

FOLLOW DR. K  /DRK_ISD624

ISD624.ORG

In this issue

- » **FALL 2020**
District News, Page II
- » **COFFEE WITH DR. K INFO**
District News, Page III
- » **NEW HIRES**
District News, Page IV
- » **SCHOOL BOARD**
District News, Page V
- » **DIGITAL BACKPACK**
Page VI
- » **DISTRICT MISSION**
Page VII

Becoming something “other”

During the first two years of my superintendency, we developed a new district strategic plan, but we didn't stop there. At individual schools, and even in departments, people then took the time to develop site- and department-specific strategic plans. The collective voices of nearly 1,500 stakeholders had input into what we aspire to be as a school system. It is out of that strategic work that we are now well on our way to becoming the “community at the forefront of educational excellence.” Out of that important strategic work, we embarked upon multiple efforts that are transforming White Bear Lake Area Schools.

Last fall, we officially kicked off the bond referendum informational campaign. We stood in front of a packed auditorium of staff members to deliver important information as we started a school year like none other in White Bear's 158 year history, and we followed that presentation with countless others throughout the community during the next couple of months. Election Day arrived, ending with approval from our community for the largest bond referendum in state history. Because of that support, we are now in the midst of transformative construction projects that will address building needs across the district including district-wide additions and renovations, safety and security improvements, deferred maintenance projects, and district-wide classroom and building updates to create flexible learning spaces.

Continued on District News page III

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



The District will promote behaviors that reduce the spread of infectious diseases by educating our students, faculty and staff about routine, regular handwashing, wearing face coverings, and sanitizing spaces and high touch surface areas.

General Safety Precautions

- Staff will disinfect high touch areas in classrooms, hallways, and restrooms throughout the day. Disinfecting wipes and/or spray disinfectant will be supplied.
- Building ventilation systems will be running at optimum capacity before school occupancy and throughout the day.
- Enhanced disinfecting will take place each evening following MDH guidance.
- Hand sanitizers will be provided in various locations throughout the buildings.
- Classrooms with sinks will be supplied with sufficient inventory of soap and paper towels for handwashing.
- Drinking fountains will be disabled, but the bottle filler function will still work (we added several of these over the summer.)
- Front office and health office desks will be provided a plexiglass barrier.

Social distancing is important to ensure the health and wellness of our students and staff as it will help limit the spread of the virus. Social distancing will need to be practiced in all classes, courses, and spaces.

Fall 2020 Information











White Bear Lake Area Schools has created plans for the start of the school year based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

The Fall 2020 Plan approved by the School Board is described below:

Hybrid Learning Model for Grades K-12+

A Hybrid Learning Model combines distance learning and in-person school with social distancing practices.

Students will attend school in-person and be at home learning on an A/B day rotation by alphabet on Monday-Thursday. All students will be at home learning on Fridays.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
GROUP A (last name A-K)	 SCHOOL IN-PERSON	 HOME DISTANCE	 SCHOOL IN-PERSON	 HOME DISTANCE	 HOME INDEPENDENT LEARNING
GROUP B (last name L-Z)	 HOME DISTANCE	 SCHOOL IN-PERSON	 HOME DISTANCE	 SCHOOL IN-PERSON	 HOME INDEPENDENT LEARNING

Distance Learning Model Option

Available for all families who wish to choose distance learning as an option.

A Distance Learning Model includes asynchronous and synchronous learning delivered online.

Glossary of Terms

- Asynchronous Learning - students complete their work on their own time within a given time frame.
- Synchronous Learning - classes occur on set schedules and time frames. Students and educators are online at the same time, interacting at different places but during the same time.

As public health guidelines change, the District will adjust plans accordingly.

Regardless of which Learning Model a family chooses for its student(s), we are committed to providing an engaging, equitable and quality learning experience for each student.

Find complete information at isd624.org/Fall2020

Continued from front page

The work we have done in the last three years has positioned us well as a community of education and excellence. Our strategic plan drives our work, even in the midst of a global pandemic. As we consider the last few months, I want to turn to Dr. William Cook, who facilitated the development of our strategic plan, for additional context. He stated:

“School districts will emerge from this crisis worse or better, or, if strategic, something “other.” It depends on what they do now. Those that have an authentic strategic plan, developed by a strategic process, must infuse it with a new creative energy to discover and seize upon the possibilities found only in crisis.”

While he was referring to the COVID-19 pandemic when he wrote this back in April, his words have added meaning as we consider the unrest that followed the killing of George Floyd at the end of May.

Over a year ago, we developed an equity commitment statement and adopted a four-way equity decision making protocol that has helped to guide our work. “To nurture the whole student, we disrupt systemic inequities by recognizing, honoring, and embracing all cultures with humility and respect” stands out as a key achievement in the last three years. The equity audit that we conducted this past school year was also borne out of our strategic work, and given how conversations in our nation have evolved in the last few months, the timing of our receiving the results has positioned us well to develop actionable strategies for the coming year and years to come. We clearly have work to do. The data are disturbing, and yet they also provide hope that we can get this right because the adults in our system know that we can do better and we want to do better.

None of us have been immune to the past six months of uncertainty and unprecedented times, including the school district, but we will come together to make the 2020-2021 school year the best year we can. We will refuse to be defined by a pandemic of COVID-19 or systemic racism. Our students need us. They need to connect with their peers, and they need to connect with caring adults. They need their elders to serve as role models and deliverers of hope now more than ever.

Safety for staff and students will need to be at the forefront, and we will work together in new ways to ensure that we accomplish this. Finding ways to engage with students academically, providing all learners with access to quality instruction and a renewed focus on social-emotional learning, is also at the forefront.

I am confident that together we will deliver all this and more. I fully believe we will emerge both better and “other.”

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

Mark Your Calendar for Coffee with Dr. K



Work continues to be done on our Facilities Process, which was made possible by a Bond Referendum supported by the community in November of 2019.

Find complete information about the district's Building Our Future Facilities Planning Process at www.isd624.org/about/building-our-future

Our Beliefs

- Each person has innate value.
- Service nurtures both community and self.
- Everyone has the power to design their own future.
- Respect for diversity is strength.
- Integrity is fundamental to relationships.
- Each person has unrealized potential.
- Communities with shared goals have unlimited potential.
- We are stewards of the earth.
- Learning enriches one's quality of life.
- Everyone has a right to a safe and respectful environment.
- Challenge leads to innovation and growth.
- All people deserve unconditional love.

Coffee with Dr. K

Community members are invited to stop by throughout the academic year for an informal chat with Dr. K over a cup of coffee or tea. Additional details about the format of the events will be made available as the dates approach.

Dates of the 2020-21 events:

- Oct. 6, 7:30-8:30 a.m.
- Jan. 7, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Apr. 6, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

District-wide Hires



Director of Equity and Engagement

Dr. Marcellus Davis has been chosen to serve as the district's Director of Equity and Engagement. Davis has served in numerous racial educational equity roles in both K-12 education and higher education, including roles of urban education professor, cultural liaison, diversity and multiculturalism director, director of achievement and integration and American Indian Education, and interim director of a charter elementary school. He has served in leadership roles with Minnesota National Association of Multicultural Education (MN-NAME) and has taught in the Human Relations Department at St. Cloud State University.



Early Childhood Coordinator

Darcy Rodriguez is the district's new Early Childhood Coordinator, a position that was vacated when Kate Andersen left the position to serve as a Director of Community Education in another school district. Rodriguez has worked in the Stillwater Public School district since 2009, serving in the roles of assistant teacher, parent educator, family engagement coordinator, and most recently as early childhood coordinator. She also has six years of experience as an internal coach with the Minnesota Reading Corps and has been a Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) Board member since 2016.



Hugo Elementary Principal

Brian Morris has been named the permanent Hugo Elementary Principal, a role he stepped into as an interim appointment during the 2019-20 school year. Morris has worked in the district for many years. He began serving as the district's assessment coordinator in 2014 before stepping into an interim principal role. Prior to his time in district and school administration, he worked for 17 years as a mathematics teacher, teacher leader and curriculum leader at White Bear Lake Area High School - South Campus.



White Bear Lake Area High School - North Campus

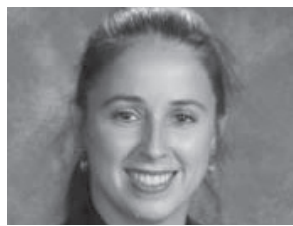
The WBLAHS - North Campus interim principal role served by Ang Nelson during the 2019-20 school year will be extended through the 2020-21 academic year. Given the uncertainty surrounding the upcoming school year, it will be important that Ms. Nelson remain in this role to provide a sense of stability for families, students, and staff.

District-wide Cultural Liaisons



MILES WEBB SR.

African American Liaison
miles.webb@isd624.org



BRIANA SANTOSCOY

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



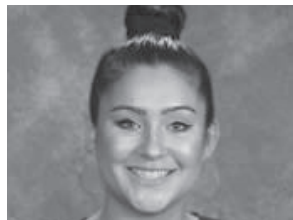
AMY OTTAVIANI

Early Childhood Latino Liaison
amy.ottaviani@isd624.org



NIRVANA YANG

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



JORDAN ZICKERMANN

Native American Liaison
jordan.zickermann@isd624.org

Requesting an Interpreter

Families can request that a district staff member call them through the use of an interpreter who speaks the language they speak.

Information about how to make the request can be found in text and audio translations, in all languages spoken by students in the district, on the district website at isd624.org.

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

GENERAL SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS:
schoolboard@isd624.org

2020-21 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

- Jennifer Adams, Gr 12, WBLAHS-South, Representative
- Bemnet Tessema, Gr 11, WBLAHS-South, Alternate Representative

School Board Meetings

Sept 14Regular Mtng
 Sept 28 ... Work-Study Mtng
 Oct 12.....Regular Mtng
 Oct 26.....Work-Study Mtng
 Nov 9.....Regular Mtng
 Nov 23 Work-Study Mtng

- » All Board meetings will take place this fall in the Community Auditorium at District Center (4855 Bloom Ave) to allow space for social distancing.
 - 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.

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. White Bear Lake Area Schools 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 for Early Childhood Screening online at <https://whitebear.ce.eleyo.com> or 651-653-3100

Screening takes place at Normandy Park Education Center, 2482 East County Road F, WBL.

Equity Commitment:

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

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?

Stay Connected

• E-NEWSLETTER

The Community e-Newsletter is 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. Those who wish to be added to the recipient list may contact us at communications@isd624.org.

• 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.



/isd624

Send Us Your Bear Wear Pics!

We are looking for photos of little ones in their "Born to be a Bear" onesies and "I'm a Bear" shirts!

Email photos to communications@isd624.org and you may find your little one(s) featured in a District publication!

Onesies are sent to all families who live in the district upon the arrival of a little one, and shirts are sent to households with toddlers when they receive Screen at 3 information. Early Childhood information is included in both packets.



WE ARE HIRING!

Find employment opportunities at isd624.org.

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



4855 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

651-407-7500
isd624.org



Photo taken prior to Spring of 2020.

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.



Health & Safety Reminders

Anyone experiencing ANY of these symptoms should NOT enter district buildings

Symptoms

- New onset of cough
- Shortness of breath
- Fever of 100.0 degrees or higher
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- New or unusual headache
- Severe muscle aches
- Chills
- Gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea



White Bear Lake Area Schools

Due to the Governor's order,

MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY.



Stay 6 Feet Apart. Wash your hands.
Go (*Stay Healthy*) Bears!



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

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

Photo taken prior to Spring of 2020.