

# Experience

 THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL





# THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

**Learning and growing.  
It's at the heart of everything we do.**

This is where your child will be exposed to an unmatched array of topics and ideas. Where they will learn to create, collaborate and communicate. Where they will become equipped with the tools to think, reason, write and question.

This is where your child will take ownership of their dreams while chasing down their passions.

**This is Prairie.**



# Schedule the visit that will change your child's life.

[prairieschool.com](http://prairieschool.com)

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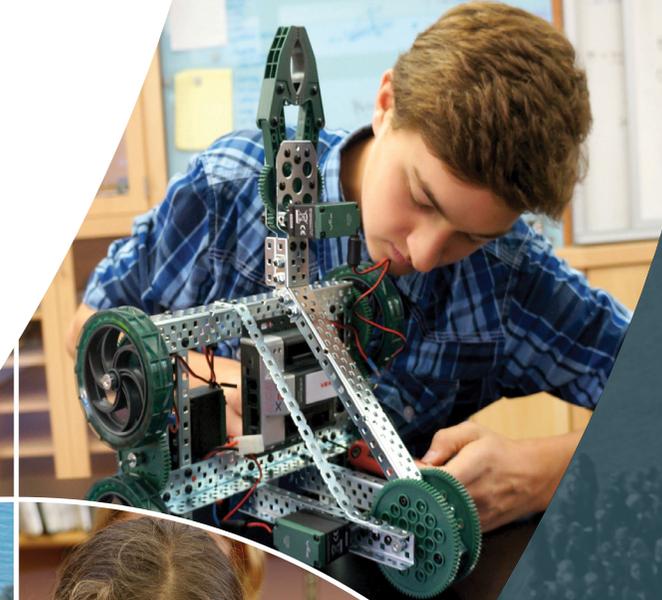
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# INSIDE THE NUMBERS

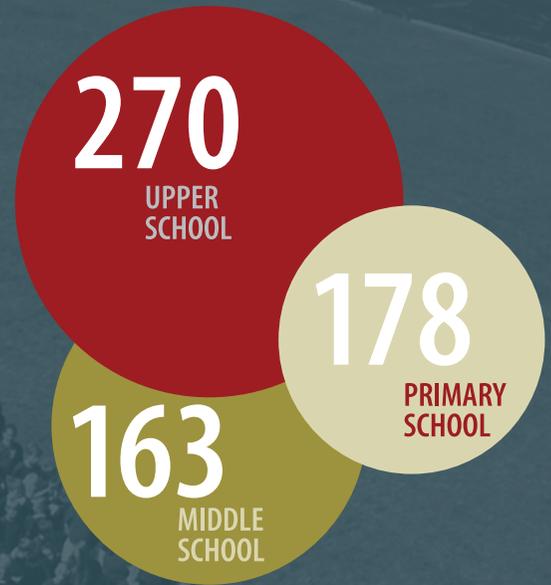
There are a lot of statistics that set us apart from other schools. What we're most proud of, however, is the picture those numbers paint – a vibrant learning environment filled with limitless opportunities. A place where every student is known and valued, supported and challenged.



Imogene Powers Johnson,  
Co-Founder



The Prairie School is proud to be a **Top 50 School\*** in the USA.



TALIESIN-DESIGNED  
CAMPUS

 **18** STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

**14**  
GOLD MEDALS WON  
BY UPPER SCHOOL  
SCIENCE OLYMPIAD  
AT 2016 WISCONSIN REGIONAL



**26**  
CONCERTS,  
PLAYS AND  
PERFORMANCES  
DURING PRAIRIE'S 2016-17  
PERFORMING ARTS SEASON



**100%**  
SELECTIVE COLLEGE  
PLACEMENT FOR  
CLASS OF 2016

 **\$10.5 MILLION**  
MERIT-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS  
OFFERED TO CLASS OF 2016

5-YEAR ACT  
AVERAGE   
**27.1**

**3,030**  
TOTAL HOURS OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
PERFORMED BY CLASS OF 2016

**45**   
FACULTY MEMBERS  
WITH ADVANCED  
DEGREES

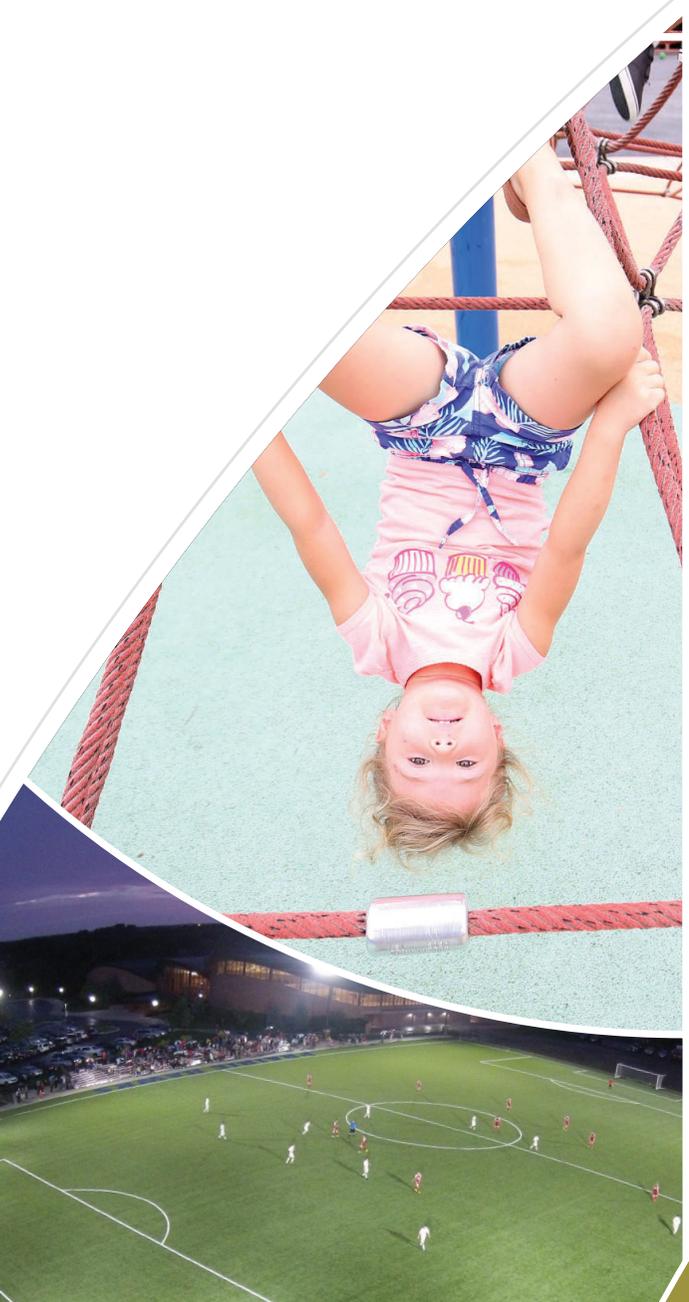
\* as selected by The Malone Family Foundation



# AT THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL, EVERY CHILD BECOMES HIS OR HER BEST SELF.

Imagine the world through your child's eyes. Maybe you're three. Maybe you're fifteen. Do you see a planet filled with possibility? Do you have a desire to ask questions and make discoveries? Are you driven to make the most of all the amazing opportunities life has to offer?

**This is our mission.**





We believe a well-rounded education is the key to lifelong success.

Our students are encouraged to pursue and achieve excellence in **all** things. Here your son or daughter will realize their dreams as a scholar, artist, athlete and leader. By capitalizing on the countless opportunities available to them at Prairie, every single student shapes an experience that prepares them to enter the next phase of their life capable and confident.

In a fast, relentless world where jobs and careers are continually evolving, Prairie graduates are creative problem solvers and outstanding communicators able to thrive in whatever endeavor they choose.

**Just imagine the possibilities.**



**“From Primary School to Middle School and now as a senior, I was always challenged to deliver the best work possible. I was not compared to other students. My instructors insisted that I perform at a level that was best for me.”**

— Gerald Davis '16  
Attending Wake Forest University



# FIND YOUR PATH

**Where will your child go to college?  
What path will they take to get there?**

At Prairie, every student is known and valued, supported and challenged. Further, they are exposed to an array of opportunities designed to help them discover lifelong ambitions and passions.

Everyone's journey is different, but by taking ownership of their individual experiences, Prairie students begin dreaming big while designing their futures. Starting freshman year, students are already working with College Counseling to discuss post high school plans. We want our students to love life and achieve greatness.

**We want them dreaming,  
doing, flourishing.**

## PRIMARY SCHOOL (PRE-K-4)

**“Every child is a unique and special individual. Our Primary School provides an environment that fosters individual and collaborative learning while developing critical thinking, leadership skills and a creative spirit.”**

— Kathy Boero, Primary School Head

The most important step in building something that will stand the test of time is a strong foundation. The Primary School (PS) is where our students develop a love of learning. We want them having fun. We want them learning the importance of kindness. We want them asking questions. And we want them learning how to find or build the solutions.

We also want them growing academically, emotionally and socially, and we foster that growth by encouraging healthy risk-taking. We want them as comfortable with math concepts as they are with serving their community, as excited about penning a poem as they are digging their hands into soil and harvesting vegetables from our Giving Garden.

A child’s brain is a fertile place, filled with interests and ideas that need constant watering. And so, in addition to math, science, reading, writing and word study, PS students participate in physical education and fine or performing arts every day. They have regular access to world language instruction, computers and individual iPads. Most importantly, all classes are conducted under the watchful eyes of expert educators focused on each child’s well-being.

For your young child to truly thrive, to start becoming their best self, we need to work together. That’s why our parents are always welcome on campus, always invited into the hallways and classrooms. We’re proud of the passion in our building, and our families are encouraged to become a part of this nurturing community.

## Primary School at a Glance:



Full-time teacher and assistant  
in every classroom



Activities and leadership opportunities,  
including: Water Stream Testing, Choir,  
Student Council, Scouts, Chess and  
Basketball

# 5:1

Student to  
teacher ratio



## Finding Your Learning Style: The Prairie Compass Program

Every child learns differently and we are dedicated to meeting each learner on their individual level. Our Compass Program, under the direction of PS Head Kathy Boero, is composed of learning specialists and academic support teachers dedicated to working with students and families to identify learning strengths and challenges, encourage self-advocacy and ensure overall success.

[prairieschool.com/academics/compass](http://prairieschool.com/academics/compass)

Prairie's Compass Program is available in all divisions.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL (5-8)

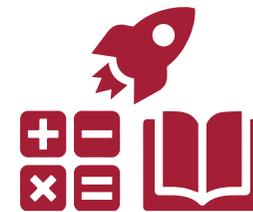


# 4:1

Student to  
teacher ratio



Research shows active children perform better academically, so MS students participate in recess and physical education every single day



Activities and leadership opportunities, including: Rocket Science, Story Chasers, English Fest, Math Club and World Language Clubs



Six-day rotating schedule based on research that shows individuals perform differently at varying times – MS students never have the same class first hour or following lunch on successive days

**Middle School at a Glance:**

## **Serving as a mentor in the Buddy Program. Refurbishing iPods to help Alzheimer’s patients unlock their past. Taking the stage and speaking confidently in front of peers. These are just a few of the many leadership opportunities available in Middle School (MS) as students transition from childhood to adolescence.**

If the seeds of a young mind take root in PS, MS is where they break through and accelerate. By emphasizing the social and emotional needs of students, our teachers are committed to ensuring every individual is not only excelling in math, science, social studies, English and the arts, but that they are growing ever more compassionate and self-aware.

MS is where students learn how to build and nurture relationships. They learn how to stand up for what they believe in. They come to understand the power of curiosity. They learn how to give selflessly through regular community service.

Adolescence is an incredible period in a young person’s life – trying, unpredictable and wondrous all at once. Our educators are experts in helping students navigate each and every moment.

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### **Morning Meeting**

Every morning at 10:00, students run their own Morning Meeting in the Student Research Center (SRC). Students take turns throughout the year presenting announcements, an engaging experience that fosters leadership and public speaking skills.

### **World Language**

Starting in grade six, students are exposed to world language classes like Spanish and Mandarin. Grades seven and eight provide the equivalent of a high school course, so when students start Upper School, they do so in year two of a traditional high school program.

### **Buddy Program**

Designing “Thank You” cards. Building vehicles. Reading stories. These are just a few of the activities Prairie School Buddies do together. Students are matched up across PS, MS and US, and whether it’s a second grader spending time with a seventh grader or a fourth grader hanging with a freshman, these relationships benefit everyone. Older students encourage mentees to think about the world in different, exciting ways; inevitably, younger kids look forward to when they’ll be the ones offering advice.

### **Advisory Program**

Even if your own MS experience was great, odds are you still had lots of ups and downs. To help everyone navigate these emotional and formative years as comfortably and confidently as possible, every student is assigned an advisor who serves as the primary liaison between school and home. By doing whatever they can to make sure the student is known, valued, supported and challenged, advisors help students thrive.

# UPPER SCHOOL (9-12)

**Constantly discovering new theories and ideas. Being equally comfortable working independently and collaborating with a team. Learning the importance of compassion while serving the community. Developing into outstanding communicators and critical problem solvers – it's all here for the taking.**

Upper School (US) is rigorous by design, but students willing to work hard, get engaged and capitalize on the ample opportunities Prairie offers will find themselves prepared to succeed.

Master teachers, working side-by-side with students, expose learners to a vast array of subjects while pushing them to achieve maximum potential. Leaders developing leaders: this is a key component to the Prairie experience. Our faculty's passion for helping every student experience a customized, well-rounded education helps us prepare young people for the future in ways other schools simply cannot.

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## Master Teachers

Science, social studies, English literature – these are just a few of the subjects taught by educators possessing doctorate degrees, and with over fifty percent of our faculty members possessing advanced degrees, Prairie gives students accessibility to a collection of teachers that few institutions can match.

## Malone Schools Online Network (MSON)

As one of the few schools in the country receiving a Malone Scholars Program endowment, Prairie is able to participate in the Malone Schools Online Network. Offering courses like *Ancient Greek*, *Creative Writing in the Digital Age*, *Medical Bioethics* and *Philosophy in Pop Culture*, the MSON bolsters Prairie's already robust curriculum. MSON courses are available to Prairie's juniors and seniors.

## College Counseling

With virtually every graduate attending a four-year college or university, we help students consider their options early. College counseling begins freshman year when our counselors provide students and families with the guidance needed to start the selection process. With over 70+ schools visiting campus annually, and with plentiful one-on-one sessions to explore a student's abilities, skills and interests, College Counseling is committed to ensuring every child makes an informed and confident decision about the next phase of their educational career.

## Campus Recording Studio and Soundcloud Channel

School music groups and aspiring musicians alike are able to utilize Prairie's on-campus studio to record their music. The Prairie School Music channel on Soundcloud also affords our artists the opportunity to have their music heard by audiences worldwide. In the spring of 2016, the US Jazz Ensemble utilized the format to debut its first album, *The AP EP*.

## Upper School at a Glance

# 6:1

Student to  
teacher ratio



Every US student  
performs community  
service during the year  
(minimum 25 hours)



Activities and leadership opportunities, including: Science Olympiad, WSMA State Music Festivals, Student Government, Robotics and C.L.A.S.S. (Character, Leadership, Accountability, Sustainability and Service)



Junior and Senior  
Interim – two-week  
internships for career  
exploration



“I’ll miss the Prairie community, particularly my classmates and teachers. I’ll miss spending the fall running with a group of awesome people for cross country; I’ll miss the countless hours spent in the music room for pit orchestra; I’ll miss the conversations I have every day with teachers in the Commons; and I’ll miss all of the Science Olympiad meets and Model UN summits. I’ve had the honor to meet with, and learn from, some incredible people. It’s them I will miss the most.”

— Ellie Plachinski '16

Attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology



# SCHOLARS

A love of learning. A constant need to know more, how, why. These are desires developed in Primary School and nurtured throughout each student's career. By equipping students with the tools to think, write, reason, create and question, Prairie ensures that seniors are not only prepared to produce, but sought after by the best schools in the nation.





The sixty-seven member Class of 2016 was offered \$10.5 million in merit-based college financial aid, and earned 270 offers of admission from 120 of the finest institutions across the country.

# ARTISTS

As many schools cut back on art funding, Performing and Visual Arts remain vital components of a Prairie education. In PS our students have Fine or Performing Arts class every single day. From age 3 on they are singing, acting, drawing and creating. By MS and US, they are ready to take the stage or exhibit pieces at local galleries. Additionally, we make it a point to routinely welcome renowned artists, musicians and authors to campus so our students can ask questions about the creative process.





**Our imagination is  
the most powerful tool  
we possess – we want our  
students strengthening theirs  
each and every day.**

# ATHLETES

Coming together as a group to lift that trophy is the goal of any team, but at Prairie, we want our athletes aspiring to achieve other things as well: a healthy lifestyle, the satisfaction that comes with giving your all, selflessness. These are attributes instilled as early as PS, where students engage in physical education classes and recess every single day. In MS we begin offering a variety of team sports in the fall, winter and spring. And while our US teams regularly compete for Conference and State championships, our full-participation policy allows anyone interested in working hard and developing their potential to be a part of the team.

[prairieschool.com/athletics](http://prairieschool.com/athletics)





**“My course workload on top of athletics taught me good time management skills. I think this will allow me to succeed at MSOE and in my career. That’s why I’m so thankful for all the papers, projects, and assessments Prairie put me through. They taught me to be a successful student while doing what I love.”**

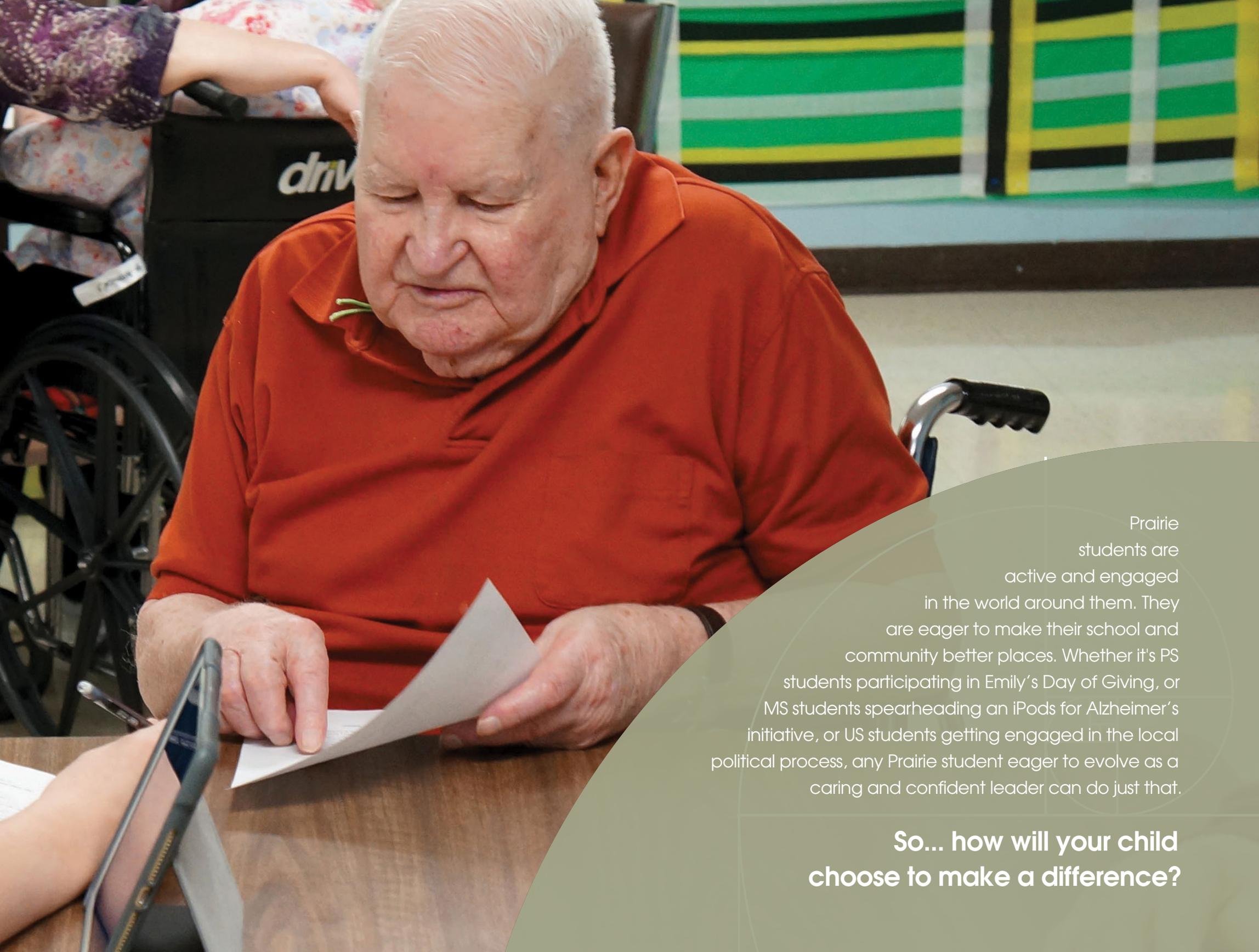
— Kylie Kamm '16  
Attending Milwaukee School of Engineering

# LEADERS

“What makes this project so interesting is that we’re using students and youth. Using students to help people two generations our elders connects the community in a special way. It creates a platform that allows two groups of people to connect with things they have in common and help each other.”

— Diya Mehra '20

iPods for Alzheimer’s Project Leader



Prairie students are active and engaged in the world around them. They are eager to make their school and community better places. Whether it's PS students participating in Emily's Day of Giving, or MS students spearheading an iPods for Alzheimer's initiative, or US students getting engaged in the local political process, any Prairie student eager to evolve as a caring and confident leader can do just that.

**So... how will your child choose to make a difference?**

# THE FIRST STEP

## Ready to Schedule the Visit that Will Change Your Child's Life?

Please contact us at [admission@prairieschool.com](mailto:admission@prairieschool.com) to ask questions, receive more information about any of the programs mentioned here, or to schedule the visit that will change your child's life.

### How to Apply

All applicants to Prairie will engage in a four-step process that includes the completion of an online application, a student visit and observation, placement testing and an application review.

To get started, visit [prairieschool.com/admission](http://prairieschool.com/admission).

### Investing in Your Child's Future

A private, independent school education is a significant investment. Not only do we strive to ensure this is the best investment you will ever make, but we are also committed to making a Prairie education accessible to as many students as possible. To learn more about our tuition and fee structure, contact [admission@prairieschool.com](mailto:admission@prairieschool.com).



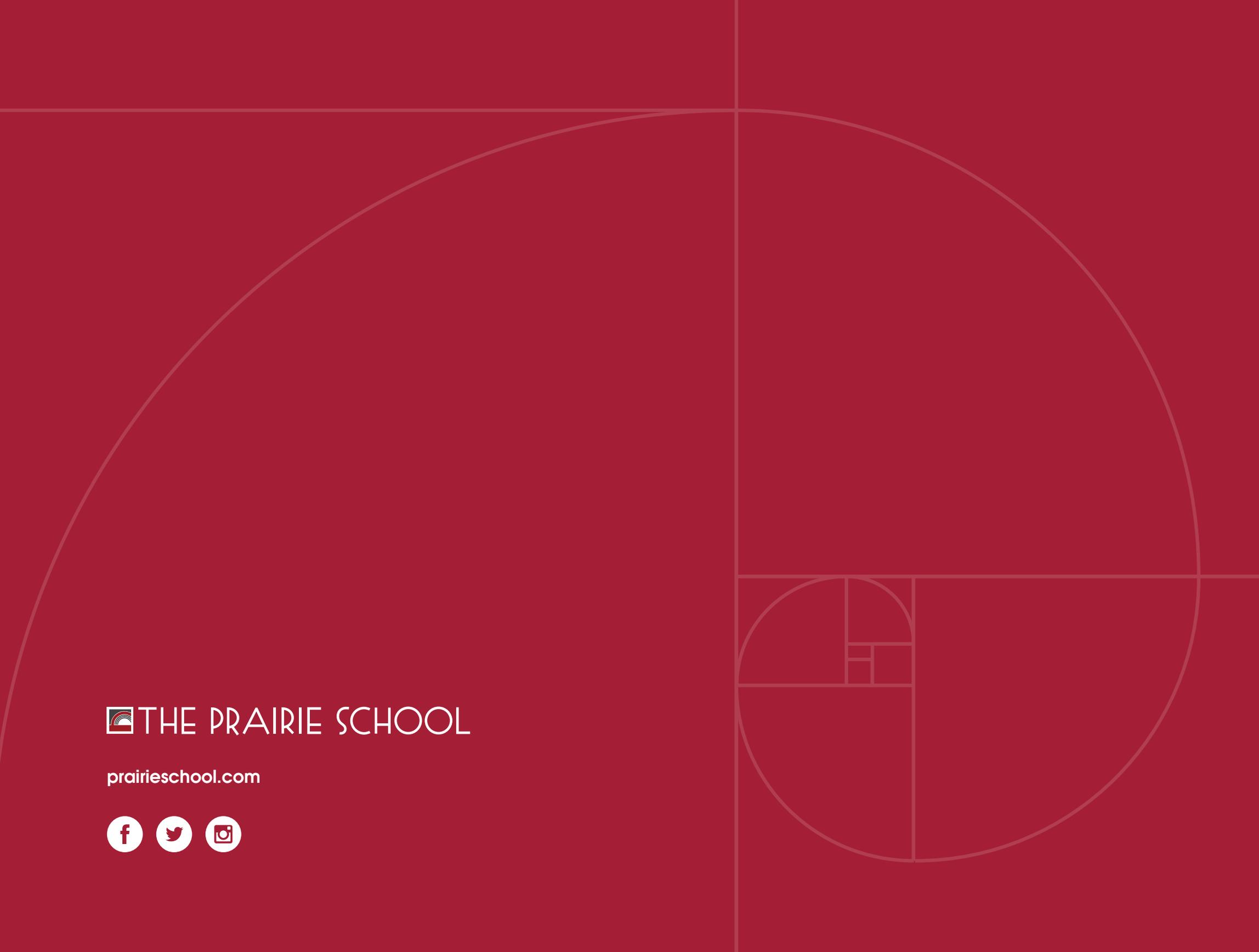
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