



PRESS RELEASE

Please direct inquiries to:

Dr. Christopher Hibner, (262) 642-6710 ext. 1222
hibchr@easttroy.k12.wi.us

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East Troy Community School District Opens New Primary School

Little Prairie Primary School will serve students from early childhood to second grade

EAST TROY, Wis. — The East Troy Community School District will hold a grand opening event for the new Little Prairie Primary School on Tuesday, August 15 at 6 p.m.

The new school will serve students in the district's early childhood program through second grade. It's located on the grounds of the existing Prairie View Elementary School, which now will serve students in grades three to five. The primary school for younger students focuses on quality learning environments by providing greater access to age-appropriate facilities and supporting sound teaching practices, while emphasizing safety and efficiency. Little Prairie Primary School's flexible learning spaces will provide multi-aged based education by having more than one grade level in each academic wing. This configuration supports the district's commitment to personalized learning environments.

The building also includes the first SmartLab in the nation completely dedicated to primary-aged children. A SmartLab is a fully integrated and technology-driven environment that encourages personalized and engaged learning for students.

"We are thrilled to have a building that strongly supports our constant focus on personalized student learning toward assisting us with our 5 C's of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, communication and content. I am extremely proud of this milestone for our children, staff and community," said Dr. Christopher Hibner, ETCSD superintendent.

Little Prairie Primary School was designed to reflect the East Troy community. Each wing of the school has a specific color scheme—including yellow, blue, green and teal—chosen to incorporate the building's natural surroundings of sunshine, sky, grass, and water. The large shared learning space represents the East Troy Town Square and the hallways reflect various streets in the city.

The school was developed after a successful 2015 referendum to address district-wide facility needs. The two-question referendum (at \$22.5 million and \$2.2 million, respectively) allowed the district to add second grade to the proposed Little Prairie Primary School at a time when district debt neared expiration, construction costs remained competitive and interest rates were at near-historic lows. These combined factors led the district to address various needs with a low tax impact of \$.01 per \$1,000 of assessed home value for residents. Thus, a homeowner with a property worth \$200,000 saw a tax impact of \$2 per year.

"It is our sole intent to continue to provide high-quality learning opportunities for each student in the East Troy community," said Dr. Hibner. "Creating spaces that are comfortable, safe, appealing and support personalized learning, at a very minimal cost to our local taxpayers, is incredibly exciting. We are thankful for the input of the community and the support of Bray Architects and Miron Construction throughout the process. We welcome all to come visit this new point of pride for our school district community on August 15."

Little Prairie Primary School is located at 2109 Townline Road in East Troy. To learn more about the new school, visit <http://www.easttroy.k12.wi.us/schools/little-prairie/>.

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