

KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS 2021-22



WISCONSIN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-424-6700

MISSION STATEMENT

Working together with home and community, we are dedicated to providing the best education for every student, enabling each to be a thoughtful, responsible contributor to a changing world.

The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) is a unified school district serving the City of Wisconsin Rapids; Villages of Biron, Rudolph, and Vesper; Wood County Townships of Arpin, Grand Rapids, Hansen, Rudolph, Saratoga, Seneca, Sigel, and Sherry; and Portage County Townships of Carson, Grant, and Plover. WRPS offers half-day 4K programming and has seven elementary schools, one middle school (grades 6-8), one senior high school (grades 9-12), one alternative high school (grades 9-12), a virtual charter school and an early learning center for our youngest students.

WRPS has earned a solid reputation as an innovative, professional organization which has high student achievement and a low drop-out rate. Programs have been changed and continually evolve in order to best meet the needs of all students. Our staff members are known for being life-long learners themselves, and they are continuously recognized by both state and national organizations and agencies for their professionalism and expertise.

School	Grade	# Students*	Principal	Phone
Grant Elementary	4K-5	268	Nicole Calteux	715-424-6766
Grove Elementary	EC-5	225	Tina Wallner	715-424-6769
Howe Elementary	KG-5	287	Tina Miller	715-424-6772
Mead Elementary	EC-5	338	Amber Applebee	715-424-6777
Pitsch Early Lrg Ctr/Off-Site 4K	EC-4K	117	Jennifer Wilhorn	715-424-6779
THINK Academy	4K-5	198	Christine Slattery	715-424-6784
Washington Elementary	KG-5	300	Kelly Schaeffer	715-424-6788
Woodside Elementary	EC-5	372	Julie Kolarik	715-424-6793
Central Oaks Charter (virtual)	4K-8	497	Jennifer Wilhorn	715-424-6721
WR Area Middle School	6-8	895	Tracy Ginter	715-424-6740
Lincoln High School	9-12	1,403	Ronald Rasmussen	715-424-6750
River Cities Alternative HS	9-12	79	Steven Hepp	715-424-6798

*Based upon 2020-21 school year September pupil count.



WISCONSIN RAPIDS BOARD OF EDUCATION

- John Krings, PresidentApril, 2023
- Mary Rayome, Vice President April, 2022
- Larry Davis, Clerk..... April, 2024
- Katie Bielski-Medina, Treasurer April, 2024
- John Benbow, Board Member..... April, 2024
- Troy Bier, Board Member April, 2022
- Sandra Hett, Board Member.....April, 2023

Standing Board Committees:

- Educational Services Committee
- Business Services Committee
- Personnel Services Committee

Committee meetings occur on the first Monday of each month, and regular Board of Ed meetings occur on the second Monday of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m.



ADMINISTRATION

- Craig G. Broeren, Superintendent 715-424-6701
- Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction..... 715-424-6721
- Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction 715-424-6721
- Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services 715-424-6705
- Steven Hepp, Director of Pupil Services 715-424-6724
- Elizabeth (Betsy) VanBerkel, Assistant Director of Pupil Services..... 715-424-6724
- Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources 715-424-6710
- Phillip Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology 715-424-6715
- Ed Allison, Director of Buildings & Grounds..... 715-424-6718
- Lizzie Messerli, Director of Food Services 715-424-6703



www.wrps.org



WRPSDistrict



@WRPSDistrict



WISCONSIN RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#RAPIDSPRIDE



WELCOA
WELL WORKPLACE SILVER

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021-22

September 1	First Day for Students	January 3	Students Return
September 6	Labor Day – No School	January 17	Professional Dev Day – No School
September 27	Professional Dev Day – No School	March 4	Recordkpg/Professional Dev Day – No School
October 29	Professional Dev Day – No School	March 28 – April 1	Spring Break – No School
November 24	Recordkpg/Prof Dev Day – No School	April 15	Professional Dev Day – No School
November 25-26	Thanksgiving Break – No School	May 30	Memorial Day – No School
December 23-31	Winter Break – No School	June 3	Last Day for Students (half-day)

After years of declining enrollment, **student numbers** at WRPS **began to stabilize** beginning in the 2016-17 school year. An average **5,088 students** were being serviced annually up until the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic with enrollment dropping to 4,987 students during the 2020-21 pandemic year. High quality programming has been maintained for students through **careful planning** and **sound fiscal management**. The District managed to **invest \$8.4 million** in 2018 to replace the leaky, inefficient pool at the high school, provide for a 6th grade addition at the middle school, perform district-wide **energy efficiency upgrades**, and secure a **\$574,000** safety and security grant award to begin **making enhancements** to building security.

The surrounding **community** has a long history of **supporting** WRPS schools, and continued that strong support in April, 2021 by **passing** two **referendum questions**. The first question allows WRPS to exceed the revenue limit by **\$2 million per year** for five years beginning with the 2021-22 school year and ending with the 2025-26 school year to **invest in curriculum and technology** updates. The second question allows WRPS to borrow **\$34 million** for District-wide **school building and facility improvement projects** to include the construction of **secure entrances at all schools**; Lincoln High School **science lab renovations** and the addition of a **new library/student resource center**, construction of a **gymnasium at THINK Academy** in Rudolph, and **numerous capital maintenance** and building **infrastructure improvements**. It is anticipated that passage of the referendum questions will cause **no increase over current school tax levels**.

Another **exciting, collaborative project** occurring in the District in 2021 which largely came about as a result of **community conversations** and **private donations** is the construction of a brand new **baseball/softball sports complex** on the Lincoln High School campus, and **significant renovations/upgrades** to the South Wood County football track and field.

EXCITING



TIMES!

A POSITIVE PLACE...to work, learn, grow...

- ✓ A Community Survey conducted in fall, 2020 indicated that 75% of respondents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with WRPS
- ✓ Two WRPS principals received the distinguished "Kohl Principal Leadership" award in 2021; one of the two also received the honor of being named the AWSA "Wisconsin Principal of the Year"
- ✓ A high school student received the Kohl Initiative Student Scholarship in 2021
- ✓ Silver Well Workplace Award recipient for being recognized as one of "America's Healthiest Companies"
- ✓ Numerous elementary schools have received the "Wisconsin School of Recognition Award"
- ✓ Strong STEAM and literacy focused curriculum to enhance critical thinking, creativity, communication, and technology skills
- ✓ Numerous WRPS teachers have earned the notable "National Board Certification" designation
- ✓ 117 students completed 232 AP exams in 2020 – 24 were named as AP Scholars
- ✓ WRPS is chosen as a pilot district for numerous state initiatives due to excellence, innovation, and adaptability
- ✓ State accountability reports continually rate WRPS schools as "Exceeds" and "Meets" Expectations
- ✓ Students have numerous opportunities to earn post-secondary credit saving them thousands in tuition expenses
- ✓ Youth Apprenticeship program provides students multiple work-based learning opportunities in numerous career fields
- ✓ Over 70 athletic, club activities, and support groups are offered to students at the high school level
- ✓ Student success is consistently achieved at the State and National level in both academic and athletic competition arenas
- ✓ Generous donations of time, food products/goods, and funding are given by students and staff alike each year
- ✓ And so much more!



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 431](#) 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 Oswald.

Special Statement Regarding 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 431.11](#) for additional information.

WRPS Title IX Coordinators

Brian Oswald, Director of HR
510 Peach Street
Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
P: 715-424-6710
E: brian.oswall@wrps.net

Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services
510 Peach Street
Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
P: 715-424-6724
E: steven.hepp@wrps.net



Learn more about Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools: www.wrps.org