

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - 2021

After taking a year off, the West Bloomfield School District's Family Fun Night celebrated a successful return in 2021. This year's event was a huge

success, with a large turnout of attendees from across the West Bloomfield community.

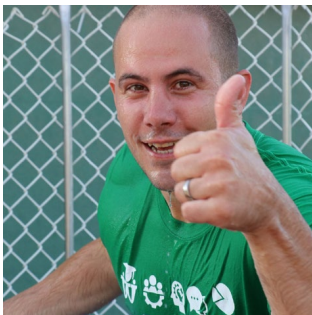
The event once again featured fan-favorite activities

such as a LEGO/STEM station, exhibitions from local community partners, and of course, the dunk tank. New in 2021, was the exciting addition of a charity softball game between the West Bloomfield Police and Fire departments.

The event culminated with a celebration and recognition of our military heroes, first responders and frontline workers prior to the

State Championship WBHS Laker football team's game against Stoney Creek High School.

Plans are already underway for 2022. Be sure to mark your calendars now!



WB STUDENT SCORES PERFECT ACT



WBHS senior Aaryan Chandna recently earned a perfect score of 36 on his American College Test (ACT). This is a tremendous accomplishment, one that not many students have the opportunity to achieve. According to ACT, less than 1 percent of students earn a top score.

"Aaryan has attended WBHS since sixth grade, where he began his advancement in academic rigor exhausting all of the math courses we had to offer by his sophomore year," said WBHS Principal Eric Pace. "Since then, he has continued to exceed expectations in nearly every AP course offered and in the highly advanced university levels of Calculus III and Linear Algebra. He is not only a high-achieving academic student but demonstrates leadership, poise, and purpose as an integral part of our school community. Aaryan is one shining example of how West Bloomfield students embody our 4Cs as communicators, collaborators, critical thinkers, and contributors. We are so proud of Aaryan for his achievements, but also for the character he exudes and for the future accomplishments that we are sure are to come."

Congratulations Aaryan!

2022-2023 SCHOOLS OF CHOICE/STEAM INFORMATION

The district will once again be participating in Schools of Choice for residents of Oakland County. The application window will also coincide with applications to participate in the district's S.T.E.A.M.

program.

The 2021-22 window will run from mid-January to mid-February 2022.

For more information and to apply, please visit www.wbsd.org or call (248) 865-6453.



REFLECTING ON THE PAST DECADE AS A *SPRINGBOARD* TO THE FUTURE

By Gerald Hill, Ph.D., Superintendent

In planning for the future, it's important to assess where we've been, what we've learned from the past, and where we currently find ourselves. This is true for organizations as well as individuals. We are currently at that reflection point in the West Bloomfield School District (WBSD) in terms of both the school district status and the conclusion of my decade of leadership as superintendent of schools. We've come a long way, but there's so much more to accomplish.

Finance

When I was appointed superintendent in 2012, the Board of Education had one prevailing concern that overshadowed its governance role. I recall during my interview with the Board when I asked what their top priorities were, the financial health of the school district was the consensus response. Given a fund balance at that time of approximately 3 percent, combined with forecasts of declining enrollment, stabilizing the financial health of the district was paramount before progress on educational issues could be addressed. Over the course of several years of transparent budgeting that included tough staffing decisions and judicious reductions, the administration and Board of Education were successful. We now have a fund balance of 19 percent. Additionally, we've passed several ballot measures, including a \$120 million bond proposal in 2017, which garnered approximately 70 percent approval by the voters. Funds from this bond are being used to

refurbish our schools as well as design and construct a new state-of-the-art middle school, scheduled to open in the fall of 2022.

School District Governance

As alluded to above, school district leaders have made important decisions to finance, budgeting, accountability, and establishing the vision of a school district. I've been fortunate over the past 10 years to work with effective school boards. Even while experiencing several changes (five of the seven current board members are new since 2012), we've continually improved board/superintendent relationships. Important to the continuity has been the development of board/superintendent operating principles to guide our work. I introduced a process where the Board keeps its policies regularly updated, which provides clear guidance to the administrative leaders of the District. Clear communication of the District's mission and vision is critical. Toward that end, the Board is currently updating its strategic plan, which will set the direction for the next three-to-five years. That plan will be finalized in the spring of 2022, with work commencing prior to the end of the 2021-22 school year.

Staff Relations

We've made significant progress in improving staff relations over the past

decade. Due to the past financial crisis, staff morale was negatively impacted.

Early on in my leadership, I recognized that we needed to be more appreciative of the work being done by our staff and more inclusive in our decision-making. Consequently, I've focused on building a collaborative culture where all voices are at the table, listened to, and acted upon. An important result of



these efforts is our current Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) process that is used with all bargaining groups. Simply put, IBB seeks to find common interests and collaboratively develops win/win solutions to issues facing the district and our employees. This process requires open, honest, and respectful regard to all perspectives and people in the process. Whereas we may begin with differing perspectives, we use a collaborative versus an adversarial process that not only solves problems but builds a cohesive spirit as well.

Teaching and Learning

All of these initiatives lead to our primary responsibility of providing excellent teaching and learning opportunities for staff and, most importantly, students. Over the last 10 years, we've made great strides in this priority area. A few examples include:

- Installing District-wide WI-FI and one-to-one technology, which has enabled greater communication, more powerful instructional platforms, and personalization of instruction
- Creating a forward-thinking and innovative Teaching and Learning services team, focused on updating curricular offerings as well as providing instructional professional development and coaching
- Developing a collaborative administrative organizational structure that explicitly focuses on teaching, learning, and reciprocal accountability
- Creating the District Learning Design Team, made up of teachers, school administrators, central office leaders, and school board members who foster innovation
- Creating and implementing the Portrait of a Graduate (PoG), developed by stakeholders (parents, students, community members, teachers, administrators, and school board members). The PoG is composed of our 4Cs – Communicators, Collaborators, Creative Problem Solvers, and Contributors. This work guides our current instructional focus and will be the basis of current strategic planning efforts.

There are many additional teaching and learning achievements, but the common thread is that we're all here to nurture, serve, challenge, guide, and excite our students about what they're currently learning and experiencing so their respective futures are both promising and fulfilling.

Community Relations

Lastly, it's important to put the above work into the context of the greater WBSD community. As superintendent, I have established positive relationships across all sectors of the community, including parents, local and state governmental agencies and representatives, the business community, faith leaders, and service clubs. Consequently, my wife and I have maintained a high-profile community presence through regular attendance at our schools' programs and events. I also am involved with the local Optimist Club, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, United We Walk/MLK 365 Committee, and the Oakland County Council for Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice, to name a few.

Concluding Thoughts

All of this work leads to a higher quality of life for our students and their families, making the greater West Bloomfield area a destination for families seeking an enriching place to raise children. As I contemplate the next phase of my life with retirement in June 2022, I will look back with pride. Over the years, both my wife, Cindy, and I have thoroughly enjoyed our numerous community engagements, particularly those projects and involvements serving youth. Developing young minds and leaders is gratifying work that impacts all our futures. Most importantly, we value the connections and relationships we've had with the many people in our community who are working to make lives better locally and globally. WBSD has a promising future!

WEST BLOOMFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION 2021

- **Stacy Brickman**, President
- **Julie Beaty**, Vice President
- **Nick Hersh**, Secretary
- **Kenneth Ferguson**, Treasurer
- **Deborah Evans**, Trustee
- **Carol Finkelstein**, Trustee
- **Christy Forhan**, Trustee

UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES

- **January 10:** Board Study Session
- **January 24:** Board Meeting
- **February 7:** Board Study Session
- **February 14:** Board Meeting
- **March 7:** Board Study Session
- **March 21:** Board Meeting
- **April 11:** Board Study Session
- **April 25:** Board Meeting
- **May 9:** Board Study Session
- **May 23:** Board Meeting
- **June 13:** Board Study Session
- **June 27:** Board Meeting

MEETING INFORMATION

The Board Study Sessions are tentative dates and may be canceled. NOTE: Please see the posted "Public Notices" for changes to meeting times and/or dates.

All regular Board Meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at West Bloomfield High School, 4925 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323, unless otherwise posted according to Board Policy #1300.

All Board Study Sessions are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Main Conference Room at the Administrative and Community Services Building, 5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48324, unless otherwise posted according to Board Policy #1300.



**WEST BLOOMFIELD
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Educating Students to be their Best IN and FOR the World!

KAREN REED RECEIVES STAR CERTIFICATE

The West Bloomfield School District Board of Education recognized Karen Reed with a Star Certificate during their August 23 meeting. The Board thanked her for all she does on a daily basis for the students of the West Bloomfield School District.

Karen Reed began working for the West Bloomfield School District back in 1997 as a school bus driver, eventually becoming one of the District's "new driver" trainers. Since assuming this role in the Transportation Department, every one of Ms. Reed's students have passed the rigorous Commercial Drivers License test with flying colors.

Ms. Reed's work ethic and pride for our school district is evident as she works each summer caring for District grounds, including

the landscaping and flower beds around many of our school buildings. She is also a huge supporter of West Bloomfield Athletics and attends many events throughout the year, especially events involving the students on her bus.

Ms. Reed is well known throughout the district because of her positive attitude, willingness to help whenever needed, and her rapport with our students. She will often recognize her students' birthdays and special events by dressing in costumes on her bus route.

"Parents and students absolutely love Karen and we are truly lucky to have her in our district," said WBSD Transportation Director Lynne Robertson. "She truly is a one-of-a-kind employee."

CHRIS HAINES RECEIVES STAR CERTIFICATE

The West Bloomfield School District Board of Education recognized Chris Haines with a Star Certificate during its September 27 meeting. The Board thanked him for all he does on a daily basis for the students of the West Bloomfield School District.

Chris Haines currently serves as the lead parent coach for the FIRST Tech Challenge teams within the district. These programs rely heavily on the support of parent volunteers and Mr. Haines has dedicated countless hours sparking student interest and creativity. Mr. Haines follows the FIRST vision – to transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and tech leaders. His efforts have helped inspire countless students to consider pursuing interests within the technology and robotics career fields.

Despite his nominator for this award wishing to remain

anonymous, that individual did share the following quote related to Mr. Haines's efforts:

"He goes the extra mile and builds self-confidence by listening, staying late if a child is in the middle of a 'build' or has an awesome idea. Chris is dependable and enthusiastic about coaching our WBSD Robotics kiddos. Chris is more than a coach – he is also a mentor!"

Mr. Haines has also found additional ways to serve the West Bloomfield School District community. During the 2020-21 school year, Mr. Haines served as a leader within the Lakers Online parent community, leading helpful discussions and providing assistance for fellow Lakers Online families while acting as an information liaison between the District and the Lakers Online community. Mr. Haines championed the Lakers Online program and routinely served as the group's biggest cheerleader – he, without a doubt, assisted in making the school a success during a truly unique school year.

COLLETTE GOESTENKORS RECEIVES STAR CERTIFICATE

The West Bloomfield School District Board of Education recognized Ms. Collette Goestenkors with a Star Certificate during its October 25 meeting. The Board thanked her for all she does on a daily basis for the students of the West Bloomfield School District.

Collette Goestenkors currently serves as an administrative assistant in the Early Childhood office at ACS. One of her main responsibilities is to organize and implement the Kids Klub and Tween Time offerings in West Bloomfield. This is a huge task but Collette continually rises to the occasion. She is tireless in her efforts to ensure our families are taken care of. She takes such ownership of her work, and she makes a difference every day for our community families and WBSD team.

Collette is a positive, caring, and competent person who makes

everyone feel welcome when they enter her office. Collette operates in the future and is always looking to make things better and brighter. She always demonstrates kindness and goes above and beyond to help others.

Collette's communication skills and her willingness to always help others is appreciated by her coworkers. Regardless of the circumstance, Collette remains calm and handles every situation with professionalism and tact.

Despite her nominator for this award wishing to remain anonymous, that individual did share the following quote related to Ms. Goestenkors efforts:

"Collette is reliable, flexible, caring, and an overall joy to be around. People will forget what you said and what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel and Collette embodies that mindset each and every single day."

A photograph of four children playing in a snowy field. The child in the center is a young girl with a joyful expression, wearing a dark blue winter coat, a beige knit hat with a pom-pom, and a striped scarf. To her left, another child in a tan coat and red scarf is partially visible. To her right, a child in a green coat and green hat is smiling. In the background, another child in a brown coat is partially visible. The scene is bright and cheerful, with snow falling around them.

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STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN SUMMER READING CONTEST



The West Bloomfield Township Public Library once again hosted its Summer Reading Contest in 2021. Library officials were in attendance at the September 27 Board of Education meeting to recognize the five top readers from each one of the District's schools.

At the District level, 285 students participated with the group, reading 9,735 hours. Each reader read on average 35 hours this summer.

Doherty Elementary's Top Five Readers

- Emma Calvin
- Karin Sanada
- Jayven Massa
- Lincoln Malott
- Carvi Malviya

Gretchko Elementary's Top Five Readers

- Denis Pepa
- Elisa Reamer
- Vivan Price
- Neil Ramesh
- Ayden Hammerick

Roosevelt Elementary's Top Five Readers

- Maya Bagri
- Hannah Pwlety
- Aarush Shah

- Ella Malott
- Heather Donnelly

Scotch Elementary's Top Five Readers

- Isabella Hanna
- Mariam Simmer
- Gabe Reamer
- Zander Price
- Sidney Jarco

Sheiko Elementary's Top Five Readers

- Adalyn Clavin
- Fabrizio Clemente
- Francesca Clemente
- Lyan Bassout
- Anax Schoerning

West Bloomfield Middle School's Top Five Readers

- Owen Calvin
- Anthony Pawlety
- Julian Pepa
- Marta Flick
- Benjamin Donnelly

West Bloomfield High School's Top Five Readers

- Malini Kamath
- Madison Hanna
- Riley Mehall
- Marianna Lopez
- Rene Sanders

TODAY

M A G A Z I N E S



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



JESSICA NISKAR WBHS Class of 2012

Jessica Niskar grew up in West Bloomfield always knowing she was meant to move to a big city, but unsure of what she wanted to do. When she asked herself what the one thing was she loved most, it was obvious – movies. Today, Jessica is working for New York City Film and Television. She is currently the assistant location manager for the show *Billions* on Showtime. Her resumé also includes work on *STARZ Run the World*, *HBO Max Search Party*, *Sony Classics After the Wedding*, *Netflix The After Party*, *Twentieth Century Fox, Westside Story* and more.

Niskar began her path toward her dream at Michigan State University, where she worked on sketch comedy shows, produced award shows and was a member of the in-house broadcasting department for Michigan State Athletics. She earned a degree in Media and Information from the College of Communication and Arts and Sciences.

While in college, she also sought out internships and participated in a study abroad program in India (Beyond Bollywood). She was willing and eager to go outside of her comfort zone and seek out opportunities to learn the industry from the ground up.

Not having any family or friends in New York City, networking became vital.

She spent every day meeting people through LinkedIn connections. After three weeks of networking, Niskar ended up getting an email from someone she met in college asking if she was interested and available to interview as a production assistant for an ABC pilot. From that moment on, she has continued to welcome new opportunities to learn and grow. By taking risks, sheer hard work and determination, Niskar has been able to move up in the film industry at a reasonably fast pace.

How has WBHS helped you on your current path?

In addition to providing a strong academic background, there were two teachers at WBHS who were monumental influences throughout my high school experience and who continue to provide support for me throughout these subsequent years.

Having struggled with issues outside of school, I came to school each morning anxious and distracted, not

knowing how to fit in. At some point, I ended up in these two teachers' hallway, bouncing between their classrooms, finding solace. During the day, one would relentlessly beg me to start watching "happy" movies, rather than "sad" – always accompanied by her eye roll and infectious smile. After hours, the

other would let me sit on top of a desk while he recounted stories of his teaching career, my eyes always wandering, inspecting all of the art that he made and collected throughout the years. I remember these teachers being the two people who didn't flinch when I told them what I thought I wanted to do. They never indicated my dreams were crazy or unrealistic. They were just excited and proud

for what was and what was to come. That was all I needed.

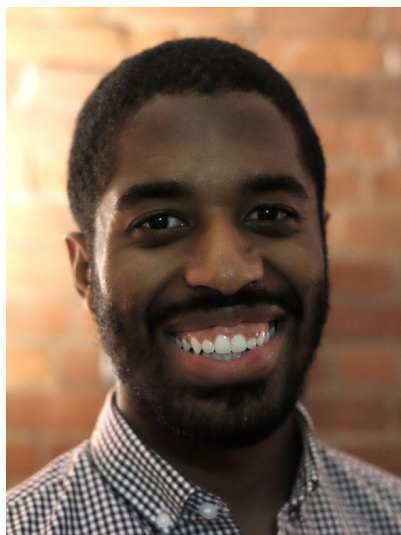
What advice do you have for our current students?

Just know that high school is only one part of your life. There's so much more. Life is hard. There are highs and lows, and it's just learning how to embrace the highs while understanding that the lows will pass. I wish I wasn't so hard on myself back in high school, and it's still something that I'm working on.

Whatever you choose to do, the most important components are to do your best to have fun, surround yourself with humans you love and who love you, and make sure you are proud of your past, present and future self.



Do you know of any West Bloomfield High School alums you'd like to see in the spotlight? If so, please email alycia.chase@wbsd.org with their contact info and a brief background.



CLIFTON BOYD

WBHS Class of 2010

Clifton Boyd is a music theorist and scholar-activist based in New York City. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in music theory at Yale University. In fall 2022, he will join the faculty of New York University's Department of Music.

Boyd is a staunch advocate for diversity in music academia: he is the founder of Project Spectrum, a graduate student-led coalition committed to increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in music academia. As chair, he oversaw the organization of their inaugural national symposium, "Diversifying Music Academia: Strengthening the Pipeline". He has written about his experience of "Being a Black Ph.D. Student Following George Floyd's Murder" for Inside Higher Ed, and will contribute to the forthcoming edited collection *Being #BlackintheIvory: Contending with Racism in the American University*.

Prior to his doctoral studies at Yale, he earned a B.M. in viola performance and music theory from the University of Michigan, and an M.M. in music theory from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

How has WBHS helped you on your current path?

It wasn't until several years after graduating from high school that I realized how excellent of an education I got at WBHS. The drive to succeed that WBHS nurtured in me as a high school student is the same drive that has helped me work toward and achieve my professional goals today.

I am also very grateful for my musical education at WBHS. I started the viola in fifth grade at Doherty Elementary School with Mrs. Trotter and was able to have her as my orchestra teacher throughout my high school career. Looking back, it was extremely important for me to have a Black orchestra teacher, given that professional orchestras are only about 1 percent Black. By working with Mrs. Trotter, and later Detroit's own Sphinx Organization, I learned that even if musical spaces were designed to make me feel like I didn't belong, I could defy the odds and work to support other Black musicians and scholars along the way.

What advice do you have for our current students?

Find out what you're passionate about and give it your all. It may take you a

while, but if you're fortunate enough to have some ideas, really push yourself to do the best that you can. While talent and natural ability can get you pretty far in life, it is often the people who work the hardest and are the most persistent who end up reaching their goals.

Be curious and take risks. At this stage of your life, you most likely don't know yourself very well, and that's OK. But in order to learn who you are, you need to be curious about the world around you and be willing to try new things. Getting yourself out of your comfort zone in all areas of your life is one of the best things you can do as a young person.

Ask for help and offer help. The world is, unfortunately, an unjust and inequitable place. People are constantly and structurally disadvantaged because of their race,

gender, sexual orientation, class, religion, nationality, and other identity markers. If you find you are not being given the same opportunities as your more privileged peers, don't be afraid to advocate for yourself and your future. If you are more privileged than most, do your part to work toward equity and social justice in your communities.

Be kind to yourself. Even if high school is a negative experience for you overall, or if you feel like you don't have things quite figured out yet, you still have your whole life ahead of you. Don't give up on yourself – the WBHS community hasn't.



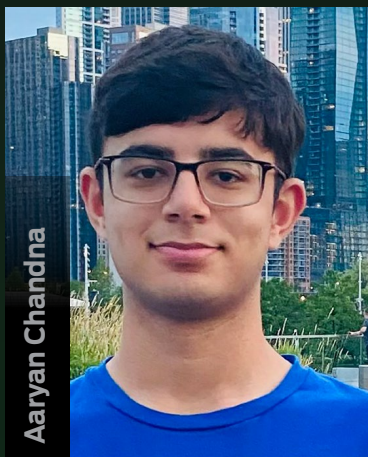
**WEST BLOOMFIELD
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WBHS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY

2022 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The West Bloomfield School District is proud to announce that four West Bloomfield High School students have been named semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. The district's 2022 semifinalists are Aaryan Chandna, Anika Ghosh, Maxwell Joyce, and Kareem Kersha.

Aaryan Chandna is the son of Ruchika and Gulshan Chandna. He is interested in studying either computer science/AI or aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan after high school. During his time at West Bloomfield High School, he has been a member of DECA, Data Science Club, National Honor Society, and the tennis team.



Aaryan Chandna

Anika Ghosh is the daughter of Ila and Sudipta Ghosh. She is interested in pursuing a career in healthcare after school and hopes to attend the University of Michigan or Case Western Reserve University. Anika is senior class president, captain of the varsity pom team, National Honor Society vice president, and a member of the Student Leadership executive board.



Anika Ghosh

Maxwell Joyce is the son of Nancy and John Joyce. He is interested in studying either aerospace or mechanical engineering after high school and hopes to attend the University of Michigan, Purdue University, or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Maxwell is treasurer of

the National Honor Society, co-captain of programming for the robotics team, and a member of the coding club. He also competes as a member of the track and tennis teams at West Bloomfield High School.



Kareem Kersha

Kareem Kersha is the son of Howaida Megahed and Fawzy Kersha. He is interested in studying medicine at the University of Michigan after high school. Kareem is vice president of the Muslim Student Association (MSA), treasurer of HOSA (Future Health Professionals) and a member of the National Honor Society.

The District is also proud to recognize the WBHS students who were announced as Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. Those students are Jumana Abdullah, Aryan Aggarwal, Andrew Horvath, Khadijah Hussain, Anjali Natarajan, Aaron Paul, and Sydney Stapf.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) – a test that serves as an initial screen of more than 1.5 million entrants each year – and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

Our warmest wishes this holiday season!



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GENERAL FUND AUDIT RECAP FOR THE SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR, ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

Public school districts are required to have an independent audit of their annual financial statements each year. By independent, this means an outside firm that reports directly to the Board of Education conducts a thorough study of the District's financial statements, which have been prepared and presented by the school district's business office, and comments on the validity and accuracy of those financial statements.

This process provides an annual "check and balance" mechanism to ensure that school district resources have been properly classified and accounted for according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and that taxpayer funding is being utilized within the parameters allowed by law.

For the school fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2021, the school district retained Plante and Moran, which is one of the leading school audit firms in the state of Michigan. We are pleased to report that Plante and Moran has issued an "unqualified" audit, which means that the audit was clean and no material discrepancies were found in the dollar amounts or District budgeting, accounting, and reporting procedures that the school district presented.

An unqualified audit is the best report that can be achieved in the audit process.

The school district's General Fund is the primary fund that encompasses daily instruction and operations. Here are a few highlights from the audit report for the District's General Fund:

REVENUE - \$69.9 million

The primary revenue source for the school district is the state-established Foundation Grant. This is an annual dollar amount per student that the state sets for each school district. Last year, the Foundation Grant for WBSD was \$9,156 per pupil, which ranks seventh of 28 public school districts in Oakland County. Therefore, the number of pupils the district attracts and retains is critical to our annual funding. No other revenue component comes close compared to the importance of the Foundation Grant each year.

EXPENDITURES - \$68 million

Over 82 percent of school district expenditures go toward personnel costs. To provide another layer of detail, 81 percent of the \$63 million in expenditures goes directly toward instruction and instructional support. Various resources are needed to operate the school district but the vast majority of resources are allocated where they should be - for teaching and learning.

FUND BALANCE RECAP

Beginning Fund Balance, July 1, 2020	\$11.1 million
Revenue	\$69.9 million
Expenditures	\$68.0 million
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$1.8 million
Ending Fund Balance, June 30, 2021	\$12.9 million
Fund Balance as % of Revenues	18.5 percent

An adequate fund balance promotes financial stability and helps preserve continuity in educational programming and outstanding opportunities for students.

Some additional benefits of maintaining an adequate fund balance are:

- Minimizes the need to borrow on a short-term basis to meet cash flow
- Prevents operating with a structural deficit
- Provides flexibility in adjusting spending during the school year
- Helps with maintaining bond credit ratings

GLEASON SELECTED FOR MSVMA RECOGNITION

West Bloomfield High School's Kyle Gleason recently participated in the 2021 Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Musical Theatre Intensive at Livonia-Churchill High School earlier this fall. Only around 100 students were selected from across the state of Michigan to participate in a variety of educational sessions.

The workshop was headlined by Catherine Walker as well as Jason DeBord and Ann Evans Watson, University of Michigan Theatre Department faculty. Participating students were able to work with each clinician, with eight students being selected to perform a mini recital at the end of the day.

Congratulations to Kyle on this distinct honor!

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ON SITE ADMISSIONS DAY

Seniors at West Bloomfield High School recently participated in On Site Admissions Day. This annual event is organized by the Counseling Department each year and allows students the opportunity to meet and interview with admissions representatives from local colleges and universities.

As part of this unique event, many students were accepted to attend those colleges and universities starting next fall. Students also had the ability to apply for and receive financial aid from these institutions to help aid in their academic pursuits.

Thank you to the WBHS Counseling Department for helping to turn these students' dreams into reality.



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SUPPORT THE WEST BLOOMFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION!

Over 5,500 West Bloomfield students benefit from the work of the foundation and generosity of individuals, families and businesses. The WBEF supports numerous programs and initiatives at all district buildings elementary through high school.

Join us for WBEF's Fabulous Casino Night!

Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Edgewood Country Club

Adults Play - Kids Win!

Visit www.wbef.org/donate and make a contribution TODAY!

The WBEF 501(c)(3) charitable organization raises funds to support the West Bloomfield School District and its fine educational programs. Since its inception, the WBEF has raised over \$1 million donating those funds to the school district and students of West Bloomfield.



West Bloomfield Educational Foundation: 5810 Commerce Road · WB, MI 48324

(248) 865-6454 | info@wbef.org | www.wbef.org



West Bloomfield School District

Office of Public Relations and Marketing

248-865-6454

www.wbsd.org

EditorDan Durkin

Our Mission:

"The Laker strengthens the vital relationship between West Bloomfield School District and the community by clearly communicating in a timely and relevant manner the many successes of our students, schools and community."

West Bloomfield School District

Dr. Gerald D. Hill

Superintendent

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Oakland Early College

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Oakland Opportunity Academy

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West Bloomfield Transition Center

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West Bloomfield Middle School

248-865-3670

Doherty Elementary School

248-865-6020

Gretchko Elementary School

248-865-6570

Roosevelt Elementary School

248-865-6620

Scotch Elementary School

248-865-3280

Sheiko Elementary School

248-865-6370

Lakers Online

248-865-6955

Notice of Nondiscrimination:

It is the policy of the West Bloomfield School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, religion, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in employment or any of its programs or activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Mr. Eric Whitney, Assistant Superintendent for Talent Development and Management. 5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48324. (248)865-6424

WBSD PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR

January 2022

Jan. 11 – WBMS Choir Concert at 7 p.m.

Jan. 13 – WBHS Orchestra Concert at 7 p.m.

Jan. 18 – WBMS 6th Grade Band Concert at 7 p.m.

February 2022

Feb. 3 – WBHS MIFA Dinner Theater 6 p.m.

Feb. 9 – WBSD Vocal Arts Day at 9 a.m.

Feb. 15 – WBHS Pre-Festival Orchestra Concert at 7 p.m.

Feb. 17 – WBHS Pre-Festival Band Concert at 7 p.m.

March 2022

Mar. 4 – WBMS Musical at WBHS at 7 p.m.

Mar. 5 – WBMS Musical at WBHS at 2 p.m.

Mar. 10 – WBHS Pre-Festival Choir Concert at 7 p.m.

Mar. 22 – WBMS Choir Concert at 7 p.m.

Mar. 24 – WBMS Theater Performance at 7 p.m.

April 2022

April 28 – WBHS Spring Musical Big Fish at 7 p.m.

April 29 – WBHS Spring Musical Big Fish at 7 p.m.

April 30 – WBHS Spring Musical Big Fish at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

May 2022

May 5 – WBHS Band Concert at 7 p.m.

May 17 – WBHS Spring/Senior Choir Concert at 7 p.m.

May 19 – WBHS Spring Orchestra Concert at 7 p.m.

May 25 – WBMS Musical Theater Performance at 7 p.m.

May 26 – WBMS Musical Theater Performance at 7 p.m.

June 2022

June 1 – WBMS Orchestra Concert at 7 p.m.

June 2 – WBMS Theater Performance at 7 p.m.

June 7 – WBMS Choir Concert at 7 p.m.

June 9 – WBMS Band Concert at 7 p.m.



Seniors 62+ Get Free Admission to District Events!

Laker Senior Gold Cards are available for our West Bloomfield School District senior residents.

Gold Cards allow senior citizens who are 62 years or older to attend school district events such as plays, athletic games, and musical performances FREE OF CHARGE.

Laker Senior Gold Cards are available at district schools and at the Administration and Community Services Building, 5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield MI 48324. Cards are non-transferable and may only be used by the registered senior.

Gold Cards may not be used for facility use, room rentals, tuition-based programs, or MHSA tournament events. The Laker Gold Card must be presented at the ticket booth in order to receive a complimentary ticket.



WEST BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY EDUCATION WINTER 2021



www.wbsd.org
Click on **SCHOOLS**, then click on **WEST BLOOMFIELD PRESCHOOL ACADEMY**
(248) 865-6462

WEST BLOOMFIELD PRESCHOOL ACADEMY'S SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM WILL HELP STUDENTS FORM STRONG FOUNDATIONS

When children feel secure in their relationships and are able to get their needs met in a responsive and consistent way, they begin forming strong social and emotional foundations. While all areas of development are important in young children, West Bloomfield Preschool Academy teachers focus on supporting the social and emotional aspect of their students. This helps to ensure positive connections form between adults and peers in the classroom. In efforts to continue supporting our teachers and students in this area, WB Pre-K has created the "Social and Emotional Support Team."

The Social and Emotional Support Team consists of a group of our very own Pre-K and GSRP teachers who support their fellow colleagues by getting to the root of some social/emotional challenges they may be facing in the classroom. Teachers use consistent strategies and a calming environment to help embrace their



students' emotions using positive reinforcement, problem solving, and conflict resolution.

"Emotional" activities, social stories, sensory items, and more are all planned according to the individual child and as the class as a whole to ensure all of our students' developmental needs are met socially and emotionally.

The goal for our students is to help children develop relationships, regulate their behavior and emotions, and talk about their feelings. When the adults in children's lives have appropriate expectations of children's development at a preschool age, they will see greater achievements and overcome challenges in the classroom and at home.

"When parents, informal community programs, and professionally staffed early childhood services pay attention to young children's emotional and social needs, as well as to their mastery of literacy and cognitive skills, they have maximum impact on the development of sturdy brain architecture and preparation for success in school." Reference: National Scientific Council on the Developing Child.

Below are some great resources to support social and emotional development with your preschooler!

- National Association for the Education of Young Children
<https://www.naeyc.org>
- Building Social Emotional Skills at Home
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/building-social-emotional-skills-at-home>
- Help Your Preschooler Gain Self Control
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/help-your-preschooler-gain-self-control>
- Conversations with Children: Tips for Using Words in Powerful Ways
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/using-words-powerful-ways>

Early Childhood, Kids Klub, and Tween Time

Coordinator: Laura Poxon

Registration and Information: (248) 865-6466



COMMUNITY EDUCATION RECAP

A special thank you goes out to our dedicated Summer Camp staff.

The front page of the New York Times published on July 26, 2021, reported the tight labor market recruiting camp counselors, noting that some camps have even closed.

West Bloomfield School District Community Education was up and running and fully staffed at Gretchko Elementary School for pre-k to eighth grade. Campers enjoyed the outdoor activities with Oakland County Mobile Recreation, onsite assemblies and classes, and field trips.

"One of our favorite memories was the new splash pad, Lily Pad Springs, in West Bloomfield," said Andrea Frank, Community Enrichment Coordinator. "We had north of 75 children a week, summer camp really was a great transition back to in-person learning."



Do you recognize these rockstars? They are WBSD employees during the Sept.-June school year who worked Summer Camp. From left to right: Denise Augsburger, Linda Semma, Ashleigh Johnson and Jennifer Risi.

Congratulations to Cindy Carson! She was nominated and selected to receive an Instructor Award of Excellence for her involvement in FIRST Lego League Robotics. Cindy received a plaque and a monetary award to use toward classroom activities.



Oakland County Community and Adult Educators Award Luncheon at Edgewood Country Club on September 17, 2021. From left to right: Dawn Hanford, coordinator of WBSD Adult Education/Career Development; Cindy Carson, teacher at Doherty Elementary School; and Kim Watts, WBSD parent and robotics volunteer.

ADULT EDUCATION/ESL

Dawn Hanford, Coordinator
J&S Office Center
7071 Orchard Lake Rd., Ste. 100
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
(248) 539-2390

Winter Evening ELL! Beginner Morning ELL!

Register for ELL Levels I, II, and III PM and Level I AM
Classes begin January 10, 2022 and go through April 28, 2022.

Bring Picture ID, Social Security Number (if you have one), and \$50 Registration Fee.

Students 18 and older are welcome from any district.

Call to schedule an appointment.

Winter English Language Learner (ELL) Tuition Schedule

Winter Session 3: January 10 – February 17
(6 weeks, omit January 17 – to be made up)

Advanced English

Monday/Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$225

Intermediate English

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$225

American Customs and Manners Online

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. \$195
(Includes materials. Login detail upon registration.)

Winter Session 4: February 28 – April 14
(6 weeks, omit 3/28-4/1 for Spring Break)

Advanced English

Monday/Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$225

Intermediate English

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. \$225

American Customs and Manners Online

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. \$195
(Includes materials. Login detail upon registration.)

Community Education Office

Administration and Communication Services (ACS)
5810 Commerce Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48324
Phone: (248) 865-6462

Laura Poxon
Coordinator,
Early
Childhood

Kathi Luthe
Assistant
Supervisor,
Early
Childhood

**Collette
Goestenkers**
Early
Childhood
Preschool
Secretary

Beth Helka
Kids Klub and
Tween
Time Secretary

**Dawn
Hanford**
Adult
Education/ESL
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**Melissa
McDonald**
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Andrea Frank
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