

Head of Upper School
The Prairie School —Wind Point, WI
July 2023

Overview

The Prairie School in Wind Point, Wisconsin, seeks an inspiring and dynamic administrator to lead its Upper School starting July 15, 2023. Prairie, a coeducational day school enrolling students from grades PK through 12, is an inclusive and welcoming community dedicated to educating students in all ways. Constituents are proud to be members of the Prairie family, are connected to its traditions, and are eager to make the school even stronger.



Prairie is an extraordinary place to work, with bright and engaged students and excellent professional development opportunities and support. Families, students, and faculty feel connected by the school's traditions and core values, and as a community are proud of its strong position in the 21st century education landscape. Students and their parents come from all over the greater Racine and Milwaukee areas to experience what Prairie has to offer.

The next Head of Upper School will be committed to educating and encouraging high school students for the challenges of the 21st century. She or he will be responsible for leading the 245-student Upper School for grades 9-12, supporting its faculty, and overseeing day-to-day operations, academic offerings, co-curricular programs, student life, and other related aspects of the Upper School. The Head of Upper School will bolster the division's curriculum, programs, and operations by working collaboratively with faculty, students, and fellow administrators. The Head will be an effective and organized manager and a fair-minded, transparent, and engaged leader who values interpersonal relationships and genuinely enjoys working with high school students and their parents.



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Vision

The Prairie School will be a national leader among Early School through 12th grade independent college preparatory day schools, with financial and enrollment stability, providing dynamic and evolving educational excellence for generations to come.

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 works 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.

Guiding Mantra

To know, value, support, and challenge every student to be their best self.

The School

The Prairie School was founded in 1965 by a woman with a vision. Imogene Powers Johnson believed that the Racine community would benefit from an independent day school with a creative learning environment, attention to the individual student, a diverse student body, and high academic standards to promote individual achievement. Over five decades later that vision continues to hold strong. Prairie has earned its reputation through a topnotch faculty, challenging academics, strong and stable leadership, and excellent governance.

The Prairie School seeks a diverse student body composed of children from varied backgrounds with a range of talents, abilities, gifts, and challenges. Nearly all of Prairie's 605 students live in Racine, Kenosha, and the southern Milwaukee suburbs. Throughout its history, Prairie has valued the diversity of its student body and offered generous financial aid to over half of its students. In support of this mission, the Malone Family Foundation awarded a \$2 million grant to The Prairie School in 2010 to establish a merit scholarship program for bright students who are best suited to an independent school but who lack the financial resources to pay full tuition. The Malone Scholars Program enhances the school's already successful Hilpert Scholars and Imogene Powers Johnson Fellows scholarship programs, making Prairie even more accessible to a broad range of students.

Prairie's faculty are exceptionally well-trained and passionate about teaching. Small class sizes and a nurturing environment ensure personal attention for each student. Teachers not only exhibit mastery within their fields but also demonstrate their own creativity in the methods they use to reach students. Seventy-five percent of the faculty hold an advanced degree; 94% in Upper School. Teachers continue their professional development through a generous enrichment program; younger teachers receive support in their advanced degree work while they teach. All faculty cite appreciation for the curricular flexibility they enjoy, and the opportunity to work in a community-based culture surrounded by modern and evolving facilities.



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The Upper School

Prairie's rigorous Upper School curriculum features college-preparatory courses and a broad array of Advanced Placement options. Master teachers, working side-by-side with students (the Upper School student/teacher ratio is 6:1), expose learners to a vast array of subjects while pushing them to achieve their maximum potential. The faculty's passion for helping every student experience a customized, well-rounded education helps prepare young people for the future in ways other schools simply cannot. Further, a 1:1 Chromebook program starting in Middle School leverages educational technology to prepare students to be leaders in today's technological world.

English courses develop strong writing, reading, and analytical skills, and Prairie is also a recognized leader in mathematics instruction. In fact, Prairie students regularly score above the 90th percentile in the Mathematics Association of America's High School Math Exam, one of the most demanding tests in the nation. During the last nine years, twenty-four of the forty-two National Merit semifinalists in Racine have graduated from The Prairie School. In science, Prairie goes beyond traditional courses to offer electives in Anatomy & Physiology and Environmental Science. World language offerings include French, Spanish, and Mandarin, and students may choose to participate in optional trips to the country of their respective language study. Social Studies courses focus on content mastery as well as on research skills to grow independent, critical thinkers.

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.

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. College counseling begins freshman year. 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.



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College Placement

The 59 members of the class of 2022 received \$13,428,620 in merit scholarships with 305 acceptances from 139 colleges and universities. The following is a selection of colleges and universities to which members of the Class of 2022 were accepted:

Arizona State University
Ball State University (IN)
Belmont University (TN)
Beloit College (WI)
Boston College (MA)
Boston University (MA)
Butler University (IN)
California Polytechnic State University
Carthage College (WI)
Case Western Reserve (OH)
Cornell College (IA)
Cornell University (NY)
Creighton University (NE)
Elon University (NC)
Emerson College (MA)
Emory University (GA)
George Washington University (D.C.)
Georgetown University (D.C.)
Gettysburg College (PA)
Gonzaga University (WA)
Howard University (D.C.)
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Ithaca College (NY)
Kenyon College (OH)
Knox College (IL)
Lake Forest College (IL)
Lawrence University (WI)
Liberty University (VA)
Loyola Marymount University (CA)

Loyola University Chicago (IL)
Loyola University New Orleans (LA)
Macalester College (MN)
Marquette University (WI)
Miami University, Oxford (OH)
Northwestern University (IL)
Occidental College (CA)
Oregon State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University (IN)
Queen's University (Canada)
Rhodes College (TN)
Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)
Savannah College of Art and Design (GA)
Scripps College (CA)
Southern Methodist University (TX)
Spelman College (GA)
St. Olaf College (MN)
Syracuse University (NY)
The Ohio State University
The University of Alabama
Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)
Tulane University (LA)
Union College (NY)
United States Naval Academy (MD)
University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
University of Colorado at Boulder

University of Dayton (OH)
University of Denver (CO)
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana, Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kentucky
University of Miami (FL)
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Missouri, Columbia
University of Nebraska, Lincoln
University of New Hampshire
University of Notre Dame (IN)
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh (PA)
University of Richmond (VA)
University of San Diego (CA)
University of San Francisco (CA)
University of St. Thomas (MN)
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Villanova University (PA)
Virginia Tech
Xavier University (OH)



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Arts and Athletics

As many schools cut back on arts funding, performing and visual arts remain vital components of a Prairie education. Prairie has increased arts funding and requirements, along with three new arts faculty positions in the last six years. The school offers a strong program unlike any other in the area — one that promotes an appreciation of the arts and broadens students' means of self-expression. The Upper School curriculum includes chorus, orchestra/jazz ensemble, acting, theatrical make-up, directing, technical theater, and AP music theory. Fine Arts offerings include painting, glassblowing, photography, ceramics, drawing, printmaking, and design. Upper School theatrical productions with auditions are open to all students. Major productions have included such classics as "Into the Woods," "Blithe Spirit," "A Piece of My Heart," "Cabaret," "Once Upon a Mattress," "Anything Goes," and "Curtains." The theater program also features annual student-directed plays. Both Fine and Performing Arts courses utilize visiting artists and field trips to enhance learning.

Coming together as a group to lift that trophy is the goal of any team, but at Prairie the athletic program teaches aspiring athletes to achieve other things as well: a healthy lifestyle, the satisfaction that comes with giving your all, selflessness, dedication, and teamwork. In the upper grades, Prairie's athletic program prepares students to participate with confidence and enthusiasm on no-cut interscholastic sports teams including soccer, cross country, basketball, tennis, baseball, golf, volleyball, swimming, and track. Prairie teams continue to bring honor to their school by playing fairly and winning championships at conference, county, regional, and state levels. The School competes in the Metro Classic Conference of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA). Though Prairie's student body is relatively small, the athletic program is ranked as one of the top 10 in the state, with at least one state championship per year (seven total) over the last four years.



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School Life

Students balance the demands of their academic workload with a wide variety of co-curricular activities – including clubs, sports, performing arts groups, and volunteer organizations. Service to the community is a graduation requirement and every Upper School student performs a minimum of twenty-five hours of community service during the year. Co-curricular opportunities include Science Olympiad, WSMA State Music Festivals, Student Government, Robotics Club, Multicultural Club, Yearbook, Model UN, and Wilderness & Sustainability Club, among others.

Campus

The Prairie School campus is surrounded by 22 acres of prairie meadows overlooking Lake Michigan. Its distinctive, purpose-built campus was designed by the last fellow of Frank Lloyd Wright’s studio and complements the school’s philosophy to call forth the personal best in all children while celebrating their individual talents in an inviting, inventive, and serene space. The total physical plant is valued at over \$50 million. The world-class campus facilities include:

- State-of-the-art classrooms and fully equipped science laboratories;
- A high-tech media center and library;
- A 300+ seat theater and practice rooms for the performing arts;
- A gorgeous athletic complex featuring two large gymnasiums, indoor running track, a fitness/weight training center, outdoor tennis center, four multi-purpose athletic fields, locker and meeting rooms, offices, and dance studio;
- Contemporary art studios and a fully equipped glassblowing studio; and
- 1G of wireless access and 1:1 Chromebooks.



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Wind Point, Wisconsin

Wind Point is an idyllic lakefront village in Racine County. With a population of approximately 180,000, Racine is well known for its beckoning lakefront, history of industrial innovation and manufacturing, and for being the home of the SC Johnson company. Perfectly located between Milwaukee (30 minutes to the north) and Chicago (75 minutes south) with local rail, water, and air transportation facilities, Racine is a port of entry and has been a major industrial center for much of its history. The cost of living in Racine is low and the housing affordable. Prairie faculty live in the neighborhood around the school, in downtown Milwaukee, on farms to the west, in communities to the south, and in the city of Racine. Racine's distinctive neighborhoods reflect an eclectic mix of architectural styles, including its popular cream city brick houses.

Racine, also known as the Belle of Lake Michigan, has the finest harbor in the area and the largest marina on Lake Michigan. Visitors appreciate the recent upgrades to this once-industrial port and the restoration and revitalization of Racine's downtown which bustles with unique shops, popular restaurants, and cultural attractions. The Racine Art Museum has a notable collection of modern art with an impressive contemporary crafts collection; other points of interest include live theater at the Racine Theater Guild, the Wind Point Lighthouse, the nationally-recognized North Beach, and the lakefront setting of the Racine Zoo. The community's location on Lake Michigan provides ample opportunity for outdoor recreation, including swimming, beachfront yoga, cycling on the many area trails, pickleball, tennis, sand volleyball, and an array of youth and adult sports leagues.

The Village of Wind Point, home of Wingspread (a National Historic Landmark and former private residence designed by Frank Lloyd Wright) and the Wind Point Lighthouse, is a peaceful residential community. With The Prairie School nestled in its southeastern corner, Wind Point is more than a convenient suburb: with its lakefront location, fascinating people, and unique architecture, it is home to a diverse mix of families, professionals, and senior residents all enjoying a safe, connected lifestyle where neighbors look out for one another.



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Milwaukee, just 30 minutes north of Racine, is home to a variety of attractions including the Milwaukee Art Museum. The museum's far-reaching collection includes nearly 20,000 works from antiquity to the present, with important collections of American decorative and contemporary arts, German Expressionism, folk, and Haitian art. The city has a lively theater scene featuring the renowned Milwaukee Repertory Theater and other groups. Discovery World is a popular waterfront museum with interactive science exhibits, learning labs, theaters and studios, and fresh and saltwater aquariums. An internationally recognized musical festival, Summerfest, celebrates the spectacular summers on the Lake Michigan shores with the widest array of performing artists in the world – and takes place alongside a variety of ethnic festivals. Milwaukee also features the Brewers and the Bucks, both successful and popular professional sports franchises, and of course the Packers (who play in Green Bay). Wisconsin in general offers easy access to quality education, plentiful year-round outdoor recreation, friendly communities, and a strong family orientation.

South of Wind Point, residents can reach downtown Chicago via an eighty-minute drive or an hour train ride to Union Station. One of America's most vibrant cities, Chicago offers unlimited cultural, dining, and recreational opportunities as well as the ability to travel anywhere in the world from O'Hare airport. Prairie's location truly offers the best of all worlds: an idyllic spot to live, work, and raise a family, with access to world-class arts, sports, dining, and culture all within a thirty to ninety-minute radius.



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Opportunities and Challenges

Strengths:

- Exceptional academics, athletics, and arts;
- A nurturing and dedicated adult community;
- Close and supportive student/faculty relationships with an invested, high-quality faculty;
- A beautiful setting, including a modern and highly functioning physical plant;
- Deep commitment to inclusion in all facets of that word;
- One of the largest day school endowments (>\$100,000 per student) in the country;
- A highly-respected national reputation.

Areas of focus:

- Cultivate and enhance academic excellence while catalyzing a spirit of innovation;
- Serve as a collaborative leader in the school's socioeconomically diverse community;
- A continued focus and emphasis on pedagogical innovation and collaboration in every classroom.

Desired Qualities and Qualifications

The new Head of Upper School:

- Will serve as a partner to Dr. Nat Coffman, Head of School, and as a collaborative member of the administrative team;
- Will be a champion of the school and of Upper School students;
- Will be an experienced educator who has a deep knowledge of best practices and a vision for enhancing pedagogy and interdisciplinary curriculum;
- Will be a trusted leader of others, demonstrating experience, confidentiality, authenticity, and engagement with students, teachers, and parents;
- Will be an outstanding communicator (both written and oral), collaborator, and community builder; and
- Will be a decision maker with experience navigating the balance of an inclusive, transparent process with decisive action.

To Apply

Please send resume/CV, letter of intent, list of five references with contact information (references will not be contacted until the candidate is notified), and statement of philosophy of education and leadership to John Faubert (jpf@carneysandoe.com) and Namita Bhattacharya (namita@carneysandoe.com). **Please do not contact the school directly.**



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