



<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 10/7/21. If you have an updated email, please contact Clerk Ms. Williams at clpalmer6@cps.edu.

July 29, 2022

Prescott families and friends,

Greetings! Based on extensive research, reading, and conversations among students, teachers, and families, Prescott School is revising substantially its grading policy to be equitable. Over the next few bulletins, I'll 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.

About ten years ago, Prescott adopted a grading policy that eliminated the 0 and replaced it with a 50. As Feldman and others point out, in the 1-100 grading scale, an F has a span of 60 points (0-60) whereas other grades (A-D) have spans of 10 points each. It didn't make sense to give the F so much weight.

Also, students with a zero had an almost impossible task of improving their grade when the zero is averaged with other grades. For example, $100+100+100+0 = 300$ points. When divided by four, the average is a 75. Though a student showed strongly mastery and understanding three times (100 each), their average is only 75. If the grading scale were rubric-based (1-4), the the student would have $4+4+4+1 = 13/4 = 3.25$, which is much more representative of the student's learning.

This is an example of an improvement we made years ago to make student grade reporting more accurate of students' actual learning. In coming newsletters, I'll share more of these kinds of proposed improvements.

Prescott in the Park is Sunday, July 31st from 10-11am. There will be a pop-up "uniform store" at this event to showcase new items. This is not a replacement for purchasing the items that you need. There is still time to order at www.getshirtsfast.com.

Prescott School is accepting a few students for enrollment in grades 2-7. 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.

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

Prescott School rents to Pedalheads during the summer

July

31 Prescott in the Park 10-11am

August

11 Kindergarten Q&A Orientation online 9-11am

15 Teachers return officially to prepare for 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

Click below for the Prescott School 2022-23 Calendar

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

This course is designed to prepare students for the high school entrance exams required 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.

Order uniforms for next school year

We know this school year hasn't ended yet, but it is time to start thinking about uniforms for the fall. Please order **ONLINE** by **July 15th** at the very latest, to guarantee you get your items before the beginning of the school year. In order to keep costs low, orders are collected every 2 weeks and printed in combined batches. This may impact delivery.

Check out some of the **NEW** additions – navy sweatpants and a ¼ zip sweatshirt!
Please contact Alexa Sindelar with any questions: akk625@yahoo.com

[Buy here](#)

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
- 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!

Picnic tables arrived!

Students can eat outdoors comfortably in August! We need a few volunteers to assemble them. Please come Monday, August 1 from 12pm-2pm to help assemble them. Email in advance Principal Erin Roche at eroche@cps.edu to RSVP, and make sure you have Level Volunteer status by registering here [Volunteer Programs | Chicago Public Schools](#). Building Engineer Tino Orta will meet with you to show you the work.

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### **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 in July. 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, **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*.

[How to report a Covid case](#)

[CPS COVID-19 Quarantine Protocols](#)

[Find a vaccine site near you](#)

Prescott student vaccination status

Fully vaccinated: 83.7% or 344/411 students (100% of Kindergartners in Rm 101!)

First shot: 1.7% or 7 students

Unvaccinated from Covid: 14.6% or 60 students

Covid testing update

Students registered for testing: 232/411 students or 56.4%

Staff registered for testing: 51/55 or 92.7%

[Student weekly Covid testing registration](#)
