

**Flip book to see
Community Services &
Recreation Catalog**

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We are Hiring!

For specific information about the various employment opportunities available in the district, please visit the Human Resources page on the district's website at www.isd624.org/employment.

Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

ISD624.ORG

Building our future together

Though some days in recent weeks have been cold enough to bring the entire region to a standstill, the year in its entirety has been an exciting one with all of the related hustle and bustle.

A major initiative being undertaken by White Bear Lake Area Schools this year is a facilities planning process that kicked off in the fall of 2018. The district's projected enrollment growth and our visionary Strategic Plan underscore the need for a review of the district's buildings and learning environments. Ninety community members were chosen from a larger applicant pool to be members of the Facility Planning Committee, which has met numerous times to study the district's facilities from the lenses of learning spaces, community spaces, and physical conditions.

An important element of the facilities planning process is a community survey that was conducted in December, with results presented to the School Board in January. The community opinions shared with us through this survey will help us continue to best serve our families and communities in the years to come.

Continued on District News page.



Building our future together

Continued from front page.

This key overall feedback of the study included the finding that 90% of those surveyed rated the quality of the district as good or excellent. The most liked elements and highest rated characteristics of the district were the quality of our teachers, academic achievement, the variety of programs offered, and our broad curriculum. The high rating of the district's academics really stood out, as did the rating of the district's athletic programs and our music, theater and arts offerings.

Community members responded with very positive perceptions of the district. For example, there was a high level of agreement with a survey item related to the district providing a safe learning environment, being a good value for investment, being trusted to do the right thing, and being accountable.

Specific to the classroom, more than three-quarters of the respondents placed importance on students having input and choice in learning. Ninety-five percent of those surveyed placed importance on students being able to work together. More than 80% of respondents placed importance on the flexibility of learning spaces and classrooms designed to student learning. Our community understands the importance of student agency, one of the core components to the district's Strategic Plan that was approved by the School Board in the spring of 2018.

Those who are interested in seeing the entire 2018 Residential Survey results presentation can find the file in the Facility Planning Committee Meeting #8 Materials section of the Facilities Planning Process page of the district website, at www.isd624.org/about/Facilities-Planning.asp. This website will continue to host materials for the Facilities Planning Committee conversations, so we encourage you to visit the site to learn more about the discussions that have taken place.

The conversations that are taking place within the committee are thorough and thoughtful. A major strength to the process is the variety of viewpoints represented around the table at each of the meetings, which has led to meaningful discussions. Our committee members have taken their task seriously, reflecting on the facilities options and gathering input from their constituent groups and communities. The questions that have been asked of our planning team and administration have been many, which is an important part of the process. Each time the questions are asked, the answers that are reached help define and refine the district's plan and purpose in this initiative.

After continuing to study the options in a Solutions Subcommittee and within the larger 90-member group, the Planning Committee will present a recommendation to the School Board that is scheduled as an agenda item at the April 22 Work-Study meeting. The recommendation will be based on capacity, current enrollment, projected enrollment, educational needs of the School District, alignment with the District's Strategic Vision, community recreation, special programs, school security, and financial stewardship.



The district will continue to solicit community engagement and feedback in the Facilities Planning Process, including the facilitation of a community survey that will be mailed to each residence in the district and be available in an online format. Please look for that survey to be coming, and please engage in the process and provide input. The feedback received from community members will be an important part of helping us to shape the plan moving forward as we work together to build the future of our growing school district.

FOLLOW DR. K  /DRK_ISD624

Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak,
Superintendent of White Bear Lake Area Schools



School Board Meetings

March 25..Work-Study Mtng
 April 8.....Regular Mtng
 April 22....Work-Study Mtng
 May 13.....Regular Mtng
 May 20....Work-Study Mtng
 June 10.....Regular Mtng
 July 8....Work-Study Mtng

- » All Board meetings take place in the Community Room 112 at District Center (4855 Bloom Ave).
 - 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 as they become available.
- » Regular 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.

School Board

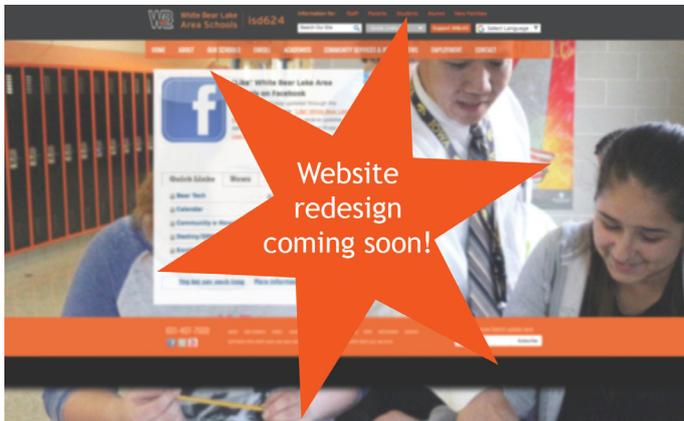
Constituents of District 624 are encouraged to contact members of the School Board with comments, questions or concerns. Phone numbers are available at the district website.

In addition, you can also email all elected School Board members and the Superintendent at schoolboard@isd624.org.



White Bear Lake Area School Board Members

Back row: Jessica Ellison, Scott Wilson, Don Mullin, Superintendent Wayne Kazmierczak (*not a voting member*), Kim Chapman, Marge Newmaster. Front row: Ellen Fahey, Student Liaison Madison Carroll (*not a voting member*), Student Liaison Makena Pratt (*not a voting member*), Deb Beloyed.



Website redesign to be unveiled soon

The district is currently working on a website redesign that will be unveiled later this spring. Along with a new look, the redesigned district and school sites will offer a calendar feature, upgraded search functionality, news and social media feeds, and translated pages to name a few of the improved elements.

Mental Well-Being Series

District staff and families are invited to attend monthly presentations focused on mental well-being.

The following presentations will take place in the coming months:

- “ADHD/ADD Supports and Toolbox” by Nicole McKinney on Tuesday, March 19 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the WBLAHS - North Campus Theater.
- “Healthy Teens and Safety” by Ramsey County Public Health on Tuesday, April 16 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the WBLAHS - North Campus Theater.
- “Finding Self-Control: Responses to Children’s Emotional and Physical Outbursts” by Jenny Hanlon, M.Ed, WBLAS on Tuesday, May 21 at the WBLAHS - North Campus Theater.

Detailed flyers are available on the district’s website, www.isd624.org.



Spring 2019 Graduation Ceremonies

- » **TRANSITION
EDUCATION CENTER**
12:30 p.m.
June 6
DC Community Auditorium
- » **AREA LEARNING
CENTER (ALC)**
6:30 p.m.
June 6
WBLAHS - South Campus
- » **WBLAHS**
7 p.m.
June 7
Aldrich Arena
- » **FIFTH GRADE
GRADUATIONS**
 - » Birch Lake
2:30 p.m. on June 4
 - » Lakeaires
2:45 p.m. on June 7
 - » Lincoln
10 a.m. on June 7
 - » Matoska International
2:45 p.m. on June 4
 - » Oneka
2 p.m. on June 6
 - » Otter Lake
2 p.m. on June 6
 - » Vadnais Heights
10 a.m. on June 7
 - » Willow Lane
2 p.m. on June 7

Site-level strategic planning

Following the district's Strategic Planning process that took place during the 2017-18 school year, school sites and programs have participated in site-level processes during the 2018-19 school year.

Each site hosted a planning team made up of staff members, parents and community members. The groups formulated building-specific tactics and objectives that complement the district's Strategic Plan.

The plans were presented to School Board liaisons at the January Work-Study Meeting, with materials available on the School Board Meetings page of the district website, www.isd624.org/about/School-Board.asp.



Community Partner Event

The district's Transition Education Center welcomed community partners and guests to its 9th annual Community Partner Event in February.

The event provided students with an opportunity to say "thank you" to community partners that have opened their doors to give students the chance to learn valuable employability skills. The program allowed students to showcase their skills and express their gratitude to community businesses.

"The Community Partner Event not only recognizes our partnerships with area businesses, but it also showcases the dedication of our work coordinators and job coaches. Most importantly it emphasizes our students' abilities to contribute to our workforce," said Transition Education Center Coordinator Sara Derby.

The White Bear Lake Area Schools Transition Education Center is a specialized learning center that is home to four programs tailored to students with unique educational needs:

- Transition Plus is a program for young adults with special needs, typically between the ages of 18-21.
- The Transition and Post-Secondary Preparation program provides an opportunity for young adults with special needs to progress toward graduation at an individualized pace based on their Individual Education Program (IEP).
- Project Search is a business-led high school transition model that provides students with disabilities meaningful job skills through systematic instruction and three internship opportunities in preparation for competitive employment.
- TEC also houses Accountability with Academics and Restorative Education (AWARE), an alternative to dismissal program and/or provides alternative education services for White Bear Lake Area School District students in grades 6-12.



Find us at Marketfest!

Our school principals, district administrators and Board members look forward to having terrific conversations with community members at Marketfest this summer.

Please be sure to stop by the district's booth Thursdays from June 13 through July 25 in Downtown White Bear Lake to receive a free pencil and Bear Paw temporary tattoo.

Also, watch for other district-related booths and scheduled entertainment in the fun Downtown White Bear Lake summertime tradition.



Save the Date - All-School Reunion

A multi-generation alumni committee is currently planning an All-School Reunion, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 28! Official details will be announced by the Alumni Association as they are finalized, but please mark your calendar and plan to attend!



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

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- » **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. Our middle schools offer robotics, design and modeling, and other STEM classes. Our 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.



Teachers receive National Board Certification

Congratulations to the district's latest National Board Certified teachers: Lincoln Elementary teacher Katie Anderson, Hugo Elementary teacher Jane Briggs and Oneka Elementary teacher Evan Weissman.

Each of these accomplished educators earned the profession's highest mark of achievement through a rigorous, performance-based, peer-review process, demonstrating their proven impact on student learning and achievement. *(Evan Weissman not pictured.)*

Paul receives finance certification

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Sara Paul recently received the designation of Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations from the Association of School Business Officials International.

Paul joins a small group of administrators in Minnesota who have earned this certification (SFO), which is internationally recognized and created specifically for school business officials.



Treichel recognized by WCCO

Innovation Coach Shannon Treichel was recently surprised with the Excellent Educator Certificate from WCCO Channel 4 News for her positive impact on students. Treichel serves students at both North and South Campuses of White Bear Lake Area High School and at the Area Learning Center.

Treichel was featured on a WCCO broadcast in February. The video is available on the WCCO website and is shared on the district's website, www.isd624.org.

Bianco named Social Studies Teacher of the Year

Matoska International IB World School fourth grade teacher Angela Bianco was named a 2019 Teacher of the Year by the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. Bianco was chosen to represent the elementary level, alongside two other teachers from throughout the state who represent middle school and high school levels.

The teachers are honored for exemplifying the best of social studies teaching in Minnesota.



125 Teachers nominated for Teacher of the Year

A total of 125 teachers from throughout the district were nominated for the 2019 White Bear Lake Teachers Association (WBLTA) Teacher of the Year honor. All nominees have the opportunity to continue with the selection process by submitting written responses to pedagogical and philosophical questions.

Six finalists will be selected to interview with members of the community, administration and their fellow teachers. The final celebration and announcement of the 2019 WBLTA Teacher of the Year will take place at the WBLAHS - South Campus Theater on April 25.

The full listing of nominees can be found on the district's website, www.isd624.org.

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.



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

2019-20 Parent Calendar Approved

The School Board recently approved the 2019-20 Parent Calendar, which includes no school days (holidays/breaks), parent conference dates, and first/last days of school.

The first days of school next fall will be Sept. 3 (Grades 6-12+), Sept. 4 (Grades 1-5), Sept. 5 (K). Winter Break will be from Dec. 23-Jan. 3. Spring Break is scheduled for March 9-13, 2020. The last day of school for all students is June 5, 2020. See the complete calendar on the district website.

The 2019-20 Activities Calendar, which lists individual building events, will be mailed to district families in August.



Digital Backpack

The Community Services Department distributes electronic flyers on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. Flyers include announcements from the school district, as well as local organizations that offer opportunities for youth.

Those who wish to request distribution of a flyer should email the files to Director Tim Maurer at tim.maurer@isd624.org.



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!



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 to receive 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.



Coffee with Dr. K

Community members have been 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.

The final Coffee with Dr. K event for the 2018-19 academic year will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

These events will continue during the 2019-20 school year.



Monthly Staff and Community Mental Well-Being Series

District staff and families are invited to attend monthly presentations focused on mental well-being. The events are free and open to community members.

- » **TUES, MARCH 19** **ADHD/ADD SUPPORTS AND TOOLBOX**
by Nicole McKinney, WBLAS
7-8:30 p.m. at WBLAHS - North Campus Theater
- » **TUES, APRIL 16** **HEALTHY TEENS AND SAFETY**
by Ramsey County Public Health
7-8:30 p.m. at WBLAHS - North Campus Theater
- » **TUES, MAY 21** **FINDING SELF-CONTROL: RESPONSES TO CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL OUTBURSTS**
by Jenny Hanlon, M.Ed, WBLAS
7-8:30 p.m. at WBLAHS - North Campus Theater

Sept. 28 - All-School Reunion

A multi-generation alumni committee is currently planning an All-School Reunion, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 28!

Official details will be announced by the Alumni Association as they are finalized, but please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Important Dates

- » **MARCH 4**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **MARCH 11-15**
SPRING BREAK
- » **MARCH 25**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **APRIL 8**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **APRIL 22**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MAY 13**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **MAY 20**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **JUNE 6**
TRANSITION EDUCATION CENTER GRADUATION CEREMONY
12:30 p.m. at District Center Auditorium
- » **JUNE 6**
AREA LEARNING CENTER GRADUATION CEREMONY
6:30 p.m. at WBLAHS - South Campus Theater
- » **JUNE 7**
WBLAHS GRADUATION CEREMONY
7 p.m. at Aldrich Arena
- » **JUNE 10**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **JULY 8**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center



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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