



Prairieview Elementary School
March 2026 Board Report

Goal One – Learning

This winter, our staff has been studying **Modes of Engagement**. This concept encourages teachers to think beyond compliance and passive learning and truly focus on student learning, not just teaching the curriculum. The goal is to shift students to “*explorer mode*,” when students lead with curiosity, choice, and purpose. As a result, you could see both students and teachers engaging in explorer mode. Our 3rd-grade team looked at our IAR data and student work samples, then sought out Mrs. DeFors to pilot a writing program. Another prescient example of our staff engaging in “explorer mode” is in their collaboration with Mrs. Gemmell to launch STEM projects and challenges.

With students, this language is forward-facing as we change student mindsets. Just like we did with our Learner Characteristics, we have posters up in classrooms and have begun to work these modes into our work with students.

Our 5th graders are in **Explorer Mode**, acting as podcast producers to research local Native American history and create 3-5 minute digital stories. With the support of our Instructional Coach, Mrs. DeFors, this project builds executive function skills as students work through a real design process—from brainstorming to evaluating their final product.



Inspired by Vivien Thomas and with the support of our STEM coach, Mrs.

Gemmell, Mr. Trinco's students have entered **Explorer Mode** as biomedical engineers, designing life-saving medical devices. They've moved past research into the hands-on work of prototyping and pitching their own medical innovations. Students in Mrs. Mitre's class are using Peer Teaching Opportunities. Her group is so diverse in skill levels that we use peer teaching to stay engaged and build confidence. In this example, one student is teaching another to apply their crochet skills.



Prairieview has also piloted a new **after-school academic assistance program**, Triple A for short. More than 50 students are participating in this free program, which takes place from Tuesday to Thursday until 3:30. Many thanks to Ms. Moritz, Mrs. Tupper, Mrs. Mitre, Mrs. Herndon, Ms. Gustas, Mr. Schueneman, Mrs. Eiland, and Ms. Dudasik for joining us to teach this program. Their involvement helped us keep groups small so students can receive frequent and personalized feedback, just like they would in the classroom. This group focuses on students “in the middle” to help build their confidence as we get ready for the rigorous Illinois Assessment of Readiness later this month.

Goal Two – Whole Student Development



It's always a treat to support students in their creative pursuits. Last month, **Girl Scout Troop 56234** invited me to be a mystery judge at their Cocoa Cup Classic - a fun competition between the girls to make the most creative, aromatic, and best-tasting cup of hot cocoa! The girls did great - thanks for the invite! **Clubs & intramurals** at PV are running strong. Thanks to Mr. Schueneman and Mrs. Bryant for helping provide this after-school opportunity. Even though Ms. Lindsey is at Ide this semester, she continues to work with our choir students after school. Lastly, Mrs. Strong's Chess Club is mighty powerful with **THREE** different groups running due to great demand. Thank you to our teachers for extending learning and community beyond the school day.



Goal Three – Environment

While it's been nice to get outside with warmer weather, such conditions present new problems. Thanks to Alberto for blowing mulch to help keep our playgrounds clean, and his whole team for keeping the halls clear when mud appears, and to our paraprofessionals and encore staff for constantly monitoring the outdoor conditions to keep things safe. Fingers crossed our field dries out soon so soccer and football can resume! Thank you to **Team 66** for helping improve the learning environment with two great events this month. Our



students participated in Valentine's Day parties on February 12th, and this year our **focus was on community service**. Students created bookmarks, cards, bracelets, and other items to be shared in the community. Thank you to our parent volunteers for helping this happen. Our annual **Paint Night** was a great success - we have a lot of talented parent painters in our ranks!

