



# Mead Family Newsletter

## December 2023

### A Message From Your Principal

Hello Mead families!

We have officially wrapped up our first trimester of the school year! Teachers are finalizing report cards to provide you with an update on your Mustang's progress. They will be sent home next Friday, December 8th and you can also view them online by logging into Skyward on December 8th, as well. I'm proud to say that our students are showing great growth so far. We still have a lot of time left to meet our end of year goals, so please continue to read with your kiddos, practice counting/math facts, and talking about school at home to help further their success. We want to keep this momentum going!

Later this month, we are planning our annual Holiday Sing. This is an event where the whole school gathers together to sing songs celebrating all different holidays with our school community. Family members will be invited to come sing along with us, but we will be requesting families RSVP so that we can ensure we do not exceed our gym's maximum capacity. Watch for more information coming on Seesaw and in your Mustang's backpacks in the upcoming weeks for more information and the for the RSVP form.

Thank you for sharing your Mustangs with us!

Amber Applebee, Principal

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### Important Dates in December

- December 8th: Report Cards sent home & available online
- December 12: Mead PTC Meeting @ 4pm in Mead Cafeteria
- December 19-22: Candy Cane Sale
- December 22: Mead Holiday Sing @ 2:30
- December 25-January 1: Winter Break
- January 2nd: Students Return from Break



*For other important events going on in our community, be sure to check out our "[Community Events Page](#)" on our district website.*



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December [Breakfast](#) and [Lunch Menus](#)



## A Message from Mead PTC

- At our last meeting, we planned a lot of exciting activities in the upcoming months. Watch for more information on a bingo night coming up in January. We're also hoping to have another virtual reading event and other movie night later in the year. Stay tuned for more details!
- How can you help? Come to a meeting! We hold our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 4pm in the Mead cafeteria. You can enter through Door B on Alton Street.
- **Our next meeting is on December 12th at 4pm. We hope to see you there!**

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## Mead Spirit Week: December 18-22nd

*Show your School Spirit the week before break by dressing in the following themes:*



### **Monday, 12/18: Mismatch Day**

\*Wear two different socks, mismatched patterns, etc.



### **Tuesday, 12/19: Sports Day**

\*Wear something that represents your favorite sports team

### **Wednesday, 12/20: Mustang Pride Day**

\*Wear your Mead gear or blue and yellow to show off your Mustang Pride!



### **Thursday, 12/21: PJ Day**

\*Wear your favorite weather-appropriate pajamas to school; shoes are still required

### **Friday, 12, 22: Holiday Gear Day**

\*Wear something festive to support your favorite holiday

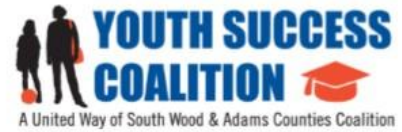


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**School Wide Title I Services:** Mead Elementary School offers school-wide Title I services to all students. Title I is a federal program providing funding to support intervention to students who are struggling to reach grade level standards. At Mead, intervention teachers work with small groups of students in need of additional support in reading and math. Our intervention teachers also work in classrooms with the classroom teachers. If you do not want your child to receive these services, please contact the office for a form to fill out to opt your child out of these learning opportunities.



Be In SCHOOL  
Be On TIME



## Find Fun at McMillan Library: Events & Activities For All Ages!

**Our doors open at 8:25, and classes start at 8:40.**

It's important that your child is in school, on time, every day. We know mornings can be stressful, so use the following tips to get your child to school on time:

- ***Pick out clothes the night before***
- ***Set an alarm clock (let us know if your child needs an alarm clock)***
- ***Limit distractions in the morning (turn off TV & tablets; set aside cell phones & other devices)***
- ***Develop a morning routine so your child can be independent with their morning tasks***

**Important learning and community building happens in your child's classroom at 8:40 everyday.** Please help your child by getting them to school on time.

If the unavoidable happens and your child can't make it to school, **please be sure to call our attendance line at (715) 424-6765 to avoid unexcused absences.** Unexcused absences on your child's record will result in an attendance meeting with the Mead staff and possible truancy charges if the problem continues.

Need to pick your child up early? **Please call our office at (715) 424-6777 by 1pm on Monday and 2pm Tuesday-Friday,** so that we can make sure your end of day plans are communicated to your child and their teacher. We cannot guarantee last minute calls will get to students/staff in time to follow your late request, which is why it's important to give us plenty of notice.

Thank you for your advanced communication!

Did you know McMillan Library has year-round programming for children and teens?! Here are some highlights happening at the library!

### Teen Game Day

2-4pm, December 1st & 28th

Enjoy snacks, PS5, Nintendo Switch, & tabletop games with others!

### Teen Anime Matinee

2-4:30pm, December 9th

Watch anime with friends!

### Teen Lego Build Day

2-4pm, December 27th

Have snacks, build cool stuff.

### Family Take Home Kits

Learn to knit at your own pace—yarn & instructions included! Sign up ahead and pickup on December 29th.

### Family Movie Night

6pm, December 12th

Enjoy a showing of the new Super Mario Bros. Movie!

### Taylor's Version Celebration

4:30-6pm, December 21st

All ages of Swifties are invited to dress as their favorite era & party like it's 1989! Enjoy snacks, trivia, a photo booth, and supplies for friendship bracelets and paper rings!



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## News from the Nurse-December

There are a lot of different viruses circulating this time of year. Please be cognizant when determining whether or not to send your student to school. As a reminder, they are allowed 10 sick days throughout the year. Anything covered by a doctor's excuse does not count towards the sick days. Please request a doctor's excuse anytime your student has an appointment or is seen for illness. If your child is having a fever (>100.4), vomiting, or diarrhea, please keep them home until 24 hours symptom-free with no medication use.

It is recommended to follow up with a healthcare provider if your student has been ill for 3 or more days.

Now that we are in full swing this school year, we would like to provide some information on common concerns we may see students presenting with.

### CONJUNCTIVITIS ("PINK EYE")

#### With bacterial conjunctivitis:

- The eye will have yellow-green (thin or thick) mucus discharge.
- Eyelids may be stuck together upon awakening.
- There may be itching or burning, red or swollen eyelids.
- The viral type of conjunctivitis is 24-48 hours.

#### With viral conjunctivitis:

- The eye may have a thinner watery or mucus discharge.
- There also may be some burning or itching, and red or swollen eyelids.
- The viral type may resolve on its own.
- This condition is readily communicable in the classroom. It is spread by coming into contact with eye discharge, droplets in the air from coughing or sneezing from a person with a respiratory infection or touching one's eyes with contaminated hands/fingers.
- Pink eye can only be diagnosed and treated by a physician.





## HEAD LICE

- Nits (lice eggs) are tiny, white, pearly eggs that attach themselves to the hair shaft close to the scalp. The nit can be removed manually by pinching between two fingernails and pulling it off the hair shaft, or by using a "nit comb".
- Even though they do not jump or fly, they can spread from one student to another by sharing combs, brushes, clothing, hats and bedding. Head lice can happen to anyone. It is not a sign of poor health or habits or being dirty.
- There are many lice treatment shampoos on the market as well as other mechanical and manual methods of controlling the lice. If you are unable to purchase treatment, notify the school nurse for resources.
- Bedding, clothing, and hats should be laundered in very hot water (120 degrees) on the same day or evening your child is treated. Stuffed animals should be bagged in an airtight bag for several days.
- All members of the household need to be checked when there is one case of head lice in your immediate family.
- When the child that has been treated for head lice returns to school, his or her head should be checked by the school nurse or health representative to ensure that it is free of lice and nits. Students will not be sent home or excluded from school if they have lice. We just ask that you instruct your child to not itch their head, wear their hair up if possible and not to share hats/hoodies.

The Wisconsin Rapids Public School Nurses would like to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Proper Dress for Recess		
Above 50 Degrees		Short Sleeves
40-50 Degrees		Long Sleeves
0-39 Degrees		Winter Gear: Winter Coat, Hat, Gloves, Boots, Snow Pants
Below 0 (with Wind Chill)		10 Minute Recess
-10 (with Wind Chill)		No Outside Recess

**Be Responsible, Be Respectful,  
Be Safe... Be a Mustang!**



**FREE**



# Developmental Screening

Who: For ALL children 0-5 years of age living in the Wisconsin Rapids School district area.

When: Dec. 6, 2023  
(children ages 3-5)

Where: Pitsch Early learning center

**\*\*Registration must be received by Nov. 30, 2023\*\***

Children age 0-2 will be screened by Wood County Birth to three by separately scheduled appointment.

For more information, please call Paula Tesch

(715)-424-6700x1000

Screenings provided by Wisconsin Rapids Public School district, Wood County Head Start and Wood County Birth to Three program.



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

510 Peach Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

November, 2023

Dear WRPS Families,

Supporting students, their families, and our staff members' mental health continues to be a priority for Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools. WRPS has several available resources to meet these needs.

The District has continued our partnership which we began last year with Care Solace to provide students, their families, and staff access to mental health care coordination services at no cost. WRPS and Care Solace continue to focus on removing barriers in accessing mental health care. Care Solace streamlines communication and coordination to connect individuals with the right resources and appropriate level of care. Individuals seeking mental health care now have a trusted companion to rely on. With a team of more than 500 dedicated Care Companions, Care Solace connects stakeholders within WRPS to licensed mental health and substance use treatment providers. Through a human-centered and technology supported approach, these Care Companions navigate the mental health care system on behalf of individuals, helping them find the perfect fit for their unique needs and insurance requirements. These multilingual Care Companions are available 24/7/365 ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for the entire school community. It is important to note that this service is an optional resource, available at your discretion, and is not mandatory. Care Solace is not an emergency response service or a direct mental health service provider. In the case of a life-threatening emergency, please call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline at 9-8-8. To learn more about Care Solace and its services, visit [caresolace.org](https://caresolace.org).



Students, staff, and families may access Care Solace services in two ways:

- 1) **Call (888) 515-0595** at any time. Support is available in 200+ languages. A dedicated Care Companion™ will help you every step of the way to research options, secure appointments, and follow up to make sure it is a good fit.
- 2) For an anonymous search, answer a few questions to get matched with an extensive list of care providers at [caresolace.org](https://caresolace.org).

*Another resource available is* Gaggle Therapy. Since the start of the 2021-2022 school year, WRPS has contracted with Gaggle Therapy to provide therapy services to students as a way to address the local counselor shortage. Gaggle Therapy provides secure video platform-based mental health and support services to students, facilitated by licensed therapists and counselors who are experienced in working with children and teenagers. With parental consent, students participate in 45-minute weekly video therapy sessions. All FERPA and HIPAA guidelines are adhered to, and there are no costs for families or parents. For more information, please reach out to your child's school counselor.

Additionally, WRPS has partnered with several local agencies to provide in person individual and/or small group support. These supports are available in many of our schools. Please reach out to your child's school counselor to learn more about what is offered at school.

If you or a family member is seeking counseling-related services, please consider reaching out to Care Solace assistance or to your child's school counselor. These resources are provided to you by the District, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. You can contact me via email at [steven.hepp@wrps.net](mailto:steven.hepp@wrps.net) or by phone at 715-424-6724.

Sincerely,

Steven Hepp  
Director of Pupil Services



November, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](#)) to generate a school report card and district report card for every publicly funded school and district in the state. The report cards are intended to help schools and districts use performance data to celebrate successes and improve their efforts to prepare students for their futures. These public report cards can be found online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>.

The current school report card is based on last year's performance during the 2022-23 school year. DPI encourages caution when interpreting scores and ratings. Multiple years of data impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are used throughout the report card.

At the foundation of the report cards are four priority areas. Schools and districts receive a score for each priority area:

- **Achievement** - proficiency in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessments
- **Growth** - year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- **Target Group Outcomes** - outcomes for students with the lowest test scores
- **On-Track to Graduation** - reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education

The priority area scores are aggregated into an overall accountability score, from 0 to 100. This score is displayed on the front page of the school or district report cards. It is important to note that the 0 to 100 accountability score is not a "percent correct" measurement and is not aligned with traditional 0-100 grading scales. Based on its score, a school or district receives one of five rating categories, from *Fails to Meet Expectations* to *Significantly Exceeds Expectations*, as well as corresponding one to five stars.

All individual school report cards are posted on the [www.wrps.org](http://www.wrps.org) website. This is a link directly to the [Mead Elementary](#) school report card. You can also access statewide school and district report cards and find additional resources online by going to the [DPI Report Cards Home](#) landing page. Please reach out to your building principal or contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Roxanne Filtz*

Roxanne Filtz  
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

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