

Prairieview Elementary School

February 2026 Board Report

Goal One – Learning

While the amount of winter benchmarking can sap the life out of a school, our teachers and student leadership team took every opportunity to make it a positive experience. **Ms. Dudasik's** class hit their ELA growth goals, so they celebrated with some games and time to connect with friends. The **student leadership team** created a MAP spirit week to help lift spirits and create excitement during the week, and also helped roll out some building-wide growth incentives to motivate students. I'm proud of our students for thinking outside the box to help make school a fun place during a time when it can sometimes drag. January was a blast at Prairieview!



Now that third graders have fully transitioned into “Panther Mode”, we’re seeing them benefit from the consistent structures and expectations to put all the learner characteristics to work. **Ms. Moritz's** class used a choice board to write a story, design a comic strip, and perform other various activities. Student choice leads to high levels of engagement, where students can apply the lessons of teamwork learned from their recent ELA module. **Mrs. Herndon's** class did a similar activity, and both highlighted the level of self-direction, risk-taking, innovation, and collaboration our new Panthers have acclimated to. Sky high expectations + sky high opportunities = high levels of learning! And look at those smiles - kids love learning when they are challenged, and it’s a real-world connection!



What began as a targeted instructional coaching cycle between our instructional coach and a third-grade teacher has grown into a widely adopted third-grade practice: Writing Warriors. Designed to build foundational writing skills and student stamina, this resource has seen rapid adoption, with nearly the entire third-grade team already implementing the lessons in their weekly routines.

Flexible & Impactful Delivery: The program is built for maximum teacher flexibility, allowing for high-impact learning that fits the unique needs of each classroom. Each session features a five-minute mini-lesson followed by an independent activity where students immediately apply the targeted skill. Teachers can choose the delivery method that best fits their style:

- "Press Play": Facilitate a class discussion around a coach-created, pre-recorded mini-lesson.
- Live Instruction: Use the coach-created slide decks to lead the instruction personally.

The Goal: By providing consistent structures and high expectations, Writing Warriors ensures all students have the tools to transition from simple sentences to sophisticated, text-based paragraphs. This project highlights Prairieview's commitment to data-driven learning and the power of collaborative instructional growth among our staff.

Goal Two – Whole Student Development



In this STEM lesson, students in **Mr. Trinco's** class took on the role of astronauts and chose a constellation to study. They researched key aspects such as its location in the night sky and the time of year it can be observed, then used their learning to design and create a 3D model of their constellation. To culminate the experience,

students presented their research and models to fellow "astronauts" in their class, strengthening both their science understanding and communication skills. Mr. Trinco always does such a wonderful job with engaging his students in authentic, hands-on STEM activities.

Mrs. Gemmell has done such a great job partnering with teachers (like **Mrs. Olsen** in these photos) to create moments where students are *doing* science, not just reading



about it. I am excited and proud for her to become our full-time Student Experiences Coordinator at PV next year. As long-time 7th-grade teammates, we pioneered initiatives like full-blown student-led conferences, the 20% or “genius” project, and became recognized as the state of Illinois’ “School of the Year” a few years back by NHD. (While the History Fair took place in my Social Studies classroom, she and our teammates turned it into a cross-curricular project to support students in the great learning that takes place with NHD.) I’m so excited to partner with her to take hands-on and data-driven learning to the next level!



Mrs. Csorba has also used her LRC time for hands-on exploration of engineering concepts with Keva blocks. Kids are learning how to build functional towers that are taller than me, support a book display, and are aesthetically pleasing. Love this innovation and collaboration!



Goal Three – Environment

Just want to take this space to shout out **Sandy Phillips** and all the parent volunteers who created a new - and wildly popular - event at Prairieview - Winterfest! While there are so many barriers to getting a new event off the ground, this one rivaled PantherPalooza and the 5th-grade Friendsy. Great job, Sandy, for taking the time to meet with our student leadership team to include their ideas, and see this thing through from idea to core memory for our Panthers!!

