

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

March 2024

Dear Howe Families,

Teaching and learning have evolved over time; from traditional chalkboard lectures to interactive digital classrooms, our landscape has undergone significant transformation. So, too, has our approach to teaching and learning. We want our students to have the social, emotional, and behavioral skills necessary to be a productive and positive part of our society. We want our students to absorb information, think critically, collaborate, and solve problems in our ever-changing technological world. Add to this the recent legislative changes ([Act 20](#)); it is so important for our professional staff to have time to engage in professional development, stay on top of effective instructional practices and technology--let alone time to do the planning necessary to integrate each of those aspects successfully into a school day.

We've been fortunate to be a part of the Wednesday early release process at Howe (along with other WRPS schools) and are excited for it to have evolved and become a district-wide late start on Mondays for the 24-25 school year. Next year, Wednesdays will return to a 3:30 p.m. release time. The district-wide Monday late start allows our educators throughout the district the time and space to collaborate, reflect on their teaching practices, participate in training sessions, and many other topics related to addressing the evolving needs of our students. This investment in late start Mondays will better support your child's growth and development and help us achieve our student mission and vision: **Students, families, and staff are committed to academic and social/emotional success by building a strong, respectful Howe community. Working together with home and community, Howe School will promote an environment of engaged learners focused on academic and social/emotional growth, preparing them for our changing world.**

Superintendent Broeren's letter that was sent out via Skylert in February is attached to this newsletter. Howe Elementary and all of WRPS appreciate your understanding and support as we strive to provide the best possible learning environment for all our students.

Enjoy your Spring Break!

Important Dates

Mon, March 18th through Fri., March 22nd....Book Fair
Thurs., March 21st.....PTC Family Candy Bar Bingo Night 6:00 p.m.
Mon., March 25th through Fri., March 29th....Spring Break
Fri., April 19th.....No School
Fri., April 26th.....Howe School Carnival



Spelling Bee

The Howe School Spelling Bee was held for the 4th and 5th grade classroom finalists. Classroom finalists were: Luciana Henning, Grace McDonald, Olivia Brown, Heaven Zelazoski, Lillian Stenulson, Kayden Neas, Zuri Wilson, Lily Ihrcke, Kyndel Borek, Jaymin Thao, Amiyah Reed and Becca Klutterman. **Lily Ihrcke** was the winner and **Amiyah Reed** was the runner-up. Lily represented Howe School at the District contest. Congratulations to everyone who participated!



Book and Materials Fee

The annual elementary WRPS Book and Materials Fee is \$20.00. Please pay the fee as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. Payment should be sent to school in an envelope labeled with the student's first and last name and "Book Fee". Thank you!



Children's Book Donations Needed in April

We need your help—and your books! Starting April 1st and running through April 26th, United Way will accept new or gently used children's books to be distributed at Great Book Giveaway events in June.

Board books and easy readers are needed most, but any new or used children's book in good condition will be accepted. Books, or monetary donations can be brought to the United Way office at 351 Oak Street in Wisconsin Rapids between 8:30am and 4:00pm any weekday.

The Great Book Giveaway is a fun, annual event that impacts hundreds of youth each year, aligning with the goal of the Youth Success Coalition. Please consider donating to support this initiative, and help close the literacy gap in our community.

Books collected in this drive will be provided to children free of charge—a simple act that can be life changing for the many families who can't afford to purchase books.

For more information contact Ben Eberlein at 715-421-0390 or ben@uwsdac.org.



United Way of South
Wood & Adams Counties



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@uwsdac.org.



Solar Eclipse

On April 8, during the school day, your child may have the opportunity to participate in the viewing of the solar eclipse. Teachers will share details about how they will be observing this event. We will provide safety viewing glasses in order to view the eclipse safely. You may choose to opt your child out of this experience. Please contact the child's teacher; they will be provided with an alternate activity.



4-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN

Registration is Open

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Child must be 4 years old
by September 1, 2024.




Questions about 4K?

Contact:
Pitsch Early Learning Center
715.424.6779

Tracy Weiss, 4K Administrative Assistant
Tracy.Weiss@wrps.net

Teri Thomas, 4K Coordinator
Teri.Thomas@wrps.net

ENROLL NOW

 **WRPS Enrollment Center**
311 Lincoln Street

Visit WRPS.org - Families -Registration/Enrollment to
pre-print your registration paperwork.



Teen Job Fair at LHS 2-5pm, March 20th

Whether saving for college or a car, most teens need extra cash. That means getting a job—but where do you start? Who's hiring? For what jobs? How do you apply?

The Teen Job Fair at Lincoln High School will host more than 20 local employers from 2:00-5:00pm on March 20th.

Attendees will meet employers, learn about job openings, and can apply on-site—with some additional opportunities for on-site interviews.

The Teen Job Fair is free to attend and open to all teens. Looking for part-time, full-time, seasonal work, or interested in networking? You don't want to miss out—register now using the QR code below for a chance to win a prize drawing!

Register now!
Scan here!



United Way of South
Wood & Adams Counties



March is Youth Art Month! We are excited to have our Elementary Art Show back at McMillan Library this year! The show will be up during the entire month of March. We can recognize art education as a viable factor in the total education curriculum that develops citizens of a global society. Art helps our children develop divergent and critical thinking capabilities.

Ways to help celebrate?

- Ask your child how their art class was in school.
- Visit a local or state art museum
- Do an art activity as a family
- Play a drawing game...like pictionary!

We hope you can visit McMillan Library and see all of the great artwork from Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools on display.



News From The Nurse

March 2024

Healthy practices

As 2nd trimester comes to an end it is important to practice healthy ways to prepare for finals/exams. It is also important for children to have healthy eating habits and physical activity to help with their growing bodies.

- Educate your student on the importance of choosing healthy foods, and developing good eating habits
- Balanced breakfast, and hydration
- Plan to eat more meals together as a family
- Practice mindful eating by limiting screen time at mealtime (phones, TV, etc)
- Trying a new fruit or vegetable each week
- Get everyone to help with food preparation
- Watching TV? Take a break during commercials to be more physically active.
- Proper sleep hygiene—no screen time before bed

From the CDC (Norovirus)

Norovirus is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhea. Anyone can get infected and sick with norovirus. Norovirus is sometimes called the “stomach flu” or “stomach bug”.

However, norovirus illness is not related to the flu, which is caused by influenza virus. Discover norovirus symptoms, how the virus spreads, and how to prevent norovirus. Link: [CDC: Norovirus](https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/)

*NEW: Health information can be found on the WRPS website under the “FAMILIES” option.

The average school-aged student can get between 5-7 colds per year. They don't typically require treatment or intervention. If their symptoms are not interfering with play or sleep, you can aid them by encouraging more rest and fluids. If they have any of these symptoms: fever, prolonged or worsening cough, wheezing, or other cold symptoms that persist beyond 1 week, seek medical evaluation. Cough drops are available in the nurse's office- we encourage middle/high school students to bring in their own. They may be left in the nurse's office for their personal use. Sending water bottles and snacks with your student daily can help with symptoms as well.

Immunizations

Please review the following schedule and make sure your child is compliant by next school year. Parents can schedule a nurse visit at the doctor's clinic to get vaccinations.

Required Immunizations for School

*5 months through 15 months: 2 DTP/DTaP/DT, 2 Polio, 2 Hep B, 2 Hib, 2 PCV

*16 months through 23 months: 3 DTP/DTaP/DT, 2 Polio, 1 MMR, 2 Hep B, 3 Hib, 3 PCV

*2 years through 4 years: 4 DTP/DTaP/DT, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Var, 3 Hep B, 3 Hib, 3 PCV

*Kindergarten through grade 6: 4 DTP/DTaP/DT, 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 2 Var, 3 Hep B

*Grade 7 through grade 12: 4 DTP/DTaP/DT, 1 Tdap 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 2 Var, 3 Hep B

If your child should not receive immunizations for any reason, please fill out the waiver found at the bottom of the record form signed by a parent or guardian, and return it to the school nurse.

The updated student immunization record form is available here: Student Immunization Record.

**Superintendent's Office**

Craig G. Broeren, Superintendent
510 Peach Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-424-6701
craig.broeren@wrps.net

February 27, 2024

Dear Families,

At its regular meeting held on December 11, 2023, the Board of Education took action to approve of a "Universal Late Start Monday" proposal beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Essentially, what this means is that each school's start time for students will begin 45 minutes later on every Monday when school is scheduled throughout the entire school year.

The reason for this change is to enhance the time that our professional staff members spend in their building Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), including the ability to collaborate between buildings. PLC time is a collaborative time for educators to analyze student and assessment data to identify, implement, and engage in best instructional practices that benefit our diverse student population. With the recent passage of Wisconsin Act 20 reading legislation which impacts the elementary level, many changes are anticipated for our reading program that includes the adoption of a new curriculum, additional assessment and analysis required by teaching staff, and increased parent communication. To do this well, we need to provide our teachers with strong support and key professional development opportunities. Across all grade levels, the practice of using PLC time to engage in activities that directly impact student success couldn't be more important.

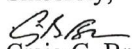
While many of our schools have had built-in early release or late start time in their schedules for quite some time, the move to a universal common time of release across all buildings in 2024-25 will provide consistency and less confusion for families. A primary reason Mondays were chosen is because there are fewer days of instruction missed due to holidays compared to other days of the week. Below you will find an example of a typical 45-minute Late Start Monday schedule. *Additional details will be shared by your child(s) individual school by the end of summer.*

| WEEKLY SCHOOL SCHEDULE BASED ON LATE START MONDAYS | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| School | Building Opens Mondays | School Start Time Mondays | Building Opens Tue-Fri | School Start Time Tue-Fri | School End Time Tue-Fri |
| Central Oaks Academy | 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 9:15 am | 4:00 pm |
| Grant Elementary | 9:15 am | 9:30 am | 8:30 am | 8:45 am | 3:30 pm |
| Grove Elementary | 9:10 am | 9:25 am | 8:20 am | 8:40 am | 3:30 pm |
| Howe Elementary | 9:15 am | 9:30 am | 8:20 am | 8:40 am | 3:30 pm |
| Mead Elementary | 9:15 am | 9:30 am | 8:25 am | 8:40 am | 3:30 pm |
| Pitsch Early Learning/4K | Site times would be adjusted to meet transportation needs – times vary by location. | | | | |
| THINK Academy | 9:20 am | 9:35 am | 8:40 am | 8:50 am | 3:45 pm |
| Washington Elementary | 9:15 am | 9:30 am | 8:30 am | 8:45 am | 3:30 pm |
| Woodside Elementary | 9:15 am | 9:30 am | 8:30 am | 8:45 am | 3:30 pm |
| Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School | 7:30 am | 7:55 am | 7:00 am | 7:25 am | 2:40 pm |
| Lincoln High School | 6:00 am | 8:10 am | 6:00 am | 7:30 am | 2:53 pm |
| River Cities High School | 7:00 am | 8:25 am | 7:00 am | 7:45 am | 2:30 pm |

Recognizing that families will need to consider the impact of this schedule and make some adjustments for these Late Start Mondays in the coming school year, I wanted to reach out and inform you early about these changes in order to provide plenty of time for you to begin planning. Please note that elementary families will still have access to the Morning Jumpstart program sponsored through the Boys & Girls Club (Monday-Friday from 6:45 a.m. to the start of the school day, including ON the Late Start Mondays) with an expansion of this program to include Grant Elementary in the coming year. Transportation routes will run as normal, with the exception of being 45 minutes later on Mondays.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Craig G. Broeren
Superintendent