

Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer!



Studies show that students do better in school when their parents/guardians are involved. You can help out as much as your level of commitment will allow. Please take a look at the committee descriptions below and volunteer according to your schedule!

Adult Social Fundraiser

Committee members organize and promote this annual H&S fundraiser. This event can take place at a time of the committee's choosing, however usually it occurs in the spring. The event can include raffles and silent auctions but does not need to incorporate the same ideas year to year.

Commitment: Medium during the school year, High for the month or two leading up to the fundraiser

Art Awareness

The Prairie Art Awareness program is a volunteer program in which you assist in teaching three art classes in your child's classroom. It is meant to enhance the places, time or feelings of the social science subject that is currently being taught by your child's teacher. Lessons and materials for the craft are supplied. **Each homeroom needs volunteers to ensure your child's classroom gets to enjoy this program. It is led by parents! The children love listening and learning from you! It is educational, fun, and puts smiles on their faces!

Commitment: Low, 3 times/year

Art From the Heart

This committee creates an art project with each grade level that is raffled off at the Adult Social Fundraiser to benefit Home & School. The committee is responsible for choosing a theme, coordinating volunteers to work in each classroom and overseeing the assembling of the finished products.

Commitment: High in the winter and spring until items are created.

Assemblies

This committee coordinates 3 assemblies offered to the student body during the school year. The committee selects and manages these programs with the Assistant Principal's help and approval.

Commitment: Low to medium, with most assemblies booked by October/November.

Author Visits

This committee acts as the intermediary between the LC director and Anderson's Book Fair Company to select authors to host at Prairie. Duties include preparing a welcoming environment for each author, including bulletin boards, marquee, and thank-you gifts. The committee coordinates the logistics for the author talk and assists with book signings; before each visit pre-orders are collected for the author's book(s) and after the event they are distributed.

Commitment: Varies throughout the year as visits can occur at any time. Expect 5-6 visits yearly.

Birthday Books

In celebration of student birthdays each student is invited to make a selection from the books purchased by H&S. The committee will purchase and maintain the selection of available Birthday Book choices.

Commitment: Low

Book Fair

There are two Book Fairs offered during the school year and are usually held in conjunction with Parent/Teacher conferences in the fall and spring. The committee plans the theme for the fair and is responsible for the set up, decorating and flyers. During the book fair the committee is responsible for helping students fill out their wish lists and assist with sales.

Commitment: High for a short period of time, twice/year.

Community Coventures

This committee coordinates monthly fundraising partnerships with various community businesses throughout the school year. Fundraisers can include Shop-n-Share at local businesses and designated "Eat Out" days at local restaurants with proceeds benefiting Prairie H&S.

Commitment: Medium, monthly throughout the year

Directory

This committee is responsible for managing the online Prairie School directory through the Directory Spot app. The committee receives all family contact information directly from District 203.

Commitment: Medium beginning of the school year, Low throughout the rest of the school year.

Family Connections

This committee offers/coordinates support to families in need within the Prairie community by working with the school social worker, nurse and principal.

Commitment: Medium, sporadic throughout the year

5th Grade Special Projects

To celebrate the 5th graders' last year at Prairie Elementary, this committee coordinates and organizes the 5th grade panoramic picture, distribution of Prairie pennants, 5th grade Fine Arts Program/ PowerPoint presentation, special all-class Valentine's Day Party, class t-shirts, Ice Cream Social, and other "special projects" deemed unique to 5th grade. This is a full-year committee, often broken into subcommittees, with some money-handling.

Commitment: Medium throughout the year

Garden Committee (Prairie Edible Garden/Garden Club)

This committee is responsible for the annual maintenance, planting, watering, and harvesting of the Prairie Edible Garden via the Garden Club (This includes the summer months). The Garden Club is open to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students in the spring and to 4th and 5th students in the fall. Meetings take place on Mondays after school. Students and teachers are encouraged to access the garden to support the Science Curriculum.

Garden Committee members work closely with the Prairie Fest Committee to acknowledge the Fall Harvest. Activities planned highlight the work of the Garden Club's accomplishments for that growing season.

Commitment: Varies with growing season: low in winter months, low/medium in the summer and medium/high in spring and fall.

Health and Safety

This committee is responsible for organizing volunteers to help with Vision & Hearing Screenings (fall), organizing Walk/Bike to School Day (fall) and setting up and maintaining the Hat and Mitten Tree (December). Volunteers can assist with one or more aspects of this committee depending upon their availability.

Commitment: Low, occasionally throughout the year.

Jingle Bell Junction

This committee is responsible for organizing and promoting the annual winter event at which students are given the opportunity to shop for inexpensive holiday gifts.

Commitment: Medium for the months of November/December.

Marquee

This committee is responsible for maintaining the messages on the outdoor marquee year-round. The committee organizes information for H&S and school events received from staff and H&S chairpersons.

Commitment: Medium, all year.

Movie Night

This committee is responsible for scheduling, planning, and implementing a Movie Night event at Prairie. This event is typically scheduled for winter.

Commitment: Medium in the months leading up to the event.

Prairie Day

This committee organizes and manages this non-competitive, fun-filled day for all Prairie students during the last week of school. Note: this is the school "field day".

Commitment: High leading up to the event.

Prairie Fest

This is an annual, free, Prairie community social event. It is held in early fall with food trucks, inflatables, and other fun activities for the whole family.

Commitment: Medium for the weeks leading up to the event.

Prairie Partners

This committee welcomes and mentors new families who join the Prairie community. Prairie partner committee members reach out to new families and make themselves available to guide them throughout their first year at Prairie.

This committee, along with the H&S Executive Board, is responsible for the New Family Coffee in the beginning of the school year.

Commitment: Low, mostly at the beginning of the school year.

Room Parents

This committee hosts three classroom parties per school year. Each classroom has a Head Room Parent who organizes the parent volunteers, games, and activities for that classroom. There is a maximum of five room parents per party, per classroom. This committee coordinates with the Staff Appreciation: Gifts committee to organize the Teacher Appreciation Week activities in May.

Commitment: Low/medium leading up to each party and medium leading up to Teacher Appreciation week.

School Enhancements

This committee works to make the grounds and lobby of Prairie beautiful.

Commitment: Low throughout the year.

SFCP (School, Family, Community Partnership)

This committee serves as a liaison between the District SFCP committee and Prairie Elementary. The committee is responsible for planning and orchestrating special events that promote school improvement goals and involve families and the community. The Principal appoints this committee chairperson as well as committee members (this is the only committee that functions this way). Events can include a STEM Fair and Community Reads Program among others.

Commitment: Medium in the 2-4 weeks leading up to planned events (usually 2-3/year).

School Supply Kits

This committee helps collect school supply requests for each grade level via designated teacher leads. The committee works with a school supply vendor to source supply kits which are then made available for online purchase. This committee works with the supply vendor on the supply kits purchase order and online order system, as well as the supply kits distribution and returns. Preliminary work begins in January, with the final work completing the week before the beginning of the new school year.

Commitment: Medium, January-May, and in August when school starts.

Social Media

This chairperson is responsible for maintaining the H&S social media pages by highlighting important school events and information. This includes creating Facebook events for things going on at school, and working with the school IT Professionals to keep the Home & School updated.

Commitment: Low throughout the year.

Special Projects

This is a unique committee that oversees several miscellaneous projects/programs. It is ideal for those who want to volunteer but cannot make a regular time commitment. Committee members may be called occasionally to help with the school's Lost and Found and Picture Day. This committee also facilitates the Kane County Cougars Reading Program in the spring. Volunteers may also be called to help other committees who need help with a specific project.

Commitment: Low, flexible, occasional.

Spirit Wear

This committee is responsible for managing and selling Prairie Spirit wear through online sales and at various school functions.

Commitment: Medium at the beginning of the school year, low rest of the year.

Staff Appreciation: Food

The Food sub-committee of the Staff Appreciation Committee is responsible for working with volunteers to provide meals and treats periodically throughout the school year for Prairie staff (usually 4-6 times).

Commitment: Low, at various times throughout the year.

Staff Appreciation: Gifts

The Gifts sub-committee of the Staff Appreciation Committee is responsible for providing tokens of appreciation, acknowledgments of sympathy, and congratulations for the staff as needed throughout the year. This committee also coordinates Teacher Appreciation Week activities with the Room Parent Committee.

Commitment: High in October for Principal/Assistant Principal Day, November for Educational Support Professionals Day and in April/May leading up to Teacher Appreciation Week. Low/Medium for the rest of the school year.

Staff Gift Cards

This committee is responsible for organizing, advertising, acquiring and distributing staff gift cards ordered by Prairie families prior to winter break and at the end of the school year.

Commitment: Medium, twice a year.

Yearbook

This committee is responsible for creating the annual Prairie Pawprints yearbook. Volunteer photographers are assigned to take pictures for classroom montage pages (this includes designing and laying out the pictures for the grades yearbook page). Volunteer photographers are also assigned to take pictures at various prairie school events throughout the year. The chairperson(s) are responsible for project management, creating the overall layout, organization, and final editing/proofing. Other special projects include; managing the cover art contest, Kindergarten Portraits, 5thGrade Memories, 5thGrade Congrats, Staff Welcomes/Retirements, and many more.

Commitment: Year long, Medium for volunteer photographers; High for chairperson(s).

Yearbook Sales

It is this committee's responsibility to organize and promote yearbook sales throughout the school year. Committee members work closely with the Yearbook committee to ensure timelines are adhered to and adjusted as needed. This committee is responsible for the distribution of the yearbooks in May.

Commitment: low, occasional.