



KNOW YOUR WRPS SCHOOLS

2025-26 School Year

A POSITIVE WORK PLACE ...TO WORK, LEARN, GROW...

- WRPS schools consistently rated “Exceeds” or “Meets Expectations” on state report cards
- WRPS students consistently excel at state and national levels in academics and athletics (DECA, FCCLA, HOSA, SkillsUSA)
- Launched “Sport Stack” competition in 2023 to boost student engagement
- National-level recognition in Noetic Math; strong results in Math 24 competitions

- STEAM and literacy-focused curriculum builds critical thinking, creativity, and tech skills
- Numerous WRPS teachers hold National Board Certification
- Chosen as a pilot district for state innovation, including Early Literacy Learning (2025–26)
- Lincoln High School was the top performer among SWC and Wisconsin Valley Conference schools (2022–23)
- Multiple elementary schools honored as “Wisconsin Schools of Recognition”

75% percentage of 2020 community survey respondents were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with WRPS

75
Number of students participated in YA and Work-Based Learning program in 2024–25

90%
AP exam success rate; many students named AP Scholars

70+
Number of clubs, athletics, and student groups offered at the high school



Leadership Awards

Two WRPS principals received in Kohl Leadership Award; AWSA Wisconsin Principal of the Year, 2021

\$700,000

Amount students saved in 2024–25 through dual credit opportunities

#RAPIDSPRIDE

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

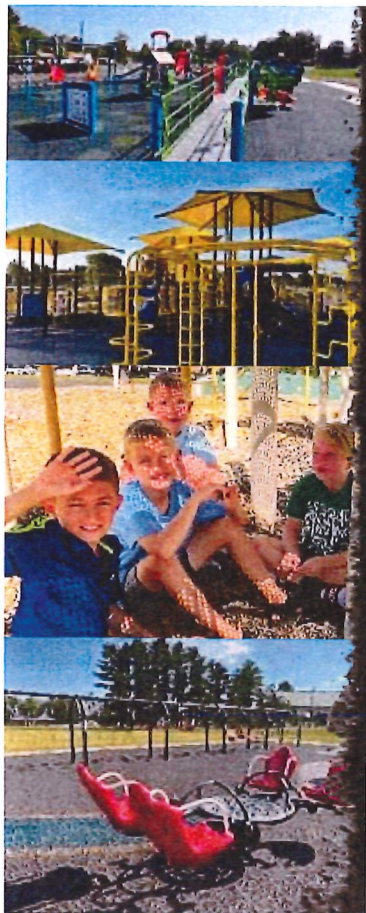
Ronald Rasmussen, Superintendent, 715-424-6701
 Roxanne Filtz, Director of Teaching & Learning, 715-424-6721
 Jennifer Wilhorn, AD of Teaching & Learning, 715-424-6721
 Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services, 715-424-6705
 Steven Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, 715-424-6724
 Julie Kolarik, AD of Pupil Services, 715-424-6724
 Elizabeth (Betsy) VanBerkel, AD 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
 Melanie Hanneman, Director of Food Services, 715-424-6703

Board of Education

John Krings, President April, 2026
 Troy Bier, Vice President April, 2028
 Elizabeth St Myers, Clerk April, 2027
 John Benbow, Treasurer April, 2027
 Christopher Inda, Board Member April, 2027
 Jaime Sparkes, Board Member April, 2028
 Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Board Member, April 2026



**CHECK OUT THE 2025-26
SCHOOL CALENDAR!**



WRPS FACILITIES AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS *at a Glance*

Over the past several years, WRPS has made significant investments in our schools—enhancing safety, expanding opportunities, and improving facilities for students, staff, and the community. These efforts have been made possible through thoughtful planning, strong community support, and a shared commitment to providing the best possible educational experience. From major building upgrades to innovative learning spaces and inclusive playgrounds, we're proud of the progress made, and excited for what's ahead.

2018

The District invested \$8.4 million—without a referendum—to replace the high school pool, add 6th-grade space at the middle school, complete energy efficiency upgrades, and enhance security with the help of a \$571,000 safety grant.

Late 2021

WRPS also launched a community-backed sports initiative, building the Rapids Area Sports Complex and upgrading the South Wood County football field. These facilities now host events that benefit the local economy. Playground investments are ongoing, including the \$1.5 million Outdoor Play, Learning, Activity Center at Woodside Elementary (completed in 2024).

April 2021

The community showed its continued support by passing two referendums: one to exceed the revenue limit by \$2 million annually for five years to support curriculum and technology, and another to borrow \$34 million for district-wide improvements, including secure school entrances, science lab renovations, a new library/resource center at Lincoln High School, a gym for THINK Academy, and major maintenance projects.

2025-26 School Year

All elementary and middle school playgrounds will feature new equipment for students and the community.













SCHOOLS BY THE NUMBERS

12 Schools

9 EC/Elementary
1 middle school
2 High School

4,603

Students

School	Grades	Number of Students	Principals
 Grant Elementary	4K-5	266	Nicole Calteux
 Grove Elementary	EC-5	198	Tina Wallner
 Howe Elementary	KG-5	329	Steve Thayer
 Mead Elementary	EC-5	294	Amber Applebee
 Pitsch Early Lrg Ctr/Off-Site 4K	EC-4K	223	Teri Thomas
 THINK Academy	4K-5	206	Christine Slattery
 Washington Elementary	KG-5	297	Kelly Schaeffer
 Woodside Elementary	EC-5	341	Bill Oswald
 Central Oaks Charter (virtual)	4K-8	96	Brian Oswald
 WR Area Middle School	6-8	909	Tracy Ginter
 Lincoln High School + virtual	9-12	1,371	Rod Watson
 River Cities Alternative HS	9-12	73	Steve Hepp

VISION STATEMENT

The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools is the district of choice for prospective students, parents, and staff in Central Wisconsin. WRPS meets the needs of diverse learners, preparing them to compete and reach their full potential in an evolving and global economy while cultivating values of responsibility, respect, and citizenship to contribute meaningfully to their community and beyond.

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.