

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS - NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Important Dates

- November 26-28: No Classes
- December 22-January 2: No School Winter Break

Quick Links

- [School Board Meeting Agendas](#)
 - [WSD Calendar](#)
 - [WSD E-FLYERS](#)
 - [Breakfast & Lunch Menus](#)
 - [Infinite Campus](#)
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 - [Employment Opportunities](#)
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Wausau School District News is Relaunching!

We're thrilled to announce the return of Wausau School District News! After a brief hiatus, this now quarterly email newsletter is making a comeback! We know how important it is for our parents, staff, and community members to stay informed about what's happening across the district. This newsletter will land right in your inbox following the conclusion of every quarter, serving as your reliable source for important updates, essential information, and a closer look at the educational journey of our students. We're excited to re-establish this connection and keep you in the loop on all things Wausau School District!

A Note from Superintendent Cale Bushman

I hope this letter finds all of you well. It is hard to believe that we have completed a full quarter of the 25-26 school year. Amazing how quickly time moves. As we put our stamp on the closing of this quarter, I would like to extend a sincere thank you and congratulations to our entire Wausau School District community. We truly have the best students, staff, and families... OUR district truly has much to be proud of.

Each and every day, our school's hallways and classrooms are filled with the energy of learning, growth, and wonderful things happening. Whether observing our youngest learners in 4K classrooms or listening to class discussions in our most advanced high school classes, I continue to be impressed with the quality of education delivered on a daily basis inside our district. Whether it be the success of our co-curriculars, the numerous accomplishments of our student organizations, the presentation of innovative classroom projects... or just the smiles on the faces of our students, the commitment to excellence is truly visible.

To our families, thank you for your commitment to our district. The partnership between home and school is vitally important in the growth and development of all students. We value you. To our dedicated staff, your tireless efforts and passion for our students continue to inspire. You are difference makers. And finally, to our students...continue to be fantastic. The world is in front of you. Seize every opportunity and take advantage of the amazing support network that surrounds you. The wonderful things happening every day—the breakthroughs, the kindness, the achievements—are a joy to witness. I am anxiously anticipating the amazing things that will occur throughout the rest of this school year in the Wausau School District.

If you ever have questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached by email at cbushman@wausauschools.org, or by calling 715-261-0500.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Cale Bushman

SAFETY FIRST: School Safety: New Protocols

Nothing is more important to us than the safety of your students and our staff. This year, the Wausau School District has implemented a new safety foundation called **Standard Response Protocol (SRP)**. SRP was developed by the 'I Love You Guys' Foundation and has 5 specific actions - which are easier for everyone to understand and learn.

- **HOLD:** 'In Your Classroom or Area' and is the protocol used when hallways need to be kept clear.
- **SECURE:** 'Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors' is the protocol used to safeguard people within the building due to a potential threat on school grounds.
- **LOCKDOWN:** 'Locks, Lights, Out of Sight' and is the protocol used to secure individual classrooms and keep occupants quiet and in place.
- **EVACUATE:** May be followed by a location, and is used to move people from one location to a different location in or out of the building.
- **SHELTER:** when people need to move to a safe space within the building. This is what we do during a tornado drill.

A dedicated safety committee, made up of Wausau School District staff, Wausau Police, Wausau Fire, and the Marathon County Sheriff's Office, spent last school year reviewing our protocols and drills - identifying what worked well and what didn't. The committee found that SRP's clear, standardized, and unified terminology was the most effective way to ensure a consistent and rapid response across our district.

IN AN EMERGENCY: TAKE ACTION

Protocol	Action Phrase	Students	Adults
HOLD!	In your room or area. Clear the halls.	Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced. Do business as usual.	Lock outside doors. Account for students and adults. Do business as usual.
SECURE!	Get inside.	Return to inside of building. Do business as usual.	Close and lock the door. Account for students and adults. Do business as usual.
LOCKDOWN!	Locks, lights, out of sight.	Move away from sight. Maintain silence. Do not open the door.	Recover students from hallway if possible. Lock the classroom door. Turn out the lights. Move away from sight. Maintain silence. Do not open the door. Prepare to evade or defend.
EVACUATE!	(A location may be specified)	Leave stuff behind if required to. If possible, bring your phone. Follow instructions.	Lead students to Evacuation location. Account for students and adults. Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults.
SHELTER!	Hazard and safety strategy.	Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard.	Lead safety strategy. Account for students and adults. Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults.

Hazard and Safety Strategy Examples for SHELTER:

- **Tornado:** Evacuate to shelter area
- **Hazmat:** Seal the room
- **Earthquake:** Drop, cover and hold

- **Tsunami:** Get to high ground

So far this school year, we've practiced the lockdown and evacuate actions. Next up, students and staff will participate in a hold drill. As we mentioned last week, that drill will happen sometime before Thanksgiving Break. In the meantime, to learn more about the SRP, you can visit the [I Love You Guys Foundation - Standard Response Protocol website](#).

Winter is Coming - Where to Find School Closing Information

It may be hard to believe, but winter is right around the corner. In preparation for any snow days we may have, we want to take a moment to let you know where you can find any school closing information!

In the event of a school closing, information will be shared:

- By phone call
- Through email
- By text message (if you've opted in!)
- Our website: wausauschools.org
- On our Facebook and Instagram pages
- On local media: WAOW, WSAW, WJFW, Wausau Pilot and Review, Wausau Daily Herald, local radio stations

If you do not receive a phone call, email, and/or text message, please reach out to the Wausau School District Communications Department at communications@wausauschools.org or by calling 715-261-0500.

Quick Links to Social Media

- [WausauSchDist](#) (Facebook)
- [WausauSchDist](#) (Instagram)
- www.wausauschools.org

Nutrition Services: Important Reminders

Free & Reduced Meals

Families can apply for free or reduced-price meals at any time during the school year. If your circumstances change during the year and you believe you may qualify, all you need to do is click the link below (or call the Wausau School District Nutrition Services Department at 715-261-0807).

- [Free and Reduced Meal Application Link](#)

List of Local Food Pantries

If you are in need of help, below you'll find a list of local food pantries that you can utilize.

- [Local Food Pantries - Pupil Services Webpage](#)

Meal Assistance Program Account

The Wausau School District manages a fund called the Meal Assistance Program Account to support families in maintaining positive meal balance accounts. Donations for the Meal Assistance Program Account are gratefully accepted at any point during the school year. For more information, please contact our Director of School Nutrition Services, Karen Fochs, at 715-261-0805.

WSD Teacher Raising Money for Wausau Area Food for Hope Turkey Drive

Rob Hughes, a Wausau School District Special Education Teacher at the NTC Alternative High School, is once again making a difference in the lives of people within Marathon County, who are in need this Thanksgiving. Each year, he raises money for the Wausau Area Food for Hope Turkey Drive and this year is no different.

"When I was growing up, there were times when my family went to the Waukesha food pantries and churches for food donations. The kindness of strangers helped us out and left a lifelong impression on me. Now we get to be those kind strangers," said Hughes.

Each year, Rob partners with a local grocery store to buy turkeys and hams using the money he raised. Then, he gives them away, for free, in November to schools and community organizations. One hundred percent of all donations (and this year he's hoping to raise \$23,000) go directly to purchasing these holiday items for Wausau, DCE, Mosinee, Newman, and Edgar school children and their families who are in need.

There are a couple of ways you can still donate:

- Checks: Wausau Area Food for Hope and sent to Wausau East: 2607 North 18th Street, Wausau, WI. 54403
- Venmo: @wausauareafoodforhope
- PayPal: @wausauareafood4hope
- [Wausau Area Food for Hope website](#)

Thank you for your generosity!

Outstanding Achievements

Top Honors for Wausau West Editorial Team, Warrior's Word

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) out of Columbia University in New York City recently awarded last year's *Warrior's Word* magazine a score of 945 out of 1,000 and a Gold Medalist rating in a national judging, with All-Columbian honors (their highest marks) for Essentials (overall coverage) and Verbal (written articles).

In addition, Pub Lab advisor W. Keith Roerdink and six members of the Wausau West editorial team traveled to UW-Whitewater for the Kettle Moraine Press Association (KEMPA) scholastic journalism conference. They received First Place honors for last year's *Aurora* yearbook and *Warrior's Word* magazine. KEMPA additionally handed out 48 individual awards to 18 different Pub Lab students. That total included five 'Best of Show' awards the highest individual honor awarded to current staff members Yuri Moua (Sports Feature / Reaction Photo), and Lynn Thao (Student Life Photo), along with last year's grads Milo Holdhusen (Cover Design / Magazine), Tommy Thao (Student Life Feature Writing), and Holdhusen, Nolan Mudler, and Nolan Travis (Caption Writing).

2 Wausau School District Students Making a Life-Saving Difference

Meet Aeryn and Elise Wetzsteon, two incredible Wausau Girl Scouts working toward their Silver Award by tackling a critical safety issue: ensuring all students can be alerted in a house fire, even if they can't hear a standard smoke alarm! For 14-year-old Aeryn, who takes out her hearing aids at night, the concern was personal: "I couldn't hear the fire alarms." Now, the sisters are on a mission to raise \$6,400 by December 1st to supply 26 Wausau School District students with specialized bed shakers! How amazing is that?! These devices vibrate and flash lights when a smoke alarm sounds, offering peace of mind and protection. The Wausau Fire Foundation and ENT Allergy and Associates have already donated \$4,000, but they need your help to reach their goal! Join them in helping keep our students safe!

- [Donation Link](#)

Wausau Area Equestrian Team Places 6th at State Competition

The Wausau Area Equestrian Team earned an impressive 6th place at the Wisconsin Interscholastic Horsemanship Association (WIHA) State Competition in Madison! Each horse-and-rider duo contributed valuable points through multiple top-ten finishes in events like ranch riding, dressage, trail, and speed competitions. Congratulations to our Wausau School District riders on an outstanding performance - your hard work and dedication truly shine!

West SkillsUSA Competes at Welding Challenge

Five students from the West SkillsUSA team competed in the Welding Challenge hosted by Mid-State Technical College - Ameta Center in Stevens Point. Zack Gruhn placed 3rd in the Job Interview, and Caden Kloos took 1st place in the Welding competition! Congratulations also to participants Connor Gore, Eli Schuett, and Gavin Wasmundt for representing Wausau West with skill and pride!

Pink Ribbon Volley Raises \$12,000

The Wausau East and Wausau West volleyball teams teamed up once again for the annual Pink Ribbon Volley to support local individuals and families battling breast cancer. From honoring survivors and loved ones to delicious treats and a spirited East vs. West match — it was a night filled with community, compassion, and giving back. Everything shared and gathered stays right here in north central Wisconsin through K-tech Charities.

3 WSD Students Recognized for Outstanding Achievements!

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding achievements in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program! Wausau East High School senior Ezra Besteman has been named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist! This places Ezra among the highest-scoring students in the nation, and he now has the opportunity to compete for a National Merit Scholarship. In addition, we are proud to announce that Wausau West High School senior Madeline Mudler and Wausau East High School senior Margaret Bennett have been named Commended Students! They are among 34,000 students nationwide recognized for their exceptional academic promise. We are incredibly proud of Ezra, Madeline, and Margaret for their hard work and dedication. Their achievements are a testament to their academic excellence and commitment to their studies. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Wausau East Senior Wins First Place in 2025 Teen WRAP Competition!

Wausau East senior Fiona Ballard won first place in the 2025 Teen WRAP (Wisconsin Regional Arts Program) competition! Her artwork, 'Anticipation,' was selected as the Regional winner and exhibited at the CVA, (Center for Visual Arts) in downtown Wausau this past summer. It then traveled with other regional winners to Madison, WI where it was selected to represent the entire state of Wisconsin! Congratulations, Fiona!

Career & Technical Education Program

Congratulations to the Wausau School District Career & Technical Education program on being awarded **\$74,941 in funding!** We're proud to announce that Wausau School District students earned a total of **204 career certifications** during the 2024-25 school year!

- 41 students earned 2 or more certifications
- 163 certifications are recognized as high-demand by the Department of Workforce Development Career and Technical Incentive Program.
- These certifications generated \$74,941.20 back into our CTE programs helping us to continue to support future student success!

Here's a breakdown of the certifications earned:

- 17 - Assistant Childcare Teacher
- 16 - Level 3 Carpenters International Training Certificate
- 9 - Pre-Apprenticeship Diesel Technician
- 10 - Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- 1 - Commercial Driver License (CDL)
- 35 - WI Skills Co-op - Marketing
- 60 - Microsoft Office Associate
- 11 - WI Technical College System Technical Diplomas
- 7 - Youth Apprenticeship - Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Highlights on Social Media

- Wausau West Homecoming King & Queen
- Wausau East Homecoming King & Queen
- Unity Day
- School Psychologist Week
- Wausau East Homecoming
- Wausau West Homecoming
- Riverview's National Anthem & Rio the Roadrunner
- Wausau Area Equestrian Team 6th Place at State

Follow us on Social Media! JOIN OUR WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY — LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

On October 15th, the Wausau School District celebrated **White Cane Safety Day**, also known as Blind Americans Equality Day! This national observance honors the achievements of people who are blind or visually impaired and raises awareness about accessibility. To mark the day, students and staff across the district wore special shirts, shared announcements, and enjoyed school-wide Kahoot trivia games. Congratulations to the winning homerooms who earned donut prizes! Thank you to everyone who joined in to support this important celebration!

2025-26 Calendar

1. Thanksgiving Break
November 26-28, 2025
2. Winter Break
December 22-January 2, 2026
3. No classes, professional development for staff
January 19, 2026
4. No PM elementary classes (K-5) - recordkeeping
January 23, 2026
5. No in-person AM/PM 4K & EC classes (*at-home learning)
January 23, 2026
6. No classes (all students), professional development for staff
February 16, 2026
7. No PM elementary classes (K-5) - recordkeeping
March 6, 2026
8. No AM/PM 4K & EC classes (*at-home learning)
March 6, 2026
9. Spring Break
March 30-April 3, 2026
10. No classes (all students), professional development for staff
April 27, 2026

11. No classes (all students), professional development for staff
May 22, 2026
 12. No classes (all students)
May 25, 2026
 13. Students' Last Day, No PM Classes (K-12), No 4K/EC Classes
June 5, 2026
 14. Teachers' Last Day
June 8 , 2026
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Update Your Personal Information in Infinite Campus

You can update your personal information in Infinite Campus throughout the year in your Parent Portal.

15. **Log into the Parent Portal** (If you need a parent portal or an account reset, please contact your school's admin assistant during the school year).
 16. **Click 'More'** on the left hand side menu.
 17. **Click on ADDRESS or FAMILY INFORMATION** that appears to the right of the menu.
 18. **Click on ADDRESS or FAMILY INFORMATION** to update your information. Make sure to scroll down through all the screens.
 19. These changes will go through an approval process before they will update to Infinite Campus.
 20. Any other demographics need to be changed with your school's administrative assistant.
 21. Every year prior to school starting, our annual census update will be active and will require every primary guardian to go in and update that information.
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WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

415 Seymour Street ◆ P.O. Box 359 ◆ Wausau WI 54402-0359 ◆ 715-261-0500

The District does not discriminate on the basis of the Protected Classes of race, color, national origin, age, sex (including transgender status, change of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity), pregnancy, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in 111.32, Wis. Stats.), ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, declining to attend a meeting or to participate in any communication about religious matters or political matters, or any other characteristic protected by law in its practices. (Updated 10.08.24)

