



PRAIRIE KNOLLS FALCONS

225 Nesler Road, Elgin IL 60124 Phone: 847-717-8100 Fax: 847-717-8105

Principal: Dr. Matthew Haug

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Carrie Ahlsted Assistant Principal: Mr. Matt Newquist

September 21-22 Falcon Flyer

Important Dates

**Sept. 6 – No School
Labor Day Holiday**

**Sept. 7 -Music Boosters
7:00 pm. @ CHS**

**Sept. 13-PTO Meeting
6:30 @ PKMS**

Digital Bulletin Board



My wish for you.....

Ms. Munao working on our Back-to-School project!

Dr. Haug's Message

From The Principal 09-01-21

September is here and we are firmly settled into our new school year!

First, let me thank all of you who attended our Back to School Parent Night, which was held on Wednesday, August 25th. We were happy that we were able to hold an in-person event this year and I am grateful for your cooperation in having one family member attend the evening. Hopefully, next year we will be in a better place to have even more families attend!

Speaking of "...having even more families attend...", this year we have recorded our largest attendance number ever; 757 students divided between our 6th and 7th grades. That is amazing! This also has presented us with a few challenges that we have had to overcome. We learned from last year that having students exit the building from different locations, depending upon whether they are a bus rider, biker/walker, or car rider, has helped with much of the congestion. Also, Fourth Quarter last year inspired us to try a new plan to help get cars off of Nesler Road at dismissal time. Finally, reminding students to walk on the right side of the hallways, through doorways, and using "UP" and "DOWN" stairs has also helped the flow of students between classes. You can help us by talking to your children about following the hallway expectations and, for our car riders, standing along the curved sidewalk in the front drop-off area. By having the cars pull up to the students, we are actually able to move car traffic along more quickly and safely.

September also brings us to our first administration of the Fastbridge aMath and aReading Screening Assessments. These assessments provide staff with information that can be used to support instructional adjustments in the classroom. This month, the September screenings provide us with baseline data. Future screenings will take place in the Winter and Spring months. Similar to last year, after the Spring assessment cycle, we will send annual reports home to families.

Finally, do you find yourself wondering what your students are studying in their classes? Now you can know what the students are doing, and what they can do as a result of their classes, by going onto Canvas and looking at a teacher's Week At A Glance page. In addition to having homework assignments and due dates, you will find written Learning Targets. These are learning objectives written in student-friendly language that are helping us shift the instructional culture at PKMS to make it clear to students what they should be able to do as a result of the day's lesson. Check it out and use these Learning Targets as conversation starters with your children.



Assistant Principal Mr. Newquist's Corner

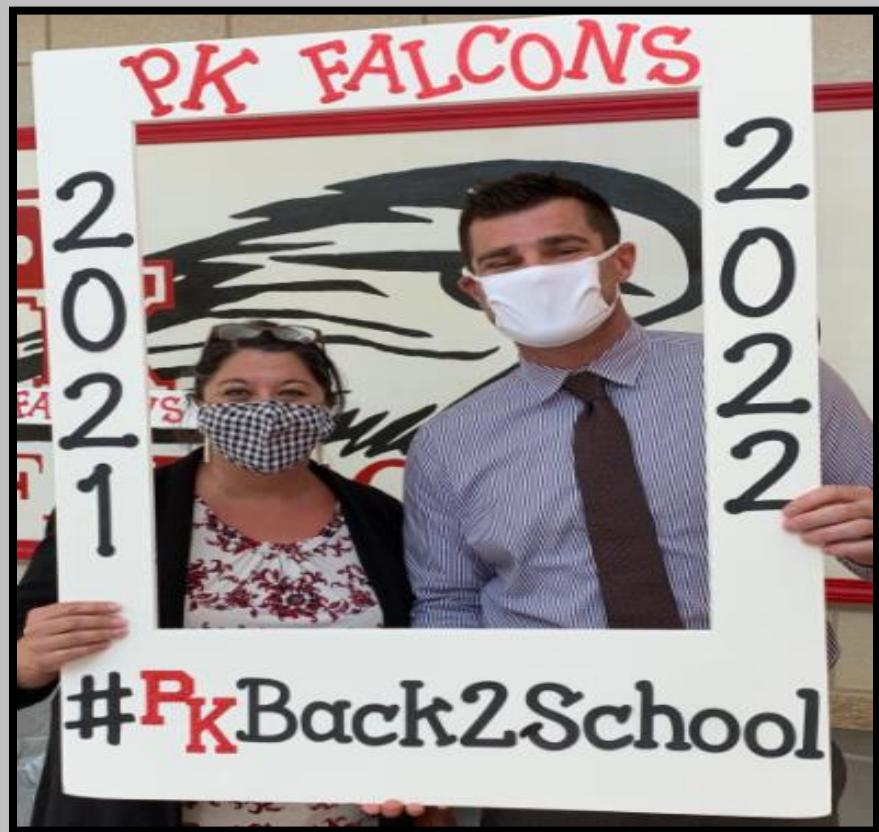
Hello Falcon Families!

The school year is off to a wonderful start, and we are all beginning to settle into that familiar “school year routine”. As some of you may know, I am new to Prairie Knolls and the Central District 301 community. I’d like to personally thank everyone for such a warm welcome! Much like many of our students and some of my fellow colleagues entering PK for the first time, all I can say is, wow, what an amazing place to go to school everyday!

Our Back-to-School Parent Night was a big success and was a great opportunity for our teachers to invite our student’s parents into their classrooms. Teachers were able to paint a picture for parents of what the day to day looks like for their students and were able to answer important questions along the way. Thank you for a terrific evening!

As we enter the month of September, students are becoming more comfortable with their back-to-school adjustment. The hallways are buzzing, schedules are set, classrooms are being located quickly, and lockers are being opened on the first try! It is obvious to see that our teachers have been able to connect with students and learning is taking place.

Falcon cross country, football, and volleyball are underway, and we have school activities such as STAR and Yearbook beginning as well. If your student would like to get involved in something, ask! The more your student can become engaged in the school year, the better. If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Mrs. Alhstedt, or Dr. Haug. I look forward to seeing you around at PK!



News from the Nurse

If your 6th grade student has not completed and submitted their required physical and immunizations for the 2020-2021 school year, it **must be submitted by October 15, 2021.**

Here is a list of school health exams that will be due for students entering these grades for the 2021-22 school year. These forms should be submitted before your student starts school in August.

- Physical Exams: Early Childhood, Kindergarten, 6th Grade, and 9th Grade
- Immunizations: Early Childhood, Kindergarten, 6th Grade, 12th grade
- Dental Exams: Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 6th Grade, and 9th Grade
- Eye Exams: Kindergarten
- If your student has a medical condition that may require nursing support and/or medications while at school, their Individual Health Plan and/or MedA forms will need to be updated for the next school year.

All the Health Requirements and forms for District 301 can be found on our website at: <https://central301.net/health-services/health-requirements/>

General News

Need To Know-From the Front Office

To pick up a student you must complete the QR code by using your cellphone at the front entrance of the school. When completed, notify the office by pressing the button and we will call your child from class.

To drop off a student after the start of school, the student must complete the QR code by using their cellphone at the front entrance of the school. If the student does not have a phone, the student will push the button to have the office manually enter the required information. When completed the student will enter and receive a pass to class.

Calling a student in absent: Please note that parents are expected to call the main office to give a reason for any absence. Absences can be called in (24/7) before or after hours by calling, 847-717-8100 and follow the prompt to connect to the Attendance Voicemail. Be sure to leave your students first and last name, grade, and a detailed reason for the absence. If your child is feeling sick, please report the symptoms of the illness. This information will be recorded, and if appropriate, main office staff will follow up with you.

Daily Announcements: Morning announcements are read throughout the building in the morning to inform students of upcoming events, activities, sports highlights, and other items of importance. If you would like to know the happenings at PKMS, log into Skyward. Both parents and students have access to the message board when you log into Skyward.

Picking up a Student Early: It is recommended that you send your student with a note stating the student's first and last name, grade, time of pickup and the reason for leaving early and to bring it to the office at the start of school. We will then make a copy for him/her to bring to his/her teacher. This will make the teacher aware he/she will be called from class. This is especially recommended if a student is being called from PE. If anyone other than a parent is picking him/her up, please note that as well.

Attending Home Sporting Events

If students plan to attend any home PKMS Athletic Events they must leave school at 2:38pm and find a ride back to school for the game. Students can come back to PKMS 15 minutes before the start of the game. For example, any student that is planning on attending a 7th grade Football game must go home and come back at 4:15pm, which is 15 minutes before the 4:30pm start time. This is only for students who plan to attend the events to cheer on their fellow classmates, not athletes who will be participating in the game.

Lunch Program Information

Our lunch program operates on a swipe card system which uses the student's school ID card to access funds stored online through www.myschoolbucks.com. Parents are able to add money to their student account with a credit or debit card. Please note that cashiers will not accept cash or checks in the lunch line. Students are also able to bring their own lunch from home if they so desire.

Students who are ordering hot lunch will do so each day in their first period classes. It is imperative that students who intend to purchase a hot lunch place their orders each morning so that the cafeteria staff have an accurate count of the number of lunches to make each day and that there are enough lunches available for all students.

Contact Information

Below are individuals that you can contact if you have any questions:

Dr. Matthew Haug, Principal (matthew.haug@central301.net)

Mrs. Carrie Ahlstedt, Assistant Principal (carrie.ahlstedt@central301.net)

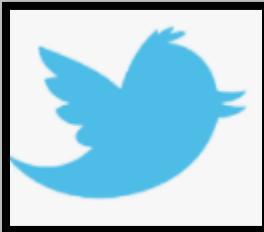
Mr. Matthew Newquist, Assistant Principal (matt.newquist@central301.net)

Mr. Brody Hamel, Athletic Director (brody.hamel@central301.net)

Mr. Charles Brooks, School Social Worker (charles.brooks@central301.net)

Mrs. Rose Simpson, School Social Worker (rose.simpson@central301.net)

Mrs. Lauren Sak, School Nurse (lauren.sak@central301.net)



Principal Matthew E. Haug @PKMSPrincipal
Assistant Principal Carrie Ahlstedt @AhlstedtCarrie
Assistant Principal Matt Newquist @newquist_matt

6th Grade Team News

Math - We have had a fabulous start to 6th grade! In math, students are starting the year off learning about operations with decimals and fractions, least common multiple, greatest common factor, the distributive property, and how we can use these operations in daily life. Try it! How many $\frac{1}{8}$ -pound servings are in three $\frac{1}{2}$ -pounds of chocolate?

Science - We are so excited to welcome students to PKMS and the Science department. We are starting out the year with our Science and Engineering Unit. In this unit students will be asked to make observations that lead to inferences. Inferencing is something we all do everyday and is very important in the world of science. Other areas covered will utilize measurements so we can calculate area, volume, mass, and density. It will be so much fun to be able to get the students involved with labs again!

Social Studies - The year has gotten off to a great start! This month in SS we will be delving into Ancient China's history and learning about its geography, philosophies, and achievements. Students will be learning how history is setting the stage to repeat itself throughout this year's historical studies. Stay tuned!

ELA - It has been a great start of the year! Students have focused on genres and formats, and they have also gotten into their independent reading books! Moving forward in our unit, students will be studying plot, characterization, and character change. We will also be comparing and contrasting texts of different genres to analyze their portrayal of the same topic and learning all about annotating! Be sure to keep up with your 20 minutes of independent reading, students!



7th Grade Team News

ELA- 7th-grade ELA is excited about starting this new school year! Students have chosen a book they want to read and will be getting time in class each day to read. They also just started their first whole-class read aloud story—*Flight of the Puffin*—a realistic fiction story that introduces readers to the power of small acts of kindness. Students are working on journal writing in class where they have topic choice and time to practice writing skills and stamina; every other week, we will practice revising and editing using their journal entries. We are also starting our first thematic unit focused on determination.

Math 7- 7th grade math students are starting the school year with the rational numbers' unit. In this unit, students will be able to use all four operations (add, subtract, multiply and divide) with positive and negative numbers and then transition to using all four operations with decimals and fractions in real world contexts. Students will also learn how to convert fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions. Integers and rational numbers are the foundation for future math units and even in real world situations!

Compacted Math- In Compacted Math 7 students are working their way into the second unit of Exponents. This is a Pre-Algebra unit. Students will learn the rules of exponents, converting scientific notation and operations of numbers in scientific notation. Students will solve real world problems involving space, population and in sciences.

Sci- Science will be starting the year with Science Skills and the Scientific Method. Since we haven't had labs since before the pandemic began, we need to brush up on our experimenting skills! From there, we will explore the 6 characteristics that all living things have in common. We will use scientific tools to organize and classify living things.

SS-Students are starting their year taking off from 6th grade by learning how the Renaissance led to the Age of Exploration and eventually, the settling of America, especially into the thirteen British colonies. Students will be learning about their formation, life, and government in the colonies, as well as the beginnings of the tension between them and Great Britain. We will also be starting our read aloud, *Johnny Tremain*, which will help students make connections between life in the colonies and how British rule impacted that.



Physical Education Team News



The PE teachers are excited to start the new school year and teach the importance of being fit and healthy! This year, students will be changing for PE. Your student is required to have a change of clothes for class. Any athletic shirt and athletic shorts will do! Remember, we like to move and be active, so clothing that is easy to move and play in is preferred. It is also strongly encouraged (but not required) that your child have extra shoes and deodorant that stays at school in their PE locker. We look forward to a fun year in PE!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

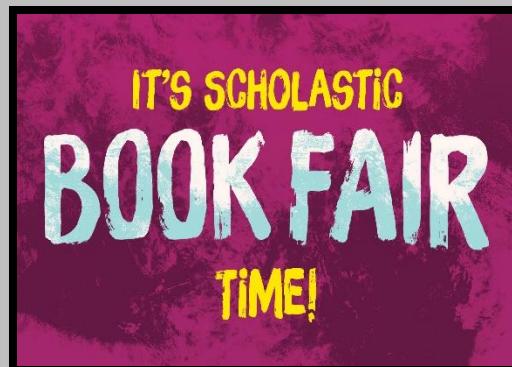
The Fair will run from Sept. 20 through Sept. 24 with the following schedule:

Mon, Wed, & Thurs 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Tues - FAMILY NIGHT 7:30 AM to 6:30 PM
Friday 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Online shopping is open 24/7, Sept 15-28

Check out these links for more information:
Interactive Flyer: [Book Flyer Middle School](#)

Book Trailers: [Middle School Book Trailer](#)

Book Fair Homepage:
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/prairieknollsmiddleschool1>



Falcon Athletics

We are just a few weeks away from the start of our boys' basketball and cheerleading seasons! Below you will find information about trying out for these sports.

General Tryout Information

Students who want to try out for a sport must have registered for that sport on 8to18 (il.8to18.com/prairieknolls) and have turned in an up-to-date physical before tryouts start. Any questions should be directed to each sport's coach or PKMS Athletic Director, Brody Hamel.

Boys' Basketball Tryouts

Tryouts will be held on:

Thursday, October 7th 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, October 8th 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

7th grade Head Coach – Mr. Richman (Scott.richman@central301.net)
Assistant Coach – Mr. Valentini

Mandatory Basketball Parent Meeting on Tuesday, October 12th @ 5:00pm in the cafeteria for all boys and parents that make the school team.

Cheerleading Tryouts

Students who are interested in joining the cheerleading squad must attend two days of tryouts in the cafeteria. During these practices the athletes will learn the sideline cheers and halftime dance that they must perform for tryouts.

Tryout Dates:

Wednesday, October 6th 3:00-5:00pm.
Thursday, October 7th 3:00-5:00pm

Mandatory Cheerleading Parent Meeting on Tuesday, October 12th @ 5:00pm in the PKMS Art Room (126) for all students that make the team. Enter the building through door 26 at the South side of the building.

Wrestling season begins in early December. Information about the season will be posted on the PKMS website in November. **Girls' Basketball** begins in January after we return from winter break. The tryout information will be posted on the PKMS website in early December. **Scholastic Bowl** tryouts will take place in November. Our last sport of the year is **Boys' and Girls' Track** which begins in March. Information for track will be available on the PKMS website in early February.

All tryout information will also be available to the students through pre-season meetings done during lunch and/or throughout the year. Below are the general requirements needed to participate in athletic tryouts or practices:

- Physical (within one year)
- Registration on 8to18 website (il.8to18.com/prairieknolls)
- Fee (\$100.00 due before the first competition)

Any student who does not have a physical and registration on 8to18 on file will not be allowed to tryout or practice!

District 301 Middle School



PTO



What Does PTO Do At The Middle School Level?

- School Assemblies
- Author Visits
- Library Supplies
- Teacher Requests
- PE Department Needs
- Staff Appreciation
- Student Recognition
- Field Day
- 8th Grade Send Off
- Much more!

Join Us!

Our first PTO Meeting will be Monday Sept 13th at 6:30 at PKMS!

We Are Looking For Help!

After more than a year without the ability to run most PTO activities, many of our volunteers have moved onto the High School level. We are actively looking for volunteers to help make our programs run successfully! If you are interested in learning more please contact us at CMSPKMSPTO@gmail.com.



SEPTEMBER 2021

Central Middle School, Prairie Knolls Middle School

PRICES \$0.40 MILK
\$3.75 ADULT / TEACHER LUNCH

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

LAJOR DAY
HOLIDAY

NO SCHOOL

FRENCH TOAST STICKS
WITH CHICKEN SAUSAGE PATTIE
AND MAPLE SYRUP CUP
GOLD RUSH JUICE BOX
HASH BROWN PATTIE (1)
CHILLED APPLESauce
CHOICE OF MILK

CHEESEBURGER
ON A BIG BUN
CRISPY TATER TOTS
TENDER CARROTS
MIXED FRUIT CUP
CHOICE OF MILK

MINI PANCAKES
WITH CHICKEN SAUSAGE PATTIE
AND MAPLE PANCAKE SYRUP
CHEESE STICK
TROPICAL TWIST JUICE BOX
HASH BROWN PATTIE (1)
CHILLED PEACHES
CHOICE OF MILK

MINI WAFFLES
W/ CHICKEN SAUSAGE PATTIE
& MAPLE SYRUP CUP
FRUIT YOGURT
POWER PUNCH JUICE BOX
HASH BROWN PATTIE (1)
CHILLED PEARS
CHOICE OF MILK

AMERICAN SUB
MADE WITH HAM, TURKEY & CHEESE
BAKED BEANS
SEASONED CORN
CHILLED PEACHES
CHOICE OF MILK

CHEESEBURGER
ON A BIG BUN
CRISPY TATER TOTS
TENDER CARROTS
MIXED FRUIT CUP
CHOICE OF MILK

BREADED CHICKEN PATTY
ON A BIG BUN
MASHED POTATOES
FRESH BROCCOLI #WITH DIP
ORANGE WEDGES
CHOICE OF MILK

ROUND 5" CHEESE
PIZZA
TENDER PEAS
CARROTEENIES WITH DIP
FROZEN FRUIT SLUSHY
CHOICE OF MILK

BEEF NACHOS
WITH SALSA
FIESTA BLACK BEANS
CARROTEENIES
WITH RANCH DIP
FRESH APPLESICLES
CHOICE OF MILK

SLOPPY JOE
ON A BIG BUN
OVEN FRENCH FRIES
BROCCOLI FLORETS
#WITH RANCH DIP
FROZEN FRUIT SLUSHY
CHOICE OF MILK

ORANGE CHICKEN
OVER RICE / MORN RICE
GREEN BEANS
BROCCOLI #WITH DIP
FRESH APPLE SLICES
CHOICE OF MILK

BOSCO CHEESE STICKS (2)
WITH MARINARA SAUCE
CRISPY TATER TOTS
GREEN BEANS
CHILLED APPLESauce
CHOICE OF MILK

CHICKEN NUGGETS (5)
BROCCOLI FLORETS
#WITH DIP
GREEN BEANS
ORANGE WEDGES
CHOICE OF MILK

STUFFED CRUST
CHEESE PIZZA
GARDEN SALAD
WITH CHERRY TOMATOES
WITH DRESSING
SEASONED CORN
MIXED FRUIT CUP
CHOICE OF MILK

CHEESE FRENCH
BREAD PIZZA
GARDEN SALAD
WITH CHERRY TOMATOES
WITH FRENCH DRESSING
GREEN BEANS
ORANGE WEDGES
CHOICE OF MILK

MEXICAN BEEF TACO
#WITH CHEESE LETTUCE SALAD
REFRIED BEANS
SEASONED CORN
CHILLED PEARS
CHOICE OF MILK

ROUND 5" CHEESE PIZZA
FRESH GARDEN SALAD
WITH CHERRY TOMATOES
WITH DRESSING
TENDER PEAS
APPLE SLICES
CHOICE OF MILK

BEEF HOT DOG
ON A BIG BUN
BAKED VEGETARIAN
BEANS
CELERY STICKS #WITH DIP
CHILLED PEARS
CHOICE OF MILK

BOSCO CHEESE
STICKS (2)
WITH MARINARA SAUCE
CRISPY TATER TOTS
GREEN BEANS
ORANGE WEDGES
CHOICE OF MILK

CHICKEN N' WAFFLES
WITH MAPLE SYRUP
TENDER PEAS
CARROT STICKS #WITH DIP
POWER PUNCH JUICE BOX
FRESH APPLE SLICES
CHOICE OF MILK

Choice of Milk: 1% Low-Fat Unflavored
Fat Free Chocolate

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE
WITHOUT NOTICE



PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE
MySchoolBucks.com