

PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 8

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CENTRAL OFFICE, BUSINESS OFFICE
605 NORTH SEVENTH
FAIRBURY, IL 61739
PAULA H. CRANE, ED.S, SUPERINTENDENT
TEL (815) 692-2504
FX (815) 692-3195

OPERATIONAL SERVICES
SOUTH ANNEX, 600 SOUTH FIRST
FAIRBURY, IL 61739
FOOD SERVICES TEL (815) 692-2115
MAINTENANCE TEL (815) 692-3348
TRANSPORTATION TEL (815) 692-3484

January 27, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Although we have thankfully experienced a rather mild winter so far, recent weather has made it obvious that we will not escape it altogether. This would be a great time to log into your Infinite Campus parent portal to be sure your contact information is correct, especially your phone numbers and email address.

Also, we would like to make you aware of the possibility of the use of **e-learning days**. The Board of Education has approved the use of up to three e-learning days in lieu of our historic “snow days” this year. There are many specifications set forth by the State Board of Education in order for these days to count as a student attendance day. We will do our best to educate and to make these days beneficial for all students.

A few things to note about e-learning days:

*An e-learning day allows us to provide an instructional day even if our buildings are not open due to weather/road conditions, etc. If we use an e-Learning day, students and teachers will work from home. Because it is not a traditional snow day and it will count as a school attendance day (not have to be made up at the end of the year), it must include five clock hours of teaching and learning. This requirement could be met by live lessons and through the completion of activities and homework.

*At this time, e-learning days will only be used if we can confidently cancel school by 2:00 pm the day before. This gives teachers ample time to prepare remote lessons as well as organize materials and technology to send home with students. It will also give parents time to plan for their child’s e-learning day.

*We will not use two e-learning days in a row. If more than one emergency day is needed in succession, a traditional “snow day” will be used, and will be made up at the end of the school year.

*These days are NOT optional for students. They count as a school day, and therefore we must have contact with students, and teaching and learning must occur. All teachers will take attendance. If your child is unable to participate in the lessons, parents should be sure the teacher is aware of why they cannot participate. This could be done through email or any other “usual” method of communication with your child’s teacher(s) or by leaving a message on the school phone. As with a traditional school day, if we do not receive communication about an absence, the child’s absence will be documented as “unexcused”.

*Activities, homework, face-to-face lessons, etc. through Google Classroom and other means will be part of your child’s day. All activities will be supported within your child’s grade level, and will be developmentally appropriate. Assignments will address a blend of core academic and related supports based on students’ needs. If your child has NO access to internet to allow them the ability to use these materials, please let your child’s teacher know as soon as possible. This is data we will collect to help drive decision-making for the future.

*Your child will need to log into their Google Classroom account to receive lessons, work, communication, etc. from their teacher(s). If your child is not already regularly doing this at school, instructions will be sent home by the teacher.

*Taking into consideration that not all students have the same access to reliable internet connectivity at home, assignments are expected to be completed and turned in within 3 school days upon return to a regular school schedule. Assignments will be part of the student's grade.

*Teachers and staff will be available each e-learning day until 2:00pm through electronic means. Students will receive lessons, be able to ask questions and can receive help from teachers during this time. Schedules for students will be posted in Google Classroom.

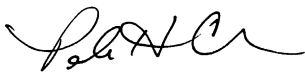
*To the best of our ability, we will ensure appropriate learning opportunities and supports are in place for students with special needs. If your child has an IEP case manager, you/your child should expect communication from that teacher or a paraprofessional during the day.

*If e-learning days are used, we will be asking for your input on your child(ren)'s experiences (pros/cons) with these days immediately after the day or at the end of the year so we can continue to improve. We will also be collecting other data for future use, such as attendance, completed homework, participation, etc. It is important to us that we ensure ALL students are served during these days.

*If an e-learning day is used, you will be informed through our "usual" method of communication for emergency days.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Crane", written in a cursive style.

Paula Crane,
Superintendent