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ISD624.ORG

Conversations and Support

With our first snowfall in the books and winter quickly approaching, I want to take a moment to say thank you for helping us successfully kick off the 2022-23 school year. This fall has felt more back to the norm than it has in recent years, with memorable athletic contests and events taking place, connections made during community meetings, and meaningful volunteer programs launching once again.

Much of the conversation in the district this fall has been related to the Capital Projects Levy Renewal that was on the Nov. 8 election ballot and passed with 59.5% approval. The levy renewal will fund safety and security measures and equipment throughout the district, classroom technology and equipment, curriculum and instruments, and buses and vans for student transportation. The ballot question was a renewal of an expiring levy at the same tax rate. It is projected to generate \$2,590,309 beginning in 2024 and will continue for an additional 10 years. We appreciate that our community members took time to learn about the levy renewal and ultimately approved continuation of this essential funding for our district. We are incredibly grateful for this renewed vote of confidence and support in our schools, our staff and our students.

Support has also been shown by community members who have given their time to participate in formal conversations about the district's future through Strategic Plan Action Teams that met throughout the fall.

Continued on District News page VIII

Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntwav Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

Flip book to see
Community Services &
Recreation Catalog



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White Bear Lake Area School District
Community Services & Recreation Department
4855 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-2371

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 2022 was lower than in previous years, although we saw a recovery from the low in spring 2021. White Bear Lake Area Schools typically has seen more than a 95% participation rate for both assessments. Math had a 91.5% participation rate and Reading had a 94.4% participation rate. The state-level participation rate was similar.

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 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 ninth and 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 55 college-level courses and seven career pathways areas.

2021-22 WBLAS MCA COMPARISON TO STATE AVERAGES			
	State	WBLAS	WBLAS % above state
Reading	51.1%	55.2%	+4.1%
Mathematics	44.8%	48.3%	+3.5%

Source: Minnesota Department of Education’s “Minnesota Report Card”

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, PreACT and ACT, academic grades and credits.



Responding to student needs

Learning recovery and targeted support for each of our students was a focus throughout the 2021-22 school year as building and district teams worked to adjust instruction and intervention to meet the needs of all learners. The district also coordinated and implemented a robust set of summer programming for a wide variety of students in grades K-12.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS & ENRICHMENT








97% The 4-year graduation rate for the White Bear Lake Area High School - South Campus Class of 2021 was 97.0%, 13.7 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

55 **Colleges and Universities on campus**
 During the 21-22 school year, 55 college level courses were offered at WBLAHS: 21 Advanced Placement (AP) classes, 30 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).

Narrowing gaps During 2021-22, the percentage of students who enrolled in college-level courses more closely mirrored our district's student demographic percentages.

PLTW	47 students earned 138 credits
CIS	327 students earned 859.5 credits
AP	404 students earned 1662 credits
PSEO	60 students earned 797.25 credits

\$1.9 mil
 Total value of credits earned by WBLAHS students in college-level courses during 2021-22.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS
 Two students received special honors. One received College Board National Hispanic Recognition and another was a 2023 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

All tuition calculations except concurrent enrollment based on U of MN tuition rate of \$538.70 per credit. Concurrent enrollment based on Century College tuition rate of \$203.59. 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.

Half of the members of the WBLAHS Class of 2022 earned at least one college credit before graduating.

95
 Advanced Placement Scholars

2022 Advanced Placement Scholars
 52 AP Scholars
 18 AP Scholars with Honors
 25 AP Scholars with Distinction

Student Support Services
 We 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 middle school and high 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. Lakeaires Elementary also offers elementary AVID strategies to students.

BARR
 Building Assets, Reducing Risk (BARR) programming is used in six of our buildings, with a focus on building relationships and early intervention.

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

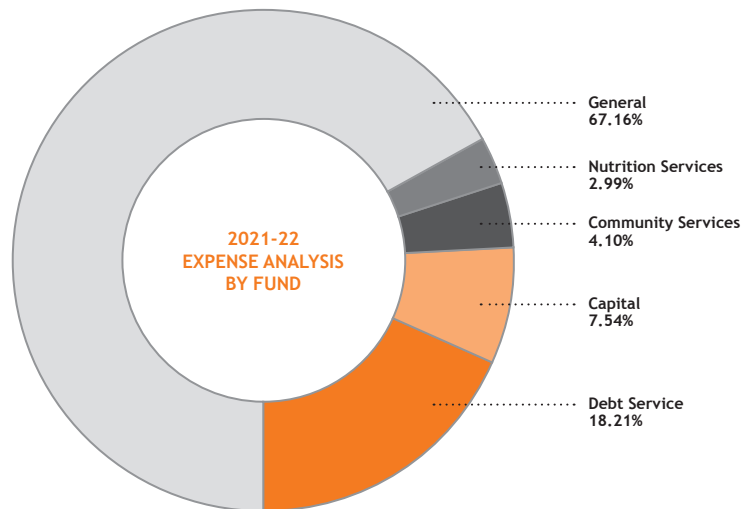
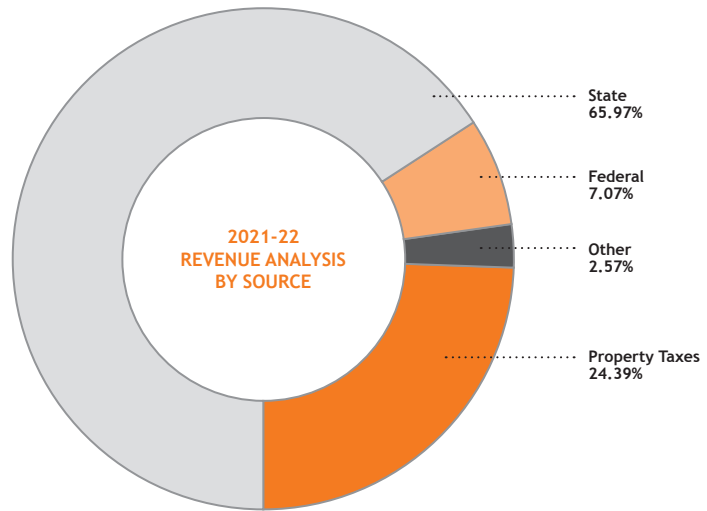
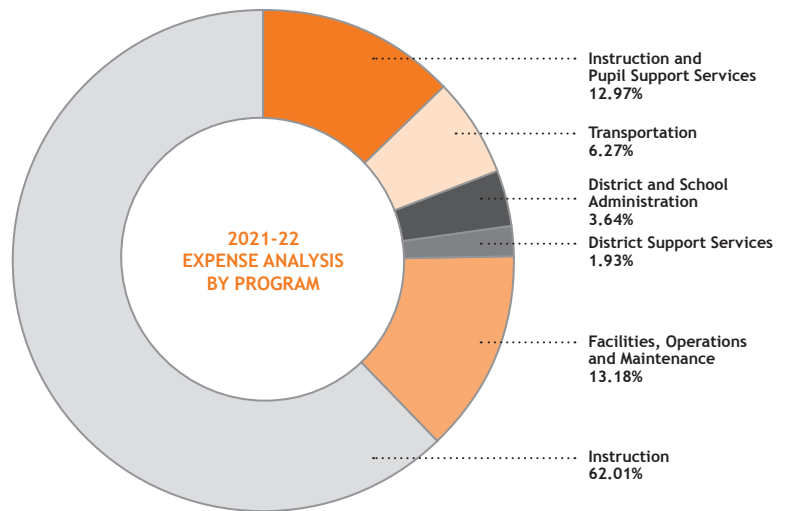
The district continues to demonstrate strong stewardship to our communities. A recent community survey showed:

- » 89% of respondents believe the community receives a good value from its investment.
- » 80% of respondents believe we have spent past referendum revenue responsibly.
- » Residents rated the district’s financial management well above the industry norm, putting us in the top quarter of suburban districts.

In November of 2022, area residents voted on the District’s Capital Projects Levy Renewal, with 59.5% in support of the question.

We have been recognized for excellence in financial reporting for more than 20 consecutive years by the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association.

The District has taken advantage of favorable interest rates to refinance outstanding debt, *saving taxpayers nearly \$500,000 through the next two 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.

2022-23 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.

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 DEMOGRAPHICS 2022-23	
Free/Reduced Price Lunch	32.6%
English Language Learner	5.0%
Special Education	16.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.45%
Asian	7.30%
Black/African American	6.78%
Hispanic/Latino	7.61%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.06%
Two or more races	6.42%
White	71.37%

Source: District data

STUDENT ENROLLMENT 2022-23	
Early Childhood <i>Includes all District preschool and early childhood programs at all District locations.</i>	821
Elementary (Grades K-5)	3,715
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	1,987
High School (Grades 9-12)	2,542
Transition Plus (T+) (Special Ed - ages 18-24)	35
DISTRICT TOTAL K-T+	8,279
DISTRICT TOTAL BIRTH-T+	9,100

Source: District data

In addition to English, students in our district



- Adangme
- Afrikaans
- Akan
- Aleut
- Amharic
- Anauk
- Arabic
- Aragonese
- Azerbaijani
- Belle
- Bengali
- Bosnian
- Bugis
- Burmese
- Chinese, Mandarin
- Cutchi-Swahili
- Czech
- English, Creolized
- Farsi
- Filipino, Pilipino
- French
- Ga
- German
- Gujarati
- Harari
- Hindi
- Hmong
- Ibo
- Japanese
- Karen
- Khmer, Cambodian
- Kom
- Krio
- Lao, Laotia
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Manda
- Marathi
- Nahuatl
- Nepali
- Oromo, Afaan Oromo, Oromiffa
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Sign Language, ASL
- Singhalese
- Somali
- Spanish
- Swahili, Kiswahili
- Tagalog
- Tamil
- Thai
- Tigrinya
- Turkish
- Twi
- Ukranian
- Urdu
- Vietnamese
- Yoruba

MISSION & STRATEGIC PLAN



OBJECTIVES

- 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.

STRATEGIES

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

PARAMETERS

- WE WILL:**
- make all decisions based on the best interest of the student.
 - respect the dignity and worth of each person.
 - not compromise excellence.
 - expect the best of everyone.
 - practice participatory decision-making throughout the organization.

A fifth Strategy team is developing student-centered Foundation of Success elements, identifying skills and competencies vital to students' eventual postsecondary success and engagement.

2022 District 624 School Board



SCOTT ARCAND
scott.arcand@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/24



DEB BELOYED
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 Term expires 12/31/26



KATHLEEN DANIELS
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 Term expires 12/31/26



JESSICA ELLISON
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 Term expires 12/31/26



MARGE NEWMASER
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 Term expires 12/31/24



CHRISTINA STREIFF OJI
christina.streiffoji@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/26



ANGELA THOMPSON
angela.thompson@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/24

GENERAL SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS:
schoolboard@isd624.org

2022-23 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

- Lauren Collier, Gr 12, WBLAHS-South, Representative
- Arianna Vann-Cook, Gr 11, WBLAHS-South, Alternate Representative

School Board Meetings

Jan. 9 Regular Mtng
 Jan. 23 Work Session
 Feb. 13 Regular Mtng
 Feb. 27 Work Session
 Mar. 13 Regular Mtng
 Mar. 27 Work Session
 Apr. 10 Regular Mtng
 Apr. 24 Work Session
 May 8 Regular Mtng

- » All Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and take place in the Community Room 112 at District Center (4855 Bloom Ave).
- » 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 2 p.m., 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.
 - Thurs. at 10 a.m.

District's Capital Projects Levy Renewal Passes

The White Bear Lake Area Schools Capital Projects Levy Renewal request on the November 8, 2022 ballot passed with 59.5% yes votes.

"We are incredibly grateful for this renewed vote of confidence and support in our schools, our staff and our students," said Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, superintendent. "We appreciate that our community members took time to learn about the levy renewal and ultimately approved this essential funding for our district."

The Capital Projects Levy Renewal will be used to fund safety and security measures and equipment throughout the district, classroom technology and equipment, curriculum and instruments, and buses and vans for student transportation. The question on the ballot was a renewal of an expiring levy at the same tax rate, as a straight renewal of an existing levy.

"We are proud that our district's fiscal credibility is high," said Tim Wald, assistant superintendent for finance and operations. "When we surveyed our community, we learned that 89% of respondents believe the community receives a good value from its investment and 80% believe we have spent past referendum revenue responsibly. We do not take the community's trust for granted, and we will continue to be good stewards of the community's support."

Renewal of the levy is projected to generate \$2,590,309 beginning in 2024 and will continue for an additional 10 years.

Complete information about the renewal can be found at isd624.org/CapitalProjectsLevyRenewal.



FREE Senior Activity Pass

Almost 700 Senior community members (those who are age 65+) who live in the District participate in the Lifetime Activity Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities.

Those seniors who wish to apply online may do so at <https://bit.ly/3aSokLb> and your pass will be mailed to you.

If you have questions, please contact Rachael Markuson in the Superintendent's Office by phone or by email:

- 651-407-7563
- rachael.markuson@isd624.org

Shavers welcomed to district

Brenton Shavers recently began his role as the district's Director of Educational Equity and Achievement.

Before coming to White Bear, Shavers served as the Executive Director of Northeast College Prep (NECP), providing overall school and district leadership, implementing the school's strategic plan, collaborating to embed equity-focused practices, and working with the school's board.

Shavers' experience includes service in leadership positions in Owatonna Public Schools and Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. Much of his career was spent with Waterloo Community Schools, where he began as an elementary teacher and later served in the roles of assistant principal, principal, and athletic director. His experience also includes time implementing alternative educational programs and credit recovery for youths in the juvenile justice system.

"We look forward to Brenton leading our educational equity and achievement team. His experience and passion for serving students is key to strengthening collaborations that have been built throughout the district and to forging new ones," said Superintendent Wayne Kazmierczak.



Bear Wear Pics!

"Born to be a Bear" onesies are sent to district families upon the arrival of a little one.

"I'm a Bear" shirts are mailed to households when they receive Screen at 3 information.

Kindergartners receive shirts when enrollment paperwork is complete.

Email Bear Wear pics to us at communications@isd624.org and you may find your little one(s) featured in a District publication!

Continued from front page

The original 30-member planning team that launched the important process this summer reconvened earlier this year to hear an update and confirm the plans that had been developed by district-wide teams made up of family, staff and community representatives. The four updated strategies are:

- 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.

Student-centered Foundation of Success elements, developed by a fifth team, were also discussed as the team worked to identify skills and competencies vital to students' eventual postsecondary success and engagement. This strategic work continues to be a priority, as these efforts will serve as an important guide moving into the district's future.

We are in the midst of a great year, and I'm excited to have you be a part of it!
Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent

Digital Backpack

The Community Services Department distributes electronic flyers from the school district, as well as local organizations that offer opportunities for youth, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.

The Digital Backpack and submission instructions can be found at [communityservices.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack](https://www.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack).



North Star Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



North Star classroom overlooking entrance



Oneka Groundbreaking



Students touring WBLAHS construction



WBLAHS aerial view

Building Construction Updates

Since 2019, when the community supported a bond referendum, the list of completed facilities projects has grown to include quite a few locations. As we work toward completing the district-wide projects, which are scheduled to be completed through the 2024-25 academic year, the changes to the district's landscape are hard to miss.

The list of completed facilities projects has grown to include the Transportation Facility, Area Learning Center (ALC), and elementary additions at Birch Lake, Lakeaires, Lincoln, Matoska, Otter Lake, Vadnais Heights and Willow Lane. Gymnasium, classroom and office spaces were added at WBLAHS - South Campus as part of the plan to transition the building into a middle school when North Campus becomes the site of the unified high school in the fall of 2024. In Hugo, the new North Star Elementary opened for students this fall.

Other projects still in process include Oneka Elementary, which began last month, and Central Middle School, which is in the design phase. The future conversion of Sunrise Park Middle School to become a multi-use facility that houses District Offices, Early Childhood, Transition Education Center (TEC) and the Senior Program is also on the horizon.

The unified high school project is moving right along as well, with the building's current ninth and tenth grade students moving into the new 3-story classroom addition at the semester break so that renovation work can take place in the existing building.

Before the extensive work in the original portion of the building begins, we will host a community-wide event on Tuesday, January 18 to allow students, families, grads and community members the opportunity to "walk the circles" of North Campus one last time. Watch for additional information to be shared about this fun Circle Back event!

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 Elementaries Updates
- New Elementary School (North Star Elementary)
- 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

Complete information about the district's facilities projects, including construction details about individual projects and presentations that have been shared at School Board meetings, can be found at the district website at isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture.





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.

Future events will take place at Caribou Coffee in Downtown White Bear Lake at the following times:

- Feb. 8, 2023 from 12-1 p.m.
- May 2, 2023 from 4-5 p.m.

WELCOME TO
**WHITE
BEAR**

January 2023

Get to know us!

While all are welcome to visit our schools at any time, there will be special opportunities in January for families to learn more about our schools!

www.isd624.org/Welcome

Check out the website to find opportunities to learn more about each of our educational programs:

- Elementary
- Middle School
- High School

Early Childhood program registration information will be available later in the spring.

Stay Current on Events by Staying 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. Request to be added to the recipient list via email at communications@isd624.org.

• DIGITAL BACKPACK

The district's Community Services Department distributes electronic flyers from the school district, as well as local organizations that offer opportunities for youth, on the first and third Thursday of each month. The Digital Backpack and submission instructions can be found on the district's Community Services website at communityservices.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack.

• 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

- » **JAN. 9**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **JAN. 18**
WALK THE CIRCLES ONE LAST TIME EVENT
WBLAHS - North Campus
Details to be shared on district website as event approaches
- » **JAN. 23**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **FEB. 8**
COFFEE WITH DR. K
12-1 p.m. at Downtown WBL Caribou Coffee
- » **FEB. 13**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **FEB. 27**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MAR. 6-10**
SPRING BREAK
- » **MAR. 13**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MAR. 27**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **APR. 10**
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **APR. 24**
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MAY 2**
COFFEE WITH DR. K
4-5 p.m. at Downtown WBL Caribou Coffee



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.



Enrollment
information at
isd624.org/enroll

Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625
Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

Why Be a Bear?

Our students benefit from:

- Safe, nurturing and challenging environments.
- Differentiated instruction.
- Hands-on learning.
- World language experiences.
- Focus on academic, social and personal development of each student.
- Career Pathways opportunities and College-level courses.

Stay Connected

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