



**AUGUST 2024**

# CARDINAL CONNECTIONS

PUBLICATION OF THE PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Ramp-up to  
School Days:  
August 27-29**

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

### 4K SITE ORIENTATIONS

**Tuesday, August 26**

St. Joseph's - 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Hearts, Hands & Minds - 3:30-5:30 p.m.

New Adventures - 3:30-5:00 p.m.

### MALONE ELEMENTARY & PRESCOTT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS

**Tuesday, August 26**

Open House: 3:00-6:30 p.m.

Pictures 3:00-6:30 p.m.

### Malone Ribbon Cutting & MPC Back to School Bash

**Friday, September 27**

**4:00-7:30 p.m.**

### PRESCOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Thursday, August 15**

6th Grade / New Student Orientation

**Thursday, August 22**

Back to School Night - 4:00-7:00 p.m.



### PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

**Daily from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Schedule/Chromebook Distribution:

Seniors: Thursday, August 15

Juniors: Friday, August 16

Sophomores: Monday, August 19

Freshmen: Tuesday, August 20

### Freshmen Orientation

**Tuesday, August 27**

Students will learn about transitioning to high school, along with tips and strategies to navigate the many facets of the school day.



### FOURTH ANNUAL CARDINAL OLYMPICS

**Thursday, August 29**

Paris has nothing on Prescott! Join the action of teambuilding, with a focus on creating connections with your Cardinal peers. Students in 9-12 are encouraged to attend.

## IN THIS ISSUE

**1 WELCOME BACK SCHEDULE**

**2-3 STATE OF THE DISTRICT**

**4 EDUCATION FIRST TRIP  
SUMMER '24**

**INSERT: IMPORTANT CONTACTS/  
2024-25 ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

### PLEASE NOTE:

Prescott School District publishes required annual notices on the website to reduce printing and mailing costs. Please visit [www.prescott.k12.wi.us](http://www.prescott.k12.wi.us) to access these notices. If you have any questions or would like a hard copy of the annual notices, please contact the school district office at 715-262-5782.

## STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2024-25: What's New, What's Ahead

**CHANGES:** PSD administration and the school board began the difficult process of cutting over \$1M from this year's budget due to April's failed referendum vote. Their objective was to minimize the impact on student outcomes, while eliminating non-required services over required services.

### MALONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- K-5 class sizes are near or at the target **maximum** (reduction of one staff member or more per grade level),
- Creating more responsibility placed on classroom teachers and support staff who are already stretched thin.
- Elimination of gifted and talented program position
  - \* G & T will be embedded in daily classroom instruction and/or through Community Education offerings.

### PRESCOTT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Choir position left vacant (three 6-12 Music teachers will now cover music/band/choir electives)
- Reduction of 1 FTE Administrative Assistant position
- One FTE Interventionist position cut

### PRESCOTT HIGH SCHOOL

- Alternative Learning Center restructured
- Math & Business Dept. decreased programming and one FTE each
- Theater budget and position reductions
- Elimination of C-team sports
- Reduced course offerings based on class size minimums

### DISTRICT REDUCTIONS

- School Sites and Departmental budgets reduced by 10-15%,
- Eliminated in-town busing; canceled new bus purchase to replace 20-year-old bus
- Eliminated support of St. Joe's food service

**CHALLENGES:** Despite our deep reductions for the 2024-25 school year, inflationary costs continue to rise and future public education funding from the state remains uncertain, at best.

### STATE FUNDING

- ♦ Wisconsin's Legislature does not reconvene until January 2025 to determine the next two funding cycles for public education. Historically, legislative biennial budgets are not finalized until the summer, placing immense pressure throughout the organization for future forecasting and budget planning.
- ♦ The Wisconsin Supreme Court will hear a challenge to Governor Evers' partial veto that locked in a school funding increase for the next 400 years. These promised annual funding increases may be held hostage or eliminated.
- ♦ PSD must budget increasing operating expenses, while the legislature has ceased per-pupil inflationary increases.

***Developing a viable, long-term budget from unspecified funding is not possible.***

EXPENSE	2015-2016 Monthly Avg *3 Schools	2023-24 Monthly Avg *4 Schools	Difference	Percentile Increase	State funding has not kept up with inflation:  Percent Increase in Per-Pupil Funding for PSD:  <b>2015: \$10,378</b> <b>2024: \$11,074</b>  <b>+6.7%</b>
<b>GAS/HEAT</b>	\$3,710	\$6,320	\$2,610	+70%	
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>	\$14,735	\$28,955	\$14,220	+96.5%	
<b>HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	\$1,988,075.	\$2,775,985	\$788,000	+40%	



# STATE OF THE DISTRICT 2024-25: What's New, What's Ahead

## CHALLENGES:

### CONTINUED BURDENS ON OUR GENERAL FUND

- ◆ Required Special Education services reimbursed below the promised support of 67%
- ◆ Required K-5 literacy training to screen and test students - at a district expense of \$650 per teacher
- ◆ Food Service operating at \$125K annual loss

### COMPETITIVE WAGES TO ATTRACT & RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY STAFF

- ◆ PSD's starting salary (\$42,800) is less than neighboring districts:  
Ellsworth - \$47,064      River Falls - \$47,323  
Hudson - \$45,905      Altoona - \$45,055
- ◆ PSD's starting salary and staff compensation needs to be market competitive to attract and retain staff.

**CHOICE:** The Prescott School Board will consider the approval of another operating referendum to sustain the exceptional progress we have realized in the classrooms, on our fields, courts, courses and stage, and to fairly compensate PSD staff.

- ◆ PSD has realized consistent improvement on the state report card and ranks in the top 10% of WI schools for Academic Achievement and outperforms all MBC districts in Academic Achievement and Growth. These results are a testament to the staff and school board's commitment to a model of continuous improvement that empowers students and supports its staff.
- ◆ Student-athletes and performers also achieved outstanding successes with State Champion Girls Golf, Softball and Dance teams, One Act Play State Awards, and state tournament play by both Boys and Girls Basketball teams. The term "mediocrity" is not found within the Cardinal vocabulary.



State and federal educational aid fails to keep pace with inflation and required mandates. PSD's future is at risk from both a performance and financial standpoint. The Prescott community has come to expect exceptional results from our students, athletes, performers and staff. We must turn to our local supporters to invest in the future of our students and communities. Your vote on a future operating referendum will be a CHOICE between mediocrity and the excellence we've delivered.

## PSD EXCELS ON 2022-23 ACADEMIC REPORT CARD



**ACADEMICS  
& GROWTH**



**ACADEMICS  
STATE OF WI**



**STUDENT GROWTH  
STATE OF WI**

ECRWSS  
POSTAL - CUSTOMER - LOCAL

STUDENTS TOUR AMAZING DESTINATIONS IN GREECE AND ITALY



A group of 50 students and 10 adults and chaperones enjoyed an incredible trip to explore the sites, culture and flavors of Greece and Italy. Coordinated through EF Educational Tours, the adventure included excursions to numerous historic destinations and culminated with a three day cruise.

Some of the destinations were the Colosseum in Rome, Vatican City, the Ruins of Pompeii, the Acropolis (Parthenon), the Oracle of Delphi/ Temple of Apollo, and the City of Ephesus (one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World). Walking tours of Rome included stops at the Pantheon and Trevi Fountain.

The traveling troupe's cruise included exploration on the Greek Islands of Santorini and Mykonos, and the Turkish Island of Cesme. In addition, willing participants received Greek dance lessons and were introduced to Italian, Greek, and Turkish cuisine.

PSD staff organizes an EF Education Tour every other year. The next scheduled adventure is a trip to Japan in the summer of 2026.

