

WE WILL WORK HARD, BE RESPECTFUL, BE THERE, BE READY AND BE SAFE KEEPING OUR HANDS, FEET AND OBJECTS TO OURSELVES!

TAMMY STECKBAUER, PRINCIPAL tsteckba@wausauschools.org

DENISE THEILER, SECRETARY <u>dtheiler@wausauschools.org</u>

150801 Robin Lane Wausau WI 54401 Phone: 715-261-0220 Fax: 715-261-2752



The Wausau School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes").

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Message from Mrs. Tammy Steckbauer ~ Principal

Rib families,

Happy March: I know spring must be around the corner somewhere! Thank you for your time and attendance for spring parent teacher conferences. It was great to see you all and to have an opportunity to share all the great things that are happening with your child.

The third quarter is fast approaching on Friday, March 17! It's an 11:30 dismissal day for elementary students so teachers have the afternoon to complete record keeping responsibilities.

Spring Break is slated for the week of March 20-24. I hope you are looking forward to something fun whether it be a family trip or just hanging out and enjoying the warmer temperatures. I'm looking forward to spending time outdoors and crossing my fingers for some sunshine.

When we return from break, students in grades 3-5 will be participating in the *WI Forward Exam*. Please find the testing schedule in today's newsletter, along with several other informational documents. We ask that you please do everything you can to avoid having your 3rd, 4th, or 5th grader miss school on scheduled test dates. While we do have a week set aside for make-up tests, we believe that students perform at their best in their classroom with their teacher and peers.

Thank you for your continued support of your child and our school. Together, we are better. When we work side by side and collaborate, everything seems to shine just a little bit brighter.

A very heartfelt thank you to all of the families that helped in providing meals for the teachers for conferences. Thank you to those who helped at the Book Fair. We are thankful for our students and families. We appreciate you!

So proud to be a Rib Mountain Mustang! Tammy Steckbauer, Principal



Sprng

DISMISSA

Break!











Forward Exam State Assessment March 20 – April 29

3RD GRADE

April 12 - Math - 9:00 am April 13 - Math - 9:00 am April 14 - ELA - 9:00 am April 18 - ELA - 9:00 am April 19 - ELA - 9:00 am April 20 - ELA - 9:00 am 4TH GRADE

Wisconsin Forward

Exam

April 4 - ELA - 9:00 am April 5 - ELA - 9:00 am April 6 - ELA - 9:00 am April 11 - Math - 9:00 am April 13 - Math - 9:00 am April 14 - Social Studies - 9:00 am April 17 - Social Studies - 9:00 am April 19 - Science - 12:30 pm April 20 - Science - 9:00 am

5TH GRADE

April 5 - ELA - 9:15 am April 11 - ELA - 9:15 am April 12 - ELA - 9:15 am April 18 - Math - 9:15 am April 18 - Math - 9:15 am Please make sure iPads are fully charged each night and brought back to school each morning

 Headphones will be provided by the school, but students may use their own if they choose to.

Helptul

 Please make sure your student(s) get(s) a restful night's sleep and a nutritional breakfast

Make up Assessments April 24 – April 28

Thank you for supporting your students!



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-0359 • 715-261-0500 • www.wausauschools.org Dr. Keith W. Hilts, Superintendent of Schools

March 1, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As one part of the state of Wisconsin's accountability system for schools, Wausau School District students will be participating in the Forward Exam. The Forward Exam will be given in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3 through 8, in science in grades 4 and 8, and in social studies in grades 4, 8, and 10. High school students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will continue to take the ACT suite of exams.

The Forward Exam will gauge how well students are mastering the Wisconsin State Standards in English language arts, as well as measure the knowledge and skills students should have acquired by the time they reach each grade level. It can also help determine the impact the pandemic has had on academic achievement and equity.

Students will take the Forward Exam between March 20 and April 28, 2023. Each of our WSD Schools will communicate with parents a more detailed schedule by grade level so you are aware of those dates and times. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has determined that in-person assessment is the only viable method for state assessments. The company that produces the test has no remote testing option available. On-site testing ensures standardized administration that includes equitable access to technology and optimal testing environments, test security, and validity.

The Forward Exam includes three components: multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and writing. Students will receive a score based on their performance. The score will fall into one of these four levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic. Accommodations and support for students with disabilities and English language learners are built into the system so the progress of students can be accurately measured.

Enclosed is a brochure that further explains the Forward Exam, and it includes a website where students can take practice tests. Your school's principal will be communicating with you about specific days and times that your son or daughter will be taking the Forward Exam, and what to do if you have questions about your child(ren) taking these assessments.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Gulie Schell Julie Schell

Director of Elementary Education

Enclosure - Family Brochure

It is the mission of the Wausau School District to advance student learning, achievement, and success.

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What is the Wisconsin Forward Exam?

The Wisconsin Forward Exam is designed to gauge how well students are doing in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. These standards outline what students should know and be able to do in order to be college and career ready. The Forward Exam is administered online in the spring of each school year for students in:

- grades 3-8 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics,
- grades 4 and 8 in science, and
- grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies.

What does this mean for my child?

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment that gauges your child's achievement in the content areas tested in relation to grade-level standards. It provides a broad measure of achievement that should be used along with Accommodations and supports for students with disabilities and English learners are built into the system so that the progress of students can be accurately measured.



local measures such as report cards, schoolwide assessments, and other information about your child's progress in school.

When does the Forward Exam take place?

The Forward Exam will be given in schools between March 20 and April 28, 2023. Schools are permitted to select their own testing dates within this window.



The estimated time for test administration in each grade is approximately:

- 130 minutes for ELA,
- 90-115 minutes for mathematics,
- 105 minutes for science, and
- 70 minutes for social studies.

These estimated times are for the purpose of scheduling, as **the Forward Exam is not a timed test.** It is important to note that students may take more time or less time to complete the test based on effort and ability levels.

What type of scores will be provided?

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment that provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Students receive a score based on their performance in each content area. Each score will fall in one of four levels:

Advanced – Student demonstrates thorough understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.

Proficient – Student demonstrates **adequate** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.

Basic – Student demonstrates **partial** understanding of and ability to apply the

knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.

Below Basic – Student demonstrates **minimal** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.



Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

The Online Tools Training (OTT) gives students the opportunity to practice using the tools available on the Forward Exam and allows them to familiarize themselves with the question types and testing platform. An Item Sampler is also available which includes a sampling of the type of content and questions students will encounter on the exam. The OTT and Item Samplers are not scored, and do not cover the full range of content on the exam.



The OTT and Item Sampler are intended to provide students with examples of test questions and practice taking an online test.

The Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) Sampler contains samples of TDA test questions, stimulus passages, and student responses at each grade and score point. The TDA sampler helps students prepare for the essay portion of the Forward Exam which requires students to read a passage and then respond to a writing prompt.

These practice tests are available for student use online in the classroom or at home at <u>http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward/sample</u> <u>-items</u>.

For more information about the Forward Exam contact the Office of Educational Accountability at <u>osamail@dpi.wi.gov</u> or visit <u>https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward</u>.



Beyond Pencils & Crayons Grant

READIND

<u>Learning to Read with Games</u> submitted by Mrs. Nygaard

Striving Learners need extra practice when on their reading journey. As I have worked with my learners, I have discovered games are an excellent way for learners to practice! This past fall I applied and received a grant from the Beyond Pencils & Crayons program of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin. Currently, I am working on assembling the games and teaching them to my learners while I wait for items ordered to come in. So, soon my 1st-3rd grade learners will be able to bring home Reading Games that support the decoding skill they have been working on with me.



COMMUNIT

Support for this project was provided through the Beyond Pencils & Crayons Grant program of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin



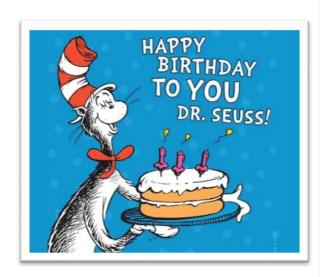




Read Across America

This week we celebrate Read Across America Week. We enjoyed some fun dress up days to celebrate!







National School Breakfast Week

Monday, March 6th - Friday March 10th is National School Breakfast Week. A huge thank you to Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Klingensmith for taking such good care of our students day in and day out. We appreciate you keeping our students happy and healthy each and every day.

To celebrate, we will have some fun and exciting breakfast items next week. "DIG IN!"







Technology Reminder

This is just a friendly reminder to all of you that technology devices do not like being left in the cold, the heat or damp areas.



Leaving them in the cold will cause them to have different errors and issues. The battery will begin to die and the screens will begin to have issues as well. Bringing them into a warm room quickly after they are in the cold may cause condensation inside and also long term damage.

In general - you will want to avoid leaving any technology devices in extreme temperatures (cold or heat) as much as possible.

News from Nutrition Services

Negative Meal Accounts

School Messenger messages will be sent out to all households to let you know if your child's meal account balance is negative. Please send money with your child in a prepayment envelope that includes your child's name. This envelope can be given to your child's teacher or Mrs. Theiler.



There is also a drop box in the front foyer if Mrs. Theiler is not available. Parents may visit <u>www.Paypams.com</u> to create an online account for your child where you can add money to their meal account using a credit card as well as view purchases made.





School Resources

Free and Reduced Lunch

If you are in need of assistance for lunch you may apply for free and reduced school meals. Please apply at the link below or ask Mrs. Theiler for more information.

Free and Reduced Lunch application

Blessings In A Backpack

This program helps provide a student with non-perishable items for the weekend. The program runs for 38 weeks during the school year. This program is free if you would like your child to participate. Usually, the food will come in a plastic bag and be placed in your child's backpack on Fridays. If you would like to join the program, please call the school Social Worker, Cortney Sears at 715-261-0220 ext. 40254.

Fill a Backpack, Fill a Need

This is another great program we have to offer our families here at Rib Mountain Elementary. This program is to help families who are in need of school supplies and a backpack for their child. This is also completely free. If you are in need of a backpack and supplies, please call the school Social Worker, Cortney Sears at 715-261-0220 ext. 40254.

Volunteer Information

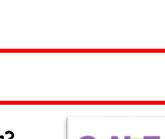
Looking for ways to volunteer? Here's how to sign up. We appreciate all of our volunteers!

Volunteer Information











Dates to Remember

March 7	5 th Grade - John Muir Tour - 9:00 am				
March 8	3 rd Grade – Virtual speaker from NASA – 12:45 pm				
March 13	3 rd Grade – Wausau West Planetarium – 9:15 am				
March 14	PTO Meeting - 4:15 pm Library				
March 17	Spirit Day Spirit! 3 rd Quarter ends - 11:30 Dismissal				
March 20-24	Spring Break – No Classes				
March 31	Spirit Day ^{Spirit!} 4 th & 5 th Grade to Grand Theater – Yamato 10:00 am				
April 3	Spring Concert - Wausau West 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm				
April 4	2 nd Grade School Forest				
April 7	No Classes				
April 14	Spirit Day				
April 18	4 th Grade – Post – Little Red School House				
April 20	Kindergarten - School Forest				
April 24	Stand for the Silent - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Library				
April 27	Art Show/Ice Cream Social				
April 28	Spirit Day				





SAVE THE DATE SPRING FLING CARNIVAL

Rib Mountain Elementary Thursday, June 1st 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

District News



Online Registration

Students currently enrolled in a Wausau School District 4K program will automatically roll into their home school for the 2023-2024 school year. If your child was NOT enrolled in the Wausau School District 4K program or is new to the Rib Mountain area and will be 5 years old by September 1, 2023, please use the link above to register your child.

egistration



2023-2024 Registration for 4K Learning Academies and Community Sites

Begins February 1, 2023

Registration for the free, half-day 4K Program is a two-step process for all eligible children (Four years of age on or before September 1, 2023)

1

Visit the 4K & Early Childhood page at www.wausauschools.org

Complete and submit the online form. You will receive an electronic confirmation following the completion of Step 1. The online registration indicates your interest in 4K and preferred site of attendance; however, the registration form must be verified (Step 2) before your child is fully registered and assigned to a site.

If you do not have computer access or need assistance completing the online form, please contact the 4K office at 715-261-0265 or email 4K@wausauschools.org.



Registration verification and enrollment

Please follow the instructions outlined in the email you will receive from the 4K Office to finalize your child's 4K enrollment and secure a spot.

ATTEND 4K AT ONE OF THESE 8 SITES:

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT 4K LEARNING ACADEMIES (Busing is available at elementary school sites with some qualifications)



G.D. Jones Elementary School (4K & Early Childhood Programs Office) 1018 South 12th Avenue Wausau WI 54401 715-261-0950



Elementary School

4303 Troy Street

Wausau WI 54403

715-261-0030



Thomas Jefferson Elementary School 500 West Randolph Street Wausau WI 54401 715-261-0175



Hawthorn Hills Elementary School 1600 Kickbusch Street Wausau WI 54403 715-261-0045

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY 4K SITES (Busing is not available)



MOUNTAIN ME MONTESSORI

Mountain View Montessori 1500 Merrill Avenue Wausau WI 54401 715-298-3832



Newman Catholic St. Michael 615 Stark Street Wausau WI 54403 715-848-0206 Wausau Child Care - West 505 N. 28th Avenue Wausau WI 54401 715-848-1437



YMCA 707 3rd Street Wausau WI 54403 715-845-2177

Please note that Wausau School District Kindergarten placement will be at your neighborhood school regardless of where your child attends 4K. 4K Learning Academy attendance is based upon home address and/or child care address.

We look forward to meeting you and your child. Please call us with any questions about the registration process at 715-261-0265. The 4K & Early Childhood Programs office is located at G.D. Jones Elementary School, 1018 South 12th Avenue, Wausau.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais lus, thov hu, 715-261-0265. Si usted requiere de servicios de traducción por favor llame al teléfono 715-261-0265.



Stay, learn and play!

G2M Community Connections Extend your Summer Learning with Community Connections! Have a FREE lunch and join in the fun (Monday -Thursday, 1:00 - 4:00 PM) with Community partners like 4-H, Boys and Girls Club, Monk Botanical Gardens and much more! G2M = Growing Great minds!



For students in K-Grade 4, classes are held at GD Jones, Hawthorn Hills, Lincoln, Riverview and Thomas Jefferson Elementary schools!

For more information and to register on-line at: https://tinyurl.com/wsdsummer2023 Cost for the 6 week program is \$40/student; \$100/family; For students economically disadvantaged, the reduced cost is \$10/student.



Rib Mountain Staff

Principal – Mrs. Tammy Steckbauer, <u>tsteckba@wausauschools.org</u> Secretary – Mrs. Denise Theiler, <u>dtheiler@wausauschools.org</u>

Pupil Services Team:

Social Worker – Ms. Cortney Sears - <u>csears@wausauschools.org</u> School Counselor – Mrs. Cathy Ehlert - <u>cehlert@wausauschools.org</u> School Psychologist – Mr. Spencer Susa - <u>ssusa@wausauschools.org</u> Alex Hein – BSN, RN - <u>ahein@wausauschools.org</u> (715-261-0113 Office)

Encore Teachers:

Science – Mrs. Jeanette Ryan - jryan@wausauschools.org Librarian – Ms. Julie Gaskey - jgaskey@wausauschools.org Art – Mrs. Chelsey Gilbert - <u>cgilbert@wausauschools.org</u> Phy. Ed. – Mrs. Vickie Christianson - <u>vchristianson@wausauschools.org</u> Music – Mr. Nick Peters – <u>npeters@wausauschools.org</u>

Gifted & Talented:

Mrs. Heidi Hahner – <u>hhahner@wausauschools.org</u> Secretary – Mrs. Kristine Peterson - <u>krpeterso@wausauschools.org</u>

Classroom Teachers:

Kindergarten – Mrs. Megan LaFlash – <u>mlaflash@wausauschools.org</u> Kindergarten – Mrs. Deb Albee - <u>dalbee@wausauschools.org</u> 1st Grade – Mrs. Kim Pozorski - <u>kpozorsk@wausauschools.org</u> 1st Grade – Ms. Tiffany Torrens - <u>ttorrens@wausauschools.org</u> 2nd Grade – Mrs. Heidi Burress - <u>haburress@wausauschools.org</u> 3rd Grade – Mrs. Elisa Hartman - <u>ehartman@wausauschools.org</u> 3rd Grade – Mrs. Stephanie deJong - <u>sdejong@wausauschools.org</u> 4th Grade – Mrs. Erika Anderson - <u>eanderso@wausauschools.org</u> 4th Grade – Mrs. Morgan Post - <u>mpost@wausauschools.org</u> 5th Grade – Mrs. Stephanie Zingler - <u>szingler@wausauschools.org</u>

Special Education Teachers:

Special Ed – Mrs. Hali Koebe, <u>hkoebe@wausauschools.org</u> Special Ed – Mrs. Debby Schultz, <u>dschultz@wausauschools.org</u> Occupational Therapist – Mrs. Mackenzie Hau – <u>mwockenfus@wausauschools.org</u> Speech & Language – Ms. Morgan Meissen <u>mmeissen@wausauschools.org</u> Speech & Language – Ms. Meghan Oselka <u>moselka@wausauschools.org</u>

English Learner Teacher:

EL – Mrs. Sai Thao, saithao@wausauschools.org

<u>Learning Recovery Resource Teacher</u> Mrs. Ann Nygaard, <u>anygaard@wausauschools.org</u>

Paraprofessionals:

Building Para – Mrs. Marilyn McTavish, <u>mmctavis@wausauschools.org</u> Building Para – Mrs. Nancy Raguse, <u>nraguse@wausauschools.org</u> El Para – Mrs. Leslie Chang, <u>lchang@wausauschools.org</u> Special Ed Para – Mrs. Amanda Shuda – <u>ashuda@wausauschools.org</u> Special Ed Para – Miss Kayli Thao – <u>kaylisthao@wausauschools.org</u> Special Ed Para – Miss Fiona Vermote – <u>fvermote@wausauschools.org</u> Enrollment Para – Mrs. Vicki Worzella <u>vworzella@wausauschools.org</u> Food Service – Mrs. Pam Welch, <u>pwelch@wausauschools.org</u> Food Service – Mrs. Victoria Klingensmith – <u>vklingensmith@wausauschools.org</u> Health Aide – Mrs. Debbie Gauger – <u>dgauger@wausauschools.org</u>

Custodial Staff:

Lead Custodian – Mr. James Heidmann, <u>iheidman@wausauschools.org</u> Night Custodian Miss Katie Haydon – <u>khaydon@wausauschools.org</u> Night Custodian – Mrs. Amy Hill – <u>ahill@wausauschools.org</u>



DAILY TIME SCHEDULE

8:15 - 8:30 AM PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION BEGINS

- 8:30 AM BELL RINGS
- 8:35 AM CLASSES BEGIN
- 8:40 AM ANNOUNCEMENTS

11:30 AM - 11:50 PM LUNCH - GRADE 4 & GRADE 5 11:50 AM - 12:10 PM LUNCH RECESS - GRADE 4 & GRADE 5

- 11:35 AM 11:55 AM LUNCH KINDERGARTEN & GRADE I 11:55 AM - 12:15 PM LUNCH RECESS - KINDERGARTEN & GRADE I
- 11:40 AM 12:00 PM LUNCH GRADE 2 & GRADE 3 12:00 PM - 12:20 PM LUNCH RECESS - GRADE 2 & GRADE 3
- 1:35 PM 1:50 PM AFTERNOON RECESS GRADES 4 & S
- 2:10 PM 2:25 PM AFTERNOON RECESS GRADE I
- 2:20 PM 2:40 PM KINDERGARTEN RECESS
- 2:30 PM 2:45 PM AFTERNOON RECESS GRADES 2 & 3
- 3:30 PM DISMISSAL

ENCORE DAYS:

DAY I: LIBRARY, SCIENCE, GUIDANCE DAY 2: ART, LIBRARY, GUIDANCE DAY 3: ART, SCIENCE DAY 4: PHYS. ED, MUSIC DAY 5: PHYS. ED, MUSIC DAY 5: PHYS. ED, MUSIC DAY 6: PHYS. ED, PHYS. E



Rotation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3 R-2	2 4 R-2	3 5 _{R-2}	4
5	6 1 R - 1	7 2 R - 1	8 R - 1	9 4 R - 1	10 5 _{R-1}	11
12	13 1 _{R-2}	14 2 R - 2	15 3 R - 2	16 4 R - 2	17 5 R-2 11:30	18
19	20	PRI	NG BF	²³ REAK	24	25
26	27 1 R-1	28 R-1	29 3 R - 1	30 4 R - 1	31 5 R-1	