

# Life @ Lincoln

Rod Watson, Principal

Nic Sydorowicz, Ashley Tessmer, Kelly Zywicki, Associate Principals

September 2024

## Principal's Message

Welcome back! I know this is an exciting time for both students and parents. We are so happy to have our students back in the building and I'm sure you're happy to have them out of your refrigerator! (Warning- they are probably going to come home VERY hungry every afternoon this week!). I have a few notes to get you started this year.

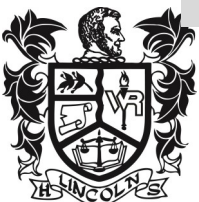
What's new?

We have 21 staff members, including myself, who are either new to the building or the position this year. These include new teachers, administrators, and support staff. All of us are learning our positions as quickly as possible in order to serve you and your students as best as possible. Note- we also have an opening for a new agriculture teacher if you know anyone who wants to teach here!

Our biggest change that would affect you is our late start schedule. We moved our collaborative time to the mornings on Monday in order to maximize our shared time. Students should plan to start their learning day at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday-Friday and at 8:10 a.m. on Mondays. Students do not need to come to school any earlier than 15 minutes before the day begins. We will have supervision available at 7:00 a.m. on normal days; 7:30 a.m. on Mondays. Students who come early can sit in the commons, out of the weather, at that time. All school days end at the same time, 2:53 p.m. Students who are not in sports or activities should make their way off campus in a timely manner so teachers can wrap up their work days and get back to their families.

The second change is really more of a renewed enforcement of existing policy- **students will not be allowed to have cell phones or earbuds in class.** These devices are distractions to the learning environment and will not be allowed. Currently, eight states have instituted cell phone bans altogether for this reason, and Madison is considering the same. We want students to have access to their phones and earbuds in the hallways during passing periods and during lunch (and also in the commons study hall), but not during learning time. Students have the option of putting their phones in their lockers or in a holder each teacher has in their room. They cannot keep their phones in their pockets or on their desks. This will be clearly taught on the first day of school and reinforced every day afterwards. Students who do not follow this policy, which we hope is a rare occurrence, will have their phones

Continued on the next page



# PRIDE

LHS Office: 715.424.6750

Principal's Office: 715.424.6751

Student Services: 715.424.6755

Athletic Office: 715.424.6760

Attendance Line: 715.424.6765

# Principal's Message cont.

confiscated and sent to the office. Parents will have to pick up the phones for the students upon a second offense and afterwards. Earbuds will not be confiscated unless a student fails to accept redirection. Please help us to reinforce this policy on your end. It is important.

Otherwise, our changes at LHS this year are fairly minor. We have some key new software, such as our attendance system called Schooltrak, our updated Skyward, which we're all still learning, and some new classes, mainly in math and social studies. We are focusing on stability, even with a change in building administration, so we can address student achievement and safety. Please keep us updated on how you see our efforts from your perspective as a parent.

I'm looking forward to getting to know our students, parents, and community this year. Please come introduce yourself when I see you at school events. Let me know how things are going for you and your family at LHS. I need to hear from you and the students in order to know how our school is doing!

I know it's going to be a great year. I can't wait to get after it on Tuesday morning. Let's go, Red Raiders!

*Dr. Rod Watson*

## Quick View Calendar

LHS Club Awareness ..... Sept. 12  
Picture Retake Day ..... Sept. 26  
PD Day—No School ..... Sept. 27  
Homecoming Dance ..... Oct. 5  
Parent Teacher Conferences ..... Oct. 14  
Career Day/Senior Meeting ..... Oct. 22  
Autumn Break - No School ..... Nov. 1  
WIAA State Cross County Meet..... Nov. 1-2

## Canvas

LHS welcomes you to begin experiencing Canvas, our Learning Management System. Below, you will find links for a step-by-step process of signing up and visiting your child/children's Canvas account to view and access lesson plans, assignments, videos, resources, weblinks, documents, discussions and possibly entire curriculum bundles as placed on Canvas by your child/ children's teachers.

[Canvas Parent Portal Directions \(Google Presentation\)](#)  
[Canvas Parent Pointers](#)

**WRPS Pupil Nondiscrimination statement.** The School District of Wisconsin Rapids is committed to equal educational opportunity for all District students. The District will not deny any person admission to, participation in, or the benefits of any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of a person's gender, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected under State or Federal civil rights laws. Please review Board Policy 411 for additional information. Incidents of discrimination or harassment should be reported to a teacher, administrator, supervisor or other District employee to be addressed or forwarded on to District Compliance Officer Brian Oswall.

**WRPS Sex Discrimination Under Title IX** In compliance with the federal Title IX statutes and regulations set forth in Chapter 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that the District operates. Title IX's requirement not to discriminate in any education program or activity extends to cover, but is not limited to, District students, certain admissions processes, and District employment. Inquiries regarding how Title IX and the federal Title IX regulations apply to the District may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator (as designated below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, or to both. Please refer to [Board Policy 411.11](#) for additional information.

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.



## Senior Information



### **Mandatory Senior Meeting**

There will be a **mandatory** meeting for all seniors on Tuesday, October 22nd at 11:00 a.m. in the PAC. You will be measured for your cap/gown and receive a Jostens information packet regarding graduation diploma name and related graduation items. After this meeting you will be able to begin ordering cap/gown and tassel and other graduation items. The earlier your order the items, the cheaper they will be. Order online at [Jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com) by November 18, 2024 to avoid late fees. Cap & Gown may be returned if you do not participate in the 2025 ceremony. See Mrs. Wefel in the office with any questions.

**Senior Pictures** for the yearbook are an important part of Lincoln's history. Therefore, it is important to have every senior's picture included. All seniors had an ID photo taken at schedule pick up. This will be used in the yearbook unless we receive a different photo by November 30th. There will be no exceptions to this deadline. Portraits submitted must be a traditional professional-grade head and shoulder shot, without paraphernalia/props, hats, or hands in the photo. To submit a senior portrait, follow these steps:

1. Go to Jostens.com at: <https://photos.jostens.com/TP4U7E>
2. Click on Share Photos in the "Portraits" box.
3. Choose your phot and upload in the box provided.



**Are you a parent or guardian of a senior student??** We are in need of a coordinator for Class Reunion Zero 2025 to keep the tradition going for graduating seniors. We will work with you and give you information from previous years to get started. If you are interested in coordinating this parent run event for the 2025 graduating class or have any questions, please contact Dr. Rod Watson at [Rodrick.watson@wrps.net](mailto:Rodrick.watson@wrps.net) or 715-424-6751 x4002.

**Graduation Ceremony**  
**Sunday, June 1, 2025**  
**1:00 p.m.**



### **Fees/Fines**

Now is the time to look at your student's fee management account for any outstanding fees. All fees/fines must be taken care of before students are allowed to participate in graduation activities. You can pay online in Skyward Fee Management or in the office with check or cash.

### **Spring Meeting**

Seniors.....mark your calendar for a **mandatory** meeting on Wed., April 16, 2025 at 8:45 a.m.

## Yearbook Information

Yearbooks may be ordered online at [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com) or call 1-877-767-5217. See cost and deadlines below:

- ⇒ \$63.00 if ordered by September 20, 2024 - Four free icons with the purchase of one line of personalization
- ⇒ \$63.00 Purchased after September 20, 2024 (No free Icons)
- ⇒ \$69.00 Purchased by February 21, 2025

**Picture Retake Day...** Underclassperson pictures for the yearbook were taken at schedule pickup. If you missed getting your picture taken, a retake date has been set for September 26th. Be sure to listen to announcements for more information.

### Grading Dates

End of Progress 1 - October 11  
End of Term 1 - November 26  
End of Progress 2 - January 17  
End of Term 2 - March 6  
End of Progress 3 - April 25  
End of Term 3 - June 5

### Class Ring Orders

All freshmen will receive information regarding ordering class rings on October 22nd during a mandatory meeting. If your student is interested in purchasing a class ring, be sure to review all the options.

**Your story. Your style. Your Ring.**



### Busing Information

Wisconsin Rapids Public School busing information is now available in Skyward Family Access. Log in to your Skyward Family Access account and click on the **Busing** tab from the menu on the left side of the page to view the bus information.

If you have any questions regarding your bus route, please contact Safeway Bus Company at 715-423-1117 or Lamers at 715-421-2400 x2.

Click here for Skyward instructions: [ACCESSING BUS INFORMATION IN FAMILY ACCESS.pdf](#)

### Parking Hang Tag



If your student plans to drive to school and park in the student parking lot they are required to have a parking hang tag displayed on the rearview mirror no later than **Tuesday, September 17th** or fines will be issued. Hang tags can be purchased for \$25.00 after all information is completed for parking in Online Enrollment Verification. Once completed, students can pick up their hang tag in Student Services.

### Chromebook Care Policy

Students have the option to purchase Chromebook Care for \$25.00/year. This care policy will cover accidental damages that may occur at a reduced price. If the care policy is purchased **ALL FOUR YEARS** of a student's high school career, the student will be given the Chromebook after graduation. **The deadline to sign up for the Chromebook Care Program is Friday, September 13th.**

## STUDENT AND CLUBS ORGANIZATIONS

During the lunch periods on September 12th students will have the opportunity to receive information from many of the 50+ clubs that are available for students to join at Lincoln. Club

Advisors/members will be available to answer any questions students may have. With so many club offerings, there is definitely something for every interest. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to get involved in a club at Lincoln this year! Click [here](#) for a short description of each organization.

### On-Line Enrollment Verification

ALL WRPS families should have verified information about their student(s) through this process. If you have not done this yet, please go to your "Family Access" account (where you check on your students' grades, attendance, etc.) to take care of this as soon as possible. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Russo at 715-424-6750 x4010.

### Athletic Event Bag Policy

In order to maintain the safety and security of our spectators and athletes, LHS will be implementing a fully clear bag policy at all LHS sporting events effective immediately. Fans will be allowed to bring in a fully clear plastic bag that does not exceed 12" x 6" x 12 ". **NO backpacks, purses, coolers, or stadium seats with zippers will be allowed.** Medical bags, diaper bags, and any ADA-specific bags will be allowed. All bags are subject to inspection upon entry or while on school grounds. Thank you for maintaining the safety of our athletic events.

### Progress Reports

Due to the availability of Skyward Family Access to parents, **we do not send progress reports to parents.** You may subscribe to receive weekly email notices in Skyward Family Access. Go to the My Account tab at the top of the screen and you will be given a choice of receiving emailed notices for Grading & Progress Reports. If you click in this box you will receive a weekly email if any of the following criteria was met

that week. Please be sure your email address at the top is correct. If not, this is where you can change it for you or your spouse. If any other information needs changing, please click the "Contact Us" button at the top of the page and send us the changes. Please be sure to include the student name as family information does not come with the emails.

#### Grading Sample of Family Access MY ACCOUNT Screen - Email Notifications

☒ Receive Grading Emails for my student(s) ?

Assignment/Class Percent Overrides (If blank, the school default low and/or high percent will be used:

Low:  for

☒ Receive Progress Emails for my student(s)

☐ Daily ☐ Weekly (every Saturday) ☒ Monthly (1st of each month)





Voters can start the voter registration process on [MyVote.wi.gov](https://MyVote.wi.gov) but will need to mail or deliver their signed, completed voter registration form to their municipal clerk by the registration deadline. Voter registration forms cannot be submitted electronically. Voters must provide a proof of residence document with their voter registration form.

**Do I Need to Register to Vote?** If a regular voter is voting for the first time, has changed their Wisconsin voting address, or has changed their name, they will need to submit a new voter registration form. Voters can also be inactivated if they have not voted in four years or have been determined to be ineligible to vote. If your voter status is showing as “inactive” on [MyVote.wi.gov](https://MyVote.wi.gov), you will need to submit a new registration before you can vote.

### When can I Register to Vote?

- **Deadline to Register by Mail:** If you will be mailing your voter registration form to your municipal clerk, it must be postmarked at least 20 days prior to the election for which you are registering.
- **Deadline to Register in Your Municipal Clerk’s Office:** If you are registering to vote in-person in your municipal clerk’s office, you may do so until 5:00 p.m., or the close of business, on the Friday before the election for which you are registering.
- **Deadline to Register at Your Polling Place on Election Day:** If you would like to register to vote on Election Day at your polling place; you may register to vote at your assigned polling place between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

**How do I get more information?** Visit [MyVote.wi.gov](https://MyVote.wi.gov)



## Celebrating Big Brothers Big Sisters Month

Every September, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Wisconsin (BBBSCW) recognizes the impact of its programming, mentorship, and matches during Big Brothers Big Sisters Month. 2024 marks the 120th anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The mission of BBBSCW is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. As an organization, we believe every child has the potential to do exceptional things. All children, regardless of background, can benefit from having a positive influence in their life that can give them undivided attention. Someone that can remind them how important they are and give them a safe space to express their thoughts, feelings, and aspirations.

Children ages 6-16 can take part in Site-Based mentoring at Howe Elementary or in our Community-Based program. Either program encourages matches to take part in low-cost/no-cost activities like board/card games, crafts or going places like a park or library. Regardless of the activity, these matches develop a friendship through shared interest and experience.

If your child is interested in being connected with a mentor or you know of someone that would make a great mentor, please visit our website at [www.bigimpact.org](https://www.bigimpact.org) or call our office at 715-341-0661.

CELEBRATING  
**BIG BROTHERS  
BIG SISTERS  
MONTH**

**IT TAKES LITTLE TO BE BIG™**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters.



## WRPS Emergency Situation Information

Should an emergency situation ever arise while school is in session, we want you to be aware that the District has made preparations to respond effectively. Each year we conduct periodic safety drills during the school year for a variety of potential emergencies which could occur. In cooperation with our School Resource Officer, we practice and prepare for the event of a school emergency that would require a lockdown or evacuation. We practice these drills to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and visitors in our school buildings. We

also lock all exterior doors in the building during the school day and use a “buzz-in” system for visitors. Plan to check in at the school office when visiting your child’s school. Background checks and visitor badges are also utilized in our schools as part of the District safety response and preparedness plan. Our school district has a detailed emergency operations plan which has been formulated to respond to a major emergency situation. Your cooperation is necessary in any emergency. During an emergency situation:

1. *Do not telephone* the school as the phone lines will be in use by the school district to coordinate emergency services. A hotline will be established as soon as possible for family members to call in order to receive the most up-to-date information concerning the emergency.
2. *Do not go to your child’s school* unless you have been directed to do so.
3. Students will be kept at school or at an off campus evacuation point and only released to a parent/guardian or an adult who has been authorized by you either on a Registration/Enrollment form or through your completion of the *On-Line Verification* process in Skyward Family Access.
  - a. Parents must be patient with the students release process to ensure the safety of all students.
  - b. While we are familiar with the faces of many of our families, a proof of identification will be requested before a student gets released.
  - c. It is critical that you keep the Emergency Contact information updated in Skyward Family Access at all times.
4. Information from the School District will be distributed through radio/television stations, the School District web site, Skyward Family Access message center which sends messages to parent email addresses, and through the Nixle alert system (to sign up for Nixle, visit our webpage and click on the “District” tab found at the top of the main page). If necessary, parents/guardians will be contacted directly by telephone.
5. Prior to an emergency, impress upon your children the need for them to follow the directions of any school or emergency personnel in times of an emergency.

Please discuss these matters with your family. Planning ahead will help alleviate concern during emergencies. Should an emergency situation occur, we thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation. Feel free to contact Mr. Rasmussen if you have any questions.

## Student Drop Off/Pick Up

- ⇒ Parent drop off and pick up for students is in the student (south) parking lot. Drive to the east side of the parking lot and stop along the long curb running north and south.
- ⇒ The front parking lot is reserved for buses before and after school. Once buses are gone at 3:05 students can be picked up in the front.

**Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.**

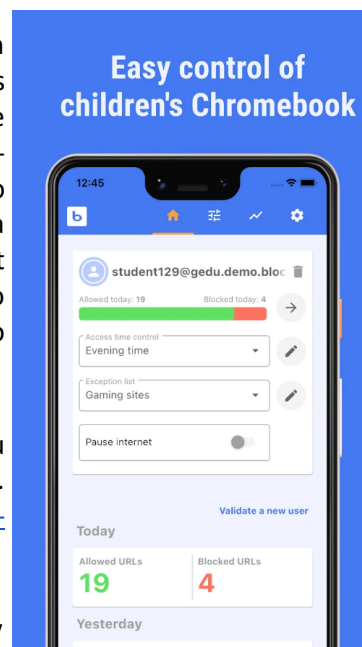
## Blocksi - Keeping Students Safe

WRPS uses Blocksi as a content filtering program over the summer. This program will keep students safe at school and home when using their school-issued devices and accounts. As a partner in your child's education, we feel it is of value to give you access to the Blocksi manager. In the parent dashboard, you'll have a real-time view of your child's activity on their school device or account. In addition to these features, you will be able to block specific categories such as social media and gaming on your child's school device or account when they are logged in at home. Blocksi also has the capability to pause the internet at home. You will also be notified of any flagged activities pointing to self-harm or bullying related to your child.

You will receive an email invitation to Blocksi to set up your parent dashboard. You can also access the dashboard via an app available for Android and iOS devices. You can access the web-based version by navigating to <https://blocksi.net/bmee-parent.php>.

If you receive an email or error indicating your email address is not found, verify in your Skyward account that you are using the correct email address. If you are unable to verify your email address, please reach out to your child's school secretary to make sure you have a valid email address on file. Other questions can be directed to Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, at [phillip.bickelhaupt@wrps.net](mailto:phillip.bickelhaupt@wrps.net).

You can access the Blocksi Parent Hub [here](#) with resources for using the Blocksi Parent Dashboard and helping you manage your child's chromebook.



## Children's Mental & Behavioral Health Navigator

The Well Badger Resource Center team is thrilled to announce the launch of the **Children's Mental and Behavioral Health Resource Navigator!** This project has been in the works for two years and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped out!

### What is it?

A brand-new free and confidential online tool to help parents, caregivers and professionals in Wisconsin navigate services for children's mental and behavioral health. When a child is struggling, we want to get them the help they need and deserve, but with so many different options and potential barriers like insurance, cost and access, it can be confusing and difficult to find the right service(s).

### How it works

Caregivers, parents or professionals confidentially answer a few questions on behalf of a child, adolescent, or young adult under 21 years old. The Navigator provides a customized guide with suggested next steps and applicable resources for understanding and navigating mental health resources.

Now available, the [Children's Mental & Behavioral Health Navigator](#) - please share!



# Welcome Back from the Nurse!

## Medications

Students requiring administration of prescription medication at school must have a **PHYSICIAN/ DENTIST ORDERS FOR ADMINISTERING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION IN SCHOOL** form on file in the nurse's office. This form and additional health forms (seizure, migraine, food allergies, bee allergies) may be found on the WRPS Webpage [here](#). Prescription medications need to be brought in before the first day of school to ensure everything is in order. Any medication identified as a controlled substance, such as medication for treatment of ADD/ADHD, anxiety, or pain, must be delivered to the school office by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult. These medications must be in a pharmacy-labeled container, placed in a sealed envelope, labeled with your child's name, and if in pill form, the number of pills sent.

Medications classified as non-controlled substances, such as antibiotics, eye drops, and inhalers for the treatment of asthma, may be sent to school with a student, although we prefer to have them before the first day of school. These medications must be in a pharmacy-labeled container, placed in a sealed envelope, labeled with your child's name, and if in pill form, the number of pills sent.

**If your student has a known food/bee allergy or history of seizures or migraines, please fill out the health forms that can be found on the WRPS Webpage [here](#) and return them to the nurse before the first day of school so our staff can adequately treat your child as needed.**

## Vaccinations

**Instead of waiting until your child's yearly wellness check, you can schedule a "nurse only" visit for needed vaccinations.** Children who do not have the required vaccines or waiver on file will be excluded from school after 2 legal notices have been sent. If you don't plan to immunize your student there is a waiver available that must be filled out and returned before the start of the next school year (You can open the link [here](#)).

## Age/Grade Required Immunizations (Number of Doses)

### Grade 9 through grade 12

4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td, 1 Tdap2, 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 2 Var3, 3 Hep B

## COVID Guidelines

Students will just stay home if not feeling well and are unable to participate in class (or if they have a fever). If a fever is present, they should stay home until fever-free for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medication). There are no masking stipulations. We are not tracking cases at all.

## Illness

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)

## Bridging Brighter Smiles Reminder.....

RECEIVE DENTAL CARE RIGHT AT SCHOOL! Bridging Brighter Smiles will be providing dental services at Lincoln High School and River Cities High School during the school day. Dental services include Oral Screening, cleaning, fluoride, etc. Forward Health (Badger Care) is accepted, they do not accept private dental insurance, and charitable care is offered for those students who do not have the financial resources to access dental care. You can sign up now, turn in the enrollment form to the main office or enroll online at [enrollment.bbsmiles.org](http://enrollment.bbsmiles.org). Questions? Call 262-896-9891.

# FACEBOOK REFLECTIONS

