



<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 26, 2022

Prescott families and friends,

Our first week was super successful! Students got to know each other and shared about themselves, their families, and their traditions. They co-created classroom expectations, learned routines, and enjoyed the longer recess (now 30 minutes as per state law). Next week, classrooms will begin to shift to more content and concepts.

Teachers and staff began planning a host of before and after-school activities from sports to choir to Future Problem Solvers to Mathletes to Art Clubs to Student Voice Committee. See the purple link below. Tutoring programs will be based on teacher recommendation and direct recruitment of students.

In preparation for the online **Curriculum Nights**, teachers have prepared videos of classrooms for families to view. Please click on the red link below.

Thurs, 9/1 Curriculum Night 5-6pm for grades K-5
Thurs, 9/15 Curriculum Night 5-6pm for grades 6-8

Click to see before and after-school extra-curricular activities

Take a video tour of your child(ren)'s classrooms



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 are 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 5

Expected outcomes of the grading policy change

Our new grading policy will accurately reflect student mastery of content, concepts, and skills. As it focuses tightly on student learning mastery, it will protect students from subjective bias. It will also empower students to be in charge of demonstrating their learning achievements.

Several new or improved grading practices will likely lead to increased learning and therefore higher grades. The new grading scale raises expectations, so teachers and students have to work together to get more (the goal is all!) students to the levels of A and B learning mastery.

Teachers' increased focus on clear and descriptive rubrics will help students to know exactly what they have to do to show learning mastery.

The additional time and opportunities for students to show learning mastery will be flexible for student schedules. There will not be infinite time but there will be more flexibility.

The elimination of homework as part of the grade will allow students to focus on their areas of growth and to take chances. We want them to explore during homework by trying new math solution paths and writing dialog, for example. If they get a grade for homework, they will not experiment. Experimentation allows them to learn just like a scientist. Students will still have homework as a way to practice. Teachers will teach them to decide what homework will best help them to master the learning.

These improved grading practices arise from the grading policy change. They align well with our *Student-Led Conferences* shift that we initiated last year, because they empower students to analyze their learning and determine their learning goals after each report card.

I look forward to evaluating this new policy with teacher leaders and reporting back to you in the Spring!

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 clpalmer6@cps.edu to begin enrolling.

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](#)

Calendar of upcoming events

August

29 Practices begins for Boys 5/6th grade soccer team, the 7/8th boys soccer team, and the girls volleyball team

29 Spirit Week: Pajama Day

30 Spirit Week: Pattern Day

31 Spirit Week: Mismatch Day

September

1 Spirit Week: Denim Day. Curriculum Night grades K-5 at 5pm (online)

2 Spirit Week: Class Color Day. Field Day (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) 5-6pm; **High School Admissions Q&A 6:15-7pm**

17 (Saturday) 7/8th grade Sports games start for soccer, xcountry, 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

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
Course start date is Tuesday, August 30.
Deadline to register is Sunday, August 29.

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

Welcome back Prescott Students, Parent/Guardians, and Stakeholders! I am excited to be working with the Prescott Community once again this school year. Students will be working on collaborative activities to develop their teamwork, problem solving, and communication skills to be successful, as well as performance skills throughout the school year.

In Week 1 of the 2023 School Year, 8th grade students from Room 203 (Ms. Page) and 6th grade Room 304 (Mrs. Edwards) began PE class with a collaborative activity challenge. Students were tasked to retrieve equipment from the floor by closing their eyes and using non-verbal communication. The last person in line of each group was the only person that was allowed to have their eyes open to guide their team to retrieve the items. Groups were allowed time before engaging in the activity to develop a non verbal communication system for the challenge. Students were also reminded that fair play (not opening eyes) and practicing the honor system during the activity.

Health Education

Prescott Students K-8th grade will participate in the CPS Sexual Health Education (SHE) program for school year 2023. Last year, Prescott Students did very well with being respectful to each other, asking great questions, received clarification, and busted some myths they had during the course. Thank you to the entire Prescott Community, Parents, and stakeholders for understanding the importance of health education.

For more information about the CPS SHE curriculum, please visit the district's website: [CPS Sexual Health Education](#). Formal letters to the Prescott Community will be sent in the near future, so please be on the look out! Thank you everyone for your support!



Counselor's Corner

Families, I am so excited to see your children next week! If you have any questions or concerns about your child during the first weeks of 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: Ms. Mathews sent an email this week about beginning the high school application process. Of note:

- GoCPS applications will open 9/14.
- **High School Night will be held 9/15 at 6:15pm, right after Middle School Curriculum Night.**
- You can also check out the [Prescott High School Application Website](#) for frequently updated information on all types of Chicago high schools and important dates/deadlines.
- The Daniel Murphy Scholarship application is due October 3rd. Visit their [website](#) to determine if your child would be a good fit for this opportunity.

Back-to-School Community Resources:

- 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](#))

Welcome to Care Room Attendant Oksana Finlayson!

This school year will be my 3rd time serving as CRA /school staff. I was previously assigned to 2 schools in Little Village: Cradenas and Gary Elementary. I'm originally from Serbia and I have lived in the States 20 years now. I like to travel in my spare time and spend time with my family and friends. I enjoy outdoor activities and working with kids.

Congratulations! Thank you! Help needed!

Thanks to parents Jeff Marren, Alexa Sindelar, and Amy Cortis for starting *Kiss 'n' Go* on the first day of school! They make drop-off very smooth.

Thanks to parent Jenn Bushek for organizing the sales of uniforms at the *Popsicle Party* last week!

Covid guidance and weekly testing registration

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

Covid-19 Guidance
for Prescott
families and staff

Orientacion de
Covid-19 para las
familias y el
personal de
Prescott
