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## Lunching and Learning

District students benefit from a variety of official partnerships between the district and area organizations/businesses. Among those enjoyed by our students are college-credit opportunities from area higher education institutions, experiential learning opportunities at Tamarack Nature Center, water safety lessons at the YMCA, and art experiences with the White Bear Center for the Arts to name a few.

One fun collaboration that community members can see and participate in first-hand is the annual "Take-over" of Donatelli's. In May, fifth grade students from Willow Lane Elementary will take over White Bear Lake's Donatelli's, working in the restaurant as the cooks, servers and hosts. Before they hit the ground running later this spring, the students are working hard preparing for the experience by writing resumes and cover letters. The process of getting placed into specific roles includes each student going through a formal interview with the managers of Donatelli's to find the perfect job fit.

Students will be working in their positions from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: May 2, May 9, May 16 and May 23. Community members are invited to stop by for lunch to support the students and to get service with a smile while enjoying an excellent meal.

Those who are thinking this take-over sounds familiar are remembering correctly. This is the fourteenth year Willow Lane and Donatelli's have been partnering to provide this empowering, experiential learning opportunity for students.

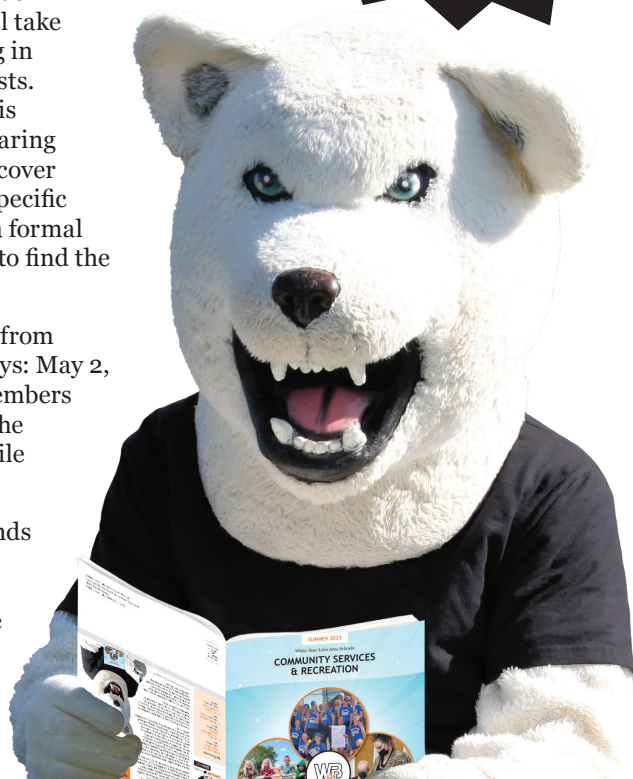
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## Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

Flip book to see  
Community Services &  
Recreation Catalog



Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
St. Paul, MN  
Permit #183

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



## Welcome to White Bear

The district is currently accepting enrollments for incoming students who will begin kindergarten in the Fall of 2023.

Information was mailed to families of incoming kindergarten students in December. Those who have incoming kindergartners but have not received information from the district are invited to call us at 651-407-7674 so that we can provide enrollment information. Upon completion of the enrollment process, students receive a Welcome Packet in the mail that includes a special "I'm a Bear" t-shirt.



Check out a fun video welcome from our elementary principals!

The educational excellent lasts beyond the elementary years. Our secondary programs include options for students in grade six and beyond, including world language, music and arts offerings, career pathways and college-level courses. Outside of the classroom, students have the chance to participate in extracurricular activities that cover the gamut of special interest areas.



Learn about our middle school program!



Learn about our high school program!

## Recommendation: Mariner Middle School

### Rationale:

- Mariner was original name of the building (72-83).
- Number of suggestions demonstrates strong community support for Mariner.
- Honors our school district's history.
- Sunrise Park will remain a landmark in the Sunrise Park neighborhood.

## Mariner Middle School approved

The School Board recently approved a recommendation to change the name of Sunrise Park Middle School when it moves from the Sunrise Park neighborhood to the current WBLAHS - South Campus building in the fall of 2024. The new name, Mariner Middle School, is a nod to the District's past.

"As a proud graduate of Mariner High School and a student of Sunrise Park Junior High School, I appreciate the work of the committee in honoring our school district's history in this way," said School Board member Scott Arcand. "The strong community support that emerged for 'Mariner' during the name submission process makes it evident that this name is meaningful for our Mariner graduates."

The renaming of the middle school comes after a process that took place during the 2022-23 academic year. A naming committee composed of students and parents, community members, staff, and administration, solicited input from the community. More than 300 recommendations were submitted, half of them including "Mariner" and about 40 including "Sunrise." Using the feedback, the committee came to consensus on two names and submitted both Sunrise and Mariner, along with the rationale for each, to the Superintendent to review with district administration.

The final recommendation of Mariner Middle School was chosen in recognition of the original name of the building when it opened as White Bear Mariner Senior High School in the fall of 1972. In 1983, the district's two high schools, White Bear High School and White Bear Mariner High School, merged to become White Bear Lake Area High School with the two buildings identified as the North and South Campuses.

"The name selection honors the history of the school district by returning the original name, Mariner, to the building," said principal Christina Pierre, who co-chaired the committee along with Tim Wald, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. "Mariner High School was recognized for innovation and excellence. This sets a high standard for the middle school as we move into the newly renovated space."

When the middle school program moves to the current South Campus building in the fall of 2024, the Sunrise building will undergo renovations and become the site of District Center, Early Childhood, Transition Education Center (TEC) and the Senior Center.

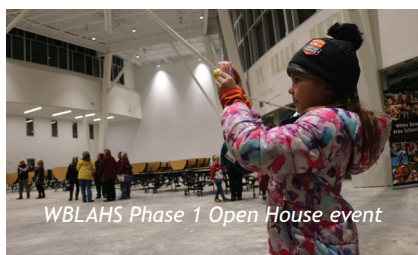




Circle Back to North Campus event



Circle Back to North Campus event



WBLAHS Phase 1 Open House event



WBLAHS Phase 1 Open House event



Oneka Elementary Addition

## Building Construction Updates

Since 2019, when the community supported a bond referendum to fund building projects throughout White Bear Lake Area Schools, the changes to the district's landscape are hard to miss.

The unified high school project has seen the most striking changes, and lots of foot traffic, in recent weeks. More than 600 students, families, graduates and community members joined us for our Circle Back to North Campus special event in January. Attendees were able to learn WBLAHS history through information boards created by members of the school's History Club with help from the White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, see renderings of the new space, share their North Campus memories, and walk the circles one last time before renovations to the original parts of the building began.

Another special event provided the opportunity to check out the new addition the following week. Approximately 850 visitors attended a Phase 1 Open House that took place just before ninth and tenth graders moved into the newly-constructed three-story building to begin their second semester. When finished in the fall of 2024, the unified high school will serve students in grades 9-12.

Other projects still in process include Oneka Elementary, which is currently under construction, 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.

District-wide, the list of facilities projects that have been completed now includes 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 Mariner 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.

All projects approved in the Building Our Future Bond Referendum are scheduled to be completed through the 2024-25 academic year.

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

## 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 and 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 Mariner 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





### *Continued from front page*

Another form of informal partnership that has been built around a lunchtime schedule is a tradition that began before my days as superintendent. Periodically throughout the school year, we pull together groups of middle school and high school students who serve as members in the superintendent's student advisory groups.

Discussions that have happened around a shared meal have included sneak peeks at the construction projects happening throughout the district and important conversations about district initiatives. Another fun activity on these meeting agendas, and a student favorite, are taste testing activities facilitated by our Nutrition Services Department. Not only have students given opinions about the appropriate level of spice in a dish and talked about diversifying meal options, they have also given input on the overall elements of the student experience in the lunchroom.

While we hope these conversations have been informative for students, who get to hear directly from district leaders about programs happening throughout White Bear, they've been equally informative for the adults in the room. Whether we're learning first-hand about the issues most important to students or collecting their input to design a better cafeteria experience, the lessons learned over lunch are lasting and have made a difference in how we "do school" for current students and for those who will come after them.

Another collaboration during the lunch hour was our recent February Coffee with Dr. K event. These informal conversations, which are attendee-driven so the discussions are varied and tailored to those in the room, have been a fun way to get to know what's on the mind of our community members.

Since we began hosting the chats during my first year as superintendent in 2017, those filling the room have played the role of parents, grandparents, former staff members and curious community members - and some attendees have filled the shoes of multiple roles. The last Coffee with Dr. K event of the 2022-23 school year will take place from 4-5 p.m. on May 2 at the Downtown White Bear Lake Caribou Coffee. We'll be there, likely with a cup of decaf in-hand, ready to make a connection.

The partnerships we've been able to forge while spending time together over lunch have been instrumental in getting us to where we are today. Thank you to those who partner with us to positively impact the students' experiences, in both formal and informal ways. We look forward to continuing to find ways to learn together in partnership.

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent



## WE ARE HIRING! Find Employment info at [isd624.org/employment](https://isd624.org/employment)

We are currently hiring for a variety of positions. We need substitute teachers, bus drivers, Extended Day staff, paras, Nutrition Services staff and more!

These positions are great for retirees, stay-at-home parents, college students, or anybody who enjoys working with students.



- Competitive wages
- On the job training
- Flexible work hours
- Chance to work near home
- Opportunity for: full benefits, paid time off, paid holidays
- Make a difference for kids in your community



## 2023 District 624 School Board



**SCOTT ARCAND**  
[scott.arcand@isd624.org](mailto:scott.arcand@isd624.org)  
 Term expires 12/31/24



**DEB BELOYED**  
[deb.beloyed@isd624.org](mailto:deb.beloyed@isd624.org)  
 Term expires 12/31/26



**KATHLEEN DANIELS**  
[kathleen.daniels@isd624.org](mailto:kathleen.daniels@isd624.org)  
 Term expires 12/31/26



**JESSICA ELLISON**  
[jessica.ellison@isd624.org](mailto:jessica.ellison@isd624.org)  
 Term expires 12/31/26



**MARGE NEWMASER**  
[margaret.newmaster@isd624.org](mailto:margaret.newmaster@isd624.org)  
 Term expires 12/31/24



**CHRISTINA STREIFF OJI**  
[christina.streiffoji@isd624.org](mailto:christina.streiffoji@isd624.org)  
 Term expires 12/31/26



**ANGELA THOMPSON**  
[angela.thompson@isd624.org](mailto:angela.thompson@isd624.org)  
 Term expires 12/31/24

**GENERAL SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS:**  
[schoolboard@isd624.org](mailto: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

Feb. 27 ..... Work Session  
 Mar. 13 ..... Regular Mtng  
 Mar. 27 ..... Work Session  
 Apr. 10 ..... Regular Mtng  
 Apr. 24 ..... Work Session  
 May 8 ..... Regular Mtng  
 May 22 ..... Work Session  
 Jun. 12 ..... 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 receives finance awards for 22nd consecutive year

White Bear Lake Area Schools recently received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The district also recently received the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO). These two awards are the highest form of recognition a governmental agency can receive and represent a significant accomplishment for the finance department and its staff. This year's recognition marks the 22nd consecutive year the district has received both awards.

To be considered for the awards, the finance department submits its annual comprehensive financial report to be reviewed by an impartial panel at GFOA and ASBO. If the report meets all of the requirements, the district may qualify for the highest recognition. According to GFOA Director of Technical Services, Michele Mark Levine, the district's annual report demonstrates "a constructive 'spirit of full disclosure' to clearly communicate its financial story."

When discussing the award at the recent January School Board meeting, it was noted that these awards align with the District's high level of accountability. "The finance team continues to prioritize responsible stewardship of the resources provided by the community," said Superintendent Wayne Kazmierczak. "We are proud that district residents recently rated our financial management well above the industry norm, putting us in the top quarter of suburban districts."



Community members are invited to an informal chat with Dr. Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee that happens periodically throughout the academic year.

Join us for the last Coffee with Dr. K event of 2022-23:

**4-5 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, May 2**  
**Caribou Coffee**  
**Downtown WBL**

## See what we're up to!

### • 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. Those who wish to be added to the recipient list may contact us via email at [communications@isd624.org](mailto:communications@isd624.org).

### • CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Find periodic updates about the construction projects happening throughout the district at [isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture](http://isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture).

### • 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.



[/isd624](http://isd624)



## 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](http://communityservices.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack).

## 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.

Apply online at [isd624.org/SeniorActivityPass](http://isd624.org/SeniorActivityPass) and your pass will be mailed to you. If you have questions, please contact Rachael Markuson at 651-407-7563 or [rachael.markuson@isd624.org](mailto:rachael.markuson@isd624.org).



### Senior Community Member Lifetime Activity Pass

This Senior Community Member Activity Pass grants free admission into home activities\* for

**YOUR NAME**

Validated by Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak, Superintendent

## IMPORTANT DATES

- » **FEBRUARY 27**  
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION  
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MARCH 6-10**  
SPRING BREAK
- » **MARCH 13**  
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MARCH 27**  
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION  
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **APRIL 10**  
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **APRIL 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
- » **MAY 8**  
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **MAY 22**  
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION  
5:30 p.m. at District Center
- » **JUNE 6**  
TRANSITION EDUCATION CENTER GRADUATION  
District Center Auditorium
- » **JUNE 8**  
AREA LEARNING CENTER GRADUATION  
WBLAHS - South Campus
- » **JUNE 9**  
WBLAHS GRADUATION  
Aldrich Arena
- » **JUNE 12**  
SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
5:30 p.m. at District Center

## FREE OPEN WALKING @ the Field House

Monday-Thursday  
6-9 p.m.  
WBLAHS - North Campus  
(Entrance on Bald Eagle Ave.)







# 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](http://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.
- Personalized 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

• **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. Those who wish to be added to the Community e-Newsletter list may contact us at [communications@isd624.org](mailto:communications@isd624.org).

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