



Prairieview Elementary School
May 2024 Board Report

Goal One – Student Learning



We had an extraordinary month of learning at Prairieview. Our inaugural **Panther Progress** was a success! Our goal was for *students* to lead their VIPs through their learning journey in an authentic and student-driven way. Many VIPs and parents expressed gratitude for having more time with their students, being able to experience learning in the gym, art, and music rooms, and the hands-on nature of the STEM experiences our LRC featured. During this event, VIPs wrote over 150 “Pearls of Wisdom” for our Panthers! I appreciate their contribution to our school, as so many students can use a pick-me-up

throughout the day. I’m grateful for those who attended to support our students and the community’s flexibility as our staff evolves our events to embody the “Leaders of their Own Learning” philosophy. I also

want to congratulate our new **Student Leadership Team** for their hard work during the Panther Progress. These students helped in nearly every part of the event and were one of the night's highlights. We have so many great students here; seeing them lead the way is exciting.



As we celebrate teachers this week, I'm especially proud of our staff for reflecting on their work done through their own professional development and the District's MTSS Committee to initiate this change. I'm grateful to work with teachers who are committed to evolving their craft and willing to try something new. As a result, so many students pridefully walked VIPs through their learning journey and connected with their families to share their experiences at Prairieview. **Thank you, Panther staff**, for having the courage to try something new and put students first. With you, we're Soaring to New Heights!

Goal Two – Whole Student Development

Congratulations to our Music Department for their recognition as a "Best Community in Education!" We're grateful for Mr. Ohlsen, Ms. Lindsay & Mr. Tedeschi's commitment to music education in our school and the passion with which they teach. Congratulations are also in order to two of our students, **Rosalind McHugh & Wyatt Defors**, our 2024 recipients of the Illinois Principals Association recognition. Each year, principals across the state recognize students who have positively impacted their school, treat their teammates with kindness and respect, and excel academically. Congratulations students!! Lastly, our 5th and 4th grade classes started our **field trip season** with trips to Naper Settlement & the Museum of Science and Industry. **Thanks to Dr. Wise**, who subbed in at the last minute to chaperone one of the groups on the MSI trip, and to the **PTO** for purchasing "Once a Panther, always a Panther" shirts for our 5th graders.



Goal Three – Readiness



April was full of opportunities to impact our school and local community. Mrs. Herndon held a "**publishing party**" for her students, who used biographies to practice their writing skills. Mrs. Herndon arranged for their stories and photos to be published as



physical books, then celebrated with a publishing party! Our **clubs and intramurals** continue to offer opportunities for students to connect outside the classroom. A special thank you to Mr. Foley, who has coached intramurals all year, and to Ms. Dudasik, Mrs. Mastny & Ms. Heniff, who have all taken on new student-created clubs.

Our 3rd grade participated in the city of Darien's **Arbor Day celebration**. In our own classrooms, students grew butterflies from the larva stage, where they grew into chrysalis and eventually emerged as butterflies in time for a city-wide event in Hinsbrook Park. Thank you to our teachers and students for caring for these butterflies and releasing them around our school and community! Another 3rd classroom made a significant contribution to our Federal Courts. The Dirksen Federal Building hosted a **"Justice Inspired Quote"** competition, and Mrs. Olsen's class selected one of the winning submissions! Their quote will be permanently displayed on the walls of the federal building and comes with a \$400 Amazon gift card and a replica of the quote. Her class chose a Dr. King quote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," taken from his famous Letter from a Birmingham Jail.

