



Raider News

(Prairie River Junior High)

Principal's Message

September 2025 - Welcome Back!

A new school year - a fresh start - a chance to reinvent ourselves! Last year we swapped out one of our "Three R's," ("Reliable" became "Resilient"). Resiliency is one of those life skills that is crucial for success in life. If we believe that we start every year fresh, we need a character trait that reminds us of our ability to experience new learning, and the potential for truly spectacular progress and growth - as long as we try again every time that we make a mistake, fail or fall down! "I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." (Michael Jordan - yes, **the** Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan)

With the support of students, staff and families we are determined to make significant progress in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy, and building a safe and caring school culture. **However, none of this happens without regular school attendance.** Reasons for school avoidance can be very complicated. Middle school may well be the most difficult part of a young person's life; anxiety, conflict with peers, community conflict, bullying (online or in-person), depression, late night gaming, etc. - any of these may contribute to school avoidance.

Overcoming these obstacles is so critically important to the overall development of every young person. Middle school is **the** place to develop lifelong skills, with the support of Prairie River staff who care deeply for our students. We believe that, "The best way out is always through" (Robert Frost) - if home and school can partner in this most important task, our children will benefit greatly.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to call Troy Runzer (principal) or Charlene Porisky (vice principal) at the school (780-523-4418) with any questions, comments, suggestions or concerns at any time. Even better, come for a visit to see what is happening at Prairie River Junior High!

Yours in education,
Troy Runzer

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