

Flip book to see
Community Services &
Recreation Catalog

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We are Hiring!

White Bear Lake Area Schools is hiring for a variety of positions, including substitute teachers, Extended Day staff members, Nutrition Services workers, and bus drivers to name a few. Positions within the district offer flexibility, variety, competitive pay, growth opportunities, and more.

For specific information about the various employment opportunities available in the district, please visit the Human Resources 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

Celebrating Engagement

With the 2018-19 academic year in full swing, it is clear that this will be a record-breaking year for the district in terms of engagement. Coming off of a district Strategic Planning process that benefited from more than 200 district staff and community member participants, the strategic engagement continues in school-level planning conversations that mirror those that happened on the district level. Thank you to those who continue to give of their time and talents during these exciting conversations that are happening at our school and program sites, allowing us to move the district in a strategic direction.

Engagement in the Comprehensive Facilities Planning process continues in full force as well, with almost 100 parents, staff and community members applying for and being named to Facility Planning Committees that are focused on the areas of learning spaces, community spaces, and physical conditions.

Continued on District News page.





FOLLOW DR. K  /DRK_ISD624

Note from the Superintendent

In this season of taking stock of the current year and planning for the next, the White Bear Lake Area School District has much to celebrate. Our students are learning and growing, supported by their families, friends, school community, and extended community. Thank you for the part you have played in this!

We invite you to see the great things that are happening for yourself. Connect with us in some way yet this school year, whether you apply to work with our students directly, attend an activity as a guest, connect with me via phone or email, or simply follow District happenings online. Find a variety of opportunities listed on the following pages or at www.isd64.org.

Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak, Superintendent

Many Faces

The district's inaugural session in "The Many Faces of the White Bear Lake Area" series brought together community members for meaningful learning and conversation around the topic of "Original People: Dakota and Ojibwe." The year-long collaborative will introduce participants to the people who inhabited the area around the lake during various periods of time. Find complete information about upcoming series events on pages 6-7 of the Community Services Catalog (the flip-book to this publication).



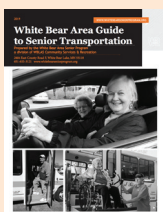
Senior Program Publications

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

Celebrating Engagement *Continued from front page.*

This trio of teams will continue to meet through January and plans to present needs findings to the School Board at the January Work-Study meeting. It is anticipated that in February and March the Facility Planning Committee Master Plan will be developed to meet the needs identified by the committee and that community-wide engagement and feedback-gathering will happen in April and May. The facilities study and resulting recommendations 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 engagement shown by community members who get involved with and support student activities is also strong. The Senior Activities Pass program, which grants senior community members (age 65+) with complimentary admission to student activities, has more than 400 participants. From packed sporting events to sold-out high school musical productions, our students benefit from the feeling of community that is created when community members enter our doors to cheer on our students.

Advisory committees meaningfully involve families and community members. The Parent Leaders Network allows parent leaders to network and engage with district leaders. The Senior Advisory Council connects area seniors with district leadership. Program-specific parent advisory councils meet regularly and provide valuable insight and leadership.

Innovative engagement is also found in our classrooms, perhaps most notably with our district's Career Pathways programs offered in the areas of Manufacturing, Construction, Healthcare and Information Technology. Embedded in coursework are opportunities for field experiences that are made possible through partnerships with community business leaders. These agreements have been an important driver of our district's success in offering increased opportunities for our students in expanding, high-demand career fields.

Whether your interest is in serving on a district or school committee, attending an event, connecting with a student-focused career opportunity, or becoming more informed about district happenings, we hope you will reach out and find an engagement opportunity that fits your interests. The strong connections community members have forged with the district, our schools, and our varied programs are certainly worth celebrating!



School Board Meetings

Jan. 14.....Regular Mtng
 Jan. 28....Work-Study Mtng
 Feb. 11.....Regular Mtng
 Feb. 25....Work-Study Mtng
 March 4.....Regular Mtng
 March 25..Work-Study Mtng
 April 8.....Regular Mtng
 April 22....Work-Study Mtng

- » All Board meetings take place in the Community Room 112 at District Center (4855 Bloom Avenue, WBL).
 - 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.

White Bear Lake Area School Board Members

Deb Beloyed, Kim Chapman, Jessica Ellison, Ellen Fahey, Don Mullin, Marge Newmaster, and Scott Wilson.

Student Liaisons: Makena Pratt and Madison Carroll.

District-wide Hires

ECSE Supervisor

Angela Drange is the district's new Early Childhood Special Education Supervisor. Angela brings to the district significant early childhood experience including serving as an interim ECSE coordinator in Spring Lake Park School District, an ECSE intervention teacher and general education kindergarten teacher.



Safety and Emergency Supervisor

Kevin Klecker is White Bear's new Safety and Emergency Supervisor, an oversight role recently added in the district. He held a similar post in the Minneapolis Public Schools since 2011 and brings a wealth of insight and experience to his role. His responsibilities are to provide expertise and support to assure safe practices and environments for all of our students and staff at all of our sites.



6-12 Teaching & Learning Coordinator

Jen Babiash is our new 6-12 Teaching & Learning Coordinator. Jen most recently served in district leadership roles for Columbia Heights and Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School Districts. Previously, she provided equity leadership in the White Bear Lake Area School District as our first AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) elective teacher leader and as an Equity Coordinator.



Gifted and Talented / Student Agency Coordinator

David Lamwers is the district's Gifted and Talented / Student Agency Coordinator. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator position was expanded to include Student Agency as the result of the district's Strategic Planning process. Lamwers most recently served as a White Bear Lake Area Schools Peer Reviewer and was previously a teacher in the district.



Hmong and Asian American Cultural Liaison

Nirvana Yang recently began serving the district in the capacity of Hmong and Asian American Cultural Liaison. He looks forward to connecting with families who need additional support and creating programs to help students feel welcome at their school. Prior to coming to White Bear, Yang served students and families as a staff member at Hmong College Prep Academy.



African American Cultural Liaison

Michael Jett Sr. began as White Bear's new African American Cultural Liaison this fall. In the district-wide role, Jett will continue to build strong relationships with African American families. Prior to joining White Bear Lake Area Schools, he served as a paraprofessional. He was also a high school football and basketball coach.



Director of Human Resources and General Counsel

Matt Mons has been named the Director of Human Resources and General Counsel. He will be in the district part-time in December and will begin his position full time in January. Mons comes to our district from Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, where he served as the Executive Director of Human Resources and General Counsel.



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 \$2.69 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 the 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's Comprehensive Facilities Planning process engages with the community to find the right fit for the district as we continue to change and grow.



will offer parents an opportunity to learn about course selection opportunities and the registration process for fall 2019. Find information about Welcome to White Bear events on the district's website, www.isd624.org.

For those families who are ready to enroll, 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

Emergency Weather Closing

When a decision is made to close schools, dismiss early, or start late, an announcement will be made over major radio and television stations as early as possible. The announcement will identify our school district as White Bear Lake Area Public Schools. Parents may also call the White Bear Lake Area Schools Closing Hotline number at 651-407-7540.

Parents will also be alerted in three ways as soon as a decision is made:

- a SchoolMessenger phone message and email will be sent to all parents
- a message will be posted on the homepage of www.isd624.org
- messages will be posted on the District's Facebook and Twitter pages

We know that closing schools can be disruptive, especially for working families. Student and staff safety are our primary concern. Ultimately, the decision to send children to school remains with families. The District supports those decisions that are made for the safety and health of students. There are no negative consequences, and our schools work with families to assure that work is made up when an absence is safety-related.

Families should always assume schools are open and in session, unless they hear or see differently from a source listed above.

Welcome to White Bear

While parents are welcome to visit our schools at any time, there are several special opportunities in January for parents to learn more about our schools.

During the month of January, registration will open for preschool families, and tours and information sessions will be available for elementary families. Middle School and High School Parent Information Nights





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

Nominate a Teacher for WBLTA Teacher of the Year

The White Bear Lake Teachers' Association will soon facilitate the district-level Teacher of the Year process. Please consider nominating an educator who will represent all of the dedicated teachers in our district and compete in the state-level program. Find the form online at www.isd624.org.

2018 Annual Update

The 2018 Annual Update was recently mailed to all District households.

The publication provides a snapshot of the District, including information regarding: Student Achievement, School Climate, Student Awards, Innovation, Finance, District Profile, School Board, District Initiatives, and Partnerships.

Find an electronic version of the 2018 Update on the District's website, www.isd624.org/about/AnnualReport.asp

The District has received state and national awards for its Annual Update 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. 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.



Clark attends Google Innovator Academy

Digital Learning Specialist Ryan Clark embraced the topic of “How might we make learning feel more personal?” at the Google Innovator Academy in July. Clark was one of just 36 educators from around the U.S. who was chosen to attend and take part in a full year of programming that includes a year-long formal mentorship with an established innovator, designed to support iterations of the minimum viable product that they designed at the academy.

During the experience in Venice, Cal., innovators were able to learn about each other’s projects, connect, find inspiration, and immerse themselves in a Google-focused culture.

Faris named Formal Environmental Educator of the Year

Heidi Faris, a naturalist educator at Tamarack Nature Center who works with the district’s My Nature Preschool and ECFE classes, was presented with the 2018 Minnesota Association for Environmental Education’s Formal Educator of the Year award.

With 15 years of experience as an environmental educator, Faris is in her fourth year at Tamarack Nature Center. She’s the Naturalist Teacher for the ECFE classes and works in the preschool classes, as well. She spent the previous 10 years in the zoo world where she specialized in connecting families to nature through play experiences.



Asper attends Google Innovator Academy

District Technology Support Manager Steve Asper was one of only 36 educators from throughout the world to be selected to participate in the Google Innovator Academy in Denmark this November.

During this three-day experience, Asper learned more about and focused on improving technological means for schools and students on a local and global level. He especially focused on rapidly scaling tool set, skill set and mindset for all Haitian teachers to embrace technology in the classroom. For the last few years, Asper has been involved in the district’s efforts to partner White Bear classrooms with those in Haiti.

District of Distinction Award

The district recently received a District of Distinction Award for its Race to Reduce partnership with H2O for Life, made possible through the support of the Minnesota Legislature.

The partnership created a water resource education curriculum that integrates academic standards to engage students civically through authentic connections within their community, state and world. Additionally, the district’s Extended Day program has partnered with H2O for Life to offer a “Water Warrior” day during our Spring Break programming, as well as weeklong “April Showers & Such” sessions after school.



“My Nature Preschool” Acknowledged

“My Nature Preschool,” a collaborative preschool program through WBLAS Early Childhood and Tamarack Nature Center, has been listed in the acknowledgements section of a new book published called “Nature-Based Learning for Young Children: Anytime, Anywhere, on Any Budget” to be recognized as one of the leaders in high quality, nature-based preschool programming.

The book was created to act as a guide to programs who are interested in incorporating nature into their curriculum.

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

Core Values

White Bear Lake Area Schools build quality lives and strong communities through compassion, integrity, respect, responsibility and service.



Communities Served

The White Bear Lake Area School District serves the communities of Birchwood, Gem Lake, Hugo, Lino Lakes, Little Canada, Maplewood, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, and White Bear Township.

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 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.



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:

- 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.



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.

- » **THURS, DEC. 13** **MAKE IT OK**
by Nancy Krocak, WBLAS Educator
7-8:30 p.m. at District Center Community Room 112
- » **TUES, JAN. 15** **USING MINDFULNESS TO INCREASE WELL-BEING AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE CLASSROOM AND AT HOME**
by Heather Hessel PhD, LMFT, Intuitive Therapy and Counseling, White Bear Lake
7-8:30 p.m. at WBLAHS - North Campus Theater
- » **TUES, FEB. 19** **THE FALLACY OF PERFECT PARENTING**
by FRrē Family Recovery Resource Experts, St. Paul, MN
7-8:30 p.m. at WBLAHS - North Campus Theater
- » **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

Important Dates

- » **DEC. 24 - JAN. 1**
WINTER BREAK
- » **JANUARY**
WELCOME TO WHITE BEAR MONTH 2019
Find additional info at www.isd624.org/!
- » **JAN. 14**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MTNG
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **JAN. 15**
COFFEE WITH DR. K
7:30-8:30 a.m. at Dwtm WBL Caribou Coffee
- » **JAN. 21**
NO SCHOOL
- » **JAN. 28**
NO SCHOOL, SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MTNG
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **FEB. 11**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MTNG
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **FEB. 15 & 18**
NO SCHOOL
- » **FEB. 21**
COFFEE WITH DR. K
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Dwtm WBL Caribou Coffee
- » **FEB. 25**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MTNG
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MARCH 4**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MTNG
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **MARCH 11-15**
SPRING BREAK
- » **MARCH 25**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MTNG
5:30 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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- Students who design and create their own future
- Diversity of people and ideas
- Safe, nurturing and inspiring environments
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- Abundant and engaged community partners