



**November  
2022**

**THINK Academy  
6950 Knowledge Ave  
Rudolph, WI 54475**

# THINK ACADEMY

## From the Principal...

November 2022

It is hard to believe November is here! Thank you for attending parent/teacher conferences. I know our teachers were excited to meet with all of you and share the progress students are making to this point in the school year. I hope you found this time beneficial to hear the many strengths of your child(ren) as well as areas they continue to work on. If you were not able to sign-up for a conference via Skyward, please contact your child's teacher directly.

The project is going well. Some of the current and upcoming highlights include our construction team working on electrical items in the new gym, putting in an asphalt driveway outside and around the gym and many finishing touches inside. The gym floor will now be put in after Thanksgiving Break. I can't emphasize enough how amazing our construction team has been throughout this project!

Our PTS has been busy as they hosted the Family Pumpkin Painting Night in October, planned a Book Fair during parent/teacher conferences, and organized an upcoming movie morning at Roger's Cinema. The results from the Fall Door Decorating Contest are in! Ms. Podgorny's and Ms. Johnson's classes won a pizza party sponsored by the PTS! We appreciate all that our PTS does to support our students, families and staff!

We have many events in the coming weeks. The Veteran's Day program will take place on Friday, November 11. We look forward to honoring Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices to our community and country. In December, we will have our Holiday Concert at the PAC, Run Run Rudolph and the Holiday Workshop at school. We look forward to these fun and exciting events!

It is the time of year where the weather is constantly changing. When the grassy areas of the playground are covered with snow, students will need to wear snow boots in order to play in that area. We also expect our students to wear hats and gloves as the temperatures start dipping lower and lower. If you need support in obtaining snow gear for your children, (hats, gloves, snow pants, boots), please contact Olivia Baehman at olivia.baehman@wrps.net or Amy Fuller at THINK Academy.

Thank you for your continued support at THINK Academy.

Sincerely,

Christine Slattery  
Principal



**Christine Slattery  
THINK Principal**

Main Office  
715-424-6784  
Attendance Line  
715-424-6765

### Mark Your Calendar

**November 1**

Pic Retake Day

**November 1st & 3rd**

P/T Conferences  
Scholastic Book Fair

**November 4**

Spirit Day—Favorite Jersey

**November 10**

PTS 5:30 pm

**November 11**

Spirit Day—Red, White, Blue  
Veterans Day Program

**November 12**

Movie Morning 9:00  
Roger's Cinema

**November 18**

Spirit Day—Favorite Sweatshirt

**November 21**

Healthy Smiles for grades 2-3

**November 23**

Spirit Day—PJ Day

**November 24-25**

Thanksgiving Break  
No School

**November 28**

No School—Record Keeping Day



## Veterans Program

The Veteran's Day Program is Friday, November 11, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Zieroth is putting together the slideshow this year. If you have pictures of family members that are/were veterans and would like them included in the slide show, please submit a hard copy to Mrs. Zieroth or email her the photo at [marijo.zieroth@wrps.net](mailto:marijo.zieroth@wrps.net) by October 30<sup>th</sup>. Hard copies will be returned immediately. If you have submitted pictures in the past, please check with Mrs. Zieroth to ensure that the picture will be included in the slide show this year. We don't want any veterans to be missed. Please include name, years of service and branch that they served. Thank you!

## Spirit Days

- Nov. 4th — Favorite Jersey
- Nov. 11th — Red, Wht, Blue
- Nov. 18th — Favorite Sweatshirt
- Nov. 23rd — Pajama Day



### **Happy November Birthdays to:**

Beckett Johnson, Jayden Bell, Gage Brehm, Braedyn Ciriacks, Logan Bowman, Everett O'Shasky, Ms. Carmen, VajTsim, Xiong, Elliot Smith, Westin Fuller, Aubree Pongratz, James Ashbeck, Hazel Holden, Marley Dycus, Jordan Resheske

## VOLUNTEER

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity at THINK Academy you will need to complete the Volunteer Application Process. Please see the instructions below. (field trips, class parties, lunch w/student, etc.)

- WRPS Website
- Community Tab
- Volunteer Opportunities
- In School Volunteer Information
- 3/4 way down (**volunteer application**)
- Complete the application and wait for approval via email





## THINK Holiday Concert

The THINK Holiday Concert is back! Mark your calendars for a night of kids dressed in their best, holiday singing and community, once again!



- \* **DATE:** Tuesday, December 13th
- \* **TIME:** Doors open at 6:00 pm—Program begins at 6:30 pm
- \* **WHERE:** Lincoln High School / Performing Arts Center  
1801 16th Street South, Wis. Rapids



More information to come...

Dear THINK Families:

It's back! The THINK Holiday Workshop will take place in December! Proceeds from the sale will go toward providing gifts/funds for those in need of help during the holidays. Please begin saving any items that are gently used that you wish to donate. New gift items can also be sent in and are greatly appreciated. Gifts for men and boys are harder to find items so please be on the lookout for those as well.

- **Donations** will be accepted from **Monday, Dec. 5th through Friday, Dec. 9th**. You can bring them to the front doors of school from **8:00 am - 4:00 pm** on these dates.
- The Holiday Workshop will be open to students **Tues., Dec. 12th through Thurs., Dec. 15th**
- Please **DO NOT** donate used candles, lotions/toiletries or clothing.

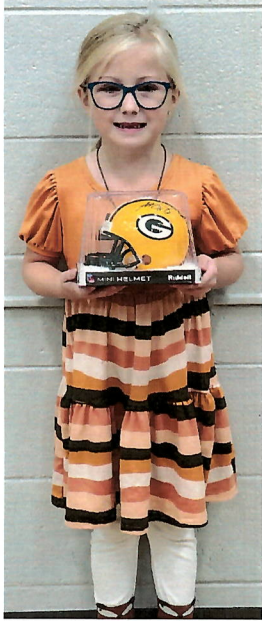


Note:

Envelopes will be coming home for each student the first week of December. This envelope serves as a list of people to buy for along with a place to contain their shopping money. **Items are priced \$0.25, \$0.50 and \$1.00.**

**4K—2nd Grade** will get an envelope with tags in it. Please complete the list on the outside of the envelope and also fill out the tags inside for people the students will purchase gifts for.

**3rd—5th Grade** will only get an envelope. Tags will be provided for them at school to fill out but they should still fill out the list on the envelope. This will remind them of who to buy for.



Miss Avery Hartjes won the Amari Rodgers signed football that was awarded to THINK Academy for having done a cheese taste testing event. Congratulations Avery!

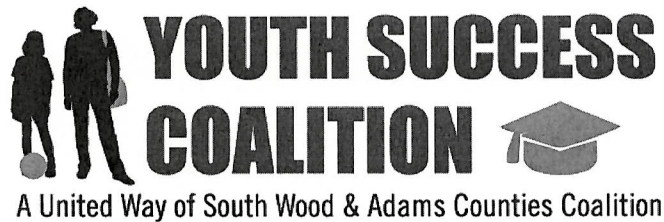


Current 19 members of FUTP60 team as of 10/18/22



# Halloween Parade





## **Meet Coalition Member Girl Scouts of the North Western Great Lakes!**

Want to shoot a movie, build a robot, speak up for what you believe in? Girl Scouts has all the tools you need!

This isn't just another activity—you and your family will meet new people, try new & exciting things, and make lifelong memories.

By becoming a member, you'll join a group of girls and families called a troop and get a full year of adventures, including trips, events, and special programs. Girls can join at any point from kindergarten through 12th grade.

For more details, or to find a local troop, visit their website at: [www.gsnwgl.org](http://www.gsnwgl.org).



United Way of South  
Wood & Adams Counties



# KEEP KIDS WARM

## THINK ACADEMY + GRANT ELEMENTARY

If your child is in need of winter gear (coats, snow pants, hats, gloves, and/or boots), please attend our Keep Kids Warm events!

Thursday, November 10th 3:30-5:30 PM

or

Monday, November 21st 7:30-10:00 AM

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

[SIGN UP HERE!](#)

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 THINK school counselor Olivia Baehman (715) 424-6784 ext. 2571 or Grant school counselor Sam Radtke (715) 424-6766 ext. 2041.

\* 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!



Dear Mom, Dad, or Caregiver;

The people of South Wood County have historically been very generous during the holiday season to help assist families in need. One such generosity is the Marine Corps Reserve, "Toys for Tots" (TFT) Christmas for Children program. During the 2022 holiday season, "Toys for Tots" will be jointly operated by the Grand Rapids Lions and FOCUS ("Feeding Our Communities with United Services").

If your family is in need this holiday season, please follow the below steps:

- 1) Register your family:
  - a. On or after **October 15, 2022** please complete the online referral form [HERE](#) and click "Apply for Toys"; **OR**
  - b. Fill out the referral form (**please print**) and make sure to include age and gender;
  - c. Return the referral form to the main office of your child's school by **November 28, 2022**.
  - d. **Please only complete one referral form.**
- 2) You will receive an acknowledgement that your application has been received.
- 3) Toy pickup will be on 12/17/2022 from 9 am-12:30 pm at Mariani Cold Storage located at **1909 32<sup>nd</sup> St N, Wisconsin Rapids**. **There is no assigned time. You must bring your acknowledgement letter with you.**
- 4) This will be the only opportunity to pick up your toys. In the event you cannot attend the pickup please send an authorized individual, **with your acknowledgment letter**, to the pickup on your behalf.

Additionally, FOCUS will have a holiday food basket available. **Please note: in order to receive a holiday food basket your family must meet the FOCUS Food Pantry income guidelines.** If you meet the guidelines, please call FOCUS after November 1<sup>st</sup> at 715-422-2050 to register for your holiday food basket. **Holiday food baskets distribution will also be on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2321 W Grand Ave Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495.**

Please do not indicate you want a holiday food basket on the TFT referral form. **Only those contacting FOCUS Food Pantry and registering for a holiday food basket will receive one.**

Sincerely;

**The Grand Rapids Lions Club and  
FOCUS**



# 2022 REFERRAL FOR TOYS FOR TOTS



HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

PLEASE PRINT

FIRST NAME	MID. INTL.	LAST NAME	
STREET ADDRESS			Apt./Lot #
CITY	STATE		ZIP CODE
PHONE (____) _____	EMAIL ADDRESS _____@_____		
<b>PLEASE PRINT</b>			
<b>HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION LIST ALL CHILDREN LIVING IN THE HOUSEHOLD</b>			
<b>First and Last name (Mandatory)</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

**Note:** This information may be shared with school staff and other agencies offering holiday assistance.

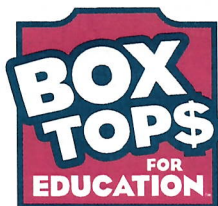
HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ - SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*If you are in need of a Christmas Food Basket please contact the FOCUS Food Pantry at: (715) 422-2050 \*\***







Dear Families,

Are you looking for a quick and easy way to support our school?

Box Tops for Education has been around for over 25 years, and it really can make a difference. In fact, the Box Tops program has helped give almost one billion dollars to schools since 1996.

The Box Tops app gives participants the ability to earn for any school across the country with just the touch of a button. Plus, the Box Tops app allows you to search for schools that could use a little extra help, so you can help give students in low-income schools the opportunity to succeed.

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:** Buy participating products and use the Box Tops app to scan your store receipt. The app identifies eligible products and earnings are credited to your designated school online. Even if you're shopping online or doing grocery pickup, you can still submit your digital or email receipt with the Box Tops app and earn. Twice a year, our school gets a check!

**See a list of participating products at**  
**[BTFE.COM/PRODUCTS](https://www.btfe.com/products)**

Box Tops earnings really add up, and the more people that participate, the bigger the impact we can make. So let's give our teachers the support they need and give more kids the opportunity to succeed. **Together, we can help make a big difference.**

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**DON'T HAVE THE APP YET?**  
**DOWNLOAD IT TODAY!**



**LEARN MORE ABOUT**  
**BOX TOPS AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfe.com)**

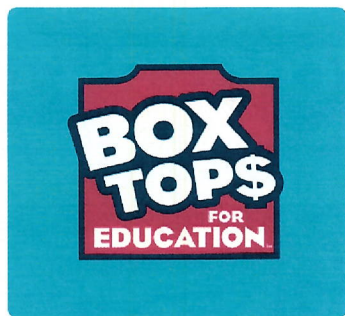
# EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOX TOPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy. Today, you can find thousands of participating products throughout the store – and all you need is the Box Tops app.

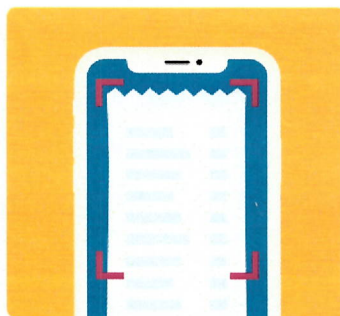


## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



### BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

Earn for schools with the brands you love.



### SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the Box Tops app to submit your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



### EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS

Box Tops products are identified and earnings are credited online.



### ONLINE SHOPPERS CAN EARN WITH BOX TOPS, TOO!

Whether you order groceries for delivery or pickup, shop through your store's app, or request an email receipt at checkout, you can earn for your school no matter where you shop.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfec.com)

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:



## SAFE-WAY BUS INFORMATION



### Becoming a **Superhero!** (School Bus Driver) **OUR KIDS NEED YOU!**

After school activities and athletics are in extreme need of drivers!

Please consider becoming a trip driver or even a route driver.

If you are a coach, parent, officiator or teacher, we need you!

Please contact Safe-Way Bus @ 715-423-1130 or email [swsteph@wctc.net](mailto:swsteph@wctc.net) and we will walk you through the process.

If you think you can help, here is how your journey begins....

1. Fill out an application
2. Have a physical & pre-employment drug screen
3. Study the handbook and go down to the DMV and take 4 written tests  
(General Knowledge, School Bus, Passenger and Sign Tests)
4. Once you have your CDL instructional permit, you begin working with a trainer
5. Minimum of 5 days - one on one with a trainer  
(Two-hour sessions at Safe-Way)
6. When you and your trainer feel you are ready, they will schedule you for a pre-check test and a driving test  
(With one of our State Certified CDL Testers)
7. Upon passing your tests, your results will be implemented into the computer, and you can go to any DMV and get your license.  
**You are now a SuperHero!!!!**

All training is paid training. After a month of being employed with Safe-Way, we will give you a \$300 sign-on bonus!



# *Lamers Bus Lines*

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Like to Travel? Get Paid to Drive!

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Paid In-house Driver Training & Testing

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\$30 CDL Permit Fee Reimbursement

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Up to \$40 Towards Your Licensing Fees

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Route Drivers Earn Monthly Bonuses Totaling  
up to \$2,400 Through the School Year\*

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Annual Bonus for Charter Drivers\*

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Once You're Hired, Continue Earning  
Bonuses by Helping Us Recruit New Drivers

*Lamers* – The Passenger Professionals

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Drive Our Future Leaders to School Today!

\*Call us at 715-421-2400, option 2 for details!

[www.GoLamers.com/Careers](http://www.GoLamers.com/Careers)

**STRONG  
FAMILIES  
STRONG  
COMMUNITIES**

**WISCONSIN WORKS & YOU**



**UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL**  
You can do great things. We can help.

# What is WISCONSIN WORKS?



Wisconsin Works (W-2) helps low income parents with dependent children get jobs to support their families. We help them learn the skills for careers.

## WE CAN HELP PARENTS WITH:

- Education Support
- Employer Connections
- Training Workshops
- Career Guidance
- Transportation Assistance
- Childcare Assistance
- Cash Benefits
- Social Security Application
- Interview and Resume Help
- After-Hire Support

## WE CAN HELP YOUR ORGANIZATION:

- Provide additional resources
- Coordinate services
- Help parents become self-sufficient

# Who can QUALIFY FOR WISCONSIN WORKS?

Customers who qualify are:

- Parents or primary caregivers of children under 18 years old
- US Citizens, legal aliens or permanent residents
- Low income - 115% of Federal Poverty Level
- Under-employed or unemployed

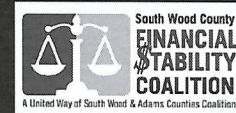


## CONTACT US TODAY!

To learn more about how Wisconsin Works can help your customers, contact 608-216-7657.

# Funding Your Future

Brought to you by:



Fall 2022

## The Truth about Budgeting: 3 Steps for Smarter Spending

*A budget is one of the most effective tools for achieving & maintaining financial stability. In this edition of Funding Your Future, you'll find the information you need to start your own budget and understand why it's important.*

**Let's start with a question:** How much money did you spend last month? ...Unsure? You're not alone. Roughly 1 in 3 Americans don't use a budget—yet the overwhelming majority of people who *do* use a budget report having been able to escape debt, or remain debt-free, *because they use a budget.*

Mobile apps, online banking, and automated payments are just a few ways technology has made it easier than ever to manage personal finances. While these tools won't replace a budget, they can help you get started (and stick with it).

Have you ever heard of a lottery winner or heir of a fortune ending up broke, bankrupt, or in debt? Examples like these show how easy it is to overspend without basic budgeting knowledge. Managing money is a financial skill necessary at any level of wealth. Follow these three steps to get started!

### Step #1—Define Income & Expenses

Imagine your budget is a meal. You can't start cooking without knowing the ingredients or their measurements. You need a recipe! Or in this case, a *monthly spending plan.*

Identify your current income, expenses, and debts. Be realistic and specific—list *actual* amounts, not guesstimates, and list expenses by specific categories. Part of being realistic is also including flexibility in your spending plan. Add a category for unexpected or emergency expenses. Resources and examples are linked on page two to get you started.

Does your income cover all of your living expenses? What about savings goals?

Now you can adjust your new spending plan for the next month—your basic, necessary living expenses shouldn't change, but you can control your spending with choices to increase

## Tips for Cutting Expenses

### Plan Ahead to Save Gas

Plan out and combine trips to save gas—save even more by carpooling when possible. For longer trips, consider options like bus or train.

### Do Activities at Home

Buying ingredients for a fancy meal or renting a movie are much cheaper alternatives to eating out or going to the theater. What other examples can you think of?

### Use Meal Plans & Lists

Create a weekly meal plan and grocery list to avoid spending on unnecessary items. Design your meal plan around weekly sales to maximize savings! For a fun savings challenge, try making a meal, or even a meal plan, using only what you already have.

### Find Coupons

After making your meal plan & list, find coupons to match. But DON'T buy items just *because* you find a coupon.

### Buy Less Meat

Non-meat protein can be significantly cheaper, and in many cases healthier.

### Try Canned & Frozen

Fresh vegetables are usually much more expensive than canned or frozen, and can easily spoil before you have a chance to use them. Many meats can also be found cheaper this way.

# Further Reading & Resources

## Creating Budgets & Spending Plans

- <https://finances.extension.wisc.edu/files/2020/12/Cutting-Back-UW-3.20.pdf>
- <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/budgeting-how-to-create-a-budget-and-stick-with-it/>
- <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/youth-financial-education/teach-activities/creating-monthly-household-budget/>
- [https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb\\_building\\_block\\_activities\\_creating-monthly-household-budget\\_worksheet.pdf](https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_building_block_activities_creating-monthly-household-budget_worksheet.pdf)

## Tracking Spending

- [https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb\\_your-money-your-goals\\_income\\_benefits\\_tool\\_2018-11\\_ADA.pdf](https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_your-money-your-goals_income_benefits_tool_2018-11_ADA.pdf)
- [https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb\\_well-being\\_spending-tracker.pdf](https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_well-being_spending-tracker.pdf)

## Tips for Saving

- [https://finances.extension.wisc.edu/article-topic/saving-on-taxes/?ss\\_redir=1](https://finances.extension.wisc.edu/article-topic/saving-on-taxes/?ss_redir=1)
- [https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201603\\_cfpb\\_rules-to-live-by-my-savings-rule-to-live-by.pdf](https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201603_cfpb_rules-to-live-by-my-savings-rule-to-live-by.pdf)

## Local Resources through UW-Extension

- [Financial Coaching](#)
- [Money Matters Self-Paced Course](#)

Contact Jackie Carattini at [jackie.carattini@wisc.edu](mailto:jackie.carattini@wisc.edu) for more info about resources from Extension!

savings or pay off debt with money that may have been used to eat out or pay for entertainment.

## Step #2—Track Your Spending

With your plan clearly defined, track your spending over an entire month, then review your actual spending compared to what you planned. Find a strategy that's convenient and works for you—an app, pen & paper, receipts, writing on a calendar, daily log, or checkbook, a spreadsheet, online banking records, etc. Regardless of the method, tracking your spending allows you to know exactly where your money is going—potentially revealing spending habits you might not even be aware of, and help you understand how even small, everyday purchases can add up over time.

Don't get discouraged if your actual spending turns out different from what you planned! Many expenses will vary and change month-to-month or week-to-week, and it may take time to adjust, *especially* if you are making any big changes in spending habits or lifestyle. After a few months, you will have a better idea of the big picture.

## Step #3—Keep At It

You might need to continue adjusting your spending plan and lifestyle choices to find a balance that works. If you are consistently overspending, you may need to find different ways to cut back (some tips for savings are included in the sidebar). Taking on an additional job, or turning a hobby into an income source, can help increase household resources. Depending on your situation, government or non-profit assistance programs may be able to help—call United Way's 211 to get connected to the support services available to you.

If debt is an issue, contacting a credit counselor may help. In some cases, debtors may renegotiate a payment plan to accommodate specific circumstances. One thing you should never do, is take on new or additional debt to pay existing bills.

Finding a balance between income and expenses isn't always easy and will likely take time. Changing old spending habits and applying new ones is challenging, but keep at it! Make budgeting part of your regular daily, weekly, or monthly routine and you will be successful. Once you find consistency in your budget, you can focus on building savings and working toward other financial goals.

Sources: <https://finances.extension.wisc.edu/article-topic/getting-through-tough-times/>  
<https://finances.extension.wisc.edu/files/2020/12/Cutting-Back-UW-3.20.pdf>

Brought to you by partners of



South Wood County  
**FINANCIAL  
STABILITY  
COALITION**

A United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties Coalition

**United Way of South  
Wood & Adams Counties**







# FREE

## Developmental Screening

**Who:** For ALL children **0-5 years** of age living in the Wisconsin Rapids School District Area

**When:** Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 -Biron Head Start or  
Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 - Pitsch Early Learning Center  
(children ages 3-5)

**Where:** Pitsch Early Learning Center  
501 17th St S

Children ages 0-2 will be screened by Wood or Portage County Birth to Three Program by a separately scheduled appointment

***For more information, please call Bridget Chariton  
at 715-424-6700***

Screenings provided by Wisconsin Rapids Public School District,  
Wood County Head Start and  
Wood and Portage County Birth to Three Programs