

September 28, 2026

WISE ACADEMY NEWS

FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

On September 23rd, WISE families attended a trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum, where students explored exhibits that brought history, science, culture, and the natural world to life. Students had the opportunity to learn through hands-on experiences, ask questions, and make connections between what they see in the museum and what they have been learning at home!



On September 24th, WISE families visited the Hearthstone Historic House in Appleton. It gave us a fascinating look into the early days of electricity and how it transformed American life. We learned that Hearthstone was the first house in the world to be illuminated by a hydroelectric power station using Edison's electrical system, making it an important site in the history of green energy and technological advancement. It was a wonderful opportunity to step back in time and see how innovation helped shape the modern world.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October

2nd - World Dairy Expo @ Madison
CLOSED

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 **CLOSED**

December

15th - Christmas Carol @ Madison 10:00
RSVP by Oct. 1st



November events go live
October 1st

[Sign up here](#)

READING SUPPORT OPTIONS

WISE is excited to be expanding their options for reading support for our students!

WHO: Kindergarten - 9th grade

HOW: 2 pathways: live classes led by WISE teachers or online self-paced programs.

Live Classes

Led by our very own WISE teachers, these small group classes are a great way for students to get support & feedback.



UFLI - phonics program that builds decoding, phonemic awareness & fluent reading.

Word Origins - program that teaches morphology (root words) to strengthen vocabulary & fluent reading.

Online Self-Paced Programs



Lexia Learning uses adaptive-learning technology to give students personalized instruction.

Core 5 - phonics program that builds decoding, phonemic awareness & fluent reading.

Power Up - focuses on word study, grammar, & comprehension.

[Click here for more info on our flyer & to sign up using the link at the bottom.](#)

FIELD TRIP FOLLOW-UP



At the Fish Hatchery field trip in Wild Rose we learned about an upcoming Open House at the Kewaunee Fish Facility on October 10th from 9:00 - 2:00.

[Click here for the flyer.](#)



ATTENDANCE REMINDER

Reminder that if you're not going to be "in school" on any day that school is in session, to let your teacher know you will be/are absent. We need to track our absences for the state just like any other school.

[Check the 26/27 school calendar here.](#)

IXL REMINDER



Reminder that the fall benchmark window in IXL is open until Oct. 2nd - that's this Friday!

Please make sure your child completes both the math & ELA benchmarks before then as we use this for school level data & improvement.

Thank you!!!

CONTACT INFO

Stacey Russell, Principal

Stacey Hahn

Kristin Daliege

Angie Hillemeier

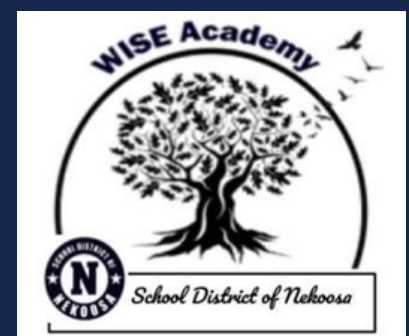
Madison Skusevich

Jeremy Radtke

Mandy Tuttle, Student Services Secretary

WISE Year at a Glance

WISE Webpage



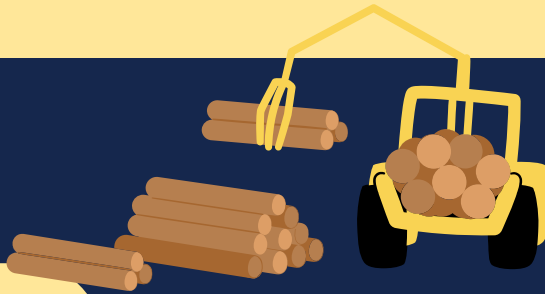
HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

CAREER EXPLORATION - AGRICULTURE

Career Exploration in Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources

Interested in learning what kinds of careers are out there in this field & what the wage median is? Navigate through the table based on level of education desired (high school diploma, apprenticeship, Associate's Degree, or Bachelor's Degree). Click on Overview to learn what that job is all about. Even see how many current openings there are in each field.

Check it out on the [Department of Workforce Development - Agriculture pathways](#)



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!**

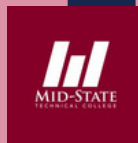
HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

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!