

Facility Change due to Enrollment Growth

Prairie Elementary Changes for Enrollment

The doors of Prairie Elementary opened in 2001 with a design capacity of 1150 students. At that time, we housed 934 Kindergarten through 5th grade students, along with an Early Childhood Special Education program. In our available space we had 44 general education classrooms. Our special education students and English Language Learners also had classroom space. There were 2 art rooms. There was a Teacher Planning Center and Computer Lab in every wing. In 2010 our growing enrollment prompted us to move our 5th graders into an addition at our current Middle School.

Currently, Prairie houses 1220 Kindergarten through 4th grade students. To accommodate 54 general education classrooms, we have converted 3 special education classrooms, 2 computer labs, and 2 art rooms into general education classroom space. We continue to house the Early Childhood Special Education program, though their space has been decreased by half. The Teacher Planning Centers now serve specialized services to serve EL and Special Education students. Our conference rooms that were once used for testing, small groups and meetings are now housing teacher office space for support staff. Many of our storage spaces have been condensed and converted to student or teacher work space. The commons areas, which were initially designed for small group learning, are now additionally used for specialized programming. Because of our storage woes, our commons areas now house many various storage cupboards, text kits, freeplay supplies, paper rolls, and other equipment that should be stored elsewhere. Classroom space for EL and special education staff and students has been absorbed by general education classrooms, leaving them in overcrowded rooms, conference rooms, or former storage spaces.

Transitions in Prairie hallways, especially over the lunch period, can be an adventure. With potentially 2 grade levels traveling at any given time, there can be up to 500 students moving through our hallways. Our restrooms are crowded; at high use times of day classes can be backed up for longer periods. Our cooks and support staff move 1220 students through the cafeteria in roughly 2 hours and 15 minutes. This doesn't leave our students much time to eat. To start earlier in the day is not feasible, as we serve between 600-800 student breakfasts every day; once breakfast clean-up is complete, our cooks move to lunch preparation.

Our parking lots are congested; if there are any special events going on—even with only one grade level at a time involved—the parking lot becomes crowded and dangerous. People end up parking on grass, along the sides of designated space, and along the streets far from the building. At car-rider morning drop off and dismissal, cars are often lined up all the way to the street.

Middle School

- 12 classroom and office additions
- Increased class sizes
- Increased teaching staff
- Created a teacher hub for teachers displaced from classrooms
- Staff sharing classrooms

- Changed our schedule to better allow for classroom sharing (now all students change classes at the same time adding to hallway congestion)
- Teachers on carts going from room to room
- Six storage spaces converted to offices or classrooms
- Converted two computer labs to classrooms
- Added more swings, basketball hoops and playground equipment
- Converted tech space into a classroom
- Split a classroom in half so two teachers could share
- Purchased room dividers for staff sharing classrooms
- Moved from 1.5 EL teachers to 7 EL teachers
- Added many Special Education teachers and para-professionals

High School

The changes that have occurred over time are listed as follows:

- Increase teaching staff working from carts (no classroom of their own)
- Number of rooms used for Special Education and English Learners have increased dramatically in 10 years
- Computer carts added to open up space in computer labs for additional classroom space
- Shared classrooms during prep
- Shared office/Hub Center
- Increase class sizes in every department
- More out of building placements – SVS/PACT
- Elimination of resource and computer rooms, added into classroom (more than 10 year ago)
- Loss of performance stage in cafeteria to increase seating for lunch periods (also, tables added in entry hall)
- Increase in number of lunch periods needed
- Elimination of computer rooms, which were turned into classrooms
- Elimination of course offerings (minimum number of students to hold class is 15)
- Music Department Changes
 - 2006-2007
 - Band and choir rooms were remodeled from tiered seating to a flat floor to allow room for larger ensembles.
 - 2008-2009
 - String instrument storage was built in an existing ensemble room to accommodate the growth in the band and orchestra programs subsequent need for more instruments.
 - 2010-2014
 - Approximately 40 new chairs were purchased to accommodate growing ensembles.
 - Approximately 20 new stands were purchased to accommodate growing ensembles.
 - 2 new sections of choral risers were purchased to accommodate growing ensembles.

- 2 new stand racks were purchased to store/transport new stands.
- The Trojan Band did not fit in the band room itself due to a continuation of larger numbers/increase enrollment, so they met in the south gym balcony and set up for each rehearsal during the 2014 & 2015 school years.
- Due to student demand, the guitar class expanded their course offerings/sections and additional guitars were purchased.
- 2015-2016
 - A new band room was built and the existing rehearsal rooms were remodeled. The music department transitioned from a choir room and shared space for band and orchestra to three distinct rehearsal spaces. The new addition also added/defined space for 3 practice rooms and two ensemble rooms to meet student practice needs.
 - Additional uniform & equipment storage was built to accommodate the growing number of uniforms & equipment needed for our students.
 - A new music library was built. This moved the existing libraries out of the rehearsal spaces, allowing for more ensemble space. This also allowed us to meet copyright laws and purchase one copy of music for every student in each ensemble.
 - Purchased 280 new chairs to accommodate department growth
 - Purchased 80 new stands to accommodate department growth.
 - Added computers and piano keyboards to each of the practice rooms to accommodate the demand for student practice space and practice aids.
- Currently: The string program has outgrown its new rehearsal space.
 - The string program has quadrupled in size since 2006.
 - The band program has tripled in size since 2006.
 - The choral program has doubled in size since 2006.

Alternative Learning Center

- Added an additional classroom to Mid-level program.
- Added 4 classrooms to ALC.
- Went from 40-50 students to 120 students.
- Added 2 full time ESL teachers
- Added 1 full time math teacher
- Added ½ time art teacher
- Eliminated library/media center and built a conference room and counselor's office.
- Converted boiler room to teacher hub.
- Converted locker room to attendance office.

Community Education

Changes at West Learning to meet enrollment growth:

Before 2014 ALC cafeteria seating has progressively been moving to the ALC hallways until all ongoing hallways are now being utilized

Before 2014	DARE Officer moved from West Learning Center to the Middle School
July 2014	Sectioned off 1/3 of gymnasium for district-wide storage of paper products, which reduced Early Childhood SMART classroom space
April 2015	Moved Community Connector, to a cubicle in the main Community Education office area to convert that small office to a conference/ABE testing room
Summer 2015	ALC library moved to the ALC hallway
Summer 2015	ALC gymnasium storage moved to a converted men's staff bathroom
Dec. 2015	Nobles County Integration Collaborative vacated from West Learning Center and moved to MN West
Summer 2016	Attendance Officer moved from Community Education office to the ALC (boiler room) and then to a locker room converted to an office
Summer 2016	Moved teacher planning center to main Community Education office; set up cubicle walls
Summer 2016	Converted ALC parking lot to staff parking only due to increased staff; students park on the street
Fall 2016	Moved Konnie Beck from Special Programs main office to backroom by restroom
July 2017	West Academy disbanded and emptied two classrooms, which Community Education expanded for use as Parent Ed and School Readiness classrooms

Department of Teaching and Learning

The impact of increased student enrollment and programming has negatively impacted teachers by removing key locations and space for training. Six years ago, there was a full sized training room for staff. This was used for continued professional development for staff. This space was removed, due to increase in special education students and early childhood students. Consequently, meetings are farmed out to other buildings, creating increased travel time and mileage costs.

Department of Special Education

High School:

- An Occupational Therapist, Speech Clinician and Deaf & Hard of Hearing teacher share office space that was created out of one storage closet, so services must be staggered between all clinicians when serving students.
- Moved two special education teachers into cubicles for the 2017-2018 school year.

Middle School

- An Emotional Behavioral Disorder classroom was created out of the back storage area of the Middle School media center.
- Created two classrooms out of one in order to accommodate for special education teacher who did not have a place to teach.
- Closed a computer lab so a special education teacher could have space to teach.

Prairie Elementary:

- Special Education classrooms moved to allow for English Learner and General Education space and put the special education teachers in small office spaces or teacher work spaces to provide services to students with disabilities.

West Learning Center

- IEPs and evaluation meetings are held on the stage at the West Learning Center as there is no other space available for meetings.
- An office space was created for the special education assessment secretary in the West nurse area and restroom area.