

Royal Roundup

Building a Stronger Community: A Year of Strategic Success

Superintendent, **Darren Schuler**
@DarrenSchuler



As we begin the 2025–2026 school year, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our families and community members for your ongoing partnership. This past year marked the second year of our five-year strategic plan—a shared vision focused on ensuring

every student receives a high-quality education in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment. Thanks to parent, staff and student feedback, we're proud to share some highlights from our end-of-year strategic plan survey:

FAMILIES FEEL HEARD AND SUPPORTED

- 95% of parents are satisfied with their child's overall educational experience
- 94% of parents state that district communication is timely, relevant, and effective
- 98% of parents agree our school buildings are clean and well-maintained
- 91% of parents believe the district is managing district resources responsibly

STAFF FEEL SAFE AND SUPPORTED

- 94% of employees understand the district's mission and goals
- 94% say their work environment is safe and healthy

STUDENTS FEEL SAFE, CONNECTED, AND CARED FOR

- 96% of 3rd–4th graders feel successful at school
- 91% of 5th–8th graders and 90% of 3rd–4th graders feel safe each day at school
- 98% of high school students have a strong connection with at least one adult at school
- 99% of high school students say a classmate cares about their success

These results reflect the power of a strong school-community partnership. When families, staff, and the broader community come together in support of our students, amazing things happen. Thank you for your continued commitment to our schools and we are looking forward to another successful school year! We're excited for what's ahead in the year to come. Go Royals! 🏆

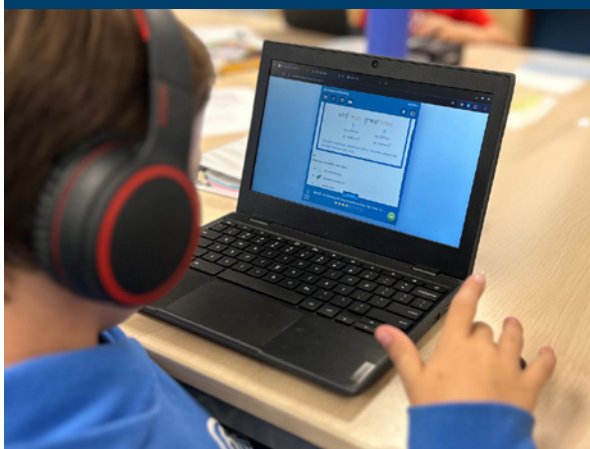


Watertown Mayer
Public Schools

Connections • Opportunities

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Empowering Learning Through Technology

This fall, Watertown-Mayer Public Schools is excited to expand our 1:1 Chromebook initiative for students in grades 5–8. Each student will receive a district-owned device to enhance learning, increase access to digital resources, and support collaboration in and out of the classroom. To ensure a safe and focused online experience, all Middle School Chromebooks will be equipped with Classwise classroom management software by Linewize, allowing us to monitor student internet use and allow teachers to limit access during school hours. This initiative reflects our Profile of Graduate strand of Creative and Critical Thinker in preparing students to use digital technologies appropriately to access, evaluate and create information.

In addition, all PreK-12 classroom panels have been upgraded. Many of our classrooms have received Newline interactive boards, offering touch-screen capabilities, wireless casting, and built-in educational tools. These boards enhance engagement, support interactive lessons, and allow teachers to seamlessly integrate technology into instruction, further enriching the learning experience for all students! 🏰

Mark Those Calendars & Be a Part of the WM Royal Experience!



Watertown-Mayer has so many things for you and your family to enjoy at the beginning of the school year and into the fall! Be sure to mark your calendars for these events and don't forget to check our website with the most up-to-date information on ALL things Watertown-Mayer. Go Royals!

www.wm.k12.mn.us > **Activities > WM Activity Calendar**

Homecoming Week

September 29 - October 4

- **Homecoming Coronation**

Monday, September 29 • 7 PM @ WMHS Performing Arts Center (PAC)

- **Homecoming Games**

Girls & Boys Soccer • Tuesday, September 30
Girls Swimming/Diving • Thursday, October 2
Volleyball • Thursday, October 2
Football • Friday October 3

- **Homecoming Parade**

Friday, October 3 • Starting at 4 PM in Downtown Watertown

- **WM Band Homecoming Tailgate Dinner & National Honor Society Carnival**

Friday, October 3 • 5:30 PM

Fall Musical 'Oklahoma!' November 20, 21 & 22

Fall Band Concert December 8 @ WMHS PAC

Fall Choir Concert December 15 @ WMHS PAC

SCHOOL LUNCHES



The Minnesota Free Meals Program continues to be permanent. Second breakfast, second lunch, and a la carte (middle & high school only) can be purchased for an additional cost. Milk can also be purchased at an extra cost for those who choose to bring home lunch. Please see the chart below for updates in pricing for the 2025-26 school year.

BREAKFAST	1st Meal	2nd Meal
Grades K-4	FREE	\$2.60
Grades 5-12	FREE	\$2.60
Adult	\$2.60	\$2.60

LUNCH	1st Meal	2nd Meal
Grades K-4	FREE	\$5.20
Grades 5-12	FREE	\$5.20
Adult	\$5.20	\$5.20

MILK Grades K-12: \$0.60

We are meeting the basic needs of our students more than ever, however, families are still encouraged to fill out the application for educational benefits. The school's funding from the state is affected by the number of families that qualify based on their income. (If families have received a letter from the district stating that they are directly certified anytime after July 1, 2025, there is no need to fill out the application.) Please see this Royal Roundup edition's insert under 'School Lunch' for more information. 🏰



Welcome, Mr. Dalton!

**Watertown-Mayer's
New Community
Education Director**

Hello Watertown-Mayer community! My name is Tim Dalton, and I'm honored to be joining WM as your new

Community Education Director. It's a pleasure to step into this role in a district that values lifelong learning, community connection, and innovation.

A bit about me—my career has been devoted to building strong, inclusive programs for learners of all ages. I bring extensive experience in community education, youth development, and recreational programming across both school districts and cities throughout Minnesota. Along the way, I've worked with everything from early childhood education to senior enrichment, with a special focus on youth leadership, adult learning, and partnership-building.

What drew me to Watertown-Mayer was the clear sense of community pride and the opportunity to collaborate with dedicated educators and families who believe in empowering every learner. WM has a strong foundation, and I'm excited to continue and grow that legacy.

As I begin this journey, my goals are to strengthen current offerings, listen closely to the needs of our residents, and expand opportunities for engagement—whether that's through youth enrichment, adult education, recreation, or innovative new initiatives. I'm especially excited to work alongside our Community Learning Center team to ensure our programs remain welcoming, relevant, and accessible to all.

Outside of work, I live in Medina with my family, enjoy biking, adventure travel, the outdoors, and spending time at community events.

Thank you for the warm welcome—I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and months!

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

2028 Strategic Plan Vision Statement: At Watertown-Mayer Public Schools, we create environments where all students feel connected and experience opportunities to grow and thrive.

Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation Event



Mark your calendars and break out your best poker face—Saturday, September 27, 2025 is going to be a night to remember! Join us at the Watertown Community Center for our annual fundraiser, “A Royal Evening for Education-Casino Night” hosted by the Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation.

Get ready for an action-packed evening featuring casino-style games (with great prizes!), delicious food and drinks, a raffle drawing for a 2025 Polaris Ranger 1000 Premium, and a live auction. And don't miss our “donate to win” games introducing our brand new, sure to be a crowd favorite: the Human Slot Machine!

Thanks to YOU, our amazing community, we awarded over \$90,000 in scholarships to 68 Watertown-Mayer seniors this past May—our BIGGEST scholarship total ever! Your support helps shape brighter futures. Every donation, raffle ticket, and game played helps us continue this tradition of excellence.

Grab your raffle tickets today at Marketplace Foods in Watertown or CorTrust Bank in Mayer and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for sneak peeks, auction items, and more details including ticket sales information.

Want to get involved? Become a sponsor or donate auction items! Call us at 612-516-3434 or email wmeducationfoundation@wm.k12.mn.us.

Make a Difference Anytime! Scan the QR code or visit our website to donate:
www.wm.k12.mn.us/community/wmef.

WMEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit—your contributions are tax-deductible and go directly toward supporting students in our district.

