



# INSIGHT

wyomingps.org

A PUBLICATION OF THE WYOMING PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volume: 11 Issue: 2

DECEMBER 2025



## A COMMUNITY INVESTED IN THE FUTURE OF WYOMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### A Message from Our Superintendent

Dear Families and Community of Wyoming Public Schools,

Halfway through the school year, Wyoming Public Schools continues to shine as a place where people come together with heart and purpose. From classrooms to community events, we have seen countless examples of teamwork, compassion, and commitment that reflect the very best of who we are.

On November 4, 2025, the Wyoming community came together to support our schools at the polls, leading to the approval of all three ballot proposals. The passage of the sinking fund proposal, bond proposal, and countywide enhancement millage represents far more than a financial investment. It is a resounding vote of confidence in our students, our staff, and the future of public education in Wyoming. Together, these measures will strengthen our ability to maintain safe and modern learning environments, expand opportunities for students, and position our district for long-term success, all while providing these benefits at a net tax decrease when the three ballot items are considered collectively.

To every member of our community who took the time to learn, engage, and vote, thank you! Your trust in our mission and your commitment to our children's success are deeply appreciated. You have demonstrated what is possible when a community stands united behind its schools and believes in the power of education to transform lives.

To our Wyoming Public Schools educators, thank you for your tireless work, dedication, and passion for helping every student grow and achieve. Each lesson you teach, every conversation you have, and every moment you invest in our kids makes a lasting impact. Your commitment to excellence elevates the quality of education in our district and serves as the foundation for everything we accomplish.

To our parents and guardians, thank you for being our partners in this important work. The trust you place in us to educate and care for your children is a privilege we hold with great responsibility. Your involvement, whether attending events, volunteering, supporting at home, or simply showing up for your child each day, strengthens the bridge between school and family and creates a circle of support that empowers our students to reach their fullest potential.

And to the greater Wyoming community, including our business partners, alumni, community leaders, and residents, thank you for your continued belief in our

*(Continued on page 2)*



# WYOMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3575 Gladiola Ave., SW • Wyoming, MI 49519  
(616) 530-7550 • [www.wyomingps.org](http://www.wyomingps.org)

## Board of Education 2025

Mr. Craig Popma ..... President  
Mr. Jeff Norton..... Vice President  
Ms. Jennifer Lewis ..... Treasurer  
Mrs. Lisa Manley ..... Secretary  
Mrs. Shannon Frick..... Trustee  
Mrs. Lisa DeKryger ..... Trustee  
Mrs. Audrey Zapata ..... Trustee

Email: [schoolboard@wyomingps.org](mailto:schoolboard@wyomingps.org)

## Wyoming Public Schools Administration

Mr. Craig Hoekstra..... Superintendent  
Mr. Jamie Carnes..... Associate Superintendent  
Mrs. Jennifer Callahan..... Director of Finance  
Mrs. Jodi Goff..... Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Jason Maas..... Executive Director  
of Student Services  
Dr. Jennifer Slinger ..... Executive Director of  
Elementary Teaching  
and Learning  
Dr. Michael Burde ..... Director of Secondary  
Teaching and Learning  
Mr. James Nora ..... Technology Director  
Mr. David Holsworth..... Director of Operations  
Mr. Joe Steffes..... Director of Safety,  
Security, & Transportation  
Mr. Connor Kooyers ..... Food Service Director  
Mrs. Christie McEwen ..... Executive Assistant and  
Communications Manager

The Insight is published by the Wyoming Board of Education as the official newsletter for residents of the Wyoming Public School District. Send items for publication to Wyoming Public Schools, c/o Insight Newsletter, 3575 Gladiola SW, Wyoming, MI 49519 or email to [mcewenc@wyomingps.org](mailto:mcewenc@wyomingps.org). A translation of this document is available upon request at the WPS Administration Building.

Design/Edit:  Odd Bird Art & Design,  
Mrs. Kristen Clignett

schools. Your support not only sustains our programs and facilities but also fuels a culture of pride and belonging that extends far beyond the classroom. You remind our students that they are surrounded by an entire community that believes in them and their dreams.

The first semester has been filled with meaningful achievements, from the enthusiasm at athletic events to the creativity in the arts and the academic accomplishments in every classroom. Each moment reflects the collective spirit, energy, and care that define Wyoming Public Schools. Together, we are creating opportunities that shape lives and strengthen our community for generations to come.

As we look ahead to the second half of the school year, I am inspired by what lies before us. The work continues with renewed momentum, shared vision, and deep gratitude for what we have accomplished together. Let us carry forward the same commitment and collaboration that have brought us this far. I encourage you to stay engaged, attend the many events taking place across our district, and continue to be part of the Wyoming story.

Thank you for believing in our students, our schools, and the promise of what is ahead. Together, we are shaping a future that every student in Wyoming Public Schools can be proud of.

With deepest appreciation,



Mr. Craig Hoekstra  
*Superintendent*



In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Elliot-Larson Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, it is the policy of Wyoming Public School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program, activity, or in employment. The lack of English skills will not be barrier to admission or participation in educational programs. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies. Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, origin, age, height, weight, sex, or marital status should be directed to Human Resources, 3575 Gladiola, Wyoming, MI 49519, (616) 530-7554. Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of disability or religion should be directed to Student Services, 3575 Gladiola, Wyoming, MI, 49519, (616) 530-7525.



# WPS BOARD OF EDUCATION

**VISION** In a culture where we embrace diverse identities, each Wyoming Public School scholar will experience belonging and be challenged to excel academically to positively impact our local and global communities.

**MISSION** Wyoming Public Schools will empower each scholar to reach their immediate and future goals by providing ambitious instruction and embracing diverse voices within a community where everyone belongs.

## CORE VALUES

**Belonging, Diversity, and Inclusion** – We create culturally affirming spaces where diverse identities are embraced, scholar voice is elevated and acted upon, and all stakeholders experience a sense of belonging as their authentic selves.

**Educational Excellence** – We set high standards, use equitable practices, and deliver ambitious instruction, so that each scholar experiences high academic, social, and emotional growth in order to reach their post-secondary goals and positively impact their communities.

**Continuous Improvement** – We are a learning organization that uses a variety of data sources to inform decisions on the implementation of innovative, adaptive, and sustainable practices to develop the skills, knowledge, and abilities our scholars need to be global leaders.

**Better Together** – We implement intentional structures where colleagues, scholars, families, and community partners collaborate to co-construct meaningful and rigorous learning experiences.

## PROMISE STATEMENT:

**Wyoming Wolves: Growing Community. Empowering Scholars. Impacting Futures.**

## Open to the Public!

Regular Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6:00 PM in the Board Room at the Administration Building (3575 Gladiola Ave. SW). Board meetings are open to the public. Soon after each meeting is called to order, the Board president will ask any individuals wishing to address the Board to identify themselves by name, and state the topic they would like to discuss. Those individuals will be recognized under “New Business.” In the spirit of compliance with the ADA, Individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Office of the Superintendent by phone (616)530-7555 if requesting special services to effectively participate in this meeting. Log In / Dial In information for virtual board meetings can be found at [www.wyomingps.org](http://www.wyomingps.org).

Dec. 8 – 6 PM  
January 12 – 6 PM  
January 26 – 6 PM  
*School Board*  
*Appreciation Night*  
February 9 – 6 PM  
February 23 – 6 PM  
March 9 – 6 PM  
March 23 – 6 PM  
April 27 – 6 PM  
@WJH  
May 11 – 6 PM  
June 8 – 5 PM



Mr. Craig Popma  
President



Mr. Jeff Norton  
Vice President



Ms. Jennifer Lewis  
Treasurer



Mrs. Lisa Manley  
Secretary



Mrs. Shannon Frick  
Trustee



Mrs. Lisa DeKryger  
Trustee



Mrs. Audrey Zapata  
Trustee

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

- WHS Band Boosters Holiday Treasures Craft Show ..... November 29, 2025 – 9 AM – 3 PM
- WHS Honors Choir at GR Griffins / National Anthem..... December 3, 2025 - 7 PM
- WHS Holiday Band Concert..... December 4, 2025 - 7 PM
- WHS Honors Choir at Wyoming Winter Wonderland Event ..... December 5, 2025 - 6:30 PM
- WHS Winter Choral Concert ..... December 9, 2025 - 7 PM - DHFAC
- WJH Choir at The Cortland Wyoming ..... December 11, 2025 at 1 PM
- WJH Holiday Band Concert ..... December 11, 2025 - 7 PM - DHFAC
- WHS Concert Choir at GRR Holiday Festival ..... December 12, 2025 - 9 AM
- Wyoming Kentwood Holiday Parade..... December 13, 2025 – 10 AM
- Scholar ½ Day (AM Only)..... December 18 & 19, 2025
- Winter Break . . . . December 22, 2025 – January 2, 2026 ..... Back to School . . . . . January 5, 2026
- WYO Festival of the Arts ..... April 25, 2026 - 10 AM - 2 PM - WHS
- WHS Commencement at Calvin University..... May 26, 2026 - 6:30 PM

DECEMBER 2025				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
FEBRUARY 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13*
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
APRIL 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

JANUARY 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
MARCH 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			
MAY 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

WYOMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-2026

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS / STAFF PD	
JANUARY 30 – FRIDAY	APRIL 24 – FRIDAY
MARCH 13 – FRIDAY	
STUDENTS – 1/2 DAY – AM ONLY	
DECEMBER 18 – THURSDAY	MARCH 6 – FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19 – FRIDAY	MAY 28 – THURSDAY
MARCH 5 – THURSDAY	MAY 29 – FRIDAY
NO SCHOOL – ALL	
DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 02	Winter Break
FEBRUARY 13 & 16*	Mid-Winter Break
APRIL 03 – 10	Spring Break
MAY 25	Memorial Day
TEACHERS & STUDENTS REPORT	

\*February 13th Possible mid-Winter Break will be held as a day of instruction if PD hours



For more than 116 years, Santa Claus Girls have worked to make sure that no child age 12 years or under in Kent County goes without a gift at Christmas.

If your family is in need of help to provide for your children this Christmas, consider registering at [santaclausgirls.org](http://santaclausgirls.org).  
Registration for the 2025 season begins September 1, 2025.

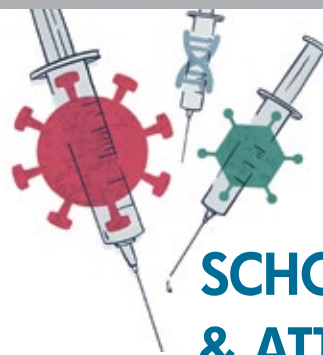


# WYO Festival of the Arts

**Save the Date:**  
**April 25 2026**  
**10 am - 2 pm**

**Wyoming High School**

**Showcases from Band, Choir, Theater,  
Visual Arts, Forensics, Robotics, and  
Languages**



## VACCINES REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL ENTRY & ATTENDANCE IN MICHIGAN

Whenever children are in group settings, there is a chance for disease to spread. Parents must follow state vaccine laws in order for their children to attend school. These laws are the minimum standard for preventing disease outbreaks in group settings. The best way to protect children from serious diseases is to follow the recommended vaccination schedule at [www.CDC.gov/Vaccines](http://www.CDC.gov/Vaccines).

In the state of Michigan, students entering 7th grade must have an up-to-date immunization record on file with the school, which includes specific requirements in addition to those needed for kindergarten. The key 7th grade-specific requirements are:

Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) vaccine: One dose is required at age 11 or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher.

MenACWY (Meningococcal Conjugate) vaccine: One dose is required at age 11 or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher.

Michigan allows for two types of immunization waivers for children attending public or private school and licensed childcare settings: medical waivers and nonmedical waivers (for religious or philosophical objections). Please contact the Kent County Health Department to obtain an immunization waiver.

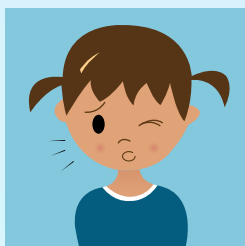
# COLD-WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

Members of the Kent Intermediate Superintendent's Association use a sustained windchill of -20 as one consideration for making the decision to close schools. Other considerations are travel conditions due to snow and ice and the time of day for which the sustained temperatures of -20 windchill are forecast and actually occur. Obviously, if temperatures are dropping overnight and winds are picking up so that temperatures are expected to drop to -20

after school start times, most districts will choose to open as usual on that day if travel conditions will allow.

**Announcements will be made on local television stations regarding school cancellations prior to the start of the school day. There will also be a Robo Call made to all families and a notice on the district website under School Closings. Please make sure the school has your current phone number.**

## WHEN IS SICK TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

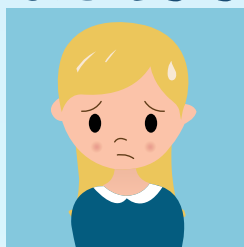


### Send me to school if...

I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.

I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.

I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.

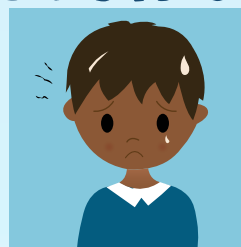


### Keep me at home if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.

I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.

My eyes are pink and crusty.



### Call the doctor if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.

I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.

I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.

I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).



**AttendanceWorks**

Adapted with permission from Baltimore City Public Schools.

## DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER



adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

### CHILLY



[weather.gov/safety](http://weather.gov/safety)

### COLD



### EXTREME COLD







1

## Snow or ice totals can vary greatly over short distances

A heavy snow band may form, dropping more snow in one location while significantly less snow falls just a few miles away.



2

## Winter forecasts can change frequently

Forecasts may change as new model data becomes available. Always check [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) for the latest information.

3

## Focus more on the winter storm's impacts

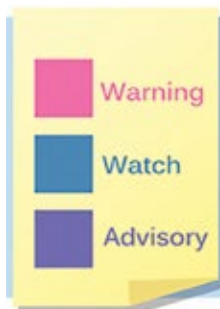
Don't focus too much on exact numbers, and consider the full range of possibilities.



4

## Know your winter weather terminology

If a Watch is issued, get prepared for hazardous weather. If a Warning or Advisory is issued, take action – hazardous weather is occurring or will occur soon.



5

## Rely on a dependable source for weather info

Choose your information sources wisely, and follow a name or organization you know and trust.



For more information on winter weather safety, visit:  
[weather.gov/winter](http://weather.gov/winter)

# WPS Inclement Weather Policy

## Inclement Weather Scenario:

School is cancelled and students are sent home for the day.

### Policy:

All practices/games/extra-curricular activities are automatically cancelled for the day.

## Inclement Weather Scenario:

School is cancelled prior to the start of the school day due to inclement weather. (Snow Day)

### Policy:

All practices/games/extra-curricular activities are automatically cancelled for the day.

## Inclement Weather Scenario:

Tornado Watch/Warning

### Policy:

All practices and games are cancelled for the day. Practices/Games may resume after watch/warning has ended with permission from the Athletic Director or Principal.

## Inclement Weather Scenario:

Thunder/Thunderstorm Watch/Warning

### Policy:

All outdoor practices/games are immediately suspended until 30 minutes after the last thunder/lightning strike.

# STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACTION

## Wyoming Early Childhood Center... Empowering Every Voice: AAC

At Wyoming Early Childhood Center, communication is at the heart of everything we do. Our center proudly serves young learners through six Great Start Readiness Preschool (GSRP) classrooms and four sections of Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) classrooms. Within these classrooms, our scholars display a wide range of communication skills—from those who are developing typical receptive and expressive language skills to those who are nonverbal.

To ensure every child has a voice and a sense of belonging, we integrate visual supports and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) tools throughout the entire building. These supports range from light technology, such as pictures and symbols, to high technology, including full communication boards and speech-generating apps on iPads.

While AAC is essential for some scholars, it benefits everyone. Visual and AAC supports help children communicate more clearly, build confidence, and engage more fully in classroom routines and social interactions. They empower scholars to express their wants and needs without relying on others to

interpret their intentions—reducing frustration and helping prevent unexpected behaviors.

The impact of AAC reaches far beyond academics. By giving all children the tools to communicate, we nurture friendships, relationships, and a stronger sense of belonging. Whether in classrooms, hallways, or on the playground, AAC is accessible and encouraged everywhere at Wyoming Early Childhood Center.

### Dispelling the Myths

A common misconception about AAC is that it prevents or delays verbal speech. In reality, research shows that AAC supports and enhances verbal communication. For many children, using AAC helps them learn language, organize their thoughts, and practice expressing themselves—often leading to increased spoken communication over time.

At Wyoming Early Childhood Center, we believe that every child deserves a voice—and AAC helps make that possible. By fostering an inclusive environment where all communication methods are valued, we give our scholars the tools to connect, learn, and thrive.

## Gladiola Elementary...

### Donuts in the Den Brings Families Together at Gladiola

Gladiola Elementary recently hosted its **Donuts in the Den** event, welcoming more than 150 scholars and their special guests for a morning of donuts, coffee, and juice. The event created a warm, inviting atmosphere where families could enjoy time together and reconnect with the school community.

Getting families back into the building is a key priority for Gladiola this year, and Donuts in the Den was an awesome example of that. Staff volunteers worked together to plan and organize the event, securing donations of coffee and paper supplies from community partners. Their teamwork and commitment helped make the morning both meaningful and memorable for everyone who attended.

“It was just nice seeing kids and adults sitting down and enjoying time together,” shared Ms. Fields. One scholar added, “I’ve been looking forward to this for weeks!” The success of Donuts in the Den reflects Gladiola’s continued dedication to fostering strong school-family connections and creating a sense of belonging for all.





# STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACTION

## Oriole Park Elementary...

Oriole Park Elementary Student Leadership Teams Are in Full Swing! The 2025–2026 school year is off to a great start with our **Student Leadership Teams** in action!

Students in all grade levels had the opportunity to fill out an application to join one of the following teams:

- **Safety Patrol** – 4th Grade
- **Morning Announcement Team** – 3rd & 4th Grade
- **Alpha News Crew** – 3rd & 4th Grade
- **Student Council** – 3rd & 4th Grade
- **Care Team** – 2nd & 3rd Grade
- **Playground Patrol** – Kindergarten & 1st Grade

Each team plays an important role in helping our school community run smoothly:

- **Safety Patrol** helps keep all scholars safe during dismissal. They're trained to use our dismissal system, remind students to walk, and assist bus riders as they wait in organized lines.
- **Morning Announcement Team** kicks off each day by reading our morning announcements.
- **Alpha News Crew** produces a weekly news program viewed every Friday, sharing sporting news, school and district highlights, reminders, and other important stories.
- **Student Council** takes the lead in preparing and running our monthly schoolwide assemblies, organizing Spirit Weeks, and supporting staff and student recognition efforts.
- **The Care Team** delivers daily sack meals from Kids' Food Basket, passes out encouraging notes, and manages our weekly recycling.
- **Playground Patrol** helps keep our playground clean by picking up trash, collecting recess equipment, and rounding up lost-and-found items.

To join, students completed a **job application** and participated in an **interview** for their desired position. After being “hired,” they received training and are now proudly serving in their new leadership roles!

**We are so proud of our student leaders!!**



**Safety Patrol**

**Morning  
Announcement  
Team**



**Alpha News Crew**

**Student  
Council**



**The Care  
Team**

**Playground  
Patrol**





# STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACTION

## West Elementary...

West Elementary hosted an engaging **Multicultural Night** in November! Over 90 families and more than 300 people attended, joining together to complete themed crafts, explore different cultures, and enjoy foods from around the world, generously donated by community sponsors, parents and staff.

The evening was filled with learning, laughter, and connection as students and families discovered new traditions and flavors.

It was a wonderful celebration of the diversity that makes our school community so special and a reminder of how much fun learning can be when we share it together.





# STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACTION

## Parkview Elementary...

Parkview is so excited to be implementing a new School-wide Positive Behavior System called the **Den System** in support of our continued goal of creating a sense of belonging! Our theme is, “4 Dens, 1 Pack!”



“Four Dens, One Pack!”

You will see this theme present inside and outside the building. During the second week of school, we had a sorting ceremony where each class learned what den they were in. The joy and celebration was in the air with staff and students!

Throughout the school year, each den gets together to do collaborative activities during den meetings, including community service oriented projects. This allows students to spend time with different grade level peers to work together, as well as learn the importance of giving back to the community.



We also have quarterly den celebrations where we celebrate the winning den and students vote on others making great decisions to be our “Leaders of the Pack.” The den system has been a great way to recognize ALL our students for the great choices they are making every day. We are better together as we grow! Thank you to our school community for helping us build towards a sense of belonging for ALL!





# STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACTION

## Wyoming Intermediate School...

Our recent **PBIS 3 Mile Project Challenge** was a powerful reflection of our ongoing commitment to building a Culture of Safety and Belonging at Wyoming Intermediate School. PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) is a research-based framework used nationally and internationally to help schools create predictable, positive, and supportive environments. Decades of educational research show that when students clearly understand expectations, receive consistent feedback, and see positive behaviors modeled and reinforced, they feel safer, act more responsibly, and are more engaged in learning.

It is important to note that PBIS is not a reward system and not about “prizes” or “fun events.” Instead, PBIS is grounded in teaching and practicing schoolwide expectations in the same way we teach academic skills. The goal is to help students build internal motivation, self-management, and a sense of belonging. PBIS celebrations—like the 3 Mile Project Challenge—serve as acknowledgments, not rewards. They highlight students’ positive contributions and reinforce the idea that their daily choices matter to the wellbeing of the entire school community.

This year, nearly 400 scholars earned the opportunity to participate in the 3 Mile Project Challenge—demonstrating their commitment to being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible across the school day. Their participation represents more than an event; it reflects consistent effort, positive decision-making, and our collective work to support students in meeting expectations.

The recent 3 Mile Challenge survey results reinforce this effort: almost 80% of participating scholars shared that the PBIS Challenge motivated them to make better choices at school. This feedback affirms that PBIS is strengthening student engagement, encouraging positive behavior, and building a greater sense of connection and belonging across our building.

Looking ahead, scholars now have another opportunity to earn their way into our next PBIS acknowledgment event—the Wolf Pack Variety Show—taking place in December. We remain excited to continue offering meaningful, motivating experiences that celebrate students’ growth and reinforce the positive culture we are building together at Wyoming Intermediate School.





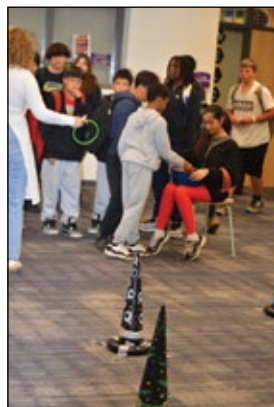
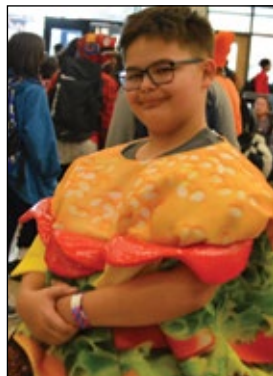
# STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACTION

## Wyoming Junior High... Building Belonging Through Celebration and Connection

At Wyoming Junior High, fostering a strong sense of belonging is central to who we are. This fall, our students came together for the school's first ever **PBIS PACK Celebration Dance and Festival of Games**, an event that captured the heart of our district's *Culture of Safety and Belonging* strategic goal.

The celebration, featuring a live DJ, dancing, and a variety of interactive games, was more than just a fun event. It represented our ongoing effort to create authentic opportunities for students and staff to connect beyond the classroom. Partnering with the **Wyoming High School Student Council**, teachers and administrators joined students on the dance floor and at game stations, reinforcing relationships that strengthen our community.

By recognizing positive behavior and collaboration through PBIS initiatives, Wyoming Junior High continues to create an inclusive environment where every student feels seen, valued, and connected. This event not only celebrated our students' achievements but also deepened the culture of belonging that defines our school community.



# STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACTION

## Wyoming High School...

### Every Student, Every Plan: Building a Future-Ready Path for All

At Wyoming High School, we are committed to ensuring that every student leaves high school with an **Educational Development Plan (EDP)** that reflects their goals, interests, and next steps after graduation. An EDP is more than a document—it's a living roadmap that helps students explore who they are, where they want to go, and how to get there.

We are taking an intentional approach by embedding career and college readiness activities into the day-to-day curriculum for every student, grades 9–12. These activities include hands-on learning and real-world experiences that build toward a clear postsecondary plan. Some of the experiences are below:

**9th Grade:** Students begin by exploring their personality styles and learning how their strengths and preferences connect to different career paths. They will also participate in a Reverse Job Shadow, meeting professionals from a variety of industries to learn about possible futures.

**10th Grade:** Sophomores take their exploration a step further by completing a career research project and visiting a college campus to experience what higher education looks like in action.

**11th Grade:** Juniors spend time discovering future pathways, learning more about possible careers and education options that align with their goals through guest speakers, Trades Day, college campus trips, and work-based learning opportunities.

**12th Grade:** Seniors focus on the transition beyond high school—completing FAFSA applications, college and scholarship applications, college campus trips, work-based learning opportunities, and finalizing their postsecondary plans.

To support students in building meaningful EDPs, we're excited to use the **SchoolLinks** platform as a central hub for planning. Through SchoolLinks, students can explore career interests, research colleges and training programs, track goals, and plan their next steps—all in one place.

We encourage parents and guardians to ask their students to share what they've been working on in SchoolLinks and explore the different features together. Families or students who have questions about SchoolLinks or their Educational Development Plan are encouraged to reach out to their school counselor for guidance and support.

By integrating these experiences throughout the high school journey, we are helping every student graduate with confidence—and a clear, personalized plan for the future.





# STRATEGIC PLANS IN ACTION



Seniors participating in the LMCU Financial Reality Fair on Senior Future Ready Day- October 28



Seniors participated in a General Motors Work-Based Learning Tour



9th -12th grade students participate in our annual Alpha Wolf 11 Retreat at Camp Manitou-Lin to plan events and activities that celebrate our core values of being Kind, Compassionate and Gracious.

## MENTORS STEP UP...(Continued from Page 24)

or two mentors are on each of the district's 16 buses every afternoon.

The ninth- through 12th-grade mentors are recommended for the job by high school administrators and are considered leaders at the school. They fill out job applications as any Wyoming Public Schools employee would, and are trained on expectations and dos and don'ts. They are paid minimum wage, \$12.48 per hour, for two hours every school day.

"Safety of our students is paramount, so this whole program has been an incredible asset to this district, and I am so thankful that our administration sees the value in allowing this to take place," Steffes said.

Sadie said she is having a great time getting to know the students and works hard to make sure they follow the rules. They draw together and play games like "I spy. All the kids are really kind," Sadie said. "They listen really well, and I mainly wanted to be a mentor because I like helping little kids a lot and getting to know different people."

Kallemeyn, who has been driving a bus for 12 years, said Sadie and other mentors are much appreciated. "They're very helpful. The (younger) kids are just being kids. They are squirrely. It helps to have an extra pair of eyes back there keeping them mindful of what they need to be doing," she said.

### An Investment in Students

WPS started the program to address behavior issues on the bus, Steffes said. High School teacher Anna Servo mentioned the idea for a bus mentor program to him after



*From left, mentor Sadie Parks, bus driver Diane Kallemeyn and mentors Erionn Palmer and Koby Lango are ready to begin the afternoon route*

she heard about one in another district. Things took shape from there, and Servo invited students in a peer mentor program she advises to apply. She encouraged other teachers to recommend students as well. Servo said she sees the program as a great way to invest in and support Wyoming students. The young students emulate the older students and build relationships with them. "The kids don't want someone on the bus that is just an adult telling them what to do. They want someone cool and fun," Servo said.

Bus mentor Koby Lango, a sophomore, said he sees the role as a way to help out the drivers. "The bus driver has a really big job. They have to watch over the kids and watch the road at the same time. I just like being there to help out," he said.

Mentor Erionn Palmer, a sophomore, said the job gives him something to do after school, and he enjoys it. "They ask me a lot of questions. I really just answer questions the whole time. They have new ones every day," he said. "It encourages younger students to really listen and pay attention."





# Strive for Less Than

## Make every day count!

- Be on time, every time
- Stay all day every day
- Set appointments before or after school
- Plan vacations when school is out
- Build backup plans or a buddy system to get students to and from school

## Give a High 5 for higher success!

Did you know...

1. Missing more than 5 days in Kindergarten makes learning to read harder
2. Missing more than 5 days any year hurts learning and lowers test scores
3. Students who miss more than 10% of school a year (just 2 days a month) are more likely to drop out
4. Being late to school or leaving early leads to poor overall attendance
5. Absences affect everyone when teachers have to help students catch up

Being in school all day every day gives students a greater shot at success. Every day, every hour in class is a learning opportunity. Students who are absent, arrive late or leave early get less learning time than students with better attendance. That's why every student and every parent should Strive for Less Than 5 absences each school year.



## Days Absent



# #StriveForLessThan5

Superintendents throughout Kent ISD adopted the Strive for Less Than 5 campaign as an ISD-wide initiative because regular attendance is critical to student success!

**Kent ISD**   
We Lead Learning





Wyoming  
Public Schools

# Now Hiring

## Bus Drivers & Food Service Staff



### Competitive Salary

Bus Drivers - Starting At \$21.10

Food Service - Starting At \$16.60



### Benefits



### Training



### Summers & Holidays Off



Easy Online Application  
[www.WyomingPS.org](http://www.WyomingPS.org)



Our District is located in the city of Wyoming, Michigan, the largest suburb of metropolitan Grand Rapids and the 18th largest city in Michigan. It is a city of well-kept neighborhoods and parks. Recreational and cultural opportunities abound, and the community atmosphere emphasizes family values.

The Wyoming Public School District has a staff of approximately 475 employees, including teachers, administrators, secretaries, paraeducators, food service, maintenance and custodial staff, bus drivers, mechanics, and community education personnel. Our student enrollment is approximately 4,000 scholars.



# Prefer REAL News?

That's all we do - real news about your family's school

Students, teachers & learning

No other media covers schools like we do

Real journalists + real schools = Real School News

- School News** • Stories from inside your Kent ISD school district, organized in one place
- Network features:** • Latest headlines on our homepage & sent to your inbox
- Special series like Youth Mental Health, Grads with Grit & Student Leaders
- Important issues in education & thoughtful commentary



Get it all, only @ [SchoolNewsNetwork.org](http://SchoolNewsNetwork.org) **Subscribe Today!**

Proudly covering these public school districts:

Byron Center Public Schools  
Caledonia Community Schools  
Cedar Springs Public Schools  
Comstock Park Public Schools  
East Grand Rapids Public Schools  
Forest Hills Public Schools  
Godfrey Lee Public Schools  
Godwin Heights Public Schools  
Grand Rapids Public Schools  
Grandville Public Schools  
Kelloggsville Public Schools  
Kenowa Hills Public Schools  
Kent City Community Schools  
Kentwood Public Schools  
Lowell Area Schools  
Northview Public Schools  
Rockford Public Schools  
Sparta Area Schools  
Thornapple Kellogg Schools  
Wyoming Public Schools

Supported by our Sponsors  
and created in collaboration  
with area Superintendents.



**VOLUNTEERS!** Wyoming Public Schools derives immeasurable strength from unlimited parent and community involvement in its schools. Hundreds of residents are involved as individual school volunteers. Join the fun and get involved in making our schools the best they can be!

*If you are interested in volunteering, please call the school's principal or secretary to get more information.*



# The Wolf Den

Wyoming High School Apparel Store  
Tienda de ropa de Wyoming High School

Apparel & Accessories  
**AVAILABLE FOR**  
Men,  
Women,  
& Youth



Artículos Y Accesorios  
**DISPONIBLE PARA**  
Hombres,  
Mujeres,  
y Jóvenes



@wyoming\_wolfden



@wyoWolfDen



wolfden@wyomingps.org



<https://wyomingwolfden.square.site/>





# WYOMING ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

**VOLUNTEERS & OFFICERS NEEDED!**

## WHY JOIN?



### PROVIDE SUPPORT

Your time and effort help to provide support for all WPS extracurricular activities.



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP

Serve as an officer or committee chair and grow your leadership skills.



### HAVE A VOICE

Help shape decisions that impact our teams and events.



### BUILD SCHOOL SPIRIT

Be part of the energy that makes game day unforgettable!

We are working on building a tremendous team to support our Wyoming High School Athletes. Together we will provide our Wyoming Wolves the best possible opportunity to be great. We need YOU to support our students, our athletes, our community!

**Wyoming High School Athletic Boosters would like for you to become involved with supporting our student athletes by participating with our Athletic Boosters.**

There are a couple opportunities right now for you to join in and make our current Athletic Department the best!

1. Our Athletic Boosters Meetings held 6:30pm. On the 1st. Monday of each month. Please consider joining us while we are working to enhance every athletic opportunity for our student athletes.
2. Sign up to work the concession stand at the High School Athletic Events. We need help serving our teams and providing the best opportunity for our players and coaches. (You are also able to earn 20 dollars per hour per worker for any Wyoming Public School organization).



### SEE IMPACT FIRSTHAND

Watch our student athletes succeed knowing you played a part.



### CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY

Meet new people who share your passion for athletics.



### MAKE MEMORIES

Share special moments with your children, their teammates, and other families.

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US. BACK THE PACK!**

**YOU BELONG TO OUR WOLF PACK.**



Connect on Facebook!

@Wyoming High School Athletic Boosters



Questions?

[hollert@wyomingps.org](mailto:hollert@wyomingps.org)

**All Winter Schedules: <https://wyoming.bigteams.com/>**



## WPS Athletic Schedules

...can be found at [wyoming.bigteams.com](http://wyoming.bigteams.com) or at the administration building, Wyoming Junior High, or Wyoming High School Offices.

## WE ARE THE WOLVES

Here's to The Mighty Wolves  
Charging straight into the fight.  
We will always cheer for victory  
And you'll show them all your might.  
WY-O-MING!

Hail to purple! Hail to black!  
We're behind you all the way.  
So let's go, team, go!  
WE ARE THE WOLVES!  
Let's win today!

*Special thanks to Troy University and composer, Dr. John M. Long, for allowing the district the use of the fight song music, and to Chad Dykema, WPS employee, for writing the lyrics.*

## WPS GAME DAY REMINDERS

To ensure all guests at WPS extracurricular activities have an enjoyable experience, the following guidelines are in place.

- Scholars must have a school ID to enter.
- Only WPS and visiting team scholars are allowed to attend.
- K-8 scholars must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.
- Spectators are not allowed re-entry.
- Gates close at the start of the 2nd half.
- No bags or backpacks are allowed in the stadium.
- All scholars are expected to be in the bleachers when attending events.
- No loitering in front of the concession stands.
- All spectators must leave school property immediately following the game. Scholars who do not leave in a timely manner may not be allowed to attend future events.
- All scholars not complying with rules and policies will be reported to school administration and parents.
- WPS scholars will be escorted out of the venue if not complying with expectations.
- Scholars who do not follow expectations will not be able to attend future games.



*Thank you for helping keep our game day atmosphere safe and enjoyable for all attendees.*

### Keep In Touch via Social Media:

Wyoming Public Schools

WolvesWPS



@WolvesWPS



WolvesWPS



Or visit our website:  
[www.wyomingps.org](http://www.wyomingps.org)

**GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL**

Tue. 12/09/25	Cedar Springs	Wyoming	7:00PM
Wed. 12/10/25	@ GR Chr.	GR Chr.	5:30 PM
Fri. 12/12/25	@ East GR	East GR	7:00PM
Tue. 12/16/25	@ T-K	T-K	7:30 PM
Sat. 12/20/25	Godwin Heights	Wyoming	11:30AM
Mon. 12/22/25	Hudsonville	Wyoming	7:00PM
Sat. 01/03/26	Coopersville (Winter Sports Night)	Wyoming	5:30PM
Tue. 01/06/26	@ W-U	W-U	7:00PM
Fri. 01/09/26	GR Union	Wyoming	7:00PM (Unified Game)
Tue. 01/13/26	@West Catholic	WC	7:00PM
Fri. 01/16/26	Unity Chr.	Wyoming	7:00PM (Pup Night)

Tue. 01/20/26	South Chr.	Wyoming	7:00PM
Fri. 01/23/26	Northview (Coaches vs. Cancer)	Wyoming	7:00PM
Tue. 01/27/26	Holland Chr.	Wyoming	7:00PM
Fri. 01/30/26	T-K (Hall of Fame Night)	Wyoming	7:00PM
Tue. 02/03/26	W-U (Teacher Appreciation Night)	Wyoming	7:00PM
Fri. 02/06/26	@ GR Union	GR Union	7:00PM
Tue. 02/10/26	West Catholic (Senior Parents Night)	Wyoming	7:00PM
Thu. 02/12/26	@ Greenville	Greenville	7:00PM
Tue. 02/17/26	@ South Chr.	South Chr.	7:00PM
Fri. 02/20/26	@ Northview	Northview	7:00PM
Tue. 02/24/26	@ Covenant Chr.	Covenant	7:00PM

**BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL**

Tue. 12/02/25	Caledonia	H	7:00 PM
Thu. 12/04/25	GR Chr.	A	7:00 PM
Tue. 12/09/25	Cedar Springs	A	7:00 PM
Fri. 12/12/25	East GR	H	7:00 PM
Tue. 12/16/25	T-K	A	5:45 PM
Fri. 12/19/25	Benton Harbor	A	7:00 PM
Sat. 01/03/26	Coopersville (Winter Sports Night)	H	7:00 PM
Tue. 01/06/26	W-U (Teacher Appreciation Night)	H	7:00 PM
Fri. 01/09/26	GR Union	A	7:00 PM
Sat. 01/10/26	Kelloggsville (@ VanAndel Arena)	A	TBA
Tue. 01/13/26	West Catholic	H	7:00 PM
Fri. 01/16/26	Unity Chr.	H	5:30 PM (Pup Night)

Tue. 01/20/26	South Chr.	A	7:00 PM
Fri. 01/23/26	Northview (Coaches vs. Cancer)	H	5:30 PM
Tue. 01/27/26	Holland Chr.	A	7:00 PM
Fri. 01/30/26	T-K (Hall of Fame Night)	H	5:30 PM
Tue. 02/03/26	W-U	A	7:00 PM
Fri. 02/06/26	GR Union	H	7:00 PM
Tue. 02/10/26	West Catholic	A	7:00 PM
Thu. 02/12/26	Greenville (Unified Game)	H	7:00 PM
Tue. 02/17/26	South Chr. (Senior Parents Night)	H	7:00 PM
Fri. 02/20/26	Northview	A	5:30 PM

**VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER**

Wed. 12/17/25	@ Lee	Lee	6:00PM
Fri. 12/19/25	Wyoming Cheer Inv.		6:30PM
Wed. 01/14/26	@ W-U	W-U	6:30PM
Thu. 01/22/26	@ Northview	Northview	TBA

Sat. 01/24/26	@ Newaygo	Newaygo	TBA
Wed. 01/28/26	OPEN	Wyoming	6:30PM
Wed. 02/11/26	@ Northview	Northview	6:30PM
Thu. 02/12/26	@ Grand Haven	GH	6:00PM



## VARSITY BOWLING

Sat. 12/06/25	East Kentwood	Park Ctr.	9:00AM
Mon. 12/08/25	Allendale	Spectrum	3:00PM
Wed. 12/10/25	T-K	Spectrum	3:00PM
Sat. 12/13/25	@Forest Hills E	Northfield	8:00AM
(Baker Tournament)			
Mon. 12/15/25	@ South Chr.	Spectrum	3:00PM
Wed. 12/17/25	Unity Chr.	Spectrum	3:00PM
Mon. 01/05/26	GR Union	Spectrum	3:00PM
Wed. 01/07/26	@West Cath.	Clique Lanes	3:00PM
Thu. 01/08/26	East GR	Spectrum	3:00PM
Mon. 01/12/26	Northview	Spectrum	3:00PM
Tue. 01/13/26	Lee	Spectrum	3:00PM

Wed. 01/14/26	W-U	Spectrum	3:00PM
Mon. 01/19/26	@ T-K	Hastings	3:30 PM
Wed. 01/21/26	South Chr.	Spectrum	3:00PM
Mon. 01/26/26	@ Unity Chr.	Hudsonville	3:00PM
Tue. 01/27/26	Kenowa Hills	Spectrum	3:00PM
Wed. 01/28/26	@ GR Union	Westgate	3:00PM
Thu. 01/29/26	Byron Center	Spectrum	3:00PM
Sat. 01/31/26	@ Hudsonville	Hudsonville	9:00AM
Mon. 02/02/26	West Catholic	Spectrum	3:00PM
Wed. 02/04/26	@ Northview	Spectrum	3:00PM
Mon. 02/09/26	@ W-U	Rock n' Bowl	3:00PM
Wed. 02/11/26	@ Lee	Park Center	3:15 PM

## GIRLS VARSITY WRESTLING

Sat. 12/13/25	@ E-K	E-K	9:30 AM
(Kent County Classic)			
Sun. 12/21/25	@ Plainwell	Plainwell	9:00AM
Sun. 12/28/25	@ Montague	Montague	10:00AM

Sat. 01/10/26	@ Caledonia	Caledonia	8:30AM
Sat. 01/17/26	@ Northview	Northview	9:00AM
Sat. 01/24/26	@ Sparta	Sparta	9:00AM
Fri. 01/30/26	@ Hamilton	Hamilton	5:00PM

## BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

Wed. 12/03/25	@ Unity Chr.	Unity Chr.	5:00PM
Sat. 12/06/25	Dale Miedzielec Tourn.		9:00AM
Mon. 12/08/25	@ Lowell	Lowell	TBA
(J.V. Jamboree)			
Wed. 12/10/25	GR Chr.	Wyoming	5:00PM
Sat. 12/13/25	@ E-K	E-K	9:30AM
(Tournament of Champions)			
Wed. 12/17/25	@ OPEN	OPEN	5:00PM
(Wyo vs TK & SL @Spring Lake)			
Sat. 12/20/25	@ Northview	Northview	9:00AM
Sat. 12/27/25	@ Montague	Montague	9:00AM
Sat. 01/03/26	@ West Cath.	West Cath.	9:00AM
Wed. 01/07/26	@ OPEN	OPEN	5:00PM
(Wyo vs WC & UC @West Catholic)			
Sat. 01/10/26	@ Caledonia	Caledonia	8:30AM
Wed. 01/14/26	@ OPEN	OPEN	5:00PM
(Wyo vs Northview & Holland @ ZE.)			
Fri. 01/16/26	@ Hesperia	Hesperia	5:00PM
(Fri. Night Lights)			

Mon. 01/19/26	@ Lowell	Lowell	5:00PM
Wed. 01/21/26	OPEN	Wyoming	5:00PM
(Wyo vs Wayland & Hamilton)			
Sat. 01/24/26	@ Kelloggsville	K'ville	7:00AM
Wed. 01/28/26	@ OPEN	OPEN	5:00PM
(Wyo vs Union & ZW @ ZW)			





WYOMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
3575 Gladiola SW  
Wyoming MI 49519

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 131



## MENTORS STEP UP ON SCHOOL BUS

### High-schoolers model behavior, build relationships

by Erin Albanese, SchoolNewsNetwork.org

It was the typical after-school hustle and bustle as Gladiola Elementary students boarded the school bus, full of energy and eager to move, talk and get home to their families. About halfway down the rows of seats stood Wyoming High School sophomore and bus mentor Sadie Parks, greeting the kindergarten through fourth-graders.

“How was your day?” Sadie asked, ushering the children on the way to their seats and listening to their cheerful, sometimes funny answers.



*Having a bus mentor makes for a fun ride home*

With bus driver Diane Kallemeyn at the wheel, the drop-off route went smoothly. Students chattered about school and Halloween, and Sadie made sure all remained calm and orderly. To students with the wiggles: “Sit up, face forward,” she reminded them.

A first-grader showed off her drawing; another asked Sadie to tie his shoe, his leg stretched out from his seat.

“Victoria, you are an artist!” she said, glancing at the drawing while continuing to watch the students around her.



*Parks gives a student a high-five*

Sadie is one of 30 high-schoolers who accompany elementary and Wyoming Intermediate School students on the bus ride home every school day. The district has hired them as bus mentors to serve as role models for good behavior, and to make sure the younger students are following the rules.

They are an extra set of “eyes and ears,” said Joe Steffes, WPS safety, security and transportation director. One

*(Continued on Page 16)*