitate their holistic growth across disciplines, including the arts and physical education, as well as social-emotional learning (SEL). Ultimately, students are responsible for their learning.

## **Proposed grading scale**

### Prescott Grading Requirements

► Grading Scale: Rubric score

90-100 A 100

80-89 B 89

70-79 C 79

69-50 F 69

(F cannot be below 50 points in Gradebook)

## **Rationale for the proposed scale**

- The district has adopted a school rating system that includes GPA
- GPA and standardized tests predict future performance, but GPA is a stronger predictor
- The report card lists D as "Does not Meet Standards" but still as passing. The CPS promotion policy also states that D or F in Reading or

Math means a student goes to summer school. This proposal eliminates that contradictory message.

- The proposal maintains a high floor of 70% to pass.
- This proposal eliminates the confusing cutoffs of B (83/84) and C (74/75) to base 10 (79/80 and 69/70)

### **Current grading scale**

#### Prescott Grading Requirements

##### ► Grading Scale:

90-100 A

84-89 B

75-83 C

70-74 D

69-0 F

(F receives 50 points in Gradebook)

### **Rationale (from 2010)**

- Establishes a high floor of 70% to pass
- Establishes a 50 for an F to avoid inequitable grading practice of a 0
- Distributes B, C, D between 70% and 90%.
- Establishes 90% for an A, so 7th graders who apply to selective enrollment high schools do not lose points with a 91 or 92 as a B.

Part 1 (7/29): The history of grading policy at Prescott School

Part 2 (8/5): The purpose and the three pillars of Prescott's grading policy

Part 3 (8/12): The current and proposed grading scales

Part 4 (8/19): Best practices in grading

Part 5 (8/26): Expected outcomes of the proposed grading policy

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*Prescott School is accepting a few students for enrollment in grades 2-7 until September 2nd. Kindergarten and 1st grades are full). Invite families and friends to benefit from Prescott's learning and community! Send an email to Clerk Ms. Williams at [cpalmer6@cps.edu](mailto:cpalmer6@cps.edu) to begin enrolling.*  
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*Moving forward, our 8th graders will take Algebra. They will benefit tremendously from a one or two year Algebra experience in 8th grade (and possibly 9th grade). Research shows overwhelmingly that a positive, deep Algebra foundation leads to deep high school math learning (higher GPA) as well as more math courses, high school and college completion, and even higher lifetime earnings (Consortium on Chicago School Research, various reports). At Prescott, we're eager for all our 8th graders to benefit from Teacher Ms. Page's Algebra expertise!*

Erin Roche, Principal

Meghan Breyer, Assistant Principal

<https://twitter.com/PrescottCPS>

[In 2016 and 2019, Chicago Magazine ranked Prescott in the top 15 schools in the city](#)

[In 2018 and 2019, Prescott was one of few schools among 700+ to be named a fully Healthy School](#)

Supply lists can be found here

## **Calendar of upcoming events**

### **August**

15 Teachers return officially to prepare for the school year

17 SECAs return officially to prepare for the school year

18 Popsicle party at Wrightwood Park 4:30pm

18 Scavenger hunt for Kindergarten and new students in grades 1-8 at 4pm

22 First day of classes for all K-8 students  
29 Practice begins for Boys 5/6th grade soccer team, the 7/8th boys soccer team, and the girls and boys cross-country team  
29-Sept 2: Spirit Week

### **September**

1-3 Spirit Week  
1 Curriculum Night grades K-5 at 5pm (online)  
2 Field Day (wear your class' color)  
5 School closed in observation of Labor Day  
13 School Tour at 9am (Volunteer Level 2 required to visit classrooms-- register below)  
15 Curriculum Night grades 6-8 (online)  
21 Quarter 1 Progress Reports go home

***Click below for the Prescott School 2022-23 Calendar***

**Prescott School 2022-23  
Calendar**

**Register as Level 2 Volunteer as  
required for school tour**

**Right At School provides before/after-school enrichment programs** that are different from others in our industry. As we often say, we go the extra MILE, which is our mission statement. In other words, we are Mission-Led, meaning we are passionate about and work toward the same goal of helping children and parents, Innovation Driven, we are constantly improving our programs so children can get the most out of their time with us, Locally-Inspired, our programs are tailored to the communities where they are located, and Efficiency-Obsessed as we love to get things done!

**Enroll at Right at School before and after-school care**

### **8th grade offering of Chicago Test Prep at Prescott School**

This course is designed to prepare students for the high school entrance exams requires for Selective Enrollment, Parochial and Independent High Schools. The course reviews the math, reading, language and vocabulary content on the HS Entrance Exams as well as test taking strategies. Students will complete homework assignments between sessions to reinforce the in-class topics that are covered.

The course goals are to prepare students for the high school entrance exam content as well as provide students with test taking strategies. Additionally, a goal of the course is to help students feel more confident and less nervous when testing. The end goal is for students to score well on the high school entrance exams so they have multiple high school options.

The course fee is \$535. Please see the registration link below. The school will arrange for need-based scholarships for financial-aid eligible students.

**Register here for Chicago Test Prep**

**Click to get connected to free internet**

# for families in need.

## Counselor's Corner

**Rising 8th grade families:** Information about this fall's GoCPS applications was recently released by CPS. Ms. Mathews will be sending more information soon, but in case you want to do some research this summer, head to the [Prescott High School Application Website](#) for frequently updated information on all types of Chicago high schools and important dates/deadlines.

**New dates of note:** 9/14 - GoCPS applications open, 10/26 - 8th graders take the CPS HS Admissions exam, 12/2 - GoCPS applications close

If families are in need of additional mental health support over the summer, please consider these resources:

- CPS Student Safety & Security Hotline: 773.553.3335
- [Safe2Help](#) Illinois
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.8255 (TALK) (English) / 1.888.628.9454 (Spanish)
- Crisis Text Line (for students and adults): Text "home" to 741-741 / [www.crisistextline.org](http://www.crisistextline.org)
- Trevor Project (for LGBTQ+ individuals): 866.488.7386 or text "start" to 678-678

If families are interested in eye exams this summer, Ageless Eyecare is offering exams and glasses. See the flyer for more information. [English](#) / [Spanish](#)

### [Counseling Referral Form](#)

## Congratulations! Thank you! Help needed!

### **Volunteers needed to weed flower beds**

To get the flower beds ready for the Garden Club to plant this fall, we need 2-5 volunteers to weed them before Wednesday, August 17. Please email NU Fellow Missy Aminu at [moaminu1@cps.edu](mailto:moaminu1@cps.edu) to set up a time Mon-Fri. Thank you!

### **Fall sports are just around the corner!**

Boys 7/8th grade soccer will be coached by Teacher Mr. McCarthy

Boys 5/6th grade soccer will be coached by SECA Gaby Johansson

### **We need coaches for Girls & boys 5/6th and 7/8th cross country**

Girls 5/6th grade volleyball and 7/8th grade volleyball will be coached by Teacher Tiana Farley and SECAs Diana Orozco, Mariana Ojeda, and LaDonna Love. If interested in helping or if you have questions, please email Prescott Athletic Director, SECA LaDonna Love at [ldshelton@cps.edu](mailto:ldshelton@cps.edu).

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The Prescott LSC will have a community representative and parent representative opening. Interested candidates can request an application from Clerk Ms. Williams in the main office. Get more information by clicking the button below.

About LSCs in CPS

## Comings and goings

Welcome, **7-8th grade English Language Arts (aka, Reading & Writing) Teacher Jenny Choi!** Ms. Choi has taught middle schoolers for the past twelve years in CPS with tremendous student learning growth in reading and writing. She matches students with books that interest and inspire them while also pushing individual students beyond their literary comfort zones. Ms. Choi has worked hard to build a nurturing, risk-taking, supportive classroom and middle school community. As a colleague, she collaborates extensively. She has served as Grade Level Chair and earned Teacher of the Year in Network 10 (among roughly 500 teachers) multiple years. Ms. Choi earned her graduate degree in Education and an ESL endorsement from *Dominican University* and her undergraduate degree from the *University of Illinois at Chicago*.

Welcome, **Kindergarten Teacher Megan Austria!** Ms. Austria recently served as a stellar substitute teacher in the Spring after completing her year-long student teaching at Prescott School with 1st grade Teacher Ms. Stewart. She gets to know individual students and supports them to achieve at high levels. Ms. Austria was very highly recommended by Prescott Teachers as a career-changer from Graphic Arts to teaching. She graduated from *DePaul University* in graphic arts and recently earned her graduate degree in teaching from *Erikson Institute*.

Welcome, **SECA Brandon Meeks!** Mr. Meeks has been the *Right at School Coordinator* before and after school at Prescott for the past five years. In January, he joined Prescott as a Miscellaneous Employee during the school day and now will support student learning in collaboration with teachers and other SECAs. Mr. Meeks' boundless enthusiasm for interacting with students while holding high expectations has created a nurturing, welcoming environment for students before, during, and after school. Mr. Meeks earned his undergraduate degree from Columbia College and has worked with children and led children's programs for almost a decade with JCC, Right at School, Youth Guidance, and CCAP Big Arts Fellows Program.

Welcome, **NU Fellow Missy Aminu!** Ms. Aminu recently graduated from *Northwestern University* with an undergraduate degree in Social Policy. She has both wide and deep experiences as in intern with Adonai Child Development center in Chicago and Uganda, where she wrote grants, gathered and analyzed data, partnered with local leaders to implement Physical Education (PE) activities, and more. She has also interned with *Advocate Pediatric Development Center* to support children with development disabilities and collaborated with neurological professionals regarding the impact of BMI on spinal injuries at *Northwestern Medicine*. In March, Ms. Aminu was accepted as a Fellow of the *NU Public Interest Program (NUPIP)* and will facilitate the growth and improvement of many social-emotional learning (SEL) and academic programs to deepen student engagement, sense of belonging, and academic achievement, especially for struggling students.

Welcome, **Art Teacher Kelly Bullard!** Ms. Bullard has taught 4th graders for nine years CPS. Her students have had incredible holistic learning growth each year. Ms. Bullard originally studied graphic arts and worked in the field for almost a decade before becoming a teacher. She has worked tirelessly to foster a strong classroom community, get to know each student for their strengths and interests, and pushes students to grow tremendously from their starting point. She has helped to organize Family Reading Nights, books fairs, and more. Ms. Bullard has been a mentor teacher for the past four years for *AUSL*. She will bring her unique, professional artist expertise and deep teaching expertise to Prescott School as an Art Teacher alongside Ms. Ammons. Ms. Bullard earned her undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from the *University of Illinois at Chicago* and her graduate degree in Education from *Quincy University*.

Special Education Teacher Quincy Cayton has moved on to a career in real estate. We wish her well and thank her for her teaching last year!

SECA (Special Education Classroom Assistant) Tiffany Guy-Neely is moving out of state. Prescott School thank her for her care and help in Room 104 the past several years!

[How to report a Covid case](#)

[CPS COVID-19 Quarantine Protocols](#)

[Find a vaccine site near you](#)

### **Prescott student vaccination status 2021-22**

Fully vaccinated: 83.7% or 344/411 students

First shot: 1.7% or 7 students

Unvaccinated from Covid: 14.6% or 60 students

The district will continue to offer weekly in-school COVID-19 testing program next year. Importantly, any student or staff who wants to participate this year must fill out a new consent form. [Click here](#) to complete the testing consent form for this school year.

Consent forms from last school year or this summer will not be valid for the 2022–23 school year. However, once a student or staff member has consented this year, that consent will remain in place until they leave CPS.

[Student weekly Covid testing registration for 2022-23](#)