

## Lincoln Prairie Pledge

Today, I will be accepting, respectful and show my pride in our Lincoln Prairie community. With my words and actions in all that I do.

Lincoln Prairie has many unique qualities as well as an extraordinary staff. Prior to joining Lincoln Prairie in 2019, we had several questions and all of our questions were always met with extreme detail and understanding. Multiage classrooms was something new for us to understand, as it pertained to the curriculum.

“Neighborhoods” was another enhancement that was new to us as well as PDT (Project Development Time). It all felt a bit overwhelming at first and as we spent time learning, it all culminated to the whole child development. Over the past few years, Lincoln Prairie has become a place where our children feel safe and enriched to be themselves and we, as parents, feel confident in our choice with Lincoln Prairie.

**Rafael and Melanie Pasillas,  
Lincoln Prairie parents**

Whenever anyone asks me what makes LP so special, I always say that it is our community. Our staff and parents are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our students — encouraging them to discover the joy of learning, to think in new ways, and to find opportunities in the challenges of each day. I know that all schools say this, but at LP, we’re living it! Our principal, Mandy Stochl, likes to say “Everything Speaks!” and by that she means that our actions speak as loud, or louder than, our words. Our children learn not only from their teachers, but from each other, from classroom volunteers, and from the parents and grandparents that run our after-school events.

**Mark and Susan Budak,  
Lincoln Prairie parents**

At Lincoln Prairie our children are empowered to be active participants in their learning by setting goals, charting the course to reach them, asking questions and taking risks, using their creativity and ingenuity, finding their strengths and learning ways to overcome any difficulties. At Lincoln Prairie there is a relationship between teachers, staff, students and parents that fosters the growth of each of our children. Through words and actions, our children are taught by everyone who enters our building that we believe in each other! It is the safest place to fail, and to learn how to succeed!

**Lynette Flight, Lincoln Prairie parent**

## Lincoln Prairie School

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# Lincoln Prairie School



Home of the  
Mighty  
PRAIRIE DOGS



Lincoln Prairie opened in August 1999. We house the only kindergarten through eighth-grade school in District 54. Any family living within School District 54's boundaries is welcome to apply for enrollment at Lincoln Prairie.

Lincoln Prairie is the result of a task force's recommendations to create choice within the District 54 school system. The task force identified four essential components.

## Individual Learners

Students and teachers work together through a variety of activities focusing on learning styles and multiple intelligences. Our emphasis is on understanding all aspects of the whole child.

Students set goals to promote responsibility and self-direction for their learning. Students learn to identify their strengths and challenges. Through a collaboration with their parents and teachers, students also set a long-term strength goal, a challenge goal and a behavior goal. At the second parent/student/teacher conference, students show progress toward their goals. New goals are then set for the next part of the school year.

Lincoln Prairie is the perfect model of how learning and school should be done. Beyond excelling academically, Lincoln Prairie cultivates an excitement and passion for learning through unique educational experiences, the values it places on family involvement and the holistic approach it takes to learning. We appreciate the culture created by the caring nature of teachers, and involvement of students and parents! Lincoln Prairie is a great place and is truly how school should be done.

**Molly Carris, Lincoln Prairie parent**

## Best Instructional Practices

District 54's core curriculum is the foundation of Lincoln Prairie's curriculum. Students engage in a variety of interactive projects and activities, which support both the Illinois Learning Standards and District 54's goals and objectives.

The needs and interests of students guide how curriculum units are designed. Teachers are constantly striving to match instructional activities with the developmental needs of their students.

A schoolwide yearly theme is emphasized to help students make meaningful connections. An emphasis is placed on balancing both the process and products of learning. Multiage classrooms allow students to be grouped and regrouped based on a student's developmental readiness for a particular activity or unit.

To support our focus on the whole child and all the ways children are smart, we offer Project Development Time. PDTs meet twice each week for 4 to 12 weeks allowing students to pursue a learning opportunity that explores a multiple intelligence or an area of interest. Since the performing and visual arts are significant parts of our program, many PDTs are offered in these areas.

Our Gifted Resource Program, Bilingual Resource Program and Special Services Program provide additional support to further meet the needs of our students.

## Collaboration and Diversity

Lincoln Prairie is a diverse community of learners. Classrooms are arranged in neighborhoods to promote interaction among different age groups and with peers of their own age group. Students can act as both learner and leader depending on the situation.

Collaborative relationships between students of different ages and a sense of community are fostered through many Lincoln Prairie programs.

Additionally, we offer clubs to engage our kindergarten through eighth grade students in extracurricular activities. Some of these offerings have been

- Battle of the Books Club,
- District 54 Athletics,
- Yoga Club,
- First Lego League,
- Student Ambassadors,
- GEMS,
- Media Club,
- Dance and Cheer Clubs,
- Art Crew Club and
- STEM Clubs.

Each month Lincoln Prairie students and staff come together for our Whole School Meeting. At the meeting, student achievements are recognized, groups or individuals perform, presentations are made by students or staff, and whole school issues are discussed. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend.

## Family and Community Centered

A home-school partnership is encouraged through family participation. Families can be involved through a variety of activities such as:

- PTSA committees and activities
- Classroom volunteer opportunities
- Parent Education opportunities
- Big Events
- Community Musical Productions

- Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Family Visitation Days
- Back to School Community Picnic

Every child is a unique and individual learner. As the parent of a diverse learner, the implementation of differentiating instruction is helping my child to learn, grow and succeed at Lincoln Prairie.

**Martha Rosado, Lincoln Prairie parent**

## Transportation

A modified transportation option is available at Lincoln Prairie. Community bus stops are organized regionally to transport students to Lincoln Prairie. Parents are also encouraged to carpool.

## School Hours

School hours at Lincoln Prairie are 9:10 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.

For additional information, please visit our school's website at:

<http://lincolnprairie.sd54.org>

*Revised 1-23*