

KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS 2024-25



WISCONSIN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-424-6700

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together with home and community, we are dedicated to providing the best education for every student, enabling each to be a thoughtful, responsible contributor to a changing world.

The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) is a unified school district serving the City of Wisconsin Rapids; Villages of Biron, Rudolph, and Vesper; Wood County Townships of Arpin, Grand Rapids, Hansen, Rudolph, Saratoga, Seneca, Sigel, and Sherry; and Portage County Townships of Carson, Grant, and Plover. WRPS offers half-day 4K programming and has seven elementary schools, one middle school (grades 6-8), one senior high school (grades 9-12), one alternative high school (grades 9-12), a virtual charter school and an early learning center for our youngest students.

WRPS has earned a solid reputation as an innovative, professional organization which has high student achievement and a low drop-out rate. Programs have been changed and continually evolve in order to best meet the needs of all students. Our staff members are known for being life-long learners themselves, and they are continuously recognized by both state and national organizations and agencies for their professionalism and expertise.

School	Grade	# Students*	Principal	Phone
Grant Elementary	4K-5	266	Nicole Calteux	715-424-6766
Grove Elementary	EC-5	198	Tina Wallner	715-424-6769
Howe Elementary	KG-5	329	Steve Thayer	715-424-6772
Mead Elementary	EC-5	294	Amber Applebee	715-424-6777
Pitsch Early Lrg Ctr/Off-site 4K	EC-4K	223	Teri Thomas	715-424-6779
THINK Academy	4K-5	206	Christine Slattery	715-424-6784
Washington Elementary	KG-5	297	Kelly Schaeffer	715-424-6788
Woodside Elementary	EC-5	341	Bill Oswald	715-424-6793
Central Oaks Charter (virtual)	4K-8	96	Brian Oswald	715-424-6768
WR Area Middle School	6-8	909	Tracy Ginter	715-424-6740
Lincoln High School + virtual	9-12	1,371	Rod Watson	715-424-6750
River Cities Alternative HS	9-12	73	Steve Hepp	715-424-6798

*Based upon 2023-24 school year September pupil count.



WISCONSIN RAPIDS BOARD OF EDUCATION

- John Krings, President April, 2026
- Troy Bier, Vice President.....April, 2025
- Julie Timm, ClerkApril, 2025
- John Benbow, TreasurerApril, 2027
- Christopher Inda, Board Member.....April, 2027
- Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Board Member... April, 2026
- Elizabeth St.Myers, Board MemberApril, 2027

Standing Board Committees:

- Educational Services Committee*
- Business Services Committee*
- Personnel Services Committee*

Committee meetings occur on the first Monday of each month, and regular Board of Ed meetings occur on the second Monday of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m.



ADMINISTRATION

- Ronald Rasmussen, Superintendent.....715-424-6701
- Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction.....715-424-6721
- Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction715-424-6721
- Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services715-424-6705
- Steven Hepp, Director of Pupil Services715-424-6724
- Julie Kolarik, Assistant Director of Pupil Services715-424-6724
- Elizabeth (Betsy) VanBerkel, Assistant Director of Pupil Services.....715-424-6724
- Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources715-424-6710
- Phillip Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology715-424-6715
- Ed Allison, Director of Buildings & Grounds.....715-424-6718
- Melanie Hanneman, Director of Food Services.....715-424-6703



www.wrps.org



WRPSDistrict



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**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

#RAPIDSPRIDE

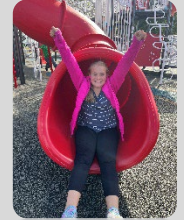
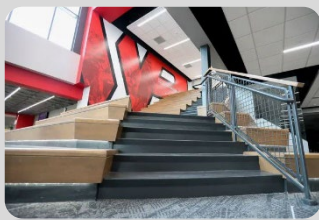
SCHOOL CALENDAR 2024-25

September 3	First Day for Students	January 20	Professional Dev Day – No School
September 27	Professional Dev Day – No School	March 7	Recordkeeping/Prof Dev Day – No School
November 1	Autumn Break – No School	March 24-28	Spring Break – No School
November 27	Recordkeeping/Prof Dev Day - No School	April 18	Professional Dev Day – No School
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Break – No School	May 26	Memorial Day – No School
Dec 23 – January 1	Winter Break – No School	June 5	Last Day for Students (half-day)
January 2	Students Return		<i>Have a great year!</i>

High quality programming has been maintained for WRPS students through careful planning and sound fiscal management. The District managed to invest \$8.4 million in 2018 to replace the leaky, inefficient pool at the high school, provide for a 6th grade addition at the middle school, perform district-wide energy efficiency upgrades, and secure a \$571,000 safety and security grant award to begin making enhancements to building security.

The surrounding community has a long history of supporting WRPS schools, and continued that strong support in April, 2021 by passing two referendum questions. The first question allows WRPS to exceed the revenue limit by \$2 million per year for five years beginning with the 2021-22 school year and ending with the 2025-26 school year to invest in curriculum and technology updates. The second question allowed WRPS to borrow \$34 million for District-wide school building and facility improvement projects to include the construction of secure entrances at all schools; Lincoln High School science lab renovations and the addition of a new library/student resource center, construction of a gymnasium at THINK Academy in Rudolph, and numerous capital maintenance and building infrastructure improvements.

Another exciting, collaborative project that occurred in the District in 2021 which largely came about as a result of community conversations and private donations is the construction of a brand new baseball/softball sports complex on the Lincoln High School campus referred to as the Rapids Area Sports Complex, and significant renovations/upgrades to the South Wood County football track and field. These upgrades are drawing events to our community which helps boost the local economy. Investments in elementary and middle school playground upgrades are on-going, with a \$1.5 million project to develop an Outdoor Play, Learning, Activity Center at Woodside Elementary completed in 2024, and numerous other school playgrounds currently being renovated. By the 2025-26 school year, millions of dollars will have been invested in all playgrounds to have new equipment in place for students and our community to enjoy!



A POSITIVE PLACE...to work, learn, grow...

- ✓ A Community Survey conducted in fall, 2020 indicated that 75% of respondents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with WRPS
- ✓ Two WRPS principals received the distinguished "Kohl Principal Leadership" award in 2021; one of the two also received the honor of being named the AWSA "Wisconsin Principal of the Year"
- ✓ Lincoln High School was the top performer on the 2021-22 School Report Card for surrounding SWC area schools and among WI Valley Conference Schools
- ✓ Elementary Noetic Math Competition top awards in the nation and strong abilities demonstrated in the annual Math 24 competition
- ✓ New initiatives to promote student engagement, including the "Sport Stack" competition for elementary/middle school introduced in 2023
- ✓ Numerous elementary schools have received the "Wisconsin School of Recognition Award"
- ✓ Strong STEAM and literacy focused curriculum to enhance critical thinking, creativity, communication, and technology skills
- ✓ Numerous WRPS teachers have earned the notable "National Board Certification" designation
- ✓ Hundreds of AP exams are completed by students each year, and numerous students have been named as AP Scholars
- ✓ WRPS is chosen as a pilot district for many state initiatives due to excellence, innovation, and adaptability
- ✓ State accountability reports continually rate WRPS schools as "Exceeds" and "Meets" Expectations
- ✓ Students have many opportunities to earn post-secondary credit saving them thousands in tuition expenses
- ✓ The strong WRPS Youth Apprenticeship program provides students multiple work-based learning opportunities in numerous career fields
- ✓ Over 70 athletic, club activities, and support groups are offered to students at the high school level
- ✓ Student success is consistently achieved at the State and National level in both academic and athletic competition arenas
- ✓ Generous donations of time, food products/goods, and funding are given by students and staff alike each year



..... and much, much more!

WRPS Pupil Nondiscrimination Statement

The School District of Wisconsin Rapids is committed to equal educational opportunity for all District students. The District will not deny any person admission to, participation in, or the benefits of any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of a person's gender, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected under State or Federal civil rights laws. Please review [Board Policy 4.11](#) for additional information. Incidents of discrimination or harassment should be reported to a teacher, administrator, supervisor or other District employee to be addressed or forwarded on to District Compliance Officer Brian Oswald.

Special Statement Regarding Sex Discrimination Under Title IX

The Board of the School District of Wisconsin Rapids does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Please refer to [Board Policy 4.11.24](#) for additional information.

WRPS Title IX Coordinators

Brian Oswald, Director of HR
510 Peach Street
Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
P: 715-424-6710
E: titleixcoordinator@wrps.net

Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services
510 Peach Street
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Learn more about Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools: www.wrps.org