



AGENDA

March 3, 2025

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Chairperson
John Benbow, Jr.
Troy Bier
Christopher Inda
John Krings
Elizabeth St. Myers
Julie Timm

LOCATION: Board of Education, 510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment

Persons who wish to address members of the Committee may make a statement pertaining to a specific agenda item. The Committee Chair will establish limits for speakers due to time constraints. Comments made by the public shall be civil in content and tone. Speakers bear the personal risk if comments made are defamatory, slanderous, or otherwise harmful to another individual. Please keep in mind that this is a Committee meeting of the Board open to the public, and not a public hearing.

- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. Summer Academy Course Proposals for Grades 6-8
- V. Updates
 - A. Reframing Behaviors
- VI. Consent Agenda Items
- VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Wisconsin open meetings law requires that the Board, or Board Committee, only take action on subject matter that is noticed on their respective agendas. Persons wishing to place items on the agenda should contact the District Office at 715-424-6701, at least seven working days prior to the meeting date for the item to be considered. The item may be referred to the appropriate committee or placed on the Board agenda as determined by the Superintendent and/or Board president.

With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities by providing a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aids, by calling 715-424-6701.

School Board members may attend the above Committee meeting(s) for information gathering purposes. If a quorum of Board members should appear at any of the Committee meetings, a regular School Board meeting may take place for purposes of gathering information on an item listed on one of the Committee agendas. If such a meeting should occur, the date, time, and location of the Board meeting will be that of the particular Committee as listed on the Committee agenda; however, no deliberation or action will be taken by other Committees or the full Board of Education.



BACKGROUND

March 3, 2025

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- I. Call to Order
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- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. Summer Academy Course Proposals for Grades 6-8

Amanda VandeHey, K-8 Summer Academy Principal, will present the following 6-8 Summer Academy Course Proposals. The course descriptions are included as Attachment A.

- 1. Music Composition and Creation (current 6-8 grade students)
- 2. Pop Choir (current 6-8 grade students)
- 3. Spanish Adventures: Language & Culture (current 6-8 grade students)
- 4. Summer Sports & Games: Play, Compete, Have Fun! (current 6-8 grade students)
- 5. Neuroscience: Exploring the Power of the Mind! (current 6-8 grade students)
- 6. Inside Out: Understanding Feelings, Friends & Community

The administration recommends the approval of the six proposed Summer Academy classes, Music Composition and Creation, Pop Choir, Spanish Adventures: Language and Culture, Summer Sports and Games: Play, Compete, Have Fun!, Neuroscience: Exploring the Power of the Mind!, and Inside Out: Understanding Feelings, Friends and Community, to be offered to current year 6th - 8th grade students beginning with the summer of 2025.

- V. Updates
 - A. Reframing Behaviors

Mr. Steven Hepp, Director of Pupil Services along with Ms. Julie Kolarik, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, will provide the committee with an update of the District's efforts to improve student wellbeing and mental health through the use of the schoolwide training program, *Reframing Behaviors*. *Reframing Behaviors* is designed to help all educators build a more positive and supportive learning environment while preventing disruptive behavior.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

Committee members will be asked to decide which items should be placed on the consent agenda for the regular Board of Education meeting.

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

Agenda items are determined by the Committee Chair after consultation with appropriate administration depending upon other agenda items, presentation information, and agenda availability.

Future agenda items/information requests include, but are not limited to:

- Start College Now and Early College Credit Program Applications (April)
- K-12 Music Curriculum Map Updates and Materials Acquisition Proposal (May)
- 2025-2026 District Professional Development Plan (May)
- 2025-2026 Professional Development Calendar (May)
- Late Start Mondays Update (June)
- 6-12 English Language Arts Curriculum Map Updates and Material Acquisition Proposal (June)

6-8 Summer Academy Course Proposals

Course Name: Music composition and creation

Who: Current 6-8 grade students

Description: Using music writing software. Students will learn how to create their own music. Students will learn how to create a melody, harmony, and add words to a song. As well as learn what makes a good melody, harmony, and how to write lyrics to best fit the music. By the end of the class students will have created an entire song to share with their friends and family.

Why: Music is a powerful form of self-expression, and this summer school course gives students the chance to unleash their creativity by composing their own songs. Instead of just listening to music, students will learn how to create it from scratch using music-writing software. They'll explore what makes a great melody and harmony, experiment with songwriting, and discover how lyrics can bring a song to life. This hands-on experience builds confidence, fosters problem-solving skills, and encourages artistic exploration in a fun and supportive environment. By the end of the class, each student will have a fully composed song to share with friends and family—an accomplishment they can be proud of. Whether they're aspiring musicians or just curious about how music is made, this course provides an exciting opportunity to dive into the world of composition and creativity.

Course Name: Pop Choir

Who: Current 6-8 grade students

Description: Students will learn choir pop songs by various artists. Over the course of the class students will learn pop vocal techniques, learn basic choreography to the music and gain an understanding of what is needed to make a choir song look and sound great. Students will sing their usual vocal part in choir for our rehearsals, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass.

Why: Music brings people together, and this Pop Choir summer course gives students the chance to sing, perform, and have fun while building their musical skills. Unlike a traditional choir class, this course focuses on popular music, making it exciting and relatable for students. They'll learn vocal techniques specific to pop singing, practice harmonizing in their vocal parts, and even add basic choreography to bring their performances to life. Singing in a group helps students develop confidence, teamwork, and stage presence, all while strengthening their musical abilities. Plus, it's a great way for students to stay engaged with music over the summer, keeping their voices strong and their passion for singing alive. Whether they're experienced choir members or just love to sing, this course is a fun and energetic way to learn, perform, and connect with others through music.

6-8 Summer Academy Course Proposals

Course Name: Spanish Adventures: Language & Culture

Who: Current 6-8 grade students

Description: In this exciting class, students will learn Spanish through catchy songs, interactive games, and hands-on projects! We'll explore the countries where Spanish is spoken, master basic greetings, and dive into the alphabet, colors, numbers, days, months, weather expressions, and delicious foods. Along the way, we'll discover fun customs and holidays. Plus, students will create their own mini piñata and colorful party flower to bring the celebrations to life!

Why: This Spanish summer school course is a fun and engaging way for students to build foundational language skills while exploring vibrant cultures. Traditional language learning can sometimes feel overwhelming, but through songs, games, and hands-on projects, students stay engaged and retain information more effectively. They will learn basic greetings, numbers, colors, and common expressions, giving them the confidence to use Spanish in real-life situations. Beyond language, this course fosters cultural awareness by introducing students to the countries where Spanish is spoken, along with their customs and holidays. Creative activities, such as making mini piñatas and colorful party flowers, connect language learning to real-world traditions while encouraging teamwork and social interaction. Whether students are new to Spanish or looking to reinforce their skills, this class helps them stay sharp over the summer and prepares them for future language learning in a fun and interactive way.

Course Name: Summer Sports & Games: Play, Compete, Have Fun!

Who: Current 6-8 grade students

Description: Stay active and have fun this summer with a mix of team sports, backyard games, and outdoor adventures! Students will enjoy basketball, soccer, kickball, obstacle courses, relay challenges, and team-building activities designed to promote movement, friendship, and fun. Join us for an exciting summer of outdoor play in a supportive and engaging environment!

Why: Staying active is essential for both physical and mental well-being, and Summer Sports & Games gives students the perfect opportunity to move, play, and connect in a fun and engaging way. With a mix of team sports, backyard games, and outdoor challenges, this course encourages healthy competition, teamwork, and confidence-building while keeping students active during the summer. Beyond the physical benefits, students will develop important life skills like communication, problem-solving, and sportsmanship through team-building activities and friendly competition. In a world where screens often dominate free time, this course provides a much-needed break to run, play, and make lasting friendships in a supportive and encouraging environment. Whether students love sports or just enjoy outdoor fun, this class offers something for everyone, making it a must-have summer experience.

6-8 Summer Academy Course Proposals

Course Name: Neuroscience: Exploring the Power of the Mind!

Who: Current 6-8 grade students

Description: Have you ever wondered how your brain works? In this hands-on, interactive course, middle school students will dive into the exciting world of neuroscience! Through fun experiments, engaging activities, and creative discussions, students will explore how the brain controls everything from thoughts and emotions to movement and memory.

We'll investigate the structure of the brain, learn how neurons communicate, and even discover the science behind optical illusions and brain tricks! Students will also explore topics like sleep, dreams, and how the brain adapts to new experiences.

No prior knowledge of neuroscience is needed—just curiosity and a love for learning! Join us as we uncover the mysteries of the most powerful organ in the human body.

Why: In today's world, it's more important than ever to understand how our brain shapes our behavior, thoughts, and interactions. This class helps develop critical thinking skills while encouraging students to think creatively and ask questions about how the brain influences our daily lives. With no prior knowledge needed, the course is designed to be accessible, fun, and interactive, providing a deeper understanding of the brain's power and mysteries—ideal for curious minds ready to learn. Whether students are interested in science or just want to know more about themselves, this course is a fun, insightful, and inspiring summer experience.

Course Name: Inside Out: Understanding Feelings, Friends & Community

Who: Current 6-8 grade students

Description: This class is intended for middle school students who want to learn about themselves and their own emotions, choices, and interests. Students will also learn about others and how to problem solve and accept similarities and differences in each other. Games, activities, and other types of hands-on projects will be used to accomplish this. Finally, students will learn about problems and challenges that others face in our community and the world we live in. We will identify and explore service-learning opportunities to help make our world a better place.

Why: This course helps middle school students explore their emotions, choices, and interests while learning to understand and connect with others. Through hands-on activities, games, and projects, students will develop social skills, empathy, and problem-solving strategies. They will also learn about challenges faced by others in their community and the world, discovering ways to make a positive impact through service-learning opportunities.

Summer Academy Course Proposals - CII Ballot

Music Composition and Creation		
Yes	No	Unsure
22	0	4
Comments: I don't see enough students wanting to do this. Would there be enough content? Would be cool. Love that there is an end result of a song of their own. Concerned about low enrollment. Will software cost \$ to use/run this course?		
Love that there is a music option. It will create another opportunity for GT students in other areas.		
Need to know software and technology needs well in advance.		

Pop Choir		
Yes	No	Unsure
24	0	2
Comments: Sounds fun! Would there be enough content? Seems fun. Sounds fun for kids.		
Love that there is a music option. It will create another opportunity for GT students in other areas.		
This is an amazing offering for our students.		

Spanish Adventures: Language and Culture		
Yes	No	Unsure
25	0	1
Comments: Sounds like a great way to get students excited about learning Spanish.		
What about other languages? Would be good intro/cont. foreign language. Great exposure.		
Need to know software and technology needs well in advance. This is <u>so</u> important for this area!		

Summer Sports and Games: Play, Compete, Have Fun!		
Yes	No	Unsure
26	0	0
Comments: Always has been fun for younger student group. Great way to promote kids being active.		
Will probably be popular. I think kids will love this. Good to get them up and moving.		

Neuroscience: Exploring the Power of the Mind		
Yes	No	Unsure
21	0	5
Comments: Students like Science in summer school, but not sure this would catch students' attention to get them to sign up.		
Would be cool - intro to psych and sociology? Would like to know more specifics about "curriculum" used, topics, etc. to compare possible overlap with Health 8 curriculum. Don't know how this will compete with some of the more "fun" courses.		
How will this differ from the LEO program (which is focused on the brain) in the Health 8.		
Need to know software and technology needs well in advance.		

Inside Out: Understanding Feelings, Friends and Community		
Yes	No	Unsure
22	0	4
Comments: Students understanding their feelings as well as how to get along with others would be great! May just need a different name to not get confused with the movies. Who will be specialized enough to teach them. What does a community project look like? <u>So</u> important for kids to know. Same as above about knowing more about specifics of content to address overlap with Health 6 and 8. Love the idea of this, but again not sure it will get as much interest as music/sports.		
I think this is a great course idea! Possibly look at changing the name so it doesn't sound like it's based on the Disney movie?		
MISC Comments: Overall, I think the more options we have, the better for our kids and community.		
Thanks to Amanda for exploring new options for kids! Thank you Amanda for bringing life to our MS summer school programming. Also, thank you to the teachers that are interested in creating their own class and using some of their summer to bring these opportunities to our students!		