



# Wyoming Primary Schools

Elm • Hilltop • Vermont

February 14, 2025

Dear WPS Families,

Happy Friday and Happy Valentine's Day! 💕 Today is a great opportunity to celebrate the power of kindness—not just in grand gestures, but in the everyday words and actions that make a difference in our community.

At WPS, we believe kindness is more than just being nice; it's about **showing empathy, using our words to lift others up, and making sure everyone feels included and valued.** You can help reinforce this at home by talking with your child about the importance of kind words and actions. Here are a few simple ways to spark these conversations:



## Ask Open-Ended Questions:

- *"How did you show kindness today?"*
- *"How did someone else's kindness make you feel?"*
- *"What's a small way you can make someone's day better tomorrow?"*



## Model & Practice Kind Words:

- Encourage your child to practice saying things like:
  - *"I appreciate you."*
  - *"I'm proud of you."*
  - *"Thank you for helping me."*
- Remind them that even small compliments and words of encouragement can have a big impact!



## Recognize Acts of Kindness Together:

- Point out kind actions in books, movies, or real-life situations.
- Start a family kindness challenge—see how many kind things you can do for others in a day!

As always, thank you for your partnership in building a school community where kindness, respect, and inclusion are at the heart of everything we do. Wishing you a wonderful weekend filled with love and kindness!

Warmly,

Dr. Gina Kirchner

Principal, Wyoming Primary Schools

## Counselor Corner

At its core, Valentine's Day is about love, including things like trust and support that students experience everyday. This holiday is a great time to promote the personal and interpersonal skills that allow children to be more loving towards their friends and family members. In order to do so, children should continue to be encouraged to identify their emotions, show empathy, demonstrate respect for others, use effective communication, and build strong relationships. This [sheet](#) can be used to help explore trust and support.

Adapted from:

<https://www.kikoriapp.com/post/5-sel-competencies-to-focus-on-this-valentine-s-day>

## Pupil Services News & Updates

As demonstrated in our core values and strategic plan, Wyoming is committed to educating the “whole child”, that is, to teach academic and life skills that prepare students for college, career, and beyond. These life skills include *working through adversity*, *being a critical thinker*, *accepting responsibility for one's own actions*, and *getting along with others*.

In March and April, Wyoming City Schools will administer to students in kindergarten through grade 12 our developmentally-appropriate resiliency screener, called Terrace Metrics. Resiliency means that an individual has personal strengths that allow them to overcome or work through adversity. Resiliency is a key factor in positive school and learning experiences. Therefore, high resiliency contributes to better academic performance.

### What Should I Know as a Parent/Guardian about the Terrace Metrics Screener?

- Only students who have parent permission will participate. If you do not wish to have your student participate in the Terrace Metrics Screener, please complete this [form](#). The form must be completed by February 25, 2025. If you previously opted your child out, they will be opted out again this administration unless you notify the school you want your child to participate.
- Only designated members of our school team (e.g., counselors, administrators) will have access to your child's individual report.

- The assessment is not a diagnostic tool, and no information will be placed into your child's education file. The purpose of this system is to inform us of how each student is functioning within specific resiliency indicators.
- This screener is administered electronically to students and takes an average of 15 to 20 minutes to complete.
- You can view the screener items by contacting the director of pupil services, Dr. Tracy Wurtzler at [wurtzler@wyomingcityschools.org](mailto:wurtzler@wyomingcityschools.org) or 513.207.7022 by February 25, 2025.

Between March 3rd to April 11th, your child will have the opportunity to participate in the winter administration of the Terrace Metrics screener. The following indicators will be assessed at the primary level (for grades K-3, an animated video will read the items to the student, and students will respond by selecting the appropriate emoji):

- Global Life Satisfaction: Overall assessment of feelings and attitudes about one's life at a particular point in time, ranging from negative to positive.
- Positive School Experiences: Assessment of a student's experiences with their learning, as well as their overall interactions with school personnel.
- Grit: Assesses the level of commitment (and tenacity) to achieve a long-term goal.
- Hope (only grades 3 and 4): Assesses goal-directed thinking in which the student has the perceived capacity to find routes to goals (pathways thinking), and the motivation to use those routes (agency thinking).
- Social Ostracism: Items reflect being ignored by others.
- Generalized Anxiety: 7 item, self-reported questionnaire for screening and severity of general forms anxiety (not tied to any one source).

School counselors and administrators will analyze the results very carefully and will provide school-based interventions for students, as necessary. You may be contacted by the school's counselor or administrator if your child's overall scores are significantly below expected measures as compared to peers nationally.

## Upcoming Dates

- **President's Day** - No School - Monday, February 17th
- **Report Cards in Thursday Folders** - Thursday, February 20th
- **Kindergarten Information Night** - Thursday, February 27th - 6:30 p.m. - Hilltop School Gym
- **Family Literacy Night** - Thursday, March 13th - 6:30-7:30 - Wyoming Middle School

[View the full WCS calendar here.](#)

## News from Around Wyoming

[Click here for more Events and Information from around WCS & the community](#), including:

- Finance Friday
- Kindergarten Registration Info
- Erin's Law Implementation
- Upcoming Events
- WSMA Winter Music Fest on Feb. 22
- Wyoming LAX Club looking for new players in Grades K-8