

Flip book to see
Community Services &
Recreation Catalog

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Strategic Plan and Facilities Planning

As we look forward to a new school year, excitement about the District's future continues to build. In May, our School Board unanimously approved a new Strategic Plan following a year-long process involving more than 200 staff and community members. Initiatives are intended to be implemented in three phases, with the first phase happening within the first one to two years, the second in three to four years, and phase three happening in five years and beyond.

Continued on District News page.

Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

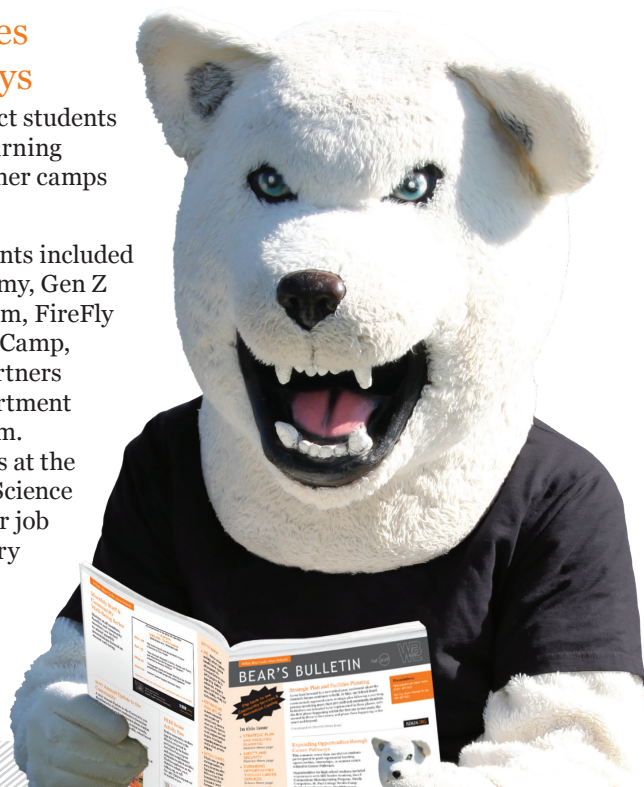
ISD624.ORG

Expanding Opportunities Through Career Pathways

This summer, more than 100 District students participated in paid experiential learning opportunities, internships, or summer camps related to Career Pathways.

Opportunities for high school students included experiences with MN Trades Academy, Gen Z Connections Manufacturing Program, FireFly Computers, St. Paul College Scrubs Camp, Technology Repair Store, HealthPartners Career Academy, and the MN Department of Transportation's Phoenix Program. Students also completed internships at the University of Minnesota Materials Science program. One student continued her job shadow experience at TLC Veterinary and six students participated in the St. Paul College Welding & Manufacturing Camp.

Continued on School News page.





FOLLOW DR. K  /DRK_ISD624

Message from the Superintendent

We invite you to connect with us in some way this school year, whether it is through attending an activity, connecting via phone or email, or following District happenings online.

One initiative we began last year and will continue in the new school year is *Coffee with Dr. K*, a relaxed conversation over a cup of coffee/tea that follows no formal agenda. The conversations will take place at the Downtown WBL Caribou Coffee on the following dates and times:

- Oct. 9, 2018, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
- Nov. 15, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 15, 2019, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
- Feb. 21, 2019, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- April 16, 2019, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

District Awards

» PUBLICATION AWARDS

The District recently received three awards of Excellence, one award of Merit and two Honorable Mention awards from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) for various shareouts, publications and videos. The District also received a Northern Lights Award (the “gold medal” level) from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC) for the District’s “2017 Annual Update to the Community” publication.

» FINANCE AWARDS

The White Bear Lake Area School District recently received Excellence in Financial Reporting awards from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) and Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the highest forms of recognition given in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. ISD 624 has received the awards for 18 consecutive years. The District has received a bond rating of AA from Standard and Poor’s every year the District has applied since 2010.

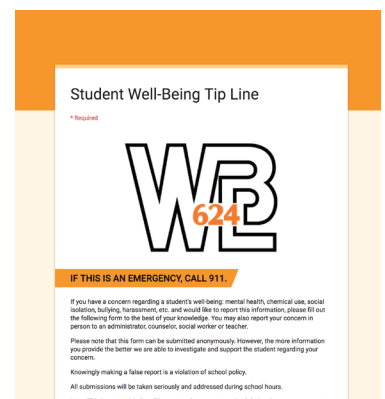
Safety and Security

As we begin the 2018-19 academic year, additional safety and security measures are being implemented district-wide.

The District has hired an Emergency and Safety Supervisor to work throughout the District on safety initiatives. The new supervisor will be responsible for coordinating the District’s emergency preparedness program, leading emergency and safety planning and strategy, and conducting emergency-related training sessions and drills. This position will also be responsible for maintaining effective relationships with first responders and local law enforcement.

Efforts are also being made to empower students to be well. Beginning this fall, all middle school and high school students will have access to a new electronic form, the Student Well-Being Tip Line, to report concerns regarding a student’s well-being: mental health, chemical use, social isolation, bullying, harassment, etc. The form can be submitted anonymously. However, the more information provided the better we are able to investigate and support the student regarding the concern.

Students may also continue to report concerns in person to an administrator, counselor, social worker or teacher.



Upcoming School Board Meeting Dates

Sept. 10, 2018.....	Regular meeting	Nov. 12, 2018	Regular meeting
Sept. 24, 2018	Work-Study meeting	Nov. 26, 2018	Work-Study meeting
Oct. 8, 2018	Regular meeting	Dec. 10, 2018.....	Regular meeting
Oct. 22, 2018	Work-Study meeting		

- » All Regular and Work-Study White Bear Lake Area School Board meetings take place in the Community Room at District Center (4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake).
 - Regular meetings begin at 7 p.m. / Work-Study meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
- » Agendas, Board Packets, Minutes, Highlights and Video links are posted on the District’s website at www.isd624.org/about/School-Board.asp as they become available.
- » Regular White Bear Lake Area School Board meetings are re-broadcast on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area the week of a regular business meeting:
 - Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. / Thursdays at 10 a.m.

Administrative Hires

Lisa Ouren is the new Director of Student Support Services following the retirement of Kathleen Daniels. Ms. Ouren has served in a student support services supervisor role in the White Bear Lake Area Schools since 2014, overseeing special education programming at elementary, middle school and high school levels. She has led paraprofessional staff development and has overseen various state-mandated programs and procedures.

Before joining White Bear, Lisa served in a special education role in the Centennial School District for 17 years and gained experience in programming for students from birth through age 21. She began her career as a lead general education teacher, has served as an adjunct professor, and was on a humanitarian sojourn in India early in her career.

Matt Young is the new associate principal at WBLAHS - South Campus following the retirement of Brian Leonard. Mr. Young has served in a variety of positions within high school and middle school settings, with experience as an administrator, engineering specialist and science teacher in three different districts. He began his career teaching at WBLAHS - North Campus.

He served most recently as dean of students at Chippewa Middle School in the Mounds View School District, providing professional development for staff and working closely with students and families. Previously, Matt was an engineering specialist in Mahtomedi Public Schools, where he developed curriculum and managed a Fab Lab created during his time in the district.



Strategic Plan and Facilities Planning

Continued from front page.

Within these overall strategies lie many important pieces of the puzzle. Among the initiatives are building a school community that is responsive to all students and families, allowing members of all cultural groups to participate in our schools. Another initiative is that of encouraging student agency, allowing students to have choice and flexibility as they learn and achieve their goals. Inspiring environments that meet the needs of all learners, including collaborative and flexible spaces, are also an important part of our upcoming work.

In addition to the strategic planning process, the District will embark on a comprehensive facilities planning process this fall, engaging with the community to find the right fit for the District as we continue to grow and change. The District continues to grow, with families moving into homes of empty-nesters who have put their houses on the market in the southern part of our district and neighborhoods being built at a fast pace in the north. With this excitement comes the necessity to look at our current reality, study what could be, and build a forward-looking plan that will sustain us through our growing student numbers.

As we gear up for a new school year, we look forward to continue working with our students, guardians, staff and community members as we write a story of educational excellence in the White Bear Lake Area School District, providing an environment that allows students to create their own fulfilling and meaningful futures.



2018 Retirees

Forty retirees were honored at the School Board-sponsored 2018 Retirement Dinner, with a collective total of 858 years of service. See the list of employees in the video and event program at the link below.



<http://www.isd624.org/news/index.asp?DocID=2380>

2018-19 Updates

» COLLEGE CREDIT

Our high school students can choose from more than 40 college-credit courses. The total value of credits earned by WBLAHS students was more than \$2.4 million at University of Minnesota tuition rates last year.

» CAREER PATHWAYS

Career Pathways programs are available to our high school students in four areas: Manufacturing, Construction, Information Technology and Healthcare.

» PARTNERSHIPS

The District has program and facility community partnerships with YMCA, MacPhail Center for Music, White Bear Center for the Arts, and Tamarack Nature Center. Academic partnerships with local universities and international schools also offer students innovative opportunities.

» STUDENT SUPPORT

Elementary literacy coaches and K-12 instructional technology coaches work with teachers and students. Teacher teams collaborate to analyze student data and adjust instruction based on student needs.

» STRATEGIC PLAN

The School Board approved a new Strategic Plan in April that will help guide the District's direction for years to come.

» FACILITIES PLANNING

The District will embark on a comprehensive facilities planning process this fall, engaging with the community to find the right fit for the district as we continue to change and grow.

2018-19 Enrollment Process

The District's Centralized Enrollment Center at the District Center Office in White Bear Lake allows parents to enroll their students in one centralized location. For information, or to register your child in the White Bear Lake Area School District, please call 651-407-7674. Information is also available on the District's website at <http://www.isd624.org/enroll>.

The District accepts open enrollment, with placement based upon availability.

Centralized Enrollment Center:

4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Tel: 651-407-7674, Fax: 651-407-7502

Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday - Friday



Early Childhood Screening Screen at 3

Early Childhood Screening is required by the state of Minnesota for all children prior to entering kindergarten.

The best age at which to screen is age three. The White Bear Lake Area School District provides this screening at no charge.

3 REASONS TO SCREEN AT 3:

- Screening can ensure school success
- If health or developmental concerns are identified, educational services are available
- It is fun and provides parents/guardians with valuable information regarding child development

Register online at <https://whitebear.ce.eleyo.com> or 651-653-3100

Early Childhood Screening takes place at:
Normandy Park Education Center
2482 East County Road F
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Emergency Weather Closing

When a decision is made to close schools, an announcement will be made over major radio and television stations as early in the morning as possible. The announcement will identify our school district as White Bear Lake Area Public Schools. Efforts will also be made to use the parent notification alert system to notify families of school closures. Parents may also check the District website or Facebook/Twitter page, or call the White Bear Lake Area School Closing Hotline number at 651-407-7540.

If no announcement is made, schools will be in session as scheduled.

School Supplies

School supply lists for the 2018-19 academic year are available online at individual school websites and as a comprehensive list at www.isd624.org.

Community donations have made it possible for the District to distribute a limited number of backpacks and school supplies to families who are in need. District families who would like to inquire about receiving donated school supplies should contact their child's school for additional information.



Expanding Opportunities through Career Pathways

Continued from front page.

Younger students also had the opportunity to gain experience in the skilled trades. Students entering grades six through nine are participating in a program through the Construction Trades Foundation called Kids at Work. The District's Technology Department will also employ more than 20 students this summer for Tech Depot, an initiative through which students will repair, clean, image and deploy technology devices over the course of the summer.

"Opportunities to help students find their purpose is critical to our strategic work," said Assistant Superintendent Sara Paul. "Early opportunities to explore careers can help students design their high school learning plans."

White Bear Lake Area Schools was one of five recipients of a \$95,000 Youth Skills Training (YST) grant to develop and implement paid-learning opportunities for students 16 years of age and older. "These grants allow high schools, businesses and community organizations to work together to train students and create skilled workers for their communities," said Ken Peterson, DLI commissioner. The healthcare pathway partnership with Cerenity Senior Care will support more than 130 students to earn industry recognized credentials that will help address workforce shortages.

2018-19 Activities Calendar

The 2018-19 Activities Calendar was recently mailed to District families.

Community members who would like a printed copy of the calendar can pick one up at their neighborhood school or District Center in September. A request can also be made by email to Jody Reber (jody.reber@isd624.org). Please include your full name and address in the email so we can mail you a copy of the publication.

Find an electronic version of the 2018-19 Activities Calendar on the District website, www.isd624.org/about/Calendar.asp

The District has received an Award of Excellence from the National School Public Relations Association for its Activities Calendar publications.

2018-19 Updates

- » **AVID**
Middle school and high school students benefit from a rigorous Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program that is expanding. Students collaborate, engage in inquiry, and learn college-level reading, writing and study strategies.
- » **PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS**
Students have rich opportunities to explore and develop their talents in the arts. Our students consistently receive state and national-level honors in visual arts. Our strong theatre, choir and music programs continue to grow.
- » **GIFTED & TALENTED**
Gifted cluster groupings challenge students at every elementary school. Explorations, a School-Within-a-School for the Exceptionally Gifted, is housed at Lincoln Elementary.
- » **STEM**
All elementary students have access to STEM programming, with rigorous, real-world, and hands-on lessons that integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Middle schools offer robotics, design and modeling, and other STEM classes. High school offerings include Project Lead the Way and Career Pathways programs.
- » **EXPANDED PROGRAMS**
District-wide world language, orchestra and gifted program offerings have expanded.



Pierre named Principal of the Year

Dr. Christina Pierre, principal at Sunrise Park Middle School, was named the Capital Division Middle School Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP).

In the nomination letter, she was lauded for her ability to connect with students, parents and staff and to set high expectations while building a collaborative community of teacher leaders. “Dr. Pierre regularly involves staff and parents to help create solutions, working together to ensure that students are constantly learning and growing,” said Sunrise Park Middle School Assistant Principal Matt Menier.

Dr. Pierre has served as principal of Sunrise Park Middle School since 2015. Under her leadership, the student schedule has been modified to allow time for students to work on social skills. She also has prioritized finding new ways to help all students succeed and serving students who struggle. During the 2017-18 school year, Pierre worked collaboratively with other District leaders and community members to help build the District’s Strategic Plan.

“Dr. Pierre is a strong instructional leader,” said Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak. “She consistently keeps student learning at the center of every important decision she makes and expects excellence from herself and her staff.”

Clark named WBLTA Teacher of the Year

Maggie Clark, a fifth grade teacher at Oneka Elementary who is also a White Bear Lake Area High School graduate, is the 2018 White Bear Lake Teachers’ Association’s Teacher of the Year. She will represent the District during the 2018-19 academic year in the state-wide process sponsored by Education Minnesota.

Other finalists for the District award included Ben Kirkham (WBLAHS - North Campus), Cassie Knutson (WBLAHS - South Campus), Alli McCann (WBLAHS - North Campus), Mel Tlusty (Central Middle School), and Melissa Wickert (WBLAHS - North Campus).



Funk receives Lynn Mielke Distinguished Educator Award

Chemical Health Specialist Jennifer Funk was named the 2018 Lynn Mielke Distinguished Educator Award recipient. Funk was nominated by Brian Merhar, School Counselor at South Campus. As stated in the nomination letter, “I have seen first-hand the impact that Jennifer has made on students as they celebrate one day, one month, or even a year or more of sobriety. She is there every step of the way as students pursue a better life for themselves. Countless students say she is the most important adult in their lives as they battle addictions.”

The award, given by the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation each year, recognizes a district staff member who “always puts at the forefront their compassion and love for children.” The award was initiated several years ago after the death of Lynn Mielke, who was a special education teacher in the White Bear Lake Area School District for more than 25 years.

Knutson receives Teacher of Excellence Award

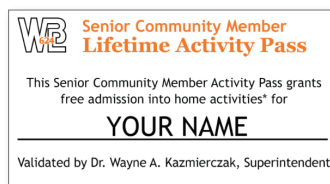
White Bear Lake Area High School Business Education teacher Kelly Knutson received a Teacher of Excellence Award sponsored by BestPrep.

This year, the Teacher of Excellence Awards were given to nine Minnesota educators who have utilized BestPrep’s programs and created experiential learning opportunities for their students in the classroom. Knutson has been a partner and advocate of BestPrep for several years and widely utilizes several of its programs. Students in his classrooms participate in email mentoring, learn from speakers about topics such as entrepreneurship and accounting, and perform mock interviews. In addition, he and his students have participated in The Stock Market Game, a BestPrep program that allows students to invest virtual money in stocks.



FREE Senior Activity Pass

Senior community members (age 65+) who live in the District are invited to participate in the Senior Activities Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities. Find the application on the District's website, www.isd624.org, or call the Superintendent's Office at 651-407-7563 to request one be mailed to you.



Born to Be a Bear!

We're looking for photos of little ones in their "Born to be a Bear" onesies!

Email photos to communications@isd624.org and you may find your little one featured in District publications!



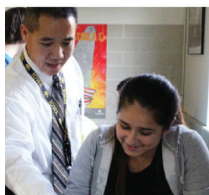
Our Mission

The mission of the White Bear Lake Area School District, the community at the forefront of educational excellence, honoring our legacy and courageously building the future, is to ensure each student realizes their unique talents and abilities, and makes meaningful contributions with local and global impact through a vital system distinguished by:

- Students who design and create their own future
- Diversity of people and ideas
- Safe, nurturing and inspiring environments
- Exceptional staff and families committed to student success
- Abundant and engaged community partners

WE ARE HIRING!

Find employment opportunities at www.isd624.org.



Now hiring:

- Substitute Teachers
- Extended Day staff
- Nutrition Services staff
- Bus drivers
- Paras
- MORE!



White Bear Lake Area Schools

Leading minds to learning, hearts to compassion and lives to community service.

4855 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

651-407-7500
isd624.org



Stay Connected

• E-NEWSLETTER

"Join Our Email List" on the front page of the District website to receive the Community e-Newsletter, sent out each week - with alternating text and video editions. The text editions cover student and staff successes, school and Community Education offerings, and School Board proceedings.

• COMMUNITY CHANNEL

Watch us on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area with District information and updates. School Board meetings are broadcast after regular business meetings on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Thursday at 10 a.m.

• STAY SOCIAL

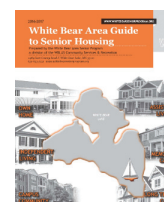
Join White Bear Lake Area Schools' social media circles - Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for daily 624 Fact posts and *The Week in 62.4 Seconds* video share-outs. Find links on the District's website.



Senior Program Publications

The White Bear Lake Area Schools Senior Program offers a variety of senior resources.

Contact the department at 651-653-3121 to request printed copies of any of the following guides:



White Bear Area Guide to Senior Housing



White Bear Area Guide to Senior Transportation

Parent Safety Night

The All-District Parent Safety Night will take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 8 at WBLAHS - South Campus.

Topics to be covered include:

- Human Trafficking
- Youth Mental Health
- Internet Safety
- Youth Drug Use and Awareness

A Traffic Safety Information table will be hosted to answer questions about teen driving laws and share information about keeping teens safe on the road.



Fall Musical - Mamma Mia!

The WBLAHS - Fall Musical of "Mamma Mia!" will be

performed at 7 p.m. Nov. 9-10 and Nov. 15-17. A 2 p.m. matinee will be performed on Nov. 10. The matinee performance is free for senior citizens, but tickets must be reserved in advance.

Tickets will be available closer to the date of the production.

Important Dates

- » **AUG. 29**
ELEMENTARY
WELCOME BACK
CONFERENCES
@ All Elementary Schools
(Grades 1-5)
Contact individual elementary schools for additional information.
- » **SEPT. 3**
LABOR DAY
(NO SCHOOL)
- » **SEPT. 4**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
(GR. 6-12)
- » **SEPT. 4**
ELEMENTARY
WELCOME BACK
CONFERENCES
@ All Elementary Schools
(Grades 1-5)
Contact individual elementary schools for additional information.
- » **SEPT. 4 & 5**
KINDERGARTEN
ORIENTATION
- » **SEPT. 5**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
(GR. 1-5)
- » **SEPT. 6**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
(KINDERGARTEN)
- » **SEPT. 10**
SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **SEPT. 24**
SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
SCHOOL BOARD
WORK-STUDY
MEETING
5:45 p.m. at District Center

Coffee with Dr. K

Community members are invited to stop by throughout the 2018-19 academic year for an informal chat with Superintendent Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee or tea at the Downtown White Bear Lake Caribou Coffee on the following dates/times:

- Oct. 9, 2018 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
- Nov. 15, 2018 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 15, 2019 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
- Feb. 21, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- April 16, 2019 from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.



Homecoming 2018

Mark your calendar to attend the following community-wide events that will take place during the week of Homecoming 2018:

- » **MONDAY, OCT. 1** **HOMECOMING CORONATION**
7 p.m. at WBLAHS - South Campus
- » **FRIDAY, OCT. 5** **HOMECOMING PARADE & FOOTBALL GAME**
3 p.m. Parade at Downtown White Bear Lake
7 p.m. Football Game at WBLAHS - South Campus
- » **SATURDAY, OCT. 6** **HOMECOMING BEARPOWER 6.24K FUN RUN/WALK**
9 a.m. at WBLAHS - South Campus



White Bear Lake Area Schools

Leading minds to learning, hearts to compassion, and lives to community service.

Serving the communities of Birchwood, Gem Lake, Hugo, Lino Lakes, Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, and White Bear Township.



OUR MISSION

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