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Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School is getting a new principal. MELISSA SIEGLER/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

New principal coming to WRAMS in 2026-27

Erik Pfantz

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Students and families in the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools district will see new leadership at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) next school year.

Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) announced Jan. 14 the permanent appointment of current Washington Elementary principal Kelly Schaeffer to the principal role at WRAMS beginning July 1 following the retirement of current principal Tracy Ginter.

“I am honored to continue my journey with WRPS families,” Schaeffer said in a news release. “I look forward to building new collaborative relationships and having a lasting, positive impact on our middle school students.”



Schaeffer

Schaeffer will continue to build on her more than 25 years of teaching and student service experience in the role. She first joined WRPS in 2011 when she was named principal of Washington Elementary and has been influential in growing the school’s “Wolf Pack” community, according to the release.

“Kelly has created a welcoming, positive school culture at Washington and will be missed at the elementary level,” Ron Rasmussen, superintendent, said in an email to a Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune reporter.

Prior to joining WRPS, Schaeffer worked as an administrator, third-grade teacher and reading specialist in a neighboring district, according to her profile on the elementary school’s website. She also holds a

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Local banks sound alarm on ‘recovery scams’

Nida Tazeen

AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

Five local banks are warning consumers about a rising fraud scheme targeting people who have already lost money to scams.

The trend, known as a “recovery scam,” involves criminals who promise to help victims recover stolen funds – but demand a fee or sensitive information in return, according to a community announcement.

Federal authorities, including the FBI, have reported an increase in these cases. Scammers often pose as law enforcement, government officials, banks, attorneys or professional recovery services. They may contact fraud victims days or weeks after the initial scam, claiming they can retrieve lost money if the victim pays an upfront fee or “verifies” account details through a link or payment.

“Once someone has been scammed, they’re often emotionally vulnerable and eager to fix the situation. Unfortunately, criminals know this and exploit it,” Connie Zuleger, COO at Prevail Bank, said in the announcement. “Recovery scams add insult to injury by targeting people when they’re already under stress.”

Scammers use real details to appear legitimate

According to the announcement, recovery scammers often reference real events or previous interactions to build credibility. They may claim to be following up on a fraud report, an online complaint, or a conversation with a bank or government agency. In some cases, they create fake websites or reporting portals that closely resemble legitimate resources, including well-known fraud reporting platforms.

“No legitimate bank, government agency, or law enforcement organization will charge a fee to recover stolen funds or ask for sensitive information through unsolicited contact,” Natalyn Jannene, vice president of marketing at AbbyBank, said in the announcement. “Any request for payment or credentials tied to ‘recovering’ money should be treated as a red flag.”

Banks urge caution and direct communication

The banks recommend that consumers work directly with their financial institutions using verified contact information, such as the phone number on the back of a debit or credit card. They advise caution with unsolicited emails, calls, texts or social media messages offering recovery services – even if those

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Report: U.S. likely saw negative net migration

2025 could be first time in decades trend was reported

Jeanine Santucci

USA TODAY

For the first time in decades, net migration for the United States was likely negative in 2025, and the trend could continue amid President Donald Trump’s aggressive immigration enforcement actions, according to a new think tank report.

A “significant” drop-off in new entries into the country coupled with an increase in immigration enforcement activity leading to more removals and voluntary departures contributed to the close to zero or negative net migration, according to a report released Jan. 13 from the Brookings Institution. Net migration for 2025 was estimated in the report to be between

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Negative net migration hasn’t been seen in the United States in at least 50 years, the report said.

JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ/REUTERS

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