



# Mead Family Newsletter

## November 2023

### A Message From Your Principal

Hello Mead families!

Every day I am amazed by the hard work, dedication, and positive attitudes our staff and students show throughout our school community. We are doing great things at Mead school, and we couldn't do it without the efforts of everyone, including you. Partnerships between home and school are so important. Connecting with your Mustang's teacher on Seesaw is a great way to stay up to date on everything they are doing in school (remember, the logo for Seesaw has changed, but all the other amazing features have stayed the same).

Another great way to learn about their progress is signing up for our Parent/Teacher conferences coming up later this month. **You can sign up for a 15 minute time slot between 4:00 pm and 7:15 pm on either Thursday, November 16th or Monday, November 20th.** We always love to see families in the building, but we understand that sometimes Zoom or phone conferences are easier for some families. You can indicate your preference when you sign up for conferences in Skyward. [Here are the directions for how to sign up for parent/teacher conferences.](#) These slots will allow you to meet with your child's classroom teacher. If you would like to meet with the art, music, physical education teachers, our interventionists, special education teachers, or pupil services staff, please reach out to them individually. Call the office if you need any support getting connected with staff members.

Thank you for all you do to support your child(ren)'s success. We make a great team!

Amber Applebee, Principal

### Important Dates in November

- November 6th, 8th, & 28th: [Keep Kids Warm for Mead](#)
- November 14th: Mead PTC Fundraiser Pick up from 3:30-5:00
- November 16th & 20th: Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - ◆ 4:00pm-7:15pm ([sign up here](#))
- November 21st: Safe Routes to School Survey Due
- November 21st: Popcorn Day
- November 22-24: No School; Thanksgiving Break
- November 30th: End of Trimester 1
- December 1st: [Toys for Tots Form Due](#)
- December 1st: No School (Staff PD Day)



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



November 1, 2023

The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools is partnering with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the City of Wisconsin Rapids to review walking and biking conditions around each school – and hopefully plan to make them better.

We would like to gather your thoughts about children walking and biking to school, and have developed the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) survey for this purpose. The survey will take about 5 -10 minutes to complete, and it will be open through November 21, 2023 for you to provide feedback. We ask that each family complete only one survey per school that your children attend. If your family has more than one child at the same school, then please fill out the survey for the child with the next birthday from today's date.

Safe Routes To School programs are an opportunity to make walking and bicycling to school safer for children in grades K-8, and to increase the number of families who encourage their children to walk and bike. On a broader level, SRTS programs can enhance children's health and well-being, ease traffic congestion near the school, and improve community members' overall quality of life.

You can learn more about SRTS by going to: <https://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

Thank you for taking the time to complete the SRTS survey!

[\*\*Parent Survey \(English\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Encuesta para padres \(Spanish\)\*\*](#)

[\*\*Niam Txiv Survey \(Hmong\)\*\*](#)

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**November [Breakfast](#) and [Lunch Menus](#)**

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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

**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***

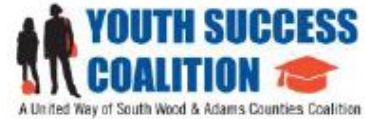
**Important learning and community building happens in your child's classroom at 8:40**

**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!



***Empowering Youth: The Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area***

Currently serving over 400 youth, Boys & Girls Club programs provide much needed after-school care, while helping youth develop character and build academic & life skills.

Healthy lifestyles are learned through physical activity, healthy habits, and social emotional learning. The *Second Step* program teaches members how to identify, understand, and manage emotions.

STEM activities ignite interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, while creative arts projects encourage self-expression and artistic appreciation.

Club members also get fun and unique opportunities to participate in programs like NBA Math Hoops which teaches math & social emotional skills through basketball over a 12-week program.

Committed to all ages, the Teen Center offers programs like *Career Launch* for job-ready teens to learn important soft skills; and *Teen Cuisine*, for hands-on cooking instruction. Additionally, the *Work Force* program allows teens to gain valuable job experience within the Club, and the *Cougar Paths* program in partnership with MSTC offers guided career exploration.

To learn more, reach out to Member Service Director Cheyenne Kester at [ckester@bgcwra.org](mailto:ckester@bgcwra.org) or 715-818-5252.



United Way of South  
Wood & Adams Counties



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



**A Message from Mead PTC**

- Thank you to everyone who supported the Mead PTC by participating in the Clubhouse fundraiser. **Order pick up is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th from 3:30pm to 5:00pm in the Mead cafeteria.**
- We are looking for more members to join the Mead PTC. As our current PTC president Josiah Hamin says, "Many hands make light work," and our current three to four person committee needs to expand.
- 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 November 21st at 4pm. We hope to see you there!**

**News from the Nurse**

Greetings WRPS families,

We are off to a great start this school year! There are just a few reminders we would like to pass on to families now that we are getting closer to the winter months. As some of you have seen, we are tracking vaccination compliance this year. We had a great compliance rate within the school! Thank you!

-Please make sure you are sending appropriate outside clothing with your student (hats, gloves, winter jackets).

General rule:

Please keep your child home if they have a temperature of 100.4 or greater, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, or if they just are not feeling well enough to attend school. They must be fever/vomiting/diarrhea-free for 24 hours without the use of medications before coming back to school.

Winter season:

If your student has a history of asthma and needs an inhaler, please make sure they have their inhaler at school and an order from the doctor for use. Asthma exacerbation/flare-ups are very common due to weather changes.

-If you haven't, please fill out the Skyward consent so that the school may administer any over-the-counter medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc) as needed. We only have a limited supply at school, so please send some from home in original containers if able to. Having this section completed will allow us to treat your child promptly without having to contact the parent/guardian to administer medication.

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



### RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)

A common respiratory virus that usually causes mild cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially in infants and older adults. A nasal swab can be taken to confirm RSV at any clinic. For care of, transmission, and prevention of RSV, please view the following [link](#)

#### Symptoms usually include:

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Wheezing

### Influenza (Flu)

Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness. A nasal swab can be taken to confirm influenza at any clinic. For care of, transmission, and prevention of influenza, please view the following [link](#)

#### Symptoms usually include:

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny/stuffy nose
- Muscle/body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Vomiting/diarrhea (this is more common in children than adults)

### COVID

If your student tests positive for COVID: they may attend school as long as they are fever-free without the use of medication, and feeling well enough to attend school. Currently, there is no masking requirement, but if they feel more comfortable wearing one, that is fine. We are no longer tracking students/staff that have contracted the virus, so there is no need to report it to staff other than you will be out sick.

If your child received any immunizations recently, please call/report that to your school nurse, so they can update accordingly.

### Medications at school:

Students requiring administration of prescription medication at school must have a **PHYSICIAN/ DENTIST ORDERS FOR ADMINISTERING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION IN SCHOOL** form on file in the nurse's office. This form and additional health forms (seizure, migraine, food allergies, bee allergies) may be found on the WRPS Webpage [here](#). **Any medication identified as a controlled substance, such as medication for the treatment of ADD/ADHD, anxiety, or pain, must be delivered to the school office by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult.** These medications must be in a pharmacy-labeled container, placed in a sealed envelope, labeled with your child's name, and if in pill form, the number of pills sent.

Medications classified as non-controlled substances, such as antibiotics, eye drops, and inhalers for the treatment of asthma, may be sent to school with a student. These medications must be in a pharmacy-labeled container, placed in a sealed envelope, labeled with your child's name, and if in pill form, the number of pills sent.

Have a great rest of your fall!

Amanda Zwetz, RN  
WRPS District Nurse

# Keep Kids Warm

## Mead Elementary

If your child is in need of winter gear (coats, snow pants, hats, gloves, and/or boots), please attend our Keep Kids Warm events!

November 6th 9am- 12pm

or

November 8th 2pm- 6pm

or

November 28th 2pm- 6pm

Follow the link below to sign up for a time slot for your family.

### [Mead Signup Link](#)

The event takes place at the former East Junior High (311 Lincoln St, Wisconsin Rapids) in Room 103. Please park on Lincoln street and enter through the front entrance. Staff from your child(ren)'s school will be there to assist you. If you have any questions, contact Mead's School Social Worker, Aisha McDade at

715.424.6777x2330

\* We will be accepting donations of unexpired, non-perishable food items and/or winter gear that your child has outgrown. We invite you to participate as you are able!



## How does school get canceled due to weather?



WISCONSIN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Parents may be interested to know how school closure decisions get made when inclement weather sweeps across our area. The number one priority in every closure decision is the safety of our students, and what is in the best interest of all students. When schools close, we lose valuable learning time with your child(ren), and many families have concerns or complications surrounding childcare. Furthermore, there may be times when parents feel differently about whether school should be open or closed based upon the weather. Should this happen, the District encourages parents to make a decision that they believe is best for their child's health and safety.

Decisions to close school are not taken lightly; and a great deal of thought and communication is involved in the process. Following are some details about what is involved in the weather-related school closure process, and how a final decision gets made:

As the Superintendent of Schools, I monitor weather conditions relative to snow/ice precipitation and gather input and feedback from all appropriate sources including meteorologists, transportation providers, and area highway personnel and/or law enforcement agencies that have personnel out driving on our roadways. Additionally, in cases of extremely cold temperatures and/or wind chills, a decision to close generally comes into play when temperatures will continue to remain around 35 degrees below zero or lower.

I will make every attempt to make a school closure decision as early as possible, and in no case later than 6:30 a.m. of the morning when school is to be in session. When feasible, decisions are made on the evening prior to the school day so that parents can make the appropriate arrangements necessary for childcare, if needed. Unfortunately, this early decision is not always possible given the unique weather patterns of Wisconsin.

You can find out about school closure decisions in a variety of ways:

- ⇒ Through email, text, and phone alerts generated by our Skylert notification system – you can sign up for these alerts through your “Family Access” account
- ⇒ By liking the District Facebook page, you will see inclement weather-related posts

from WRPS come up in your newsfeed (facebook.com/wrpsdistrict)

- ⇒ By going to our [www.wrps.org](http://www.wrps.org) webpage – weather closure alerts get posted at the top of the main District page, once a decision has been made
- ⇒ You can sign up for community related alerts through [Nixle](#) and receive a variety of school district, law enforcement, and other notifications for our area which you may find of interest
- ⇒ By listening to local radio and television news stations

Note that when school gets canceled, all other activities scheduled in school buildings for that day are also canceled. As outlined in [Board Policy 723.1](#), ***it is possible that certain dates will be designated as Remote Learning Days*** – your school will individually communicate more about expectations for students on these dates when they occur.

Once school begins for the day, schools generally will not dismiss early unless absolutely necessary in order to avoid complications with transportation and childcare arrangements. Again, the safety of our students is always at the forefront of the decision-making process.

A decision to close during the school day will occur by 10:00 a.m., and lunches will be served to students in grades KG-12 before they are dismissed. **Middle school students will be dismissed first at 12:00 p.m., followed by Lincoln High students at 12:20 p.m.; and the elementary students will dismiss last at 1:00 p.m.** Afternoon sessions for our 4K and River Cities High School programs are automatically canceled if we close early. Communication to parents about an early release is similar – via Skylert, our District webpage and social media pages, Nixle, and various local media outlets.

School closure decisions are not always popular, and I can appreciate that parents may have different opinions about whether or not school should be canceled. Again, we always leave the final decision up to parents about whether to keep their child(ren) home if they feel this is best for their circumstance.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding and support when school closure decisions become necessary on inclement weather days. The decisions are not always easy, but they are definitely made with the best interest of all students in mind.

If you have questions concerning this information, feel free to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Broeren'.

Craig Broeren  
Superintendent  
[craig.broeren@wrps.net](mailto:craig.broeren@wrps.net)  
715-424-6701



**2023-2024 ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY STATEMENT  
INCLEMENT WEATHER DAY PROCEDURES**

**CANCELLATION**

If bad weather during the night makes it impossible for buses to run in the morning, the following procedure will be used:

Announcements will be made using our Skylert system for parents, posts on the WRPS District webpage ([www.wrps.org](http://www.wrps.org)), the Nixle alert system, and also reported to these media outlets **as early as possible**, but in no case later than 6:30 a.m.:

- |                              |                        |                         |                        |                                |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>WGLX (103.3 FM)</b>       | <b>WFHR (AM 1320)</b>  | <b>WSPT (97.9 FM)</b>   | <b>WAXX (104.5 FM)</b> | <b>WIFC (95.5 FM)</b>          |
| <b>BIG CHEESE (107.9 FM)</b> | <b>WDLB (AM 1450)</b>  | <b>WKQH (B 104.9FM)</b> | <b>WAYY (AM 790)</b>   | <b>WDEZ (101.9 FM)</b>         |
| <b>WYTE (106.5 FM)</b>       | <b>WLJY (105.5 FM)</b> | <b>WPCN (AM 1010)</b>   | <b>I-94 (94.1 FM)</b>  | <b>WRIG (AM 1390)</b>          |
| <b>HOT (96.7 FM)</b>         | <b>WOSQ (92.3 FM)</b>  | <b>WAOW-TV 9</b>        | <b>WSAW-TV 7</b>       | <b>WOZZ (94.7 FM)</b>          |
|                              |                        |                         |                        | <b>WSAU (AM 550 or 99.9FM)</b> |

**EARLY DISMISSAL**

If bad weather develops during the morning while school is in session, the following procedure will be used:

- ◆ Lunches will be served before the students are dismissed. (There is no lunch for 4K students.)
- ◆ Buses will run according to the following schedule:

Middle School	12:00 p.m.	
Assumption High School	12:10 p.m.	
Lincoln High School	12:20 p.m.	
River Cities High School (a.m. session)	11:00 a.m. (as usual)	*** Afternoon RCHS sessions will be canceled.
Elementary Schools (Public & Parochial)	1:00 p.m.	*** Afternoon early education unit sessions will be canceled.
Morning 4-Year Old Kindergarten Session	10:45 a.m.	*** Afternoon 4K sessions will be canceled.

Announcements of the early dismissal will be made on the above listed stations by 10:00 a.m., advising parents that their children will be sent home early.

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

If an event or trip is canceled, it is the responsibility of the coach/advisor to inform the participants (the news stations listed above may be used for this communication). The safety of our students and staff is the primary consideration when making these decisions. While the "importance" of an event, the difficulties of rescheduling, and other inconveniences are recognized; safety is the only issue that is a factor in these decisions. Your cooperation, understanding, and assistance in these matters will be appreciated.

Questions regarding this Administrative Policy Statement should be referred to Superintendent Craig Broeren at 715-424-6701.

  
Craig Broeren  
Superintendent



*LIKE our WRPS  
Facebook account, or  
follow us on Twitter to  
get up-to-date weather  
closure information!*