

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.

Whenever I think about our school, I know this is the school where we were meant to be! At Lincoln Prairie our kids are thriving and I know they will continue to do great things because of Lincoln Prairie. My children love being involved with all the teachers from kindergarten through 8th grade. The staff is exceptional and always willing to talk about your child, no matter where or what they are doing. The best part about our family's experience is the community we are a part of. We love the multi level grades and how a kindergartener works with an 8th grader, which is normal and accepted. We could not have asked for a better choice than Lincoln Prairie.

Adrienne Lange, 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,
- Drama 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
- Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

- Family Visitation Days
- Back to School Community Picnic
- And more

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://lincolnpairie.sd54.org>

The best part of our family's experience has been the strong curriculum and incredible staff. Whether it's PDT (Project Development Time), Whole School Meetings or all the field trips planned, it's clear that the staff is committed to providing an amazing environment for our kids.

**John and Stacy Sassaris,
Lincoln Prairie parents**

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 confident in our choice with Lincoln Prairie.

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

At Lincoln Prairie, every student is valued, every voice is heard, and every dream is encouraged. The staff and teachers know each and every student (and their families!) personally; knowing their strengths, weaknesses and know how to best work with them. It is a school where individuality is celebrated. We love Lincoln Prairie!

Aashka Shah, Lincoln Prairie parent

Lincoln Prairie is more than a school. It is a community of people, parents and staff, working together to provide our children a safe environment to learn and grow. At Lincoln Prairie you can trust your child will always be the top priority. Our family experienced some personal issues last year and not only did the teachers and office staff accommodate my daughter and ensure she had the support she needed, they were also very kind and supportive to me. I am thankful we made the decision to send our daughter to school at Lincoln Prairie.

Analiisa Terhaar, Lincoln Prairie parent

The best part about our family's experience is being able to volunteer and be such a big part of our child's experience in the classroom and the extracurriculars. The opportunity for parent involvement is amazing. I love being able to do things in our child's class and be a part of their learning experience at school. It's wonderful to feel so welcomed by the staff whenever I am there, they know us by name and the whole school just feels so personable. It really is a one of a kind experience and we are so grateful to be at Lincoln Prairie.

Alex Wangerow, Lincoln Prairie parent

What I really like about Lincoln Prairie is that our school is a Kindergarten through 8th grade school. Because of this, when I was in 5th grade and my sister was in 8th grade, I was able to see her in the hallway, have a chance to talk with her and spend more time together.

Jargalan, Lincoln Prairie 6th grade student

Lincoln Prairie School

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Lincoln Prairie School



Home of the
Mighty
PRAIRIE DOGS

