



## School Information and Updates Thursday, August 10, 2023

### **First Day of School August 23 - Register for Child for the 23-24 School Year!**

Returning students and families: Please complete this for your students at your earliest Convenience.

- All Prairie families MUST complete this electronic form prior to students starting this fall.
- Get started by logging into the [Infinite Campus Portal](#). This link is located on the district homepage. If you have lost your portal username or password, please use the "Forgot Password" or "Forgot Username" link on the login page. You can also call (319) 848-5240 between the hours of 8:00am and 3:30pm M-F.
- Once you are logged into the Portal, click on "more", then the Online Registration link is located at the bottom of the page.

For those who need assistance or computer access, please contact District Enrollment Specialist Jennifer Armour (319)-848-5202 or email [jarmour@crprairie.org](mailto:jarmour@crprairie.org).

### **Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!**

Research shows that attendance in the **first 30 days** of school sets the stage for the rest of the year. If you need assistance with starting the school year on time, we want to help. Please reach out to your school's principal(s), building facilitator, or counselor. Their contact information is [linked here](#).

At College Community, we are striving to increase the number of students who are present at school for over 90% of school days. Consistent attendance sets predictable, healthy routines that students can carry with them throughout school and after graduation. We will see you soon!

### **Transportation Bus Ride Along**

The CCSD Transportation Department would like to invite all incoming kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students and their families to attend the "Back to School Busing Ride-A Long" portion of Open House on Monday, August 21, 2023. Your attendance at this event is not required, but "**strongly recommended**"; so your child can be better acclimated to the busing procedures and meet their bus driver prior to the first day of school.

### **When is this event?**

- Monday, August 21, 2023
- 5:50 PM (Heights and Hill parents and students will be directed to the shuttle buses by staff members, then shuttled to the loading zone)
- 6:00 PM (View, Crest and Ridge parents and students will walk to the loading zone, staff members will help direct you to this location)
- 6:20 PM all buses will depart to drive their routes with students and parents aboard and drop students and parents off at their assigned bus stop

Again, this event is optional but “strongly recommended”, especially for kindergarten students who this is their first experience riding a school bus. Riding the bus for the first time can often be an “anxious” event for students and parents alike. We truly hope you take advantage of this opportunity to better acclimate your child to the busing procedures and routes they will be riding in the upcoming year.

### **Transportation Information**

All students K-9th grade will automatically be assigned a bus to/from their home address. Requests for transportation must be made prior to August 10, 2023. Please visit our [transportation page](#) to make these requests. If students do not ride the bus for more than 10 days they will be removed from the route. If you know that your student will not be riding the bus at all, please contact our department at 848-5204. This will help us to best utilize all of our seats.

We hope to have busing information available in your Portal account by August 14, 2023.

### **Join Our Prairie Team as a Paraprofessional!**

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals to join the Prairie team as a paraprofessional to support our teachers and students in the classroom. A rewarding career with great benefits and a starting salary of \$16.90. If you are interested in making a positive impact in student lives, [apply today](#).

### **Medicaid and Health Insurance**

During the pandemic, most people were able to stay on their Medicaid coverage without interruption and without having to take action like completing renewal paperwork. However, this policy has ended and we have learned through Linn County Public Health that several families in our area have requested help with reestablishing health insurance coverage.

If you need assistance with reestablishing Medicaid or HAWK-I coverage or need assistance finding a health insurance plan for your student, there are resources in our community to help you. Please call your [school nurse](#) or one of the staff members listed below for help.

Mary Beth Neal, Supervisor of Health Services, [mneal@crprairie.org](mailto:mneal@crprairie.org), 319.848.5211 ext.2006  
Kerry Kilker, Community Engagement Specialist, [kkilker@crprairie.org](mailto:kkilker@crprairie.org), 319.848.5340 ext 2110  
Zeinab Osman, Community Engagement Specialist, [zosman@crprairie.org](mailto:zosman@crprairie.org), 319.784.1610  
Javier Rivera, Community Engagement Specialist, [jrivera@crprairie.org](mailto:jrivera@crprairie.org), 319.784.1610

### **Food and Nutrition**

All students may take advantage of school breakfast and lunch meals or they may bring their own meal(s) from home. If only a carton of milk is needed, a carton of milk can be purchased for \$0.55. Students may only purchase a carton of milk if they have sufficient funds in their meal account. Water fountains or coolers are available in each cafeteria.

### **Menus**

Menus are available online by visiting <https://prairiepride.nutrislice.com/menu> or on the Nutrislice App on Google Play or Apple store. Print menus are sent home with elementary students each month. Elementary and Creek menus are also sent out in the [Prairie Backpack](#). Elementary students have a

choice of two main dishes daily. The first choice on the menu will be considered the alternate choice. The second choice on the menu is considered the main choice.

### Grades K-4 Classroom Treats Order Form

Please order 1 week in advance. Orders are delivered directly to the classroom. Use [this form](#) to order snacks/treats for an entire classroom.

### Meal Account

The school district uses a point of sale system, Total Access, and In Touch Receipting systems for accounting for our meal program. Each account is a family account and all deposits are shared by everyone on the account. Funds can be used for breakfast, lunch, milk, and a la carte purchases. All students have access to purchase a la carte items such as a carton of milk or additional servings of menu items. Students in grades 5-12 also have additional snack and beverage options available for purchase such as juice, bottled water, popcorn, baked chips, cereal bars, etc. Parents are encouraged to monitor their students' meal accounts. Spending limits and blocks can be added for each student as requested by a parent/guardian.

### Balance Notifications

Our meal account software will email a balance reminder notice to parents/ guardians when a family meal account balance reaches \$10.00 per person or less. An additional email reminder will be sent daily if the balance falls below \$0.00. Emails are sent to the primary contact person listed in Infinite Campus. Please update your email address in Infinite Campus as needed.

### Meal Account Use and Purchase History

Meal account use and purchase history may be monitored through the parent portal by visiting [Total Access Parent Portal](#). (Payments are not accepted through the point of sale.)

### Meal Account Payments

Funds can be added online using [In Touch Receipting](#) OR check or cash can be sent to the clerk or to the office in your student's building. Please enclose the payment in a sealed envelope and label the payment with the student's name, grade, and teacher's name. For more information, please contact the clerk in your student's building or Nutritional Services at 319-848-5337.

### Meal Prices

Breakfast	ECC-12th Grade	\$1.95
2nd Breakfast/Adult Breakfast		\$2.30
Lunch	ECC-4th Grade	\$2.95
Lunch	5-6th Grade	\$3.05
Lunch	7-12th Grade	\$3.20
2nd Student Lunch or Adult Lunch		\$4.85
Carton of Milk	K-12 and Adults	\$0.55

Meal Account Balance Refunds: Meal account balances carry over from year to year. If you are moving out of the district or would like to request a refund of the remaining balance in your student(s) meal account. Please submit a written refund request to the clerk of your student's building. Please include the name(s), school building, grade(s) of your students, your name, phone number, and the address to mail the refund to.

Free and Reduced Price Meal Benefits: For households that feel they may qualify for benefits, a new application and fee waiver form need to be completed every school year. Applications for free and reduced price meals and a waiver for school fees can be completed online [here](#) or by completing a paper version. If you would prefer a paper version of the form or have any questions, please contact Ginny Scott by phone, 319-848-5337 or email [vscott@crprairie.org](mailto:vscott@crprairie.org). Return completed paper forms to Food & Nutrition, Prairie Hill Elementary, 401 76th Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Once the application has been processed we will send a letter or email to the primary contact listed in Infinite Campus with the determination. Some students are directly certified through the state. Usually we are notified two times per month of students who qualify via direct certification. If we are notified that your child has been qualified for free or reduced price meals, we will send a letter or email to the primary contact listed in Infinite Campus. If your household is approved for free or reduced price meals, you may also be eligible for a waiver of some fees. To be considered for the fee waiver, please complete the fee waiver form, this form requires a signature and is not automatic. A new form is needed each school year.

Free and Reduced Price Meal Approval Expiration

If your student(s) were approved for free or reduced price meals in the previous school year, the application will expire on October 6, 2023. When the application expires, the student(s) will be changed to full pay. Meal applications are not retroactive and any charges accumulated before being approved for free or reduced price meals are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

**Free Summer Meals**

Free meals for all children 18 years and under are available at Prairie Heights Elementary August 7-11th and August 21-22. Breakfast is served from 8:00 am - 9:00 am. Lunch is served from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. If your student requires diet or other modifications for a disability, please contact Ginny Scott at 319-848-5337 or [vscott@crprairie.org](mailto:vscott@crprairie.org).