



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2019

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CELEBRATING A NEW SPACE AND TOP SCORES:

PALOUSE PRAIRIE CHARTER SCHOOL RANKED AS A TOP IDAHO SCHOOL

Palouse Prairie Charter School welcomes students back to school at its new location and kicks off the school year ranked as top school in the region for student achievement and engagement.

WHO: Teachers, staff, students, and families of Palouse Prairie Charter School

WHAT: Several recently released sets of school data place Palouse Prairie Charter School at the very top of our region and state for student achievement and engagement. An article published by Idaho Ed News on August 13, 2019 ranked Palouse Prairie Charter School 15th out of all public and charter schools in the state of Idaho. Schools are scored according to academic and school quality factors including ISAT proficiency, ISAT growth, growth towards English Language proficiency and student surveys. In a separate ranking, Niche.com, a data aggregation company that analyzes public data sets, surveys, and reviews, rates Palouse Prairie as the #1 public elementary school in the state of Idaho.

Palouse Prairie Charter School, which uses the EL Education model, emphasizing real-world, cross-disciplinary learning, service to others, adventure, and character development, is particularly proud that 90% of the students that took the Science ISAT were proficient or advanced. "Science is real to Palouse Prairie students!" explained Executive Director, Jeneille Branen. "Our students think and work like scientists, starting in Kindergarten and continuing through 8th grade. They investigate real questions that matter to them, using strong scientific methods."

Celebrating Great News in a Great New Space:

Palouse Prairie Charter School opens the 2019-2020 school year in a new, custom-built school building, situated on 3.25 acres of land, just off Palouse River Drive in Moscow. After operating for ten years from a converted furniture building, students and teachers are looking forward to spacious, energy-efficient classrooms, beautiful views of the Palouse, and room to play outside. With more space, the school can now grow its full enrollment size of 216 students.

SOURCES:

- <https://www.idahoednews.org/news/find-out-where-your-school-ranks/>
- <https://www.niche.com/k12/palouse-prairie-charter-school-moscow-id/>

WHY: PPCS promotes academic rigor, exemplary character, and habits of scholarship through a consistent, active focus on shared principles and practices. (See <https://eleducation.org>). EL is a national model of school reform that has been recognized for helping schools outperform their state and district peers. Academic mindsets such as grit, responsibility, collaboration, and craftsmanship are practiced and emphasized by students and teachers. At the core of EL is a belief that students are active learners in their classrooms and engaged citizens in their community. Students learn and practice skills to prepare them to be successful in high school, college and career through “Expeditions,” cross-disciplinary inquiries that make content and skill standards come alive by connecting learning to real-world issues and needs. Students think and work like scientists, mathematicians, artists, journalists, by conducting real research, and sharing their findings with audiences beyond the classroom. They also regularly make the world a better place, by applying what they have learned to service projects that benefit our community, region, and the world. This field and service work means that education at PPCS is an active and meaningful experience. “As an EL Education school, we believe that character and citizenship are just as important as academics. Becoming an engaged member of the community is a concept that’s embedded into our educational model,” stated Executive Director, Jeneille Branen.

WHEN: **Back to School Night: Monday, August 26th**

- 5:30-6:00 Grades K-3 tour classrooms and meet the teacher
- 6:00-6:15 Important schoolwide announcements in the PPCS Multipurpose Room
- 6:15-7:00 Grades 4-8 tour classrooms and meet the teacher

Please note, you’re welcome to attend all or part of the evening and we’re happy to provide details and pictures if you’re unable to attend.

WHERE: **Palouse Prairie Charter School, 406 Powers Ave., Moscow ID.**

About Palouse Prairie Charter School

Palouse Prairie Charter School (PPCS) is a brick & mortar tuition-free, public charter school located in Moscow, Idaho. PPCS serves just under 200 students, comprising a diverse student population in grades K-8. PPCS is dedicated to a vision of teaching and learning that challenges all of our students to think critically and to take an active role in their classrooms and community, as well as fostering in our students an ethic of service and community engagement.

Our mission is to engage the children and the community of the Palouse in a rigorous and collaborative education of the highest standards by fostering a spirit of inquiry, a persistence towards excellence, a responsibility for learning, and an ethic of service.

About EL Education

EL Education is a leading K-12 nonprofit helping to build great schools in diverse communities across America. For a quarter century, EL Education has been bringing to life a three-dimensional vision of student achievement that includes mastery of knowledge and skills, character, and high-quality student work. EL Education works with hundreds of public schools—both district and charter—across 35 states, serving over 200,000 students and 16,000 teachers. Rigorous impact studies by Mathematica Policy Research demonstrate that EL Education's approach works: teachers significantly improve their craft and students achieve more, regardless of background.

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