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From the Superintendent: Giving Thanks

In this season of appreciation, there is much for which to be thankful.

At the top of the list is an appreciation to the community for approving the district's bond referendum request with 57.4% yes votes in early November. With this vote of confidence and support in our schools, our staff and our students, we can now begin planning to Build Our Future!

The bond funds will be used to address projected enrollment growth throughout the district; provide safe, secure and healthy learning environments for all students through investments in our aging facilities and infrastructure; increase opportunities for students by creating a single unified grades 9-12 high school; and create flexibly-designed learning spaces to support student-centered instruction. We have a lot of planning ahead of us for the construction projects that will be taking place throughout the district, and we will soon be sharing out information about what the engaged process will look like moving forward.

Also on the docket for appreciation is the level of individual support shown to our schools, programs, staff members and students by individual community members. Sometimes the support is calendar-specific, with community members recently being welcomed into the schools to speak to students about Veteran's Day, for instance.

Continued on District News page VII

Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

Flip book to see
Community Services &
Recreation Catalog



STUDENT GROWTH & PROFICIENCY

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)

Student proficiency is measured by the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests, Minnesota's state requirement for testing under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

White Bear students have a higher rate of proficiency in reading and mathematics than students across the state of Minnesota. Additionally, as they progress from one grade to the next, White Bear students show a greater rate of proficiency increase than students across the state.

- » **Reading** - 65.2% of White Bear students met or exceeded grade-level proficiency in Reading in 2019 based on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment. This is compared to 59.6% of students across the state. 70.8% of White Bear students maintained or improved their level of Reading achievement from 2018 to 2019 as compared to 67.0% of students across the state
- » **Mathematics** - 63.0% of White Bear students met or exceeded grade-level proficiency in Mathematics in 2019 based on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment. This is compared to 55.4% of students across the state. 68.5% of White Bear students maintained or improved their level of Mathematics achievement from 2018 to 2019 as compared to 62.7% of students across the state.

2018-19 WBLAS MCA COMPARISON TO STATE AVERAGES			
	State	WBLAS	WBLAS % above state
Reading	59.6%	65.2%	+5.6%
Mathematics	55.4%	63.0%	+7.6%

Source: Minnesota Department of Education's "Minnesota Report Card"

Early Childhood

More than 850 students are nurtured and develop a love of learning through our WBLAS Early Childhood programs. All of the District's preschools have a Parent Aware rating of four stars, the highest possible rating. Teachers assess the growth of children and take appropriate measures to ensure they are kindergarten-ready.

Elementary

Students at our nine elementary schools are assessed by teachers using a range of grade-appropriate assessments in reading, math and science to measure progress toward local and state standards. Student proficiency is measured using MCA assessments. Instructional support is personalized so students who test below grade level receive extra intervention and support, and students who already exceed standards are challenged through our comprehensive Gifted and Talented program.

Middle School

Students at Central and Sunrise Park Middle Schools take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA). Teachers and counselors use these assessments along with other data to help students select courses. Intervention support is provided for students who test below grade level. Accelerated and enriched class options ensure each student is challenged.

High School

High school teachers assess students through common assessments in each subject. Nationally-normed assessments include the PreACT offered to tenth graders in the fall and the PSAT and ACT offered to eleventh graders. Counselors and teachers use these data, along with an understanding of student motivation and goals, to help students select from more than 250 course offerings, including more than 51 college-level courses and five career pathways areas.

National Blue Ribbon School recognition

In September, Lincoln Elementary was named as one of 362 schools throughout the country to be named as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2019. Lincoln was recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School, being among Minnesota's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests. Only ten schools in Minnesota are being recognized in the program this year.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS & ENRICHMENT

81% Responding to the challenge



An increasing range of college-level courses, plus an initiative encouraging students to understand the importance of college-level work at the high school, has raised the percentage of high school seniors taking a college-level course during their high school career. For the class of 2019, 81% of seniors have taken one or more college-level courses, up from 54% for the class of 2016.

443 out of 633 students in the class of 2018 took at least one college-level course during high school. This includes Advanced Placement, College in the Schools, Project Lead the Way, and Post-Secondary Enrollment Options.

51

Colleges and Universities on campus

During the 2018-19 school year, 51 college level courses were offered at White Bear Lake Area High School: 21 Advanced Placement (AP) classes, 26 College in the School (CIS/CitHS) courses, and 4 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses. Students also took advantage of Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO).

The following numbers of White Bear Lake Area Schools students took college-level courses during the 2018-19 school year:

697 students took Advanced Placement (AP) classes

525 students took College in the Schools CIS/CitHS classes

103 students took Project Lead the Way (PLTW) classes

WBLAS continues to be a recognized leader for developing Career Pathways aligned to workforce needs.

- » A Manufacturing Pathway made possible in part due to a \$250,000 grant received from United Way.
- » A Construction Trades pathway with strong support from trade unions.
- » An IT pathway in conjunction with Century College and area businesses.
- » A Healthcare pathway featuring concurrent enrollment coursework for credentials as a certified nursing assistant (CNA).
- » An Automotive Pathway was recently added to the list of opportunities available to White Bear students.

2018-19,
989 AP EXAMS TAKEN

ON THE RISE

White Bear Lake Area High School's Advanced Placement (AP) program is serving more students taking more AP exams.

.....

COMPARED TO 867 EXAMS
TAKEN IN 2017-18

2019 Advanced Placement Scholars

52 AP Scholars
19 AP Scholars with Honors
39 AP Scholars with Distinction
8 National AP Scholars

1 National Merit Scholarship
Program Letter of Commendation

118

Advanced
Placement
Scholars

Student Support Services

White Bear Lake Area Schools have high expectations for all students and offer a continuum of specialized instruction for students with special needs. Our programs are individualized and comprehensive.

AVID

WBLAHS began implementation of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program in the fall of 2010. The program offers rigorous instruction to students in the academic middle who have the individual determination to prepare for a four year college. In AVID classes, students collaborate, engage in inquiry, and learn college-level reading, writing and study strategies.

International Baccalaureate

Matoska International IB World School, an elementary option for all families since 2010, received re-authorization in January of 2015.

FINANCE

Financial management

To help the District meet its educational goals, White Bear Lake Area Schools remain committed to fiscal responsibility to ensure that maximum resources reach our classrooms.

Stewardship:

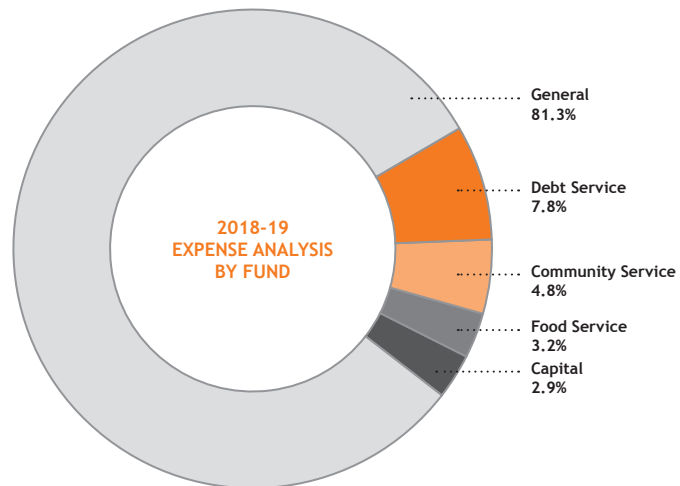
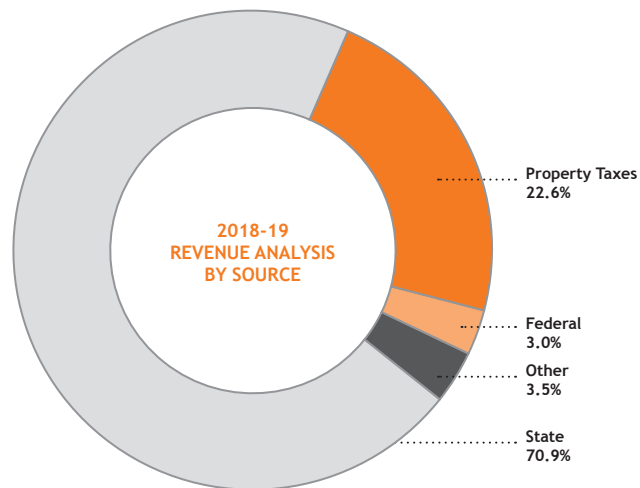
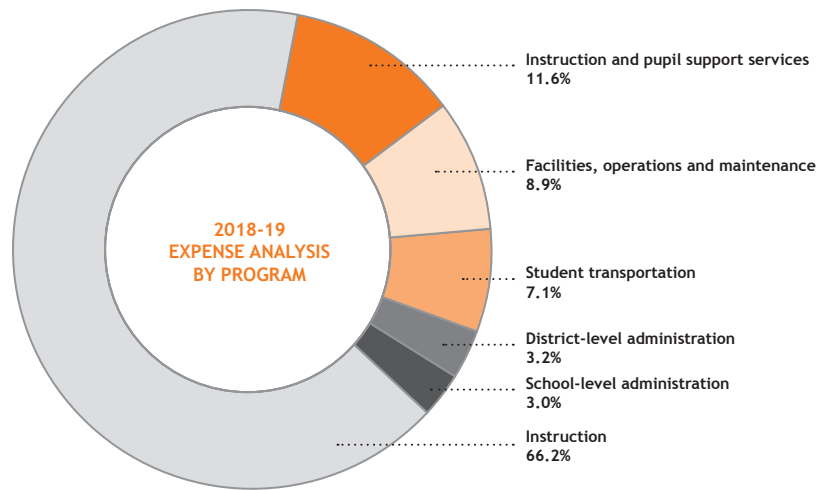
White Bear Lake Area Schools continues to demonstrate strong stewardship to our communities.

- » We have been recognized for excellence in financial reporting by the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for 19 consecutive years.
- » The district has a AA bond rating, which we have received from Standard and Poor's every year the district has applied since 2010.
- » In November of 2019, area residents voted on the District's \$326 million bond referendum, with 57.4% in support of the question.

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We have been recognized for
excellence in financial reporting
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by the Association of School Business Officials
and Government Finance Officers Association.



Partnerships

The district has many innovative partnerships with the White Bear Center for the Arts, White Bear Area YMCA, MacPhail Center for Music, Tamarack Nature Center and many others.

2019-20 DISTRICT PROFILE

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

Core Values

The White Bear Lake Area School District builds quality lives and strong communities through compassion, integrity, respect, responsibility and service.

District 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
- A culture that respects diverse people and ideas
- Safe, nurturing, and inspiring experiences
- Exceptional staff and families committed to student success
- Abundant and engaged community partners

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2019-20	
Free/Reduced Price Lunch	25%
English Language Learner	3.7%
Special Education	15%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.4%
Asian	6.8%
Black/African American	6.2%
Hispanic/Latino	7.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%
Two or more races	6.3%
White	72.8%

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

STUDENT ENROLLMENT 2019-20	
Pre-K <i>Pre-K includes all District programs including preschool, early childhood, and Bear Fundamentals at all District locations.</i>	871
Elementary (Grades K-5)	4,055
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	2,032
High School (Grades 9-12)	2,478
Transition Plus (Special Ed - ages 18-24)	37
DISTRICT TOTAL K-T+	8,602
DISTRICT TOTAL BIRTH-T+	9,473

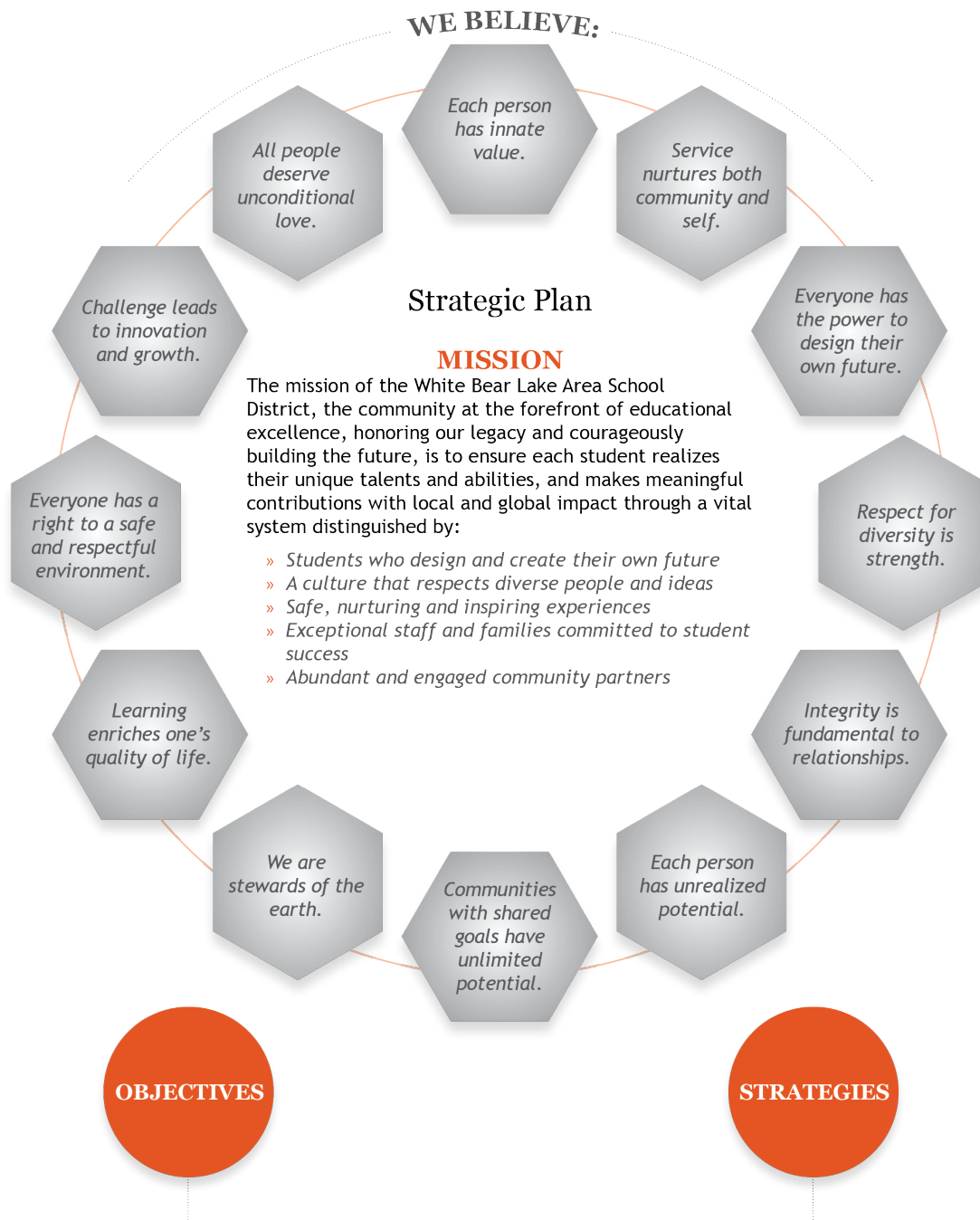
Source: Minnesota Department of Education and District data

In addition to English, students in our district



- Afaan Oromo/Oromo/Oromiffa
- Afrikaans
- Akan
- Amharic
- Anauk
- Arabic
- Azerbaijani
- Bengali
- Bosnian
- Burmese
- Cambodian/Khmer
- Cebuano
- Chinese, Mandarin
- Cree
- English Creolized
- Fanti
- Farsi
- French
- German
- Gujarati
- Harari
- Hiligaynon, Illogo
- Hindi
- Hmong
- Igbo
- Italian
- Japanese
- Kannada
- Karen
- Kiswahili, Swahili
- Lao, Laotian
- Lithuanian
- Luganda, Ganda
- Mandar
- Marathi
- Nepali
- Norwegian
- Pilipino, Tagalog
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Romanian
- Russian
- Sign Language, ASL
- Somali
- Spanish
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Thai
- Tigrinya
- Turkman
- Twi
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Yoruba

MISSION & STRATEGIC PLAN



Each student meaningfully contributes to community.

100% OF STUDENTS:

- feel valued.
- accomplish their personalized learning plan.
- are prepared for and implement their design for their future.
- graduate.
- creatively adapt to an ever-changing world.

WE WILL:

- ensure that each student is the primary agent in their learning.
- provide expanding access to a broad range of opportunities for all students.
- foster community engagement and partnerships.
- build organizational capacity.
- embrace all cultures with humility and respect.
- ensure learning environments enhance students' educational experience.
- engage families as partners in the education of their children.
- ensure the social and emotional growth of each student.
- imagine new concepts in learning and teaching at White Bear Lake Area High School.

2020 District 624 School Board



SCOTT ARCAND
scott.arcand@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/23



DEB BELOYED
deb.beloyed@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/21



KIM CHAPMAN
kim.chapman@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/21



JESSICA ELLISON
jessica.ellison@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/21



DON MULLIN
don.mullin@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/21



MARGE NEWMASER
margaret.newmaster@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/23



ANGELA THOMPSON
angela.thompson@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/23

Specific Board positions for the 2020 calendar year will be voted upon at the January Regular School Board meeting.

GENERAL SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS:
schoolboard@isd624.org

2019-20 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

- Madison Carroll, Gr 12, WBLAHS-South, Representative
- Jennifer Adams, Gr 11, WBLAHS-South, Alternate Representative

School Board Meetings

Dec 9.....Regular Mtng
 Jan 13.....Regular Mtng
 Jan 27.....Work-Study Mtng
 Feb 10.....Regular Mtng
 Feb 24....Work-Study Mtng
 Mar 2.....Regular Mtng
 Mar 23....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:
 - Wed at 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.
 - Thurs at 10 a.m.

Continued from front page

Other examples happen on an ongoing basis. Each week throughout the school year, Reading Buddies volunteers come into our schools to read with our students. And every year, our parent volunteers are working diligently to raise funds for specific school initiatives - and to raise "fun" for students through school carnivals, fun runs and rollerskating nights to name a few. We appreciate the time and energy these individuals give in order to enrich our students' experiences.

Many thanks to the community organizations and businesses that also play a role in supporting our students, whether it is through the Lion's Club donating dictionaries, Donatelli's offering a "Take-over Experience" to our Willow Lane Elementary fifth graders, or Cup and Cone offering orange ice cream treats. This list is just a sampling of the level of support shown to our school community by organizations and local businesses, and the efforts are always humbling.

Another organization, the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation, specifically supports the school district through grants, scholarships and support of initiatives. With the change of seasons, an important Foundation initiative that is especially relevant these days is The Closet, a resource for district families in need that provides anything that can be worn from head to toe. The Foundation is currently accepting donations of new and like new winter items in various sizes, including coats and boots. Thank you to those who have been able to support the school community by helping our students and families in this important way.

Terrific things, worthy of celebration, are happening at each of our buildings. Thank you to our entire community for your support of all of our students - from our earliest Early Childhood classrooms to our special education students transitioning out of high school.

Your support is something for which we are grateful at all times of the year, but the feeling is especially strong this fall. Thank you.

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

Teacher of the Year Nomination Process

It takes just one inspirational person to positively impact a life forever. The educators of White Bear Lake Area Schools teach by extraordinary example - they allow students to not only follow their dreams but give them the skills necessary to become the role models of the future.

Our district has a rich heritage of exceptional teachers who reach out to help others every day, and the White Bear Lake Area Teachers' Association Teacher of the Year program is just one way to recognize the efforts of those who devote their time, talents, and energy to making a positive difference in our community.

Please consider nominating an educator who will represent all of the dedicated teachers in our district and participate in the Minnesota Teacher of the Year Program.

The nomination form is available on the district's website, www.isd624.org. Nominations are due by 4 p.m. on Jan. 10, 2020.



Welcome to White Bear

While all are welcome to visit our schools at any time, there will be special opportunities in January for families to learn more about our schools!

Early Childhood - Preschool Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 21

Elementary - Welcome to White Bear Week: Jan. 6-10

Middle School - Parent Info Night: 7 p.m. on Jan. 9 at both middle schools

High School

Parent Information Nights:

6 p.m. Jan. 7 at WBLAHS-North Campus (incoming grades 9 & 10)

7 p.m. Jan. 9 at WBLAHS-South Campus (incoming grades 11 & 12)

Additional information available at www.isd624.org/Welcome

Equity Commitment

A committee of 30 stakeholders developed the district's Equity Commitment:

To nurture the whole student, we disrupt systemic inequities by recognizing, honoring, and embracing all cultures with humility and respect.

At that time, a 4-Way Equity Decision Making Protocol was adopted. This protocol will be utilized by district, building and site leaders moving forward.



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

4-Way Equity Decision Making Protocol

- 1 How does this help to provide opportunities to students who have been marginalized within the system in the past?
- 2 How does this help to ensure equitable access for all?
- 3 How does this help to eliminate barriers based on race/ethnicity, gender, disability, age, or other protected groups?
- 4 How does this ensure that the same rigorous standards for academic performance exist for all students?



Lincoln Elementary Recognized as Blue Ribbon School

In September, Lincoln Elementary was named as one of 362 schools throughout the country to be named as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2019. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Only ten schools in Minnesota are being recognized in the program this year.

The award affirms the hard work put in to creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Lincoln was recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School as being among Minnesota's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

Lincoln Elementary was celebrated along with other honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. earlier this fall. This spring, the school community will host a more formal Blue Ribbon celebration at the school to thank those, past and present, who positively impacted students within the learning community.

FREE Senior Activity Pass

More than 300 Senior community members (age 65+) who live in the District participate in the Senior Activities Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities.

Those who wish to apply for the Activity Pass may pick up an application at District Center (4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake) or the Senior Center (2484 East Cty Rd F, White Bear Lake).



Awards

» EXTENDED DAY SITES ACCREDITED

The Vadnais Heights Elementary Extended Day team recently successfully completed the Minnesota Afterschool Accreditation Program (MAAP). The Oneka Elementary Extended Day team completed the same rigorous accreditation process in July.

» 2020 WOMEN IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD FINALIST

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Sara Paul is a finalist for the 2020 Women In School Leadership Award from AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

District-wide Cultural Liaisons



MILES WEBB SR.
African American Liaison
miles.webb@isd624.org



BRIANA SANTOSCOY
K-12 Latino Liaison
briana.santoscoy@isd624.org



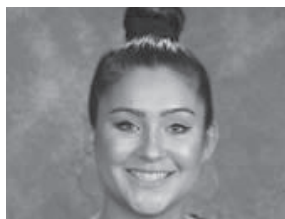
AMY OTTAVIANI
Early Childhood Latino Liaison
amy.ottaviani@isd624.org



NIRVANA YANG
Hmong & Asian Amer. Liaison
nirvana.yang@isd624.org



CHENTE XIONG
Early Childhood Hmong Liaison
chente.xiong@isd624.org



JORDAN ZICKERMANN
Native American Liaison
jordan.zickermann@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 a District publication!



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.

All events begin at 7 p.m. at District Center (4855 Bloom Avenue, WBL).

- DEC. 19** **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND HOW WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
by Certified Family Peer Specialist Michelle Uetz
- JAN. 16** **SITTING IN CIRCLE: HOW TO SUPPORT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL YOU LOVE**
by Christina Nguyen, Dreaming Sky Coaching
- FEB. 13** **KNOW THE TRUTH**
by Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge
- MAR. 19** **GRIEF AND LOSS**
by Tony Del Percio, Bradshaw Funeral and Cremation Services

Coffee with Dr. K

Community members have been invited to stop by throughout the 2019-20 academic year for an informal chat with Superintendent Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee or tea at the Downtown White Bear Lake Caribou Coffee:

- 4:30-5:30 p.m. on January 9
- 7:30-8:30 a.m. on March 3
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on May 5



**WELCOME TO
WHITE
BEAR**
JANUARY 2020

Get to know us!

While all are welcome to visit our schools at any time, there will be special opportunities in January for families to learn more about our schools!

www.isd624.org/Welcome

Important Dates

- » **DECEMBER 9**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 3**
WINTER BREAK
(No School)
- » **JANUARY**
WELCOME TO WHITE BEAR
www.isd624.org/Welcome
- » **JANUARY 13**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **JANUARY 20**
MLK JR. DAY
(No School)
- » **JANUARY 27**
No School Day
- » **JANUARY 27**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **FEBRUARY 10**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **FEBRUARY 14**
No School Day
- » **FEBRUARY 17**
PRESIDENTS' DAY
(No School)
- » **FEBRUARY 24**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MARCH 2**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
7 p.m. at District Center
- » **MARCH 9-13**
SPRING BREAK
(No School)
- » **MARCH 23**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK-STUDY MEETING
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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