



<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.

August 19, 2022

Prescott families and friends,

Greetings! School starts on Monday at 8:30, and students can arrive then. Classes start at 8:45am, when teachers escort students into the building. Supervised breakfast is available at 8:30am for all students in the cafeteria, and they enter from the parking lot. Please do not drop off students before 8:30, because there is no student supervision until 8:30. If families need a place for students before school, please consider Wrightwood Park or [Right at School](#).

At 8:30, the Security Officer partially closes the gate to block cars from entering. Please note that the driveway will not be accessible by cars until students have cleared.

Parents can say goodbye to students at the driveway entrance, where the Security Officer will greet students and supervise them along with many Special Education Classroom Assistants (SECAs): Ms. MJ, Mr. Padilla, Ms. Rabadi, Ms. Ojeda, Ms. Marks, Ms. Poole, Ms. Orozco, Ms. Johansson, Ms. LaDonna, Mr. Meeks, and Mr. Occhipinti. SECAs will escort young, new, or nervous children from the driveway to the playground. With 450 students, an additional 200+ family members in the playground leads to unsafe congestion. On the first day only, one parent of Kindergartners may accompany their child to the playground and then to the school door. If a parent would like to commit to volunteering M-F to supervise student arrival, please register for [Level 1 volunteering](#). All students and staff are encouraged but not required to wear masks.

Looking forward to the school year with you!

Erin Roche, Principal
Meghan Breyer, Assistant Principal

[Student arrival map 8:30am](#)

[Student dismissal map 3:45pm](#)

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, Nessy

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.

Part 4

Best practices in grading

Practices

Teachers record the minimum number of grades per quarter to be able to defend the grade as per the collective bargaining agreement.

Rubrics and transparent feedback

- Teachers use rubrics as much as possible for scoring and feedback, so students know expectations before and after completing the learning assessment or work (Feldman, 188-189); in formative assessments, students can then also self and peer-assess learning with rubrics, but these self-and peer-assessed formative feedback is not entered into the gradebook.
- There are no grades that are not related to showing mastery of the content or concepts (e.g., participation and extra-credit grades are discontinued). This proposal recognizes that the 100-point scale is arbitrary in nature and does not distinguish adequately the reason a student with 10 points higher (e.g., a 90 and a 100 are both an A) gets the same grade but a student with only one point lower (e.g., 89) gets a lower grade (e.g., B).
- "Rather than defining student achievement in terms of a percentage score or total points ("You scored a 78 on the assessment"), a student's performance is described in terms of the standard. "You have met the immigration standard of Irish immigrants but haven't yet demonstrated all the elements of the standard for Mexican immigrants, or the comparative response to their immigration" (Feldman, p. 197).
- Teachers provide the rubrics before a unit starts, so students know the learning expectations.
- Rubric scores transfer to CPS' Aspen gradebook to the highest point in the 10-point span, so the averaging within the 100-point scale is at the highest.
A=100
B=89
C=79
F= 69

*Any deviations from the above need approval of the Principal prior to the start of the quarter.

- Teachers give students multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of a standard, as time allows. After each assessment, teachers provide feedback for student progress toward mastery, so the student can move toward and ultimately master the standard. A retake or redo is justified by (Feldman, 166):
 - An interfering event or condition that impeded the student from performing their best

- The format or design of the assessment impeded the student from communicating their knowledge.
 - The students inadequately prepared or had weak understanding.
 - “Retakes are equitable only when they are mandatory” (Feldman, 172)
 - The higher score is always recorded (173). One way to record the initial score (to show growth) is indicating the original score as a thousandth decimal after the higher score (e.g., an original score of 75 and retake of 89 becomes 89.075).
 - Teachers may chunk assessments over time as another way to create conditions for students to show their learning level.
 - “Teachers may require students, as a prerequisite to retaking an assessment, to complete or redo any homework or classwork assignment about topics or skills that the student did not successfully master on the [first] assessment” (Feldman, 169).
- An F indicates that standards are not yet mastered and the student has made few or inadequate attempts despite ample outreach efforts by teachers and school resources (e.g., attendance, conferences, tutoring).
 - The school enrolls at least 95% of families in Parent Portal, so parents receive automatic updates via email and text regarding grades and have access to their child(ren)’s gradebook in real time. Parent Portal eliminates surprises.
 - Homework reinforces class learning and does not introduce new content or concepts. Students complete homework as a way to internalize class learning. “Homework is the pace for students to make mistakes, and if mistakes are necessary for learning, then to grade homework based on whether the answers are correct sends contradictory messages.... We can’t deduct points for incorrect answers on homework-- which penalizes students for mistakes-- and at the same time tell students that homework is just practice and that mistakes are a necessary part of learning!” (Feldman, 129). Students who do not complete homework will see their learning mastery reflected in assessments. We want students to take ownership of their learning.
 - Students’ end-of-quarter grades will consist of assessments that show mastery of a learning standard.
 - *Classwork 25%*
 - *Assessments 75% End-of-course (e.g., Final Exams) are no more than 15% of a quarter’s grade.*

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

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 to begin enrolling.

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!

<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](#)

Calendar of upcoming events

August

- 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 volleyball 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 and bring a water bottle from home)
- 5 School closed in observation of Labor Day
- 12 Girls on the Run (grades 3-5) starts M&W 3:45pm
- 13 School Tour at 9am (Volunteer Level 2 required to visit classrooms-- register below)
- 15 Curriculum Night grades 6-8 (online)
- 17 (Saturday) 7/8th grade Sports games start for soccer and volleyball teams
- 21 Quarter 1 Progress Reports go home
- 24 (Saturday) 5/6th grade Sports games start for soccer and volleyball teams

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.

Physical Education

Counselor's Corner

Families, I am so excited to see your children next week! If you have any questions or concerns about your child as they return to school, please reach out to me at mrmathews1@cps.edu or submit the family [Counseling Referral Form](#).

All families: Please review the Notice of Rights for Students in Temporary Living Situations (Homeless Students). If you feel your family would qualify for these services, please reach out to Ms. Mathews. *Proof of address is not required to qualify for STLS services.* ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

8th grade families: Information about this fall's GoCPS applications was recently released by CPS. Ms. Mathews will be sending more information soon, but until then, 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

Back-to-School Community Resources:

- CTA is offering [free bus and train rides](#) for all students on Monday, August 22nd.
- Learn ways to support your child's mental health as they return to school. ([English/Spanish](#))
- If you receive Medicaid, be on the look out for a form from IDPH to renew your benefits. ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))
- If you would like to explore low-cost health insurance options, contact the CPS Children and Family Benefits Unit. ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

Congratulations! Thank you! Help needed!

Thanks to Prescott Parents-- Happy Aceves, Becca Safranski, Jenn Bushek, and Tracy Kremer-- for the delicious, energizing breakfast for teachers and staff on Wednesday.

[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.

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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](#)

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](#)