

Community Meeting - All Parents Encouraged to Attend January 28 6:30-8:30 pm Prairie High School Auditorium

Topic: New technology services available to all Prairie students

The College Community School District will offer a face to face community conference on **January 28 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the HS Auditorium**. The contents of the January 28 meeting include:

- 21st century teaching and learning introduction
- How Prairie is stepping up to face the challenge
- New opportunities and resources for students, teachers and families and how will they prepare our students for the future
- Parents' role
- Q/A with staff and administrators

Below are the details for these new services.

College Community will offer access to a Google Documents account, a Google email account, the College Community wireless (WiFi) network and the Infinite Campus Portal. Student account credentials for all four systems will be identical, so keeping login information confidential will be very important.

While these accounts will be available immediately for our 5-12 students, we will move ahead at a somewhat different pace with our elementary age students. Elementary principals and staff members will have the opportunity to consider how these accounts can best be used with our youngest students. The following list provides some context for ways these accounts will be used at the elementary level:

- Account use will be controlled by teachers and technology staff during the school day. **Students will not have unsupervised access to these services. However, parents should discuss the appropriate use of these resources in your home outside of school hours.**
- Skills needed for using the accounts will be scaffolded through computer lab and classroom work.
- Staff will work together to create meaningful opportunities for using these accounts to enhance learning and to engage students in 21st Century skills. These opportunities will be determined based on readiness.
- We will explicitly teach students how to use and keep passwords and identification information private.
- Media Specialists will be the building contact person for user names and passwords that will be supplied by the technology department.

At the secondary level, implementation of these accounts will be less structured. Students will be given more flexibility and freedom to use these accounts to further their education at Prairie. However, we strongly recommend that all parents have conversations about appropriate and safe use of these new services. Here is a link supplied by the Federal Government that concisely and efficiently sums up online safety for children http://www.fema.gov/kids/on_safety.htm

Continued on back.

Following is a brief description of each of the new services that will be available:

A Google Documents account: This account will make it possible for all Prairie students to have access to word processing, spreadsheet, and presentation software anywhere there is a web connection. Google Documents will enable greater collaboration between students and teachers as well as giving students a simple, safe, and easily accessible place to store their electronic schoolwork. They can access their work from anywhere there is a network connection.

A Google Gmail account: In addition to a Google Documents account, all students will receive an email account from Google as well. Google provides filtering for spam and content for these accounts. All student accounts will end in @ccsdstudent.org. We believe these accounts will become useful tools for communication and learning and know that the majority of students can handle them appropriately. If you wish to monitor your student's account, you may request the account password at any time. Please contact your building office or librarian for this information. We will also disable the account for your child if you request it.

A Prairie Wireless Network Account: We can now allow students to login to the College Community Wireless (WiFi) network. This, in conjunction with the Google accounts will give Prairie students increased ability to collaborate and learn at the highest levels. We can now offer the option for students to bring their own computer to school. All personal devices that use this service need to have up to date antivirus and malware programs installed and working. While Prairie will assist with investigations, homeowner's insurance will be liable for all lost or damaged personal devices.

An Infinite Campus account: This account will allow students to login to the Campus portal to check their schedule, grades, attendance, and behavior, etc... This account will only allow students to see their own data and not household or sibling data. Here is the link: <https://campus.prairiepride.org/campus/portal/collegecommunity.jsp> This link will also be available on the district website.

To see the School Board Policy related to these exciting new opportunities for students, please go to http://www.prairiepride.org/board/policies/600/605_06.pdf If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, 848 5419, or by email, cbarnum@prairiepride.org

Craig Barnum
Director of Information and Technology Services
College Community Schools