



White Bear Lake Area Schools

Independent School District 624

District Office
4855 Bloom Ave
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-2731
651-407-7563

May 12, 2022

Dear Neighbors,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the progress of the White Bear Lake Area High School-North Campus construction project. As you know, construction at the unified high school site has been underway for about a year; thank you for your continued patience.

We recognize that student drop-off and pick-up traffic has been a challenge. The development of the site has resulted in the temporary elimination of many student and staff parking spots, and all school-related traffic is currently limited to one entry point at the main entrance off of Division Avenue. We will continue to work with our families and students through the end of the school year to try to alleviate some of the traffic issues at the beginning and the end of the school day. There will still be challenges in the fall, but we do expect improvement when we begin the 2022-23 school year.

Although students will no longer be in the building during the summer, we anticipate that the site will be busy in June, July, and August. Work on the high school site will be at its peak during this summertime window, and we recognize that construction traffic increases as the number of workers on the site increases.

May

Houses along Bald Eagle Avenue that were sold to the school district are being removed and the site is being cleared. While this process involves the removal of some existing trees, we will also be planting approximately 750 new trees on the site, which is consistent with the City of White Bear Lake's tree protection plan. Our team has been working with a landscape architect to study the trees on the acquired lots and to develop a plan for tree retention that compliments the overall site plan.

You have likely noticed increased construction traffic using the site access point located northwest of Central Middle School and directly west of the new stadium. The excavation occurring in that area is to prepare for athletic fields and regulation tennis courts. The athletic field and track in the new stadium will be completed before school begins this fall. The remaining athletic fields are expected to be finished during the fall of 2022. When the tennis courts are completed in the fall of 2023, they will be regulation sized. This will allow our tennis teams to host meets, which was not possible with the former courts. The new courts will also include lines for pickleball.

Preparation of Loricus Field on the far northern end of the site is underway; this portion of the project has a targeted completion date of October 2022. We worked with the Rice Creek Watershed District to protect the wetlands and to improve drainage in that area.

Construction of the 3-story classroom addition will continue through December 2022 and in January 2023, 9th and 10th grade students and staff will transition into this new space. Renovation of the existing building and the development of the east side of the site will begin in February 2023.

June

Preparation of the athletic fields will continue. When excavation of that area is complete, we anticipate that fewer trucks will access the site from Bald Eagle Avenue. Excavation at Loricus Field will also continue, with truck traffic shifting from Bald Eagle Avenue to Division Avenue.

The clearing of lots on Bald Eagle Avenue will largely be complete, and the site will be readied for the construction of parking lots. There will be a smaller staff parking lot north of 12th Street and a larger general parking lot to the south of 12th Street. Both parking lots will have a water filtration system below the surface, and the entrance near the larger lot will have turn lanes. Both lots will be used for construction traffic and workers until January 2023 at which time construction largely shifts to the Division Avenue side; staff and student parking shifts to the Bald Eagle side at that time.

July

Construction of the fields and parking lots will be ongoing. Material deliveries for the classroom addition and the field house will continue on both Bald Eagle Avenue and Division Avenue through January 2023. The number of construction workers on site will likely peak in July as the renovations for the northwest corner of the high school building will also be underway.

August

Site construction will begin to wind down as we near completion of the athletic fields and parking lots. The new classroom addition and the field house will look more finished as the exterior work will be nearly complete.

We invite you to continue to follow along with us on this process. The Building Our Future webpage contains a variety of information, including press releases and videos for the facilities projects. Current photos and video footage can be found linked to the “Current update from the construction crew” button available on each of the individual project pages.

Enclosed in this mailing is a site plan that provides a high-level description of the site. Additionally, those who wish to view the presentation that was shown at the November 2020 neighborhood virtual meeting can do so on the District website (Go to www.isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture, scroll down and click on the “Secondary Projects” tab, click on “White Bear Lake Area High School”, under “Project updates and presentations” find “Nov. 12, 2020 North Campus Neighborhood Meeting materials: presentation slides, video, Q&A doc”).

In closing, please enjoy a few “fun facts” about the project:

- There will be more than 450 windows to let natural light into the classroom addition and the field house.
- When the project is complete, the unified high school building will have one of the largest roof-mounted solar installations in the state.
- The split high school was created in 1983. Forty-one years later, the high school will be reunited into one campus when the project is complete in the fall of 2024.

Thank you again for your patience as we tackle this complex construction project that was graciously supported by our community. We are excited about these changes as the new unified high school campus, including the outdoor spaces surrounding it, will be a tremendous community asset for generations to come.

We appreciate your continued flexibility and partnership during this exciting time for our school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wayne A. Kazmierczak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wayne" being more prominent.

Wayne A. Kazmierczak, Ph.D.
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Wald". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Tim" being more prominent.

Tim Wald
Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations