

Howe School Mission Statement

We are a community of engaged learners, focused on academic and social growth, preparing for our changing world.

Paw Prints

Howe School Newsletter
221-8th Street North
Wisconsin Rapids, WI
54494
(715) 424-6772



Mrs. Miller, Principal

December 2023

Hello Howe Families,

Happy New Year! I am excited to see what 2024 brings to our great Howe Community. Your children and their learning are uppermost in our minds. We have the best students, staff, and families. As you think of this new year ahead, what is your goal for your children? At Howe, our staff goals are simple: Help children be strong in reading and writing and model and practice positive social behaviors. We appreciate partnering with you and value your thoughts on this learning journey. We had a great turnout for our Family/Teacher Conferences at the end of November. Looking ahead, I hope to see many of you at our Cozy Up and Read virtual event at 6:00 p.m. on January 30.

We will have some transitions of members on our Parent Teacher Community group at the end of this year. We would love to have your voice represented on our team. We meet for one hour each month and plan fun activities for the students and families. Follow our Howe PTC Facebook group for more information about the team and activities.

Snow gear and weather are always important to remind students to pay attention to this time of year. Please help remind your child to keep track of all of their gear. It is expected that students wear their boots and snow pants for temperatures below 39 for warmth, even if there isn't snow on the ground, as 25 minutes outside gets pretty chilly. Today, I saw some 5th graders with cold hands because they forgot their mittens. We want to build responsibility, and a great step in this is to talk together about strategies for keeping track of those loose items. I sure hope we get some snow soon as children enjoy climbing the "Rocky Mountains" of Howe and sledding down the Howe Hill.

I appreciate our Howe Community and I wish you well in the new year!



Upcoming Events

- December 25th – January 1st...**Winter Break
- Tuesday, January 9th.....**PTC Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 15th.....**Professional Development day, no school for students
- Tuesday, January 30th**Cozy Up and Read Virtual Family Night 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 6th**PTC Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 1st**Professional Development day, no school for students
- Tuesday, March 5th**PTC Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- March 11th – March 15th**Book Fair
- March 25th – March 29th**Spring Break





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 website. This is a link directly to the [Howe 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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**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.

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. For an anonymous search, answer a few questions to get matched with an extensive list of care providers at caresolace.org.
- 2) *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 or by phone at 715-424-6724.

Sincerely,

Steven Hepp
Director of Pupil Services