

ABOUT

The Prairie School is a selective, independent day school located 30 miles south of Milwaukee and 60 miles north of Chicago. The school is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools and the only Malone School in Wisconsin, and is accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. Prairie is among the most socioeconomically diverse independent schools in the country.

MISSION

The Prairie School nurtures the creativity, interests and abilities of every student, inspiring each to explore, thrive, and add value individually and in collaboration with others. Our community of students, faculty, and families work together to create a collaborative and supportive culture grounded in human values – celebrating both our differences and commonalities. Prairie graduates are prepared for college and life with the desire and skills to make the world a better place.

DISTINCTIVE PRAIRIE OFFERINGS

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Students are required to attend an annual four-day experience in Wisconsin’s north woods that kicks off each school year. Each year builds on the one before, developing skills in collaboration, problem-solving, and leadership. From in-camp team building as freshmen to kayaking as seniors, students engage in self-discovery and learn important life lessons.

MALONE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Malone Schools Online Network (MSON) provides intellectually curious and motivated upper-level students with a variety of challenging courses. The courses (often beyond AP-level) are taught by experienced independent school educators and enhance Prairie’s college-preparatory curriculum. Each course is limited to 16 participants and requires each student to maintain independence, commitment, and active engagement in a discussion seminar setting. MSON courses are weighted an additional 1.0 point.

J-TERM

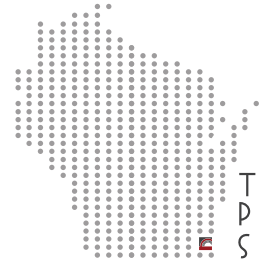
Students are required to participate in a J-Term (January) course each of their four years of high school. J-Term offers experiential and hands-on learning experiences that would not be otherwise available in the regular curriculum. The two-week runtime allows for a deep dive into specialized topics meant to broaden students’ interests and skillsets. J-Term was established in the fall of 2023.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & BUDDY PROGRAM

Through sustained voluntary efforts, service becomes a life-long commitment. Working together with those they serve, students learn to embrace the commonalities of all humans, overcome bias, develop organizational and leadership skills, and instill a sense of civic responsibility into their daily lives. There is a 25-hour service requirement that must be met each year. Through the Buddy Program, every high school student mentors a middle or primary school student to develop their leadership skills and serve as a role model throughout the school year.

CO-CURRICULAR

Participation in theatre, music, interscholastic athletics, and various clubs supports students’ personal growth. Students must engage in at least 75 hours of co-curricular activity each year. In instances where participation in school-sponsored activities is not possible, comparable growth opportunities such as community drama productions and club sports suffice.



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STUDENTS BY THE NUMBERS

217 Enrollment
14 Average Class Size

7:1 Student-Faculty Ratio

5% International

40% Students of Color

54% Receiving Financial Assistance

FACULTY BY THE NUMBERS

31 Full-Time Teaching Faculty

20% Hold Ph.D.s

77% Hold Advanced Degrees

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Each year, students complete a combination of yearlong and semester long courses. Given the rigorous demands, the standard workload consists of five core academic classes per semester. Students cannot exceed seven courses. Class scheduling often does not permit students to enroll in all courses for which they are eligible. Additional notes for consideration:

- Prairie does not rank its students.
- AP and Malone (MSON) courses are weighted an additional 1.0.
- There are no 9th grade AP courses offered. One AP is offered in 10th. Two are offered in 11th.
- Students may not take more than three AP courses in 12th grade without petitioning.
- With the exception of Chemistry and Intermediate Algebra, all academic courses are taught at the honors level or higher. However, only AP and MSON courses are weighted.
- Inspired by our architecturally-significant building and world-class, permanent art collection, our students graduate with a deep appreciation of the arts. Coursework includes but is not limited to photography, ceramics, glassblowing, visual art, architecture, choir, and theatre.

GRADING

A	/ 4.0	93-100
A-	/ 3.7	90-92
B+	/ 3.3	87-89
B	/ 3.0	83-86
B-	/ 2.7	80-82
C+	/ 2.3	77-79
C	/ 2.0	73-76
C-	/ 1.7	70-72
D+	/ 1.3	67-69
D	/ 1.0	63-66
D-	/ 0.7	60-62
F	/ 0.0	<60

Class of 2025 Profile • Total Class 55 Students

GPA Distribution Through Junior Year	
4.20+	4
4.00-4.19	14
3.70-3.99	15
3.21-3.69	16
<3.20	5

ACT Results (Middle 50%)*	
Composite	21-29
English	22-31
Math	20-28
Reading	23-32
Science	21-29

*46 students accounted for 87 tests taken

Historical Profile • 2020-2024

Mean GPA Through Junior Year	
2024	3.70
2023	3.60
2022	3.70
2021	3.51
2020	3.68

ACT Composite (Middle 50%)	
2024	22-29
2023	21-29
2022	22-31
2021	22-28
2020	23-30

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

- 100% of students in the class of 2025 will have taken at least one AP course.
- 79% of the class earned a passing grade on an AP exam through junior year.
- 62% achieved a 4 or 5.

AP Students with a score of 3+

Class of	Class of	Class of
2022	2023	2024
90%	89%	84%

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & CORE ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

22.75 academic credits are required to graduate. Additional requirements include 25 hrs./year of volunteer service, 75 hrs./year of co-curricular activities, a minimum of 3 times/week of physical activity, and a comprehensive long-term research paper in junior year on a historical or literary topic.

English

4 credits + public speaking required

English 9, 10, 11, 12
 English 12: History of Film
 English 12: Literary Labyrinths (semester)
 Public Speaking (semester)
 AP English 12 (literature)

Mathematics

3 credits required

Algebra 1 & 2
 Intermediate Algebra
 Accelerated Algebra 2
 Geometry
 Precalculus A
 Precalculus AB
 Calculus
 Probability & Statistics
 AP Calculus AB
 AP Calculus BC
 AP Statistics
 Introduction to Data Science (semester)
 Discrete Mathematics
 (semester/discrete courses)

Science

3 credits required

Biology
 Chemistry
 Honors Chemistry
 Physics
 Honors Physics
 Environmental Science
 (semester/discrete courses)
 Advanced Anatomy & Physiology
 (semester/discrete courses)
 Architectural Engineering
 (semester/discrete courses)
 AP Biology
 AP Chemistry
 AP Environmental Science

Social Studies

3 credits required

History of the Classical World
 History of the Modern World
 U.S. History
 Comparative Religions (semester)
 Economics (semester)
 Government and Politics (semester)
 History of Film (semester)

Interdisciplinary

Capstone

Social Studies (cont.)

History of Warfare (semester)
 21st Century American
 Experience (semester)
 AP Comparative Government
 & Politics (semester)
 AP U.S. History
 AP World History

World Language

3 credits required
 Chinese 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 French 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 AP French 5 (language)
 AP Spanish 5 (language)

Visual and Performing Arts*

1.75 credits required
 AP Music Theory
 AP 2-D Art and Design
 *only academic courses listed