

Welcome to
2022-23



Dear Families,

We are looking forward to welcoming each of our students and families back to the 2022-23 school year, one in which we know our students will continue to move forward with gusto, learning and growing in safe, nurturing and challenging environments.

This year will also see important work being done in support of various district initiatives. On Nov. 8, the community will vote on a Capital Projects Levy Renewal question that will fund safety and security; technology and related services; textbooks, curriculum materials and equipment, and musical instruments; and transportation. Work will be done on the four Strategic Plan Strategies approved by the School Board in August. And the district's facilities updates and construction projects, made possible by the district's support of the 2019 bond referendum, will continue to take shape throughout the district this year and beyond. These three initiatives are described in more detail on the reverse.

The district will keep families updated throughout the year via e-newsletters, voicedrops and social media. Please watch for these updates to be coming and familiarize yourself with the information, and please ensure emails coming from communications@isd624.org do not get marked as spam in your inbox. The most complete and up-to-date Back to School information, including School Supply Lists, ParentVUE information, and calendars, can be found at the district's website, specifically at isd624.org/BackToSchool.

We appreciate your partnership during what is sure to be an unforgettable year, as we work hard to best serve our students, families, staff and community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent

p.s. We continue to hire Bears for the 2022-23 school year. We need substitute teachers, bus drivers, paraeducators, Extended Day and Nutrition Services staff members, and more! We offer competitive wages, flexible work hours, and a chance to make a difference for kids in our community. Find job posting at isd624.org/employment.

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651-407-7500



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Find info about COVID-19, head lice, immunizations, medications at school, and resources at isd624.org/programs/health-services.

It's a 624 Fact

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

Equity Commitment

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

4-Way 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?

Stewardship

The District has received excellence in financial reporting awards from both the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association.

Stay connected!

Community e-Newsletter "Sign up for the e-Newsletter" on the Community e-Newsletter page (under the About tab at isd624.org) to receive the text and video editions sent out each Sunday night.

Stay Social Join White Bear Lake Area Schools' social media circles - Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Find links on the District's website.

Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 6 - 1st Day Gr. 6 & 9

Sept. 7 - 1st Day Gr. 1-5, 7-8, 10-12+

Sept. 8 - 1st Day Gr. K

Sept. 12 - 1st Day Elementary Childhood

Oct. 14 - Deadline for Directory Info & Military Release opt-outs

IMPORTANT DISTRICT NOTICES

Student Directory Information

Student directory information is considered “public” under state and federal laws. Unless parents give specific instructions to the contrary, schools must release directory information to anyone who requests it.

Public directory information includes, but is not limited to: the student’s name, photograph, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

If you do not wish for this information to be given out about your child, send written notification including: name of the student and/or parent, if applicable; home address; school presently attended by student; parent’s legal relationship to student, if applicable; and specific categories of directory information to be made not public without the parent’s or eligible student’s prior written consent, which shall only be applicable for that school year. Notification should be sent to: Restrict Directory Data, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., WBL, MN 55110, no later than Friday, Oct. 14, 2022.

Release of 11th/12th Grade Data to Military Recruiters

Federal law requires high schools to provide military recruiting officers access to public directory data (above) and the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of all 11th and 12th grade students. Parents have a right to refuse release of this data by sending written notification to: Refuse Release to Military Recruiters, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., WBL, MN 55110, no later than Friday, Oct. 14, 2022.

School Meals NOT Free This Year

For the past two years, the federal government has funded a plan to provide free school meals for K-12 school students. They have stopped providing this funding beginning in the upcoming 2022-23 school year, so school meals will NOT be free for all students this year.

Breakfast Prices*

Early Childhood: \$1.70 (where meals provided)

Kindergarten: FREE (paid by State of MN)

Grades 1-12+: \$1.70

Lunch Prices*

Early Childhood: \$2.95 (where meals provided)

Grades K-5: \$2.95

Grades 6-12+: \$3.25

* Meals are FREE to those who qualify (see info below)

Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

District families may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. To apply, families should complete the Application for Educational Benefits available online at isd624.org/BackToSchool. A new application must be submitted each year and may help students qualify for additional benefits including reduced activity fees, discounted internet access, and more.

ParentVUE

ParentVUE by Synergy is our student information system that supports student demographics, schedules, attendance, grades and more. ParentVUE is replacing Skyward Family Access. Find additional information, resources, tips and links about the new system at isd624.org/ParentVUE.



Digital Curriculum Tools Notification

We use a variety of digital tools to support student learning. Technology vendors and software are utilized to support work as we help all students develop the skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.

An inventory of our curriculum, testing, and assessment tools are available at isd624.org/departments/technology/digital-curriculum-tools, including an outline of the student data elements within each tool. The list is maintained and communicated annually to all families at the start of the school year.

Contact steve.asper@isd624.org if you have questions regarding specific digital tools used in classrooms.

District Policies

Complete School Board policies at isd624.org/about/district-policies.

Capital Projects Levy Renewal

Community members will see a Capital Projects Levy Renewal question on the November 8 ballot. Renewing this investment, last approved by the community in 2013, puts a variety of educational tools, from classroom technology to books to musical instruments, into the hands of students. This funding also allows us to address equipment needs in the areas of safety and security, and transportation.

The straight renewal of the levy is projected to generate \$2,590,309 annually for an additional 10 years beginning in 2024, with the tax rate for district property owners remaining unchanged.

Additional information can be found at isd624.org/capitalprojectslevyrenewal.

Strategic Plan Update

The White Bear Lake Area School Board recently approved four updated Strategies:

- We will create and sustain a safe, equitable and nurturing environment.
- We will promote, encourage and support students’ personal learning experiences and aspirations.
- We will ensure our organization continuously transforms to fulfill our mission.
- We will establish healthy and vital engagement with our entire community.

Information about opportunities to participate on Action Teams will be made available as the school year begins. Complete information about the district’s Strategic Plan & Mission can be found at isd624.org/about/strategic-planning.

Building Construction Updates

Since 2019, when the community supported a bond referendum, the list of completed facilities projects has grown to include the South Campus gym addition, Transportation Facility, Area Learning Center (ALC) security renovation, and elementary additions at Lincoln, Matoska, Vadnais Heights and Willow Lane.

Phase 2 is in progress and includes work at Birch Lake, Lakeaires and Otter Lake Elementaries, ALC, and an addition at the current WBLAHS - South Campus, which will be a middle school building when North Campus becomes the site of the unified high school in the fall of 2024. In Hugo, the new North Star Elementary is open for students this fall and construction will begin at Oneka Elementary. Projects in the design phase include Central Middle School and the future conversation of Sunrise Park Middle School to become a multi-use facility that will include District Offices, Early Childhood, Transition Education Center (TEC) and the Senior Program.

Details about the district’s facilities projects can be found at isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture.

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