



*HAIHQHIA! Yog koj xav tau tsev kawm ntawv
cov ntawv txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu tus
Hmoob Liaison rau (651) 407-7623.*

*ATENCIÓN: Si usted necesita hablar con una
persona que hable Español, por favor,
llame al (651) 407-7625.*



ISD624.ORG

2021

ANNUAL UPDATE

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).

Due to ongoing challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, the participation rate for the MCA in spring 2021 was significantly lower than in previous years, when White Bear Lake Area Schools typically has seen more than a 95% participation rate for both assessments. Math had a 70% participation rate and Reading had a 76% participation rate. The state-level participation rate was similarly lower than it has been in the past.

Early Childhood

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 in our elementary programs 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

Our middle school students 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 50 college-level courses and seven career pathways areas.

2020-21 WBLAS MCA COMPARISON TO STATE AVERAGES

	State	WBLAS	WBLAS % above state
Reading	52.5%	56.6%	+4.1%
Mathematics	44.2%	45.1%	+9%

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

Responding to student needs

Anticipating challenges and disruption to student learning being created by COVID-19, staff members had begun conversations and plans during the 2020-21 school year that focused on learning recovery and targeted support for each of our students. Throughout the year, building and district teams worked to adjust instruction and intervention to meet the needs of students who were learning at home and/or returning to in-person learning.

The district coordinated and implemented a robust set of summer programming for a wide variety of students in grades K-12. Over the summer of 2021, teams of teachers and administrators worked together to plan for content, credit, and grade recovery, particularly at the high school level.

The complete picture of each student has informed instruction in the 2021-2022 school year, which has been delivered in an in-person format with the option for those families who choose online learning to enroll in the district's Distance Learning Academy.

In addition to MCA data, White Bear Lake Area Schools has utilized local academic measures that include data such as academic and social-emotional screeners, Pre-ACT and ACT, academic grades and credits.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS & ENRICHMENT

90%

White Bear Lake Area Schools 4-year graduation rate for Class of 2020 was 90.1%, 6.3 percentage points above the state average.
Graduation rate calculations follow one year behind the current graduating year.

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

Launched in 2015, our pathway programs allow students to take one or two courses, or a series of courses. They also allow students opportunities for job shadowing, industry site visits, and credentials or certifications recognized in the field.

Career PATHWAYS at ISD 624

Pathways Currently Offered

 Automotive	 Business
 Construction Skilled Trades	 Education
 Healthcare & Wellness	 Information Technology
 Manufacturing & Engineering	

50

Colleges and Universities on campus

During the 20-21 school year, 50 college level courses were offered at WBLAHS: 21 Advanced Placement (AP) classes, 25 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).

More than half of the 10th-12th grade students at WBLAHS enrolled in potentially college credit-bearing courses in the 2020-21 academic year.

PLTW 36 students earned 125 credits

CIS 358 students earned 1037 credits

AP 524 students earned 2425 credits

PSEO 85 students earned 777 credits

\$2.3 mil

Total value of credits earned by WBLAHS students in college-level courses during 2020-21.

All tuition calculations except concurrent enrollment based on U of MN tuition rate of \$520.50 per credit. Concurrent enrollment based on Century College tuition rate of \$196.89. PLTW grade cutoff B-, all others C-. Students may be counted more than once if they participated in more than one program. AP credit calculations based on U of MN score acceptance.

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Percentage of 10th-12th graders who enrolled in potentially college credit-bearing courses 2020-2021:

ASIAN: 63.9%
 BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN: 34.7%
 HISPANIC/LATINX: 38.9%
 MULTI-RACIAL: 44.9%
 WHITE: 53%

99
Advanced Placement Scholars

2021 Advanced Placement Scholars

58 AP Scholars
 16 AP Scholars with Honors
 25 AP Scholars with Distinction

3 students were recognized in the National Merit program. Two received Letter of Commendation and one was a Semifinalist.

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

Our high school and middle school students have the opportunity to participate in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID 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. Lakeaires Elementary also offers elementary AVID strategies to students.

International Baccalaureate

Matoska International IB World School has been an elementary IB option for all families since 2010.

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:

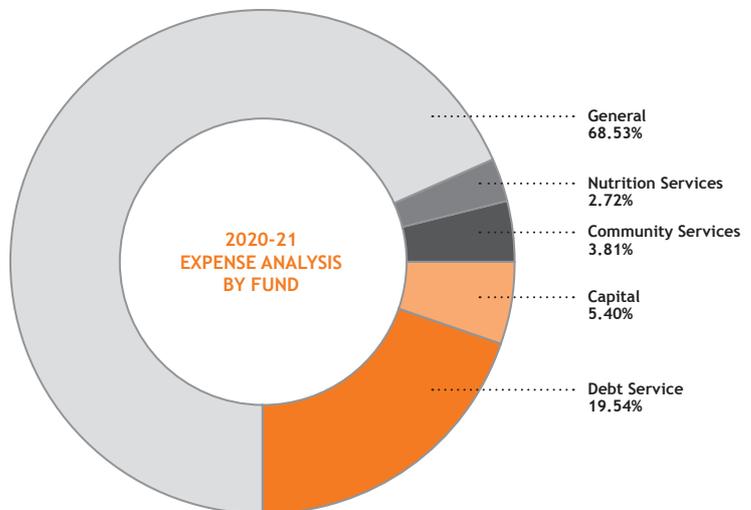
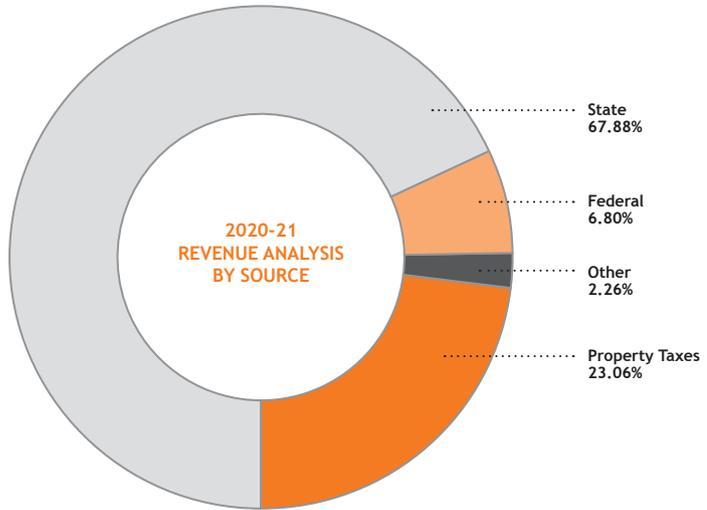
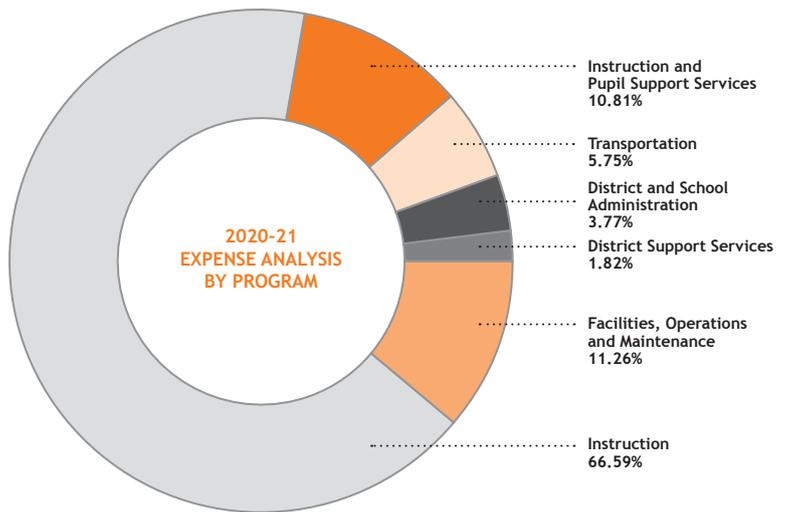
White Bear Lake Area Schools continues to demonstrate strong stewardship to our communities.

- » We have been recognized for excellence in financial reporting by the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for 21 consecutive years.
- » The district refunded one outstanding debt issue during 2021, which will save district taxpayers a total of \$286,543 over the next three years. The outstanding debt was related to alternative facilities bonds that were issued in 2012 to finance several major HVAC renovation projects throughout the district.
- » Facilities across the district continue to be constructed and renovated, due to a \$326 million bond referendum approved by area residents in November of 2019.

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by the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association.

The District refunded debt issue *saving taxpayers a total of \$286,543 over the next three years.*



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.

2021-22 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.

Equity Commitment

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

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 ENROLLMENT 2021-22	
Pre-K <i>Pre-K includes all District programs including preschool, early childhood, and Bear Fundamentals at all District locations.</i>	524
Elementary (Grades K-5)	3767
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	1981
High School (Grades 9-12)	2498
Transition Plus (Special Ed - ages 18-24)	36
DISTRICT TOTAL K-T+	8282
DISTRICT TOTAL BIRTH-T+	8806

Source: Minnesota Department of Education and District data

K-T+ STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2020-21	
Free/Reduced Price Lunch	20.68%
English Language Learner	3.99%
Special Education	17.16%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.44%
Asian	7.46%
Black/African American	6.68%
Hispanic/Latinx	7.67%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.12%
Two or more races	5.98%
White	71.66%

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

In addition to English, students in our district



- Afaan/Oromo/Oromiffa
- Afrikaans
- Akan
- Amharic
- Anauk
- Arabic
- Azerbaijani
- Bengali
- Bosnian
- Burmese
- Cambodian
- Chinese, Mandarin
- Czech
- Danish
- English
- English Creole
- Fanti
- Farsi
- French
- German
- Gujarati
- Harari
- Hindi
- Hmong
- Igbo
- Japanese
- Karen
- Kiswahili, Swahili
- Kom
- Lao, Laotian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Mandarin
- Marathi
- Nepali
- Pilipino, Tagalog
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Romanian
- Russian
- Rwanda
- Sign Language/ASL
- Somali
- Spanish
- Thai
- Tigrinya
- Turkish
- Turkman
- Twi
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Yoruba

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

The White Bear Lake Area Schools facilities projects to address building needs across the district are well underway, with construction crews digging in and making headway at sites across the district.

Our students, staff and community members are seeing first-hand the phases of construction we talked about at length with the community in the fall of 2019. We are grateful to district residents for seeing both the need and the vision, and for supporting the bond referendum. Much has been planned and built in the two years since that time, and we are excited to successfully complete all of the construction phases in the summer of 2025.

The first project to be completed in the fall of 2020 was the creation of a secure office and vestibule area at the district's Area Learning Center (ALC). The second phase of the ALC projects, which are scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2023, will include renovations to create a learning commons/flexible learning space, kitchen improvements and mechanical upgrades.

Elementary school projects that were constructed last year and completed before the school year began this fall included renovations to the media center, the addition of specialized learning spaces and upgrades to safety/security at Lincoln Elementary, Matoska International IB World School, Vadnais Heights Elementary and Willow Lane Elementary. A small classroom addition was added to Matoska International and a new full-size gymnasium addition was included in Lincoln's construction project.

Construction crews also completed the Transportation Department's new home, a facility that houses transportation staff and the district's fleet, just before the school year. District vehicles are maintained and managed at the new site, located in Hugo. Moving to this new location allows for expansion of the unified high school campus onto the former bus garage site.

Additionally, the WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 1 addition of a new gymnasium was completed before students came back in September. This gym, along with the one newly built at Lincoln, helps to address the need for community gymnasium space. The project also features a new entrance, vestibule, storage and walk-in freezer in the kitchen. Additionally, the new space includes privacy restrooms that are open during home events at the WBLAHS Stadium.

We have been grateful to be able to continue work on projects despite the challenges of COVID-19 and employment shortages. Our construction crews have been terrific at staying on schedule and on budget. Even in these times of building supply shortages, their efforts and partnership have kept us on track.

Cranes and strategically placed piles of dirt adorn other district sites currently under construction, especially at projects that broke ground this summer. Preparatory work for the additions and renovations that will create a unified White Bear Lake Area High School at the current WBLAHS - North Campus site are going strong. The extensive excavations for the field house, the stadium and activities areas, and the classroom additions are impressive.



Groundbreaking also took place recently for the Phase II project at South Campus, which will be converted to a middle school when the new unified WBLAHS on the current North Campus site holds all students grades 9-12. The project includes new classrooms, renovations to some areas of the current building to include flexible learning spaces and mechanical and security upgrades. Additionally, a new front office space addition will accommodate a change to make the front entrance of the building open to McKnight Road rather than to the parking lot on the south side of the building.

Construction on the new elementary school, just north of the Hugo Post Office along Highway 61, has been moving along nicely as well. The building, which will have the capacity to house 720 students in grades K-5, broke ground in the spring of 2021 and is on-track to be completed in time for students to attend in the fall of 2022. At that time, Oneka Elementary will also have a change in grading structure to serve students in grades K-5. The facility plan calls for Hugo Elementary to be converted to a northern Early Childhood Center in the future.

During the 2021-22 school year, projects will continue through the design and construction process and be finished before the fall of 2022 at Birch Lake, Lakeaires and Otter Lake Elementary Schools. Projects at the three elementary buildings include small additions, updated classrooms and media centers, and safety/security upgrades.

Knowing all of our students learn differently, we are being purposeful about building learning spaces that are versatile. We're able to create adaptable learning environments through both creative design and flexible furniture. That design principle of 'space adaptability and flexibility' is the catalyst to create a culture where students co-design their learning spaces supporting the district's vision of student agency.

When the facilities plan is complete, every elementary classroom in the district will have benefitted by the addition of new flexible furniture. Three elementary buildings were slated in Phase I of the furniture project and are currently experiencing the flexibility and choice it affords students in their learning. Phase II will include the remainder of elementary schools who will receive their new furniture next summer. Moving forward, flexible furniture will be added to classrooms in the district's early childhood, middle school and high school programs as items are needed.

The referendum projects that remain on the docket include classroom additions at Oneka Elementary and renovation of the current District Center to create additional classroom space for Central Middle School. Both school buildings will also see updated classrooms and media centers and safety/security upgrades.

The final piece of the comprehensive facilities plan will be completed in 2025 when the current Sunrise Park Middle School is renovated and converted for use as a home to the district's Early Childhood Center, District Office, Senior Center and Transition Education Center. This construction project will begin after the middle school has moved to the current South Campus site in 2024.

Follow along with our progress virtually. Project updates, detailed project presentations and photo/video footage of the projects are available on the Building Our Future page of the district's website, isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture.



Scan QR code to see
"Building Our Future
2021 Update" video.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Ready for Fall 2021

- Area Learning Center Phase 1
- Lincoln, Matoska, Vadnais Heights and Willow Lane Elementaries Updates
- New Transportation Facility
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 1 Gym Addition

Ready for Fall 2022

- Birch Lake, Lakeaires, Otter Lake Updates
- New Elementary School
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 2 Addition

Ready for Fall 2023

- Area Learning Center Phase 2
- Oneka Elementary Updates

Ready for Fall 2024

- Unified WBLAHS opens to grades 9-12
- Current WBLAHS - South Campus opens as middle school
- Central Middle School Phase 1 updates

Ready for Fall 2025

- Central Middle School Phase 2 updates
- Current Sunrise Park Middle School becomes District Services Center housing Early Childhood Center, District Office, Senior Center and Transition Education Center

DISTRICT-WIDE INITIATIVES

School Start Time Change - Implementation of changed school start times began in the Fall of 2021 after being approved by the School Board in April of 2021. In the new schedule, elementary and early childhood students begin their school day first, followed by Transition Education Center (TEC) students, high school students and middle school students.

Key factors of the decision included:

- The change aligns with the District's Strategic Plan and with research on adolescent sleep.
- The change is consistent with a commitment the District made to the City of White Bear Lake and current WBLAHS - North Campus neighborhood residents to prioritize the mitigation of traffic impact with the unified high school.
- The change allows the District to run a more efficient, three-tiered transportation system.

Additional information is available at isd624.org/schoolstarttimechange

Attendance Boundaries Process - The District's Comprehensive Facilities Plan includes capacity additions to several elementary schools, a new elementary school in Hugo, and the conversion of the current White Bear Lake Area High School - South Campus to a middle school. These comprehensive changes necessitate the need for adjustments to attendance boundaries. A steering committee made up of district staff has been meeting since May of 2021 to develop a variety of proposals. Stakeholder committee meetings, with parents and staff serving as representatives from each district building, are taking place in December of 2021, with action expected at a Board meeting in early-2022.

Additional information is available at isd624.org/attendanceboundariesprocess

2021 MN SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR HONORS



The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) named Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent of the White Bear Lake Area Schools (WBLAS), the 2021 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year. As the Minnesota honoree, Dr. Kazmierczak was a candidate among other state recipients for National Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Kazmierczak was selected for the state-level honor by a panel of representatives from a variety of Minnesota education organizations. Nominees were evaluated on how each candidate demonstrates leadership for learning, communication skills, professionalism, and community involvement.

“Dr. Kazmierczak has quickly become a beacon of leadership and inspiration across the state during his time at White Bear Lake,” said MASA Executive Director Dr. Deb Henton when

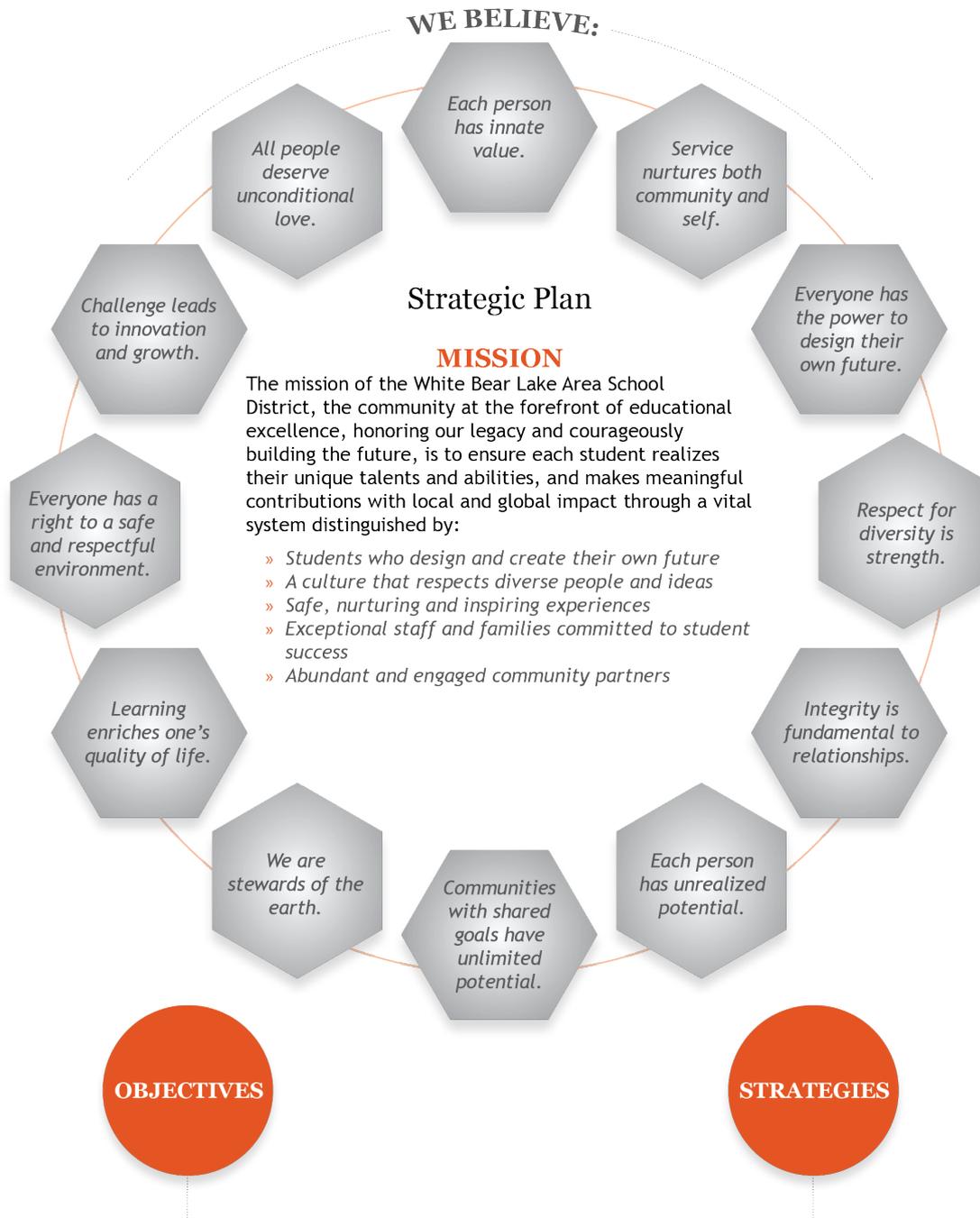
Dr. Kazmierczak's selection was announced. “He has made immediate relationships with his staff and the surrounding community. It is clear under his direction the district is poised to make positive impacts now and into the future. We are proud to have Dr. Kazmierczak represent our administrators as Minnesota's Superintendent of the Year.”

Beginning his career as a high school business education teacher and coach for 12 years, he has also served as the Superintendent of Lakeview Public Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Moorhead Area Public Schools. Dr. Kazmierczak was the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations for White Bear Lake Area Schools from 2014 until 2017. He was named Superintendent of White Bear Lake Area Schools in 2017.

The honoree is active within his community. He is a member of the Rotary Club International, Vadnais Heights Economic Development Corporation, White Bear Lake Area Education Foundation, and the Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund Board of Trustees.

See additional information about Dr. Kazmierczak at isd624.org/about/superintendent.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

White Bear Lake Area Schools utilizes the following tools to connect with families and community members:

- » **PARENT ALERT SYSTEM** - The District uses the SchoolMessenger parent alert system. The system allows for voicemail, email and text message alerts to be sent out instantaneously.
- » **COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER** - The Community e-Newsletter, sent out weekly to families and community members who have subscribed, covers School Board proceedings, student and staff achievements as well as school and Community Education offerings in an every-other week text version. Videos are shared on the alternating weeks.
- » **STAY SOCIAL** - Currently, almost 10,000 people follow the district on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube. 624 Facts are shared out through Facebook and Twitter.
- » **WWW.ISD624.ORG** – The district launched a redesigned website in the spring of 2019 that responds to the device being used to view the information and is available in multiple languages.
- » **VIDEOS** - A *Community e-Newsletter Video Edition* is sent twice a month. *The Week in 62.4 Seconds* videos highlight students learning each Friday. Individual videos are created and shared by the district as appropriate. District videos are closed captioned in both English and Spanish.
- » **BEAR'S BULLETIN** - The district includes a community-focused bulletin that is a flip-book included in seasonal Community Services and Recreation catalogs mailed to all district residents. The piece covers District and school news, accomplishments, 624 Facts and notice of upcoming events.
- » **BEAR'S UPDATE** - A large-format postcard is mailed to all district residents each summer. The piece covers pertinent District and school news.
- » **SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATION** - The Communications Office makes School Board meeting video/audio files available to the public after each School Board meeting. The videos are closed captioned in English and Spanish. Regular White Bear Lake Area School Board meetings are also broadcast on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area the week of a regular business meeting.
- » **COFFEE WITH DR. K** - Community members are invited to informal chat with Superintendent Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee at the Downtown White Bear Lake Caribou Coffee. The events are scheduled to happen periodically throughout the year.
- » **DISTRICT BOOTH AT MARKETFEST** - Each summer, our school principals, district administrators and Board members look forward to having terrific conversations with community members at the district's summertime Marketfest booth.
- » **FREE SENIOR ACTIVITIES PASS** - More than 300 Senior community members (those age 65+) who live in the District participate in the Senior Activities Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities.



CONTACTS

Elementary Schools

BIRCH LAKE / 651-653-2776

1616 Birch Lake Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

HUGO / 651-653-2798

14895 Francesca Avenue North
Hugo, MN 55038

LAKEAIRES / 651-653-2809

3963 Van Dyke Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

LINCOLN / 651-653-2820

1961 Sixth Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

ONEKA / 651-288-1800

4888 Heritage Parkway North
Hugo, MN 55038

OTTER LAKE / 651-653-2831

1401 County Road H2
White Bear Township, MN 55110

MATOSKA INTERNATIONAL IB WORLD SCHOOL

651-653-2847
2530 Spruce Place
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

VADNAIS HEIGHTS

651-653-2858
3645 Centerville Road
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

WILLOW LANE / 651-773-6170

3375 Willow Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Middle Schools

CENTRAL / 651-653-2888

4857 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

SUNRISE PARK / 651-653-2700

2399 Cedar Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

High School Campuses

WBLAHS - NORTH CAMPUS

651-653-2920
(Grades 9-10)
5045 Division Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

WBLAHS - SOUTH CAMPUS

651-773-6200
(Grades 11-12)
3551 McKnight Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

WBL AREA LEARNING CENTER

651-773-6400
2449 Orchard Lane
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Distance Learning

DISTANCE LEARNING ACADEMY

651-653-2749
(Grades K-12)

Other Sites

DISTRICT CENTER OFFICES

651-407-7500
4855 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

- 651-653-3100**
- Normandy Park Education Center
2482 East Cty Road F, WBL
 - Tamarack Nature Center
5287 Otter Lake Road, WBT
 - Birch Lake Elementary
1616 Birch Lake Avenue, WBL
 - Hugo Elementary
14895 Francesca Ave. N., Hugo
 - Lakeaires Elementary
3963 Van Dyke Street, WBL
 - North Oaks
Building 5 Mink Lane, NO
 - Otter Lake Elementary
1401 County Road H2, WBT

WHITE BEAR AREA SENIOR PROGRAM

651-653-3121
2484 East County Rd F
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

TRANSITION EDUCATION CENTER

651-773-6051
13497 Fenway Blvd Circle N
Hugo, MN 55038

On the horizon

In the Fall of 2022, North Star Elementary will open in Hugo, the northernmost part of our school district and will serve students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade along with Oneka Elementary, which is also located in Hugo.

www.isd624.org

651-407-7500

   /isd624



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.



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