



PITSCH

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ★ **Nov 6 - Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:45-7:30**
- ★ **Nov. 6- Popcorn Fundraiser**
- ★ **Nov 8 - Picture Day**
- ★ **Nov. 17 - Pitsch Pride**
Wear Red or Pitsch apparel
- ★ **Nov 22-24 - NO SCHOOL**
Thanksgiving Break
- ★ **Nov. 27 - Popcorn Orders Due**
- ★ **Nov. 28 - Vision Screening**
- ★ **Nov. 30 - Healthy Smiles**
- ★ **Dec. 1 - NO SCHOOL**
Professional Development Day

SESSION TIMES

Morning

8:50-9:00 Drop Off/Bus Arrival

11:35 Pick Up/Bus Dismissal

Afternoon

12:40 – 12:50 Drop Off/Bus Arrival

3:25 Pick Up/Bus Dismissal

CONTACT US

501 17TH Street South

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

715.424.6779

Press 0 - Secretary Tracy Weiss

Press 1 - Teri Thomas S.E.F.

Press 2 - Report absence

Attendance Line

715.424.6765

Press 2 for elementary schools

Option 8 for Pitsch Early Learning Center

Bus Companies

Safeway 715.423.1117

(Typically east of Wisconsin River)

Lamers 715.421.2400 opt. 2

(Typically west of Wisconsin River)

Hello Pitsch Families,

The fall is a busy time for our students! Themes of fall are popping up throughout our hallways and classrooms. These curricular units are taught through playful experiences such as art projects, baking opportunities, play centers, and movement activities. The cool, crisp autumn air has brought an excitement and liveliness to the children while playing at recess. **Our all-4K theme for this month is Thankfulness, and it will be the week of November 13-17.** More details will come from your child's teacher.

Last month the teachers introduced a program called *Move This World*. It is a series of short interactive lessons that empower students to identify the feelings and emotions that they experience at school, at home, and in the world around them. These activities establish a common language among students and staff. A copy of the **Emotional ABCs** will be sent home so you, too, can use the language with your child.

As a reminder for **safe drop-off procedures**, please wait in the car with your child until the front doors open. The students exit the car only when it is along our sidewalk (not along the fence), so a staff member can bring them inside. This is a procedure to help our students transition into school safely.

What a joy it is to see the children's smiling faces each day at Pitsch Early Learning Center. Our staff is **dedicated to fostering a love of learning** with our students. We look forward to another great month together, and we are thankful for the partnership that we have with you.

With gratitude,

Kelly Schaeffer, Principal

Teri Thomas, 4K Coordinator and Student Engagement Facilitator

Tracy Weiss, Secretary

715-424-6779

CREATIVE CORNER

Activities to do at home to support your child's learning.



SING

5 Little Turkeys

5 little turkeys standing by door,
One waddled off, And then there
were

4 little turkeys under a tree, One
waddled off, And then there were

3 little turkeys with nothing to do,
One waddled off, And then they
were

2 little turkeys in the noon sun, One
waddled off, And then there was

One little turkey better run away,
For soon will come;
Thanksgiving day!

MOVEMENT

All you Turkeys dance around (You can look up the song or just do the movements on your own) Explore several different movements through the song and all are self-explanatory. The fun but informative movements include:

- Dance around
- Scratch your feet
- Peck your beaks
- Gobble and yelp
- Flap your wings
- Go to sleep

FINE MOTOR

Turkey Lacing: Cut out a turkey shape from cardboard or thick paper. After children decorate it, add holes around the edge for children to lace



SNACK

Make a fun turkey breakfast of donuts, tooth picks, and fruit loops while using fine motor skills and color sorting!



It's Poppin Fundraiser



LOVE POPCORN? FUDGE? PRETZELS?

PITSCH IS TEAMING UP WITH IT'S POPPIN, OUT OF WESTFIELD, FOR THIS AMAZING FUNDRAISER. YOU CAN START SELLING NOW!

Order forms will be accepted until:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Pick up at Pitsch Early Learning Center:
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Full payment is due with your order. Checks can be made out to: Pitsch ELC

Proceeds from this year's fundraiser will be used to purchase outdoor toys and a toy storage cart. Participation is optional.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE



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

Register your family:

On or after

October 15, 2023

please complete the online referral

form at

[https://wisconsin-rapids-wi.toysfortot](https://wisconsin-rapids-wi.toysfortot.org)

[s.org](https://wisconsin-rapids-wi.toysfortot.org) and click

"Apply for Toys".

ONLY ONE

REGISTRATION

NEEDED PER

FAMILY

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 or 715-818-5252.



United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

THANKSGIVING BREAK

NOVEMBER 22 -24

NO SCHOOL FRIDAY DECEMBER 1

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



Keep Kids Warm

Pitsch & 4Ks/ Central Oaks Academy

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 9th 9am- 12pm

or

November 30th 2pm- 6pm

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

[Pitsch/COA 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!



Emotional Building Blocks



Angry



Bored



Confused



Determined



Excited



Frustrated



Grumpy



Happy



Interested



Joyful



Kooky



Loving



Miserable



Nervous



Okay



Proud



Quiet



Relaxed



Sad



Tired



Uncomfortable



Victorious



Worried



Xpress Yourself



Yucky



Zen

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 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](https://nixle.com) 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.

Craig Broeren
Superintendent
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), 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.:**

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

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!*