



September  
2025  
Vol. 28  
No. 2

# Dakota Prairie Knight Reader

<http://www.dakota-prairie.k12.nd.us>

## A Few Things

by Jay Slade, Superintendent



Hello everyone and welcome to the start of fall in North Dakota. I absolutely love this time of year. The natural beauty that is Nelson County just cannot be explained in words. Famous illustrator and painter Terry Redlin came the closest to capturing those vibrant colors found in the Dakotas, but nothing beats seeing it in person.

Like every year, when the leaves change, the nights get colder, and the combines are humming, those are signs that school is also revving up. As I write this memo we are two football games, multiple volleyball practices, hundreds of bus miles, and four school days into the year. I will be optimistic and say, so far so good. A big thank you to all of our summer staff who spent hours and hours getting the buildings ready. A big thank you to our all of our drivers as they helped facilitate that first day and every day. Lastly, a big thank you to the office staff members in each building for coming during off hours and getting our places ready for business.

One big change this year will be our mission and vision statements, as well as a little tweak to our overall district expectations moving forward. Our mission is to "Provide an innovative educational environment that empowers engaged learners" and our vision is to "Provide an innovative educational environment that promotes engagement, empowerment, and excellence" While the expectations for all of our students in the district is to Empower, Engage, Excel. Apart from being a recommendation from our accreditation agency, it is nice to refresh and change up things from time to time.

Over the course of the school year, I will be discussing some of the ways we plan to implement these new philosophical ideals. I'd like to start with Engage. We all knew or were that kid who didn't want to participate, who said they "didn't care", or in the case of yours truly, found literally any other avenue to occupy my time than school. Our goal this year is to get that kid to care, to listen, to use a tag line from the education world – to engage. We do that using a multitude of techniques in the classroom, but one way you can help outside of the classroom is to give encouragement. Ask questions about school, ask how you can get involved, ask how you can help your student be successful. Studies show engaged students in the classroom have a positive impact in their community, in their home, and with their peers, plus help us help them.

Have a great year DP and as always – Go Knights! Go Chargers!

**PLEASE  
CONTACT  
THE SCHOOL  
TO RECEIVE  
A PRINTED  
COPY EACH  
MONTH**

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## LIBRARY NEWS

Dakota Prairie Elementary library classes are just beginning. Students in grades K-6 have library class once a week in a regular rotation.

Tuesdays: Kindergarten, 3rd, and 5th

Wednesdays: PK and 4th

Thursdays: 1st, 2nd, and 6th

Students in grades K-3 are allowed one book at a time. Students in 4-6 may have two checked out at a time. Library books may be returned in the drop bin located inside the elementary foyer or some classrooms have a specified spot for returned library books.

### Remind Codes at the High School

Daily Announcements @dphsann

7th Grade @dpclass31

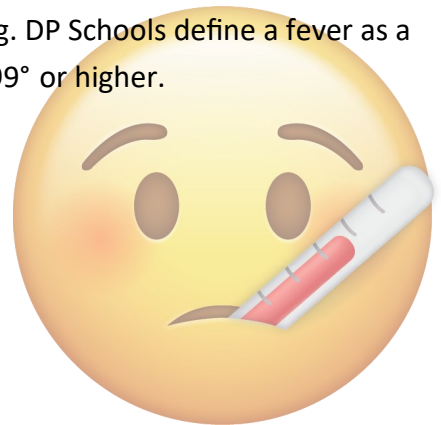
8th Grade @dpclass30

One-Act Play @dpoap25

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to [rmd.at/](https://rmd.at/)[codefromabove] and follow the instructions to sign up. Already have the app? Click add class and enter the code from above.

### Student Illness

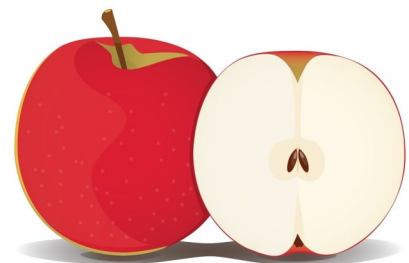
**Students are required to be fever free, and vomit free for 24 hours** prior to being allowed back into the school setting. DP Schools define a fever as a temperature of 99° or higher.



### Bountiful Harvest?

End up with too much garden produce? If anyone would like to donate corn, peppers, herbs, apples, cucumbers, or tomatoes, the FACS classes would love to use them.

Contact Renae Schanilec at 701-345-8233 or email [Renae.Schanilec@k12.nd.us](mailto:Renae.Schanilec@k12.nd.us)





**2025-2026 DAKOTA PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK***Jostens*

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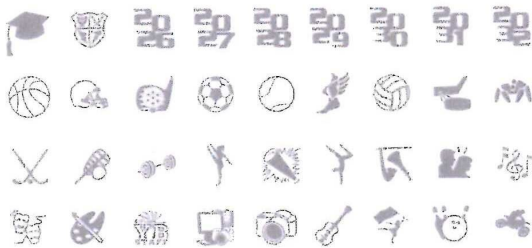
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**Order by 09/26/2025****TO ORDER:**

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PHOTO POCKETS	\$5.00
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## SCORE FOUR FREE ICONS WHEN YOU PERSONALIZE YOUR COVER

*More icon options are available online.***Share your student's photos with the yearbook staff to be featured in the yearbook more.****1**

Open your phone's camera and scan this code.

**2**

Upload your favorite photos from the year.

**3**

Tag students for the yearbook staff.

Or visit [photos.jostens.com/upload](https://photos.jostens.com/upload)*Flexible payment options are available at checkout. Taxes, service fees and delivery fees will be added, if applicable.*

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

## ~ UNOFFICIAL MINUTES~

DAKOTA PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

AUGUST 13, 2025 AT 7:00 P.M.

VIA ZOOM

- ◆ Mr. David Blasey—President
- ◆ Mr. Charlie Stein
- ◆ Mrs. Jennifer Rusten
- ◆ Mrs. Nikki Ohnstad
- ◆ Mrs. Anna Halvorson

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Charlie Stein, also in attendance were Nikki Ohnstad, Jennifer Rusten . Anna Halvorson entered at the end of the meeting. Dave Blasey was absent. Also present were Superintendent Jay Slade, Principals Jackie Bye and Clay Johnson, Hunter Sand Activity Director and Lori Dahl Business Manager.

Policy BCAA was added to the list of policies for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, was originally left off the agenda. All agreed to the addition.

The minutes, bills and financial reports were given to the board for review and approval.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten second by Nikki Ohnstad to approve the minutes as printed, the bills for payment and the financial reports as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Elementary Principals Report: Dr. Bye Back to School Night at the elementary where there will be a parent meeting to inform the parents/stakeholders about our schoolwide title goals. Also presented the student achievement goals for the year in math and reading language arts. Work on the outdoor basketball systems, and the \$10,000 in donations received. City of McVille assisted with the removal of the old poles. Dr. Bye reported on staffing, summer maintenance, the installation of bathroom stalls. The air conditioning is still in progress, on line clothing store with Decorated wearables they are building us a online store. Also listed the staffing and the class sizes. We had vandalism of the little silver car shooting the side windows and the windshield and slashed or shot the front tires out. It has been reported to law enforcement, towed and reported to insurance.

High School Principal's Report: Mr. Johnson reported the high school had no serious projects this summer, routine cleaning and painting, the school looks great! We have filled the business position with Mr. Larson and Mara Berdal, she will be eligible for a teaching permit for the position, and will eventually take classes for permanent certification. Karen Retzlaff will be our full time sub/para, back to school night is Monday 4-6:30 with a junior high parent meeting in the gym, We will continue the reading intervention program and are implementing a math program.

Activity Director Report: Hunter Sand updated the board on Girls Golf, Football started last week Varsity Volleyball will start on Monday. Coaches now have an iPad to use for stats and games and tripods for recording. Football will need a few supplies and more field paint. Mr. Sand updated the board on the meetings he has attended and what is scheduled for later this fall.

A Tuition Waiver application received for 2 students to attend Northwood. Mr. Slade recommends approval of the application.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Nikki Ohnstad to approve the tuition waiver to Northwood. All in favor, motion carried.

Policies: The following policies are presented for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: ABEA; ABEA-AR2; ACBD-E4; ACCB; ACG; BBA;BCAA; BCBA; DCCA; DDBD; FCAA; FCAA-AR; FF; FFE; FFK; FFK-BR; FGA; FGA-E8; GABE; GACB; GACE

Anna Halvorson entered the meeting.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten, second by Nikki Ohnstad to approve the policies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the policies of NDSBA Policies: ABEA; ABEA-AR2; ACBD-E4; ACCB; ACG; BBA; BCAA;BCBA; DCCA; DDBD; FCAA; FCAA-AR; FF; FFE; FFK; FFK-BR; FGA; FGA-E8; GABE; GACB; GACE

Next meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm for the budget and finance meeting and the regular meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Jennifer Rusten to adjourn.

## DAKOTA PRAIRIE KNIGHTS BOOSTER CLUB SPONSORSHIP FORM

The Knights Booster Club is a parent run organization led by a committee that manages the concessions at all home games besides spring sports. The committee develops a menu, orders food, creates a serving schedule for parents in grades 7-12, and oversees the concessions at each game.

Parents of students in grades 7-12 are asked to serve at one game during the school year. The profits from these concessions are used to fund and sponsor Dakota Prairie students as they excel in the activities they join and participate in throughout the year. The Knights Booster Club also financially supports teachers and staff that request funds for special projects.

Here are just a few things that we have helped with in the past:

- Senior Scholarships
- Softball Diamond in McVile
- Students that go to state
- Music Program
- Football Program

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Sponsorship is \$15 for an individual and \$30 for a family.

Thank you for your ongoing support. The Knights Booster Club looks forward to building the sponsor list and giving back to our awesome students each year. A list of our sponsors will be displayed in the home games programs.

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*If interested in being a sponsorship, please make checks payable to "Knights Booster Club" and detach the bottom portion of this paper and return to either Dakota Prairie High School or Elementary office or drop off at the concession stand at a home game.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 for single \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 for family \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 for businesses

Dear Dakota Prairie Families,

We hope this message finds you well!

The **Knights Booster Club** is a parent-run organization committed to supporting our students and school community. Led by a dedicated committee, the Booster Club manages concessions at all *home games*—with the exception of spring sports.

All students in grades 7–12 benefit from the Booster Club's efforts. To ensure the continued success of our programs, we kindly ask that each family serves during their child's time at Dakota Prairie High School.

**You will be contacted with the date, time, and any items you may need to bring for your assigned event.**

Proceeds from concessions go directly toward enriching student experiences—supporting athletics, fine arts, clubs, and other extracurriculars. In addition, the Booster Club also provides financial support for teachers and staff who request funding for special projects throughout the year.

Your involvement is essential and deeply appreciated. Thank you for helping us continue to provide meaningful opportunities for all Dakota Prairie students.

Warm regards,

Knights Booster Club Committee

Dakota Prairie High School

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### Career and Technical Education News:

CTE is the short version for Career and Technical Education. CTE has exploded in funding, teachers, programs, and opportunities immensely since I started 15 years ago. A lot of effort has been put in to change the public's perception of CTE. Often times we remember the shop classes we took in the 90s or the Future Homemakers of America club. Those offerings have evolved as fast as the industries it represents. Today's shop classes isn't what we took 30 years ago. It's technology, computers, AI, and hands on. Home Ec isn't just sewing or cooking, it's running a coffee shop and learning project management.

#### Here is a list of our CTE offerings:

FACS (Family Consumer Sciences): Baking & Pastries, Food Service, Beginning and Advanced FACS

Technology: Construction, Communications, Manufacturing, 3D Modeling, Audio and Video Production

Business: Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Accounting, Real Life Business

Careers: Variety of career exploration, inventories, tours, guest speakers, fairs, and work-based learning

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

High School News With Mr. Clay Johnson, High School Principal



As we wrap up the first weeks of the school year, I'm proud to share that it has been a truly positive beginning at Dakota Prairie. Our seniors have already shown themselves to be a strong and capable group, demonstrating leadership that sets the tone for the rest of the student body. At the other end of the spectrum, our 7th graders have fit in seamlessly, already becoming a part of the Dakota Prairie family.

I ended the first week with a spirited game of kickball outside during the final hour on Friday with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. It was a simple but powerful reminder of how much fun school can be—not just through academics and activities, but in the friendships, laughter, and shared experiences that make school such a special place.

Looking ahead, there is plenty to be excited about. Homecoming is right around the corner, and it's always a highlight of our fall season. There will be a parade, coronation, a bonfire, and a dance to follow the football game. As stressful as this week can be, it is always a great memory to the students who participate and put themselves out there.

As our community prepares to celebrate, I want to remind everyone to please drive safely—harvest is in full swing, and we all share the responsibility of looking out for one another on the roads.

September will conclude with a very special celebration: *Doris Forde Day*. We will continue our annual 5K run in her honor, and this year we are exploring the idea of adding one of Mrs. Forde's favorite activities—bingo—to the day's events. It promises to be a joyful way to bring our school and community together while honoring someone whose impact is felt on a daily basis.

As we move through this school year, I am reminded of a line from Tupac Shakur: *"Reality is wrong. Dreams are for real."* Our job as a school and as a community is to help students see that their dreams matter—that with hard work, leadership, and support, they can make those dreams a reality

Cheers

Mr. Johnson

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

STEM Challenge winners for the Pringles Ring. One section of 7th graders couldn't complete the task, so this group wanted a cute picture together instead.



## YOUR 2025-2026 STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Cord R (7th grade)

Kaleah M (7th grade)

Owen K (8th grade)

Teagen M (8th grade)

Bennett O (9th grade)

Hannah M (9th grade)

Devyn F (10th grade)

Brianna Sharp (10th grade)

Abigail S (11th grade)

DoriAnn S (11th grade - *Vice President*)

Donovan K (11th grade)

Brandi S (12th grade - *President*)

Jassy L (12th grade)

Lily D (12th grade)

Advisor: Courtney Molstad

## DPHS STUCO



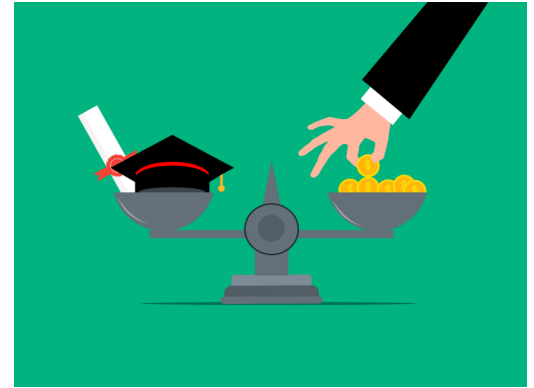
## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### Scholarship Updates:

Last year, 6 seniors qualified for the ND Scholarship. Students attending a technical college received \$3000 and university students receive \$6000. Students must be attending a ND college or plan to transfer back in state at some point to finish their degree.

It's best for students to start taking their GPA seriously by 10<sup>th</sup> grade in order to reach the 3.0 threshold. Students also need to strategize and possibly take some CTE and/or online classes depending on the track they want to focus on. In the past the scholarship was all based on GPA and the ACT/Work Keys. As of class of 2025, the options have changed greatly, hopefully allowing more students to qualify.

This is a really good scholarship to get. No essays and the application takes 2 minutes. Money also just drops into your student account!



### College Counseling Updates:

11<sup>th</sup> graders will attend a Career Exploration and College Fair on September 9<sup>th</sup> at LRSC. Students will select 3 careers that interest them and then attend breakout sessions with real life professionals from those fields. It's hands-on and quick-paced; just enough tidbits to get students curiosity peaked. We will then attend a College Fair where 40 different trade schools and universities will be. This is an excellent way to realize there is a lot more out there besides UND, BSC or LRSC. Today North Dakotans are offered Lynnes Welding school, several different hair salon academies and even a reiki and massage school.

### September: Suicide Awareness Month

Have you ever heard about the connection between the semi-colon and suicide? The semi-colon became a well known symbol for suicide prevention back in 2013 and still continues to be. "Project Semi-Colon" is what the movement became known as. The semi-colon represents a choice to continue living rather than ending life. When people write, they have a choice to end a sentence or bridge two sentences with a semi-colon. Hence the purpose of the semi-colon is to recognize the hardships people have to bridge the gap of wanting to end their life and living. People often will draw or tattoo a semi-colon. The use of the semi-colon represents a personal strength of overcoming suicide but can also be a way for someone to show support for others. To err on the side of caution, if you ever see your child doodle semi-colons, it's worth asking them about it or referring them to the counselors, Mr. Martin or Ms. Beckstrom



# DPHS Grade Scale

## 2025-2026

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	GPA
A	100-92.5	4
B	92.4-84.5	3
C	84.4-76.5	2
D	76.4-69.5	1
F	69.4-0	0

### Medication Disbursement Policy

Due to North Dakota State Medication Disbursement Recommendations – as of August 2015, Dakota Prairie staff may administer, but not provide any type of non-prescription medication to any student. This includes, but is not limited to, aspirin, ibuprofen, Tylenol, Benadryl, cough drops, and antacids.

For non-prescription and prescription medicine that is a medical necessity throughout the day, prior arrangements must be made before the school can administer any medication. Proper forms need to be filled out and returned to the school along with the medication.

For a complete copy of the adopted medication policy, visit the Dakota Prairie website OR contact either the High School Office or the Elementary Office.

**Forms are also included on the school website.**

### CHAIN OF COMMAND:

**Any complaints should be made to the teacher or coach before moving to the next person in the chain of command.**

#### Classroom Issue:

1. Teacher
2. Principal
3. Superintendent
4. School Board (policy/handbook question)

#### Activity Issue:

1. Direct Coach
2. Head of Program
3. Activity Director
4. Building Principal
5. Superintendent (policy/handbook question)
6. School Board (policy/handbook question)

#### Policy/Handbook/Rules Issue

1. Principal
2. Superintendent
3. School Board

#### Complaint Against:

1. Superintendent: Contact School Board President
2. Principal: Contact Superintendent – School Board
3. Athletic/Activities Director: Superintendent

**Teacher/Staff Member with Another Teacher/Staff Member:** Address the teacher/staff member before contacting administrators.

**This chain of command must be followed for sports and school issues**

#### DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

- ☐ Playing time discussions are at the discretion of the specific head coach, with the player. (*Coaches **ARE NOT** required to talk to parents about playing time*)
- ☐ Player must attend parent-requested meetings with coach/advisor and parents. Coach/advisor can waive this rule if they wish.
- ☐ Meetings about playing time can only happen after the player has initiated that question with the coach(es).



## Graduation Requirements 2025-2026

## DAKOTA PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY - CONCERTS & EVENTS 2025-2026

**\*Not all Concerts, Performances & Events Have Been Finalized.**

*Watch for Updates and Additions in Future Knight Readers & Messages Home*

### ELEMENATARY CONCERTS

<b>Friday, November 7</b>	<b>Veteran's Day</b>	<b>1:00</b>	<b>PK-6</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 10</b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>1:00</b>	<b>PK-6</b>
<b>Friday, February 13</b>	<b>Valentine</b>	<b>1:00</b>	<b>PK-3</b>
<b>March or April TBD</b>	<b>Midwinter Follies</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>4-6</b>
<b>April TBD</b>	<b>Preschool Program</b>	<b>1:00</b>	<b>PK</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 12</b>	<b>Spring Concert</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>K-6</b>

### GRADUATIONS AND OTHER EVENTS

<b>High School Halloween Concert</b>	<b>Friday, October 31</b>	<b>TBD</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Performs w/ them		

<b>Box Lunch-Valentine Social</b>	<b>Friday, February 13</b>
Eat Valentine Lunch with Your Child	

<b>Spring Fling Talent Show</b>	<b>Friday, May 1</b>	<b>6:30</b>
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<b>Elementary Color Run</b>	<b>Friday, April 24</b>	<b>2:00</b>
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<b>Kindergarten Graduation</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 19</b>	<b>10:00</b>
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<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 19</b>	<b>2:00</b>
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<b>Book Fairs</b>	<b>December 1-4</b>
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**April 27-May 1**

## Thank you to the 2025 Yearbook sponsors!

### We wouldn't have a yearbook without you!

\$400

Crysti and Paul Bjorlie

\$150

Berg Insurance

\$125

Engen Insurance

Horseshoe Saloon and Grill

Ihry Insurance

Jensen Farm Service

Mcville Market

Mork Insurance

SSR Pump Co

Stein Seed Company

\$100

Tolna Farmers Union Oil Co

Aneta Farmers Union Oil Co

Tolna Farmers and Merchants Bank

First United Bank

Leading Edge Equipment

North Dakota Telephone Company

Pekin Co-op Elevator

Tronson Grain

\$75

Kimberly Behm

Polar Communications

\$70

Wallace Repair

\$50

Country Greenhouse

Tom Dunham O.D.

\$25

LFS Professional Services

Ottertail Power

### 2025 Homecoming Royalty

Brandi Schock

Tyler Cree-Beglau

Lily Donohue

Henry Parsons

Jayla Sharp

Keegan Parsley

King and Queen will be crowned

Wednesday, September 10th

in Petersburg at 2:45 pm

### CHARGERS HOMECOMING DANCE

DJ, PHOTO BOOTH AND SNACKS INCLUDED

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

DAKOTA PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SMALL GYM

9:00 PM OR AFTER THE FB GAME—MIDNIGHT

\$7.00 PER PERSON



FIRST DAY SNAPSHOTS @ DPHS



## September 2025

Sept 1	No School: Labor Day
Sept 10	Coronation @ DPHS 2:45 pm School Board Meeting @ 8:00 pm
Sept 12	Homecoming Parade @ McVile 1 pm

**PLEASE CHECK THE DAKOTA PRAIRIE HOME PAGE  
FOR THE MOST CURRENT ACTIVITIES SCHEDULES**

<https://www.dakota-prairie.k12.nd.us>

## Future Dates of Interest

*September 1—No School: Labor Day*  
*October 15—Teacher PD in AM; Parent Teacher Conf @ HS 1-6*  
*October 16-17—No School: Fall Ed Conferences*  
*November 11—No School: Veterans Day*  
*November 26—Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm*  
*November 27-28 —No School: Thanksgiving*  
*December 19—Early Dismissal @ 1:30 pm*  
*January 2—Teacher Work Day*  
*January 5—Start of Second Semester*  
*January 19—No School: MLKJ Day; Teacher PD*  
*February 9—No School: Mid Winter Break*  
*March 6—No School: Mid Winter Break*  
*March 18— Teacher PD in AM; Parent Teacher Conf @ Elem 1-6*  
*March 19-20—No School: Spring Break*  
*April 3—No School: Good Friday*  
*April 6—No school: Teacher Work Day*  
*May 22—Last Day of School; Dismiss @ 1:30*  
*May 24—Graduation @ 1pm*



**Dakota Prairie School District  
Box 37  
Petersburg, ND 58272**

### *Frequency of Publication Information:*

Dakota Prairie Knight Reader is published monthly during the school year by Dakota Prairie School District, except for the summer months when a June/July and August issue appear. The main office for the district is located at 518 4th Ave. Petersburg, ND 58272.

Comments may be made in writing or by calling 701-345-8233 during school hours.

Discrimination  
and Harassment  
Grievance  
Procedure

Nondiscrimina-  
tion and Anti-  
Harassment  
Policy

Title IX Sexual  
Harassment  
Grievance  
Procedure



Dakota Prairie  
Course Descriptions



Dakota Prairie does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age, in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Dakota Prairie Superintendent has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies. (Supt. Jay B. Slade, P.O. Box 37, Petersburg, ND, 58272, 701-345-8233, [jay.slade@k12.nd.us](mailto:jay.slade@k12.nd.us)).

Title IX Coordinator: Dakota Prairie Superintendent — District Office Phone Number 701-345-8233 (Supt. Jay B. Slade, P.O. Box 37, Petersburg, ND, 58272, 701-345-8233, [jay.slade@k12.nd.us](mailto:jay.slade@k12.nd.us)).