



PITSCH

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Feb. 2 Pitsch Pride Day**
Wear red & white or Pitsch apparel
- Feb. 7 Global Play Day**
- Feb. 9 Ice Rink Field Trip**
All Morning 4K Classes
Mrs. Doerrler & Mrs. Jessica PM
- Feb. 14 Valentine Day**
- Feb. 21 All 4K Winter Event**
McMillian Library 4-6 pm
- Feb. 23 Farm Expo Field Trip**
Mrs. Doerrler & Mrs. Jessica AM & PM
- March 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

Please call the attendance line if your student will not be in school.

If your pick up plans change, please notify the office at least **30 minutes prior** to dismissal to ensure the message is delivered promptly.

CONTACT US

501 17TH Street South

715.424.6779

Press 0 - Secretary Tracy Weiss

Press 2 - Report student absent

Attendance Line

715.424.6765

Press 2 for elementary schools

Option 8 for Pitsch Early Learning Center

Bus Companies

Safeway 715.423.1130

Lamers 715.421.2400 opt. 2

Winter Greetings, Pitsch Families!

Can you believe that it is already the start of a new month? This month will be a busy one at school as we have a lot of exciting events happening. Please watch for newsletters and Seesaw messages from your child’s teacher so that all students can participate in our fun activities.

Our students are growing academically and socially every day! You can support this at home by encouraging your children to try challenging activities by themselves before you provide help. For example, if your child has trouble zipping a jacket, offer encouragement, and talk through the process of doing it. Then provide help if needed. This can also be done with other routines at home, such as putting on shoes or getting ready for bed.

The students go outside to play almost every day unless the temperatures are below zero. Please send your child’s winter gear to school each day. Thank you for your help.

It’s the time of year that we often see a rise in colds and illnesses. If your child is sick, please remember to call the attendance line to report your child absent. (*The phone number is listed on the bottom left of this page.*) We appreciate your cooperation as we work together to keep all of our students healthy and safe.

Thank you for being such an important part of our Pitsch community.

Wishing you well,

Kelly Schaeffer, Principal

Teri Thomas, 4K Coordinator and Student Engagement Facilitator

Tracy Weiss, Secretary



CREATIVE CORNER

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

PAPER PLATE "ICE" SKATING

gross motor activity for kids



Grab a couple paper plates, step on them and skate around the house.

Bear Scavenger Hunt



String some yarn around the room, through chairs and set up treasures along the way to find! Pretend you are a bear and follow it through, going in and out, under and over to see what they can find.

HEART NAMES

Cut some hearts from paper. Write (or have your child write) one letter from their name on each heart. Have your child put them together to build their name and name the letters. Make a second set and have them make matches. You could even hide the second set in places around the room for them to find.



Valentine's Snack Mix



Ingredients for Snack Mix

- Strawberry Cheerios
- Crispix cereal
- Dried strawberries
- Yogurt covered cranberries

Other mix-in ideas

- Mini marshmallows
- Chocolate chips



2024-2025 4-AND 5-YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

WHAT TO BRING

- Child's certified birth certificate, baptismal certificate, or passport for verification
- Immunization record

REGISTRATION STARTS:

FEB. 28 12:00 - 6:00 PM	FEB. 29 12:00 - 6:00 PM
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After the initial registration dates, registration will be available at the Enrollment Center. Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm

Registration will be held at the WRPS Enrollment Center 311 Lincoln Street (enter through the front door)

QUESTIONS ABOUT 4-YEAR-OLD-KINDERGARTEN?

Attend an Information Session
Tuesday, February 20 5:00-6:00 pm

Pitsch Early Learning Center
501 17th Street S
715.424.6779

4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

- Child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2024.
- At the time of registration you will be able to indicate your site preference.

5-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

- Child must be 5 years old by September 1, 2024. If you have a question about early admission, call our Pupil Services Office at 715.424.6724.
- If your child is currently enrolled in a WRPS 4K program you DO NOT need to register for 5K.

4K Community Partners



4K Winter Family Fun Night

Come and join us for a fun 4K family event at McMillian Library. We will have centers to play, a trail mix snack station, an art activity, and books to read. We hope to see you there!

Wednesday February 21st 4:00 pm-6:00 pm McMillian Memorial Library

Please RSVP to your child's classroom teacher by Friday 2/9. An parent or adult needs to accompany all children. When you arrive please check in and get a name tag.



Questions about 4-Year-Old Kindergarten?

Attend an Informational Session
Tuesday, February 20
5:00 - 6:00
Pitsch Early Learning Center


501 17th Street S
715.424.6779

Community Partners



REGISTRATION STARTS FEBRUARY 28

Bright by Text





SCAN TO SIGN UP!

Kids don't come with instructions. Bright by Text sends helpful parenting tips, activities & resources right to your phone—for free! Text 'BADGER' to 274448 to sign up!

Bright by Text supports a 'whole child, whole family' approach to early childhood that improves parents' confidence, competence, and connections with their children.

Each message links to age-appropriate resources (short videos, articles, books, games, & activities) with content from trusted sources like Bright by Three, Cooking Matters, Delta Dental, PBS, Sesame Street, Vroom, and partners like local libraries, museums, and health organizations.

Questions? Contact Ben at United Way at 715-421-0390 or ben@uwsac.org.



Note from the Nurse

Childhood Communicable Diseases

(mainly seen at schools)

- ★ **Hand, Foot, Mouth** (Symptoms usually include fever, mouth sores, rash) Please keep your student home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and until mouth sores have healed
- ★ **Ringworm** (Symptoms usually include a ring-shaped rash, itchy skin or red, scaly, cracked skin) Please keep your student home until treatment is initiated or lesions are covered
- ★ **Pink eye** (Symptoms usually include red/pink itchy eye(s), green/yellow eye discharge) Please keep your student home if unable to avoid touching eyes or until treated with antibiotics for 24 hours.
- ★ **Influenza** (Symptoms can include cough, fever or chills, congestion/runny nose, sore throat, headaches, muscle/body aches, fatigue) Please keep your student home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and until feeling well enough to attend school
- ★ **RSV** (Symptoms can include runny nose, cough, fever, decrease in appetite, wheezing) Please keep your student home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and until feeling well enough to attend school

As a general rule of thumb, please keep your student home if they are not feeling well enough to attend or until fever-free (less than 100.4 degrees) for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Please keep your student home until diarrhea/vomit free for 24 hours past the last episode.

Anytime your student is seen by a healthcare provider for any illness or medical appt, please ask for a doctor's note to excuse them (they are allowed 10 days per year before a doctor's note is required)



Children's Dental Health Month

Dental health month is held every year throughout the entire month of February and is dedicated to children learning about good oral health. Teaching children about dental health at a young age is vital for their health later in life. The CDC estimates that at least 20% of children age 5 through 11 have at least one decaying tooth that has been left untreated. You can encourage your children to do the following:

- ★ Brush their teeth twice a day
 - ★ Floss between their teeth daily
 - ★ Demonstrate healthy eating habits and how sugary foods can damage teeth
 - ★ Encourage water over sugary drinks such as juice or soda
 - ★ Schedule cleanings at least twice a year
- If you would like additional resources or are in need of financial assistance with your student's dental needs, please contact your school's social worker or nurse



FREE  **WISCONSIN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

For ALL children 0-5 years of age living in the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools district attendance area. Screenings provided by WRPS, Wood County Head Start, and Wood County Birth to Three program.

Thursday, February 29, 2024
Pitsch Early Learning Center
501 17th St. So.
Must register by Friday, February 23

TO REGISTER:
Call Paula Tesch at 715-424-6700 or email paula.tesch@wrps.net



Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is Winding Down

Families should be aware that the FCC has begun to wind down the “Affordable Connectivity Program,” which allows eligible households to receive a discount of up to \$30 per month for broadband service, and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

As of January, [416,630 Wisconsin households](#) were enrolled in ACP. That’s about 1 in 6 households in Wisconsin. The \$14 million in ACP funds are expected to run out, likely in April or May, unless Congress appropriates additional funding.

Status of Continued ACP Funding

Last week DPI, along with 400 other organizations nationally, endorsed the [Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act](#) (HR 6929/S 3565), which was introduced in both the House and Senate. This bill would provide \$7 billion to keep the ACP funded through the end of 2024. This bill has not yet made it to the floor for a vote.

A second pathway for additional funding is as part of a larger appropriations bill that might not be voted on by Congress until as late as March 8. Thus it could be some time before we know whether the program will be extended past April.

What ACP Households Can Expect

Because program funds are projected to run out soon, unless there is new funding, the FCC is beginning to take steps to wind down the program. Last week, [the FCC released order \(DA 24-23\)](#) to mandate the initial steps of the wind-down process. The FCC projects that households already enrolled in the ACP will continue to receive the benefit on their internet service through April 2024. This date is an estimate and may change.

No new ACP enrollments will be accepted after February 7, 2024.

Before January 25, 2024, households that are currently receiving the ACP benefit will receive the first of three notices from their internet company providing information about the end of the ACP, including when the program is projected to end and how their broadband bill will be affected. Providers may include information on any low-cost plans in their notice to enrolled households. ACP households will also receive notices from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the administrator of the ACP.

Any WRPS households impacted should contact their internet company for information about when they should last expect to see an ACP benefit on their monthly internet bill. Households will also need to contact their internet company to discuss options if they do not wish to receive undiscounted internet service after the end of the ACP or if they would like to change their service plan.

In addition to working with their internet provider, households can contact the ACP Support Center (877) 384-2575 with any questions about the wind-down process and for other information about their benefit.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Phillip Bickelhaupt, our Director of Technology by email at phillip.bickelhaupt@wrps.net or by phone at 715-424-6715.

For more general information about the ACP, visit [GetInternet.gov](https://www.fcc.gov/GetInternet.gov).



501 17th Street S.

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

715.424.6779

**Statement Concerning Special Accommodations to Include in Handbooks, Newsletters,
and All School or District Related Communication**

WRPS is committed to ensuring that all students and parents have access to school district information, policies, procedures, and programs. If you need assistance with interpreter or translation services, or other special accommodations that would be helpful to you, please contact either your child's school office or call the Pupil Services Department at 715-424-6724 so that we can assist you.

Spanish

WRPS está comprometido/a a garantizar que todos los estudiantes y padres tengan acceso a la información del distrito escolar, pólizas, procedimientos y programas. Si necesita ayuda con servicios de intérpretes o traducción, o cualquier otra adaptación especial que le sea útil, por favor, póngase en contacto con la oficina de la escuela de su hijo/a o llame al Departamento de Servicios para Alumnos al 715-424-6724 para que podamos ayudarle.

Hmong

WRPS xav kom txhua tus menyuam thiab niam txiv sawsdaws tau kev pab ntawd lawv lus tsev kawm ntawv txog peb cov ntaub ntawv, kev cai, thiab lub hom phiaj. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus lossis lwm yam, thov hu rau koj tu menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv lossis hu rau Pupil Services Department ntawd tu xov tooj 715-424-6724. Peb zoo siab pab koj.