

September 14, 2026

WISE ACADEMY NEWS

FREE OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will offer free planetarium shows and evening stargazing sessions throughout September.



Planetarium Shows

Public shows at the [Allen F. Blocher Planetarium](#) are scheduled for 2 p.m. Sundays. Each program runs about an hour and includes a 25-minute presentation on the current night sky over central Wisconsin, including visible stars, constellations and planets.

September programs include:

- Sept. 20 — "Mars, the Ultimate Voyage," examining the challenges of future human missions to Mars.
- Sept. 27 — "One Sky Project," a collection of short films exploring how different cultures interpret the night sky.

Regular public programs are free, though donations are accepted. Seating is first come, first served, with room for up to 55 people.

Directions: The planetarium is on the second floor of the UW-Stevens Point Science Building, 2001 Fourth Ave. Parking is available in Lot D behind the building and is free in university lots on weekends and after 7 p.m.

Stargazing Sessions

UW-Stevens Point will also resume public stargazing sessions beginning Monday, Sept. 14. Sessions are scheduled from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, weather permitting.

Stargazing will take place at the Sundial between the Kirby Library and Resource Center, Trainer Natural Resources Building and Noel Fine Arts Center near 1800 Portage St.

Sessions will be held only when skies are clear and temperatures are above 15 degrees. Free parking is available across Portage Street in Lot R.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

18th - State Fish Hatchery @ Wild Rose 9:00 - 12:00

23rd - Hispanic Heritage Month @ Milwaukee Public Museum 11:00
CLOSED

23rd - Industry Tour = PBS Station @ Milwaukee 2:00 - 3:00
RSVP by Sept. 16th

24th - Hearthstone Historic Museum @ Appleton 10:00 - 12:00

October

2nd - World Dairy Expo @ Madison
RSVP by Sept. 25th

8th - Bushell & a Peck Apple Orchard @ Chippewa Falls

13th - Learn Build Fly @ Wausau Airport 10:00 - 2:00

15th - Team Building/Nature Hike @ McKenzie Center Poynette 10:00 - 1:00
RSVP by Oct. 1st

20th - Sugar Skull! Musical @ Appleton 12:30 - 2:30 **CLOSED**

27th - Annie @ Madison 10:00 - 12:45
RSVP by Sept. 27th

Sign up here



IXL fall benchmark window is open until October 2nd. Please take your time & spread it out!

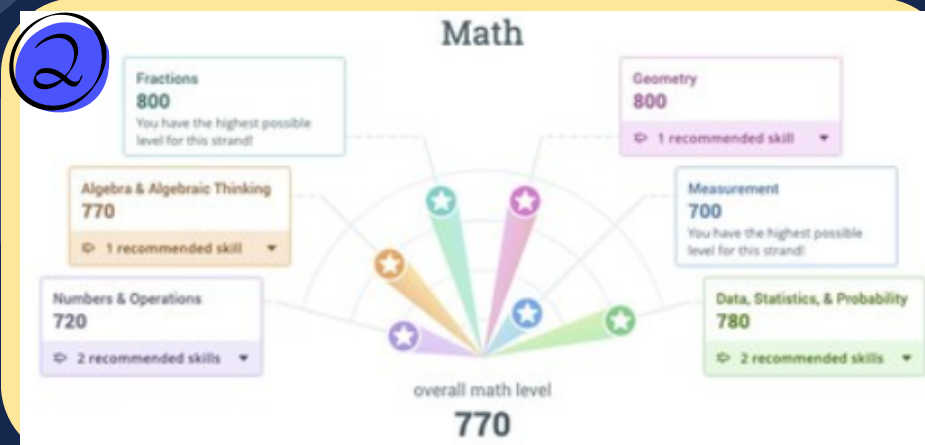
Please have your student(s) log in to complete their math & ELA levels by "Stepping into the arena" (see pic 1)

You will know they are done when there are stars at the end of each of the strands on the assessment graphic & a score at the bottom of it rather than a range. (See pic 2)



The Diagnostic shows you what you know and what to work on next.

Step into the arena >



RESPONSE NEEDED

Reminder to read & fill out the [WISE Academy Family Contract form](#). Please fill out electronically (link in 1 paragraph) or print & sign and send a picture to your teacher by **September 18, 2026**.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

We are hoping to run the Student Spotlight page in the newsletter every week. Please consider sending pictures of student accomplishments or working on projects. We want to share the great things WISE students are doing with other WISE families!

CALENDAR REMINDER

Reminder that as field trips are being added for future months, we are updating the WISE Year at a Glance calendar so you can plan ahead.

You can always find that calendar here.

2026	DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			

CONTACT INFO

Stacey Russell, Principal

Stacey Hahn

Kristin Daliege

Angie Hillemeier

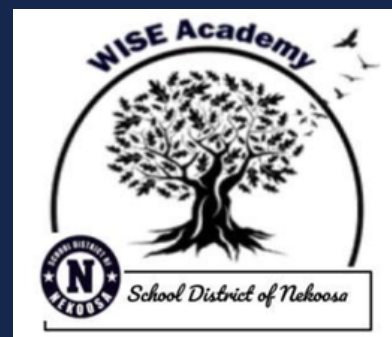
Madison Skusevich

Jeremy Radtke

Mandy Tuttle, Student Services Secretary

[WISE Year at a Glance](#)

[WISE Webpage](#)



HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

CAREER EXPLORATION - AGRICULTURE

World Dairy Expo

 **Step Into the World of Dairy!** Join WISE at World Dairy Expo in Madison on October 2nd for an exciting day exploring dairy cattle, innovative technology, equipment, and the many careers connecting agriculture, science, business, engineering, and skilled trades.

RSVP [HERE](#) by 9/25 to reserve your spot!

Fall Harvest Day - Career Development Opportunity

Get an **up-close look** at how some of Wisconsin's most recognized crops make their way from the field to market - and **discover the people, technology, and careers that make it happen!**

Thursday, September 24th from 9 am-1 pm in Hancock. Lunch provided. 11th & 12th graders only

[See Event Flyer Here](#)

Email your teacher for info on how to register for this event!

AG Tech Exploration Day w/ Swiderski Equipment

Hands-on learning: Students rotate through interactive stations to test new technologies, drive tractors, and see equipment operation and diagnostics

Core Topics: GPS-guided tractors, precision planting, drones, telematics, and data-driven decision-making

Career Exploration: connect with industry experts to learn about jobs in precision agriculture, equipment sales, mechanics, and service!

Thursday, October 1st

(Session 1: 9 am - 12:30 pm, or Session 2: 11 am - 2:20 pm)

High schoolers only

Email your teacher for info on how to register for this event!

Professional Dairy Producers' 2026 STRIDE Youth Leadership Conference

Through interactive workshops, hands-on labs, and experienced trainers and agricultural professionals, students will build confidence, explore opportunities, and strengthen the leadership and career skills that will set them apart. STRIDE also qualifies as an "above the chapter level" activity through the Wisconsin FFA! *Training materials, meals, and a T-shirt are provided with the \$100 registration fee!*

Tuesday, November 17th (9 am - 6:15 pm) in Madison.

Students ages 15 - 18

[See Event Flyer Here](#)

Email your teacher for info on how to register for this event!



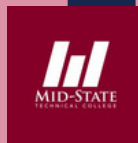
HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

CAREER EXPLORATION - TECH COLLEGE EVENTS

Mid-State - Tech-Con 2.1

Located at MSTC in Stevens Point, students are invited to join in activities on website hacking, VR, AI, lock picking, soldering, programming, retro computing, cipher cracking, and MORE! Join WISE for this exciting day exploring all things computer science and IT! No experience necessary - if your student is interested in computer science and IT-related fields, this event is perfect for you!

Friday, November 13th from 9am - 2pm. For high school students only.



Mid-State - BizCon

Entrepreneurial Experience: Work in teams to identify a real-world problem and develop a creative product or service solution.

Interactive Business Games: Put business knowledge and creativity to the test through Who Wants to Be a Business Leader? Back in the Day... What Would You Pay?, and Brand Feud.

Teamwork & Pitch Development: Collaborate with teammates to turn an idea into a compelling business pitch.

BizCon Pitch Showcase: Take the stage and present your team's product or service idea.

Wednesday, October 28th from 9 am-2pm in Stevens Point.
Students K-12 welcome!

Fox Valley Tech College - Nursing Program Info Session

This Nursing Information Session is designed to provide you with information about admission requirements for the nursing programs, class time information, prerequisites, and much more. For students interested in CNA, Licensed Practical Nursing, LPN to ADN Pathway program or Nursing Associate Degree.

Tuesday, November 10th from 1-3 pm
Located at the Appleton Main Campus



NTC Showcase - Diesel & CDL Day

Ready to fuel your future? High school students are invited to Diesel and CDL Day, a hands-on introduction to two powerhouse career paths in diesel mechanics and transportation.

- Explore our Diesel Technician labs
- Learn about CDL training and career options
- Meet instructors and industry pros
- Discover how NTC can help you launch a high-demand, high-pay career

Whether you're interested in engines or driving big rigs, this is your chance to see where these careers can take you—no experience required!

November 11th from 9:30 am - 12 pm in Wausau. For high school students only.



NTC Showcase - Plant & Animal Science Day

Step into the exciting world of plant and animal science and experience what it is like to work in modern agriculture! Learn from NTC Instructors and industry professionals, tour our state-of-the-art facilities, and discover how a future in agriculture could start right here. Whether your students are curious about crop science, technology, veterinary technician, or animal health, this is their chance to see it all up close.

October 9th from 9:30 am - 1 pm in Wausau. For high school students only.



Email your teacher for info on how to register for these events!
RSVPs Required

SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Durable skills are the essential skills that help us succeed in school, work, and everyday life. They include skills like communication, critical thinking, collaboration, adaptability, and problem-solving. Unlike skills tied to one specific job or subject, durable skills can be used anywhere, anytime, and throughout life.

At WISE, we focus on giving students real-world opportunities to practice, strengthen, and apply these skills through learning, activities, field trips, and everyday experiences.

Durable Skill of the Month:



COMMUNICATION

WAYS TO LEARN AT HOME



Grades 4k - 2

- 🎭 **Act It Out:** Take turns acting out a feeling or situation without talking. Can your family guess what you are communicating?
- 📖 **Tell Me a Story:** Look at a picture book or family photo and have your child tell you what is happening. Ask, "What makes you think that?"
- 🗣️ **Listening Detective:** Give your child three simple directions. Can they listen carefully and complete all three?
- 😊 **Guess the Feeling:** Use only your face and body language to communicate an emotion. Talk about how we communicate without words.
- 🏠 **Family Helper:** Let your child give directions for making a simple snack or setting the table. Encourage them to give clear, step-by-step instructions.

Grades 3 - 5

- 🧠 **Teach Me Something:** Have your child teach a family member how to do something they know well. Encourage them to give clear, step-by-step directions.
- 📱 **Rewrite the Message:** Take a short text message and rewrite it in three ways: friendly, professional, and persuasive. Discuss how word choice can change the message.
- 🗣️ **Family Debate:** Pick a fun topic—best pizza topping, pets vs. no pets, summer vs. winter—and let each person make their case while practicing respectful disagreement.
- 📞 **Telephone Challenge:** Play the classic telephone game and talk about how information can change when we don't listen carefully or communicate clearly.

Grades 6+

- 💬 **The 2-Minute Conversation:** Pick a topic and have a two-minute conversation where each person practices listening, asking follow-up questions, and responding thoughtfully.
- ✉️ **Write Like a Professional:** Have your student write a pretend email to a teacher, employer, coach, or community organization. Practice using a clear subject, greeting, complete sentences, and respectful tone.
- 📺 **Spot the Message:** Find an advertisement, social media post, or news story. Ask: Who is the audience? What is the message? How is the creator trying to communicate it?
- 🎧 **Mini Podcast:** Have your student record a 2-3 minute audio or video sharing their opinion on a topic they care about. Challenge them to have a clear beginning, middle, and end.

It is Hispanic Heritage Month!

- **Visit** - Click [here](#) for a virtual field trip to the Smithsonian Latino Center
- **Explore** - Choose a Spanish-speaking country to explore! Learn about its geography, traditions, food, music, and holidays. Share 3-5 interesting facts with your family.
- **Interview** - Interview a family member, friend, or community member about their family traditions, culture, or heritage. Practice asking thoughtful questions, listening carefully, and sharing what you learned with others.

CHALLENGE: Snap a photo of your student learning about these spotlights & send it to their teacher to be featured in a future newsletter!