



2022

*White Bear Lake Area Schools*  
**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 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.

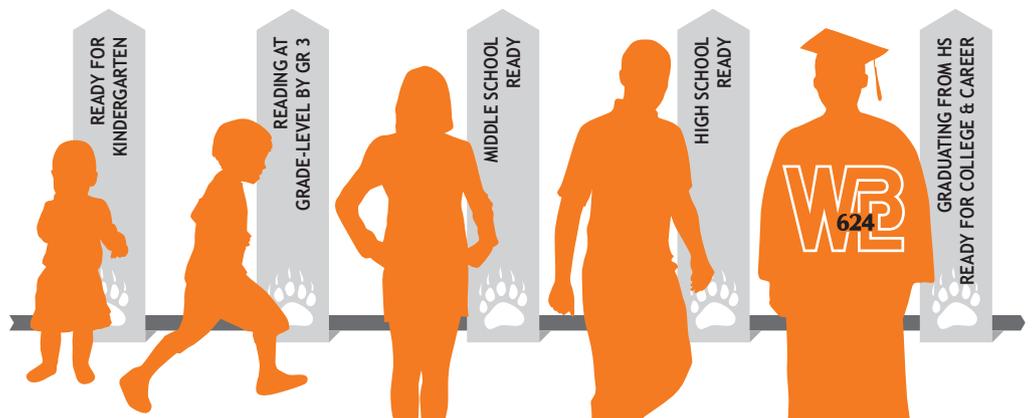
2021-22 WBLAS MCA COMPARISON TO STATE AVERAGES

	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



**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.

<b>PLTW</b>	47 students earned 138 credits
<b>CIS</b>	327 students earned 859.5 credits
<b>AP</b>	404 students earned 1662 credits
<b>PSEO</b>	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

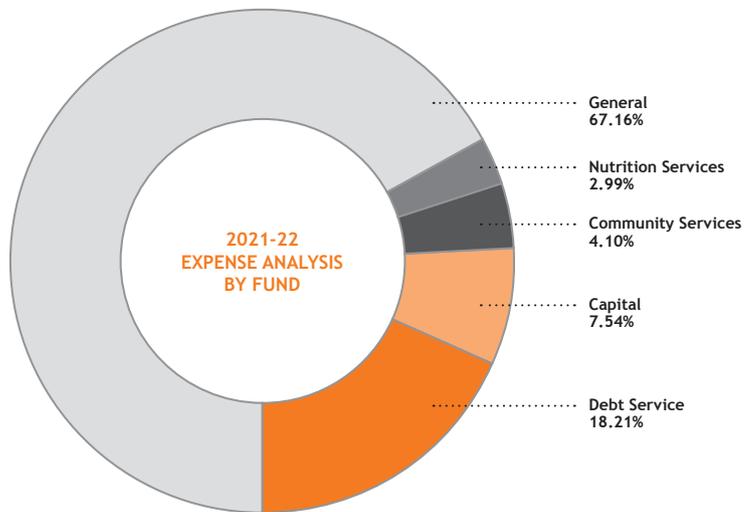
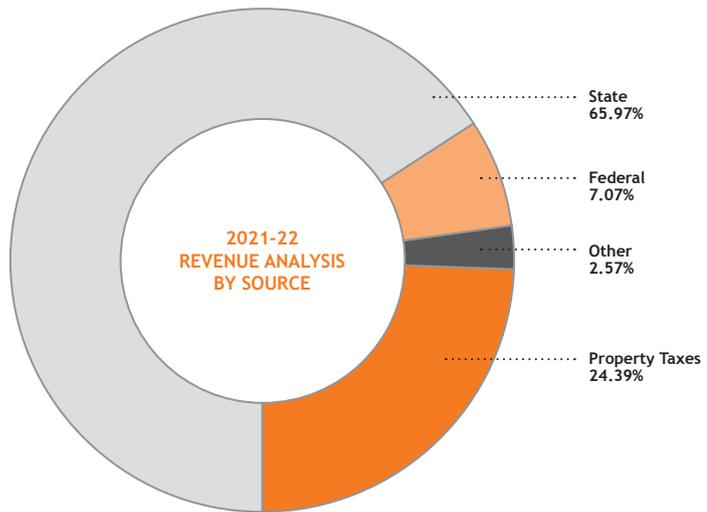
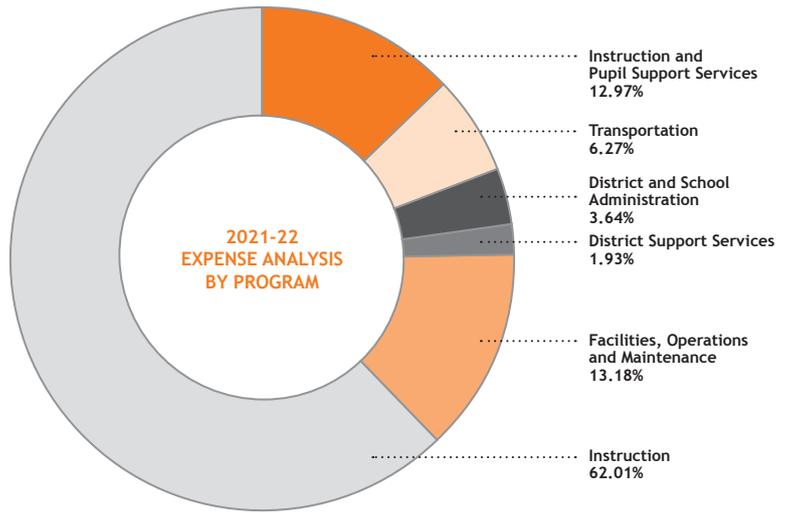
The district continues to demonstrate strong stewardship to our communities. A recent community survey showed:

- » 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
<b>DISTRICT TOTAL K-T+</b>	<b>8,279</b>
<b>DISTRICT TOTAL BIRTH-T+</b>	<b>9,100</b>

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

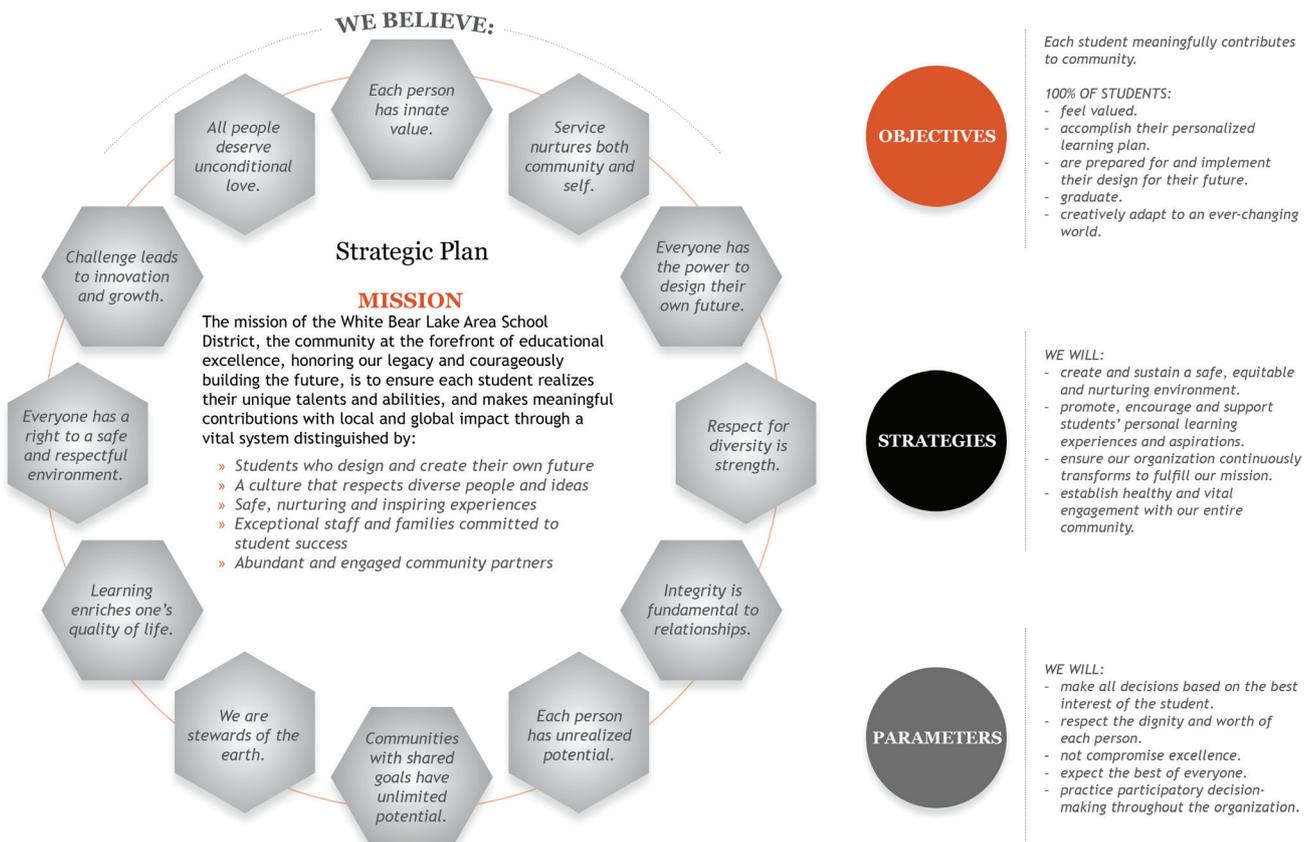
# DISTRICT-WIDE INITIATIVES

**Attendance Boundaries Process** - Phase One of the district's Attendance Boundaries Process was implemented during the 2022-23 school year, with changed attendance boundaries for Oneka Elementary, North Star Elementary, and both of the district's middle school buildings. During the 2023-24 school year, Phase Two will be implemented, with changed attendance boundaries being implemented at the remaining elementary schools (Birch Lake, Lakeaires, Lincoln, Matoska, Otter Lake, Vadnais Heights, Willow Lane). Additional details are available at [isd624.org/attendanceboundariesprocess](http://isd624.org/attendanceboundariesprocess).

**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. 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. 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](http://isd624.org/CapitalProjectsLevyRenewal).

**Naming Process** - In the fall of 2024, Sunrise Park Middle School will close its doors on Cedar Avenue and the middle school will be relocated to the McKnight Road site that was once home to Mariner High School and is currently home to White Bear Lake Area High School - South Campus. Recognizing the current Sunrise Park Middle School name's association with the Sunrise Park neighborhood around Cedar Avenue, as well as the unique history and identity of the current South Campus building, a committee of stakeholders engaged in a school naming process during the fall of 2022. A Middle School Name Submittal process was included in the larger process. The chosen middle school name will go into effect when the school moves to its new location at the South Campus in the fall of 2024.

**Strategic Plan Update** - In August of 2022, the White Bear Lake Area School Board approved four updated strategies that came out of a 30-member Strategic Planning Team. In the fall of 2022, Action Teams formed and developed action plans for each of the four new strategies. A fifth team developed student-centered Foundation of Success elements, with the process identifying skills and competencies vital to students' eventual postsecondary success and engagement.





North Star Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



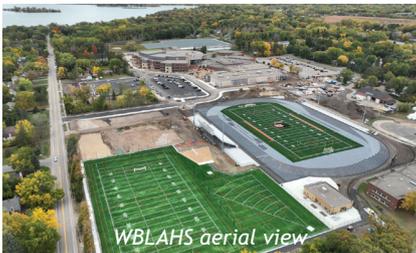
North Star classroom overlooking entrance



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](http://isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture).*





# 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.

### *Elementary Schools*

- BIRCH LAKE / 651-653-2776**  
1616 Birch Lake Avenue, WBL
- LAKEAIRES / 651-653-2809**  
3963 Van Dyke Street, WBL
- LINCOLN / 651-653-2820**  
1961 Sixth Street, WBL
- NORTH STAR / 651-242-5000**  
15198 Forest Blvd N, Hugo
- ONEKA / 651-288-1800**  
4888 Heritage Parkway N, Hugo
- OTTER LAKE / 651-653-2831**  
1401 County Road H2, WBT
- MATOSKA INT'L IB WORLD SCHOOL**  
**651-653-2847**  
2530 Spruce Place, WBL
- VADNAIS HEIGHTS**  
**651-653-2858**  
3645 Centerville Road, VH
- WILLOW LANE / 651-773-6170**  
3375 Willow Avenue, WBL

### *Middle Schools*

- CENTRAL / 651-653-2888**  
4857 Bloom Avenue, WBL
- SUNRISE PARK / 651-653-2700**  
2399 Cedar Avenue, WBL

### *High School Campuses*

- WBLAHS - NORTH CAMPUS**  
**651-653-2920**  
(Grades 9-10)  
5045 Division Avenue, WBL
- WBLAHS - SOUTH CAMPUS**  
**651-773-6200**  
(Grades 11-12)  
3551 McKnight Road, WBL
- WBL AREA LEARNING CENTER**  
**651-773-6400**  
2449 Orchard Lane, WBL

### *Other Sites*

- DISTRICT CENTER OFFICES**  
**651-407-7500**  
4855 Bloom Avenue, WBL
- EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM**  
**651-653-3100**
  - Normandy Park Education Center  
2482 East Cty Road F, WBL
  - Tamarack Nature Center  
5287 Otter Lake Road, WBT
  - District Elementary Schools
- WHITE BEAR AREA SENIOR PROGRAM**  
**651-653-3121**  
2484 East County Rd F, WBL
- TRANSITION EDUCATION CENTER**  
**651-773-6051**  
13497 Fenway Blvd Circle N, Hugo

*HAIŠQHIA! 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.*

## Connect with us in the following ways:

- » **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.
- » **THE WEEK IN 62.4 SECONDS** - These short videos highlight students learning and are shared out each Friday.
- » **BEAR'S BULLETIN** - A community-focused bulletin is found as a flip-book to the seasonal Community Services and Recreation catalogs mailed to all district residents.
- » **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 MEETINGS** - School Board meeting video files are available to the public after each School Board meeting. Regular School Board meetings are broadcast on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area the week of the meeting.
- » **COFFEE WITH DR. K** - Community members are invited to informally chat with Superintendent Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee at the Downtown White Bear Lake Caribou Coffee at events scheduled 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** - Almost 700 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.