



BEAR'S UPDATE



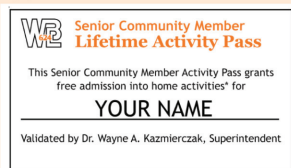
Summer 2024

GO GRADUATE GO GRADUATE
GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE
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GO GRADUATE GO GRADUATE

FREE Senior Activity Pass

Senior community members (age 65+) who live in the District are invited to participate in the Senior Activities Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities.

Find the application on the District's website, isd624.org, or call the Superintendent's Office at 651-407-7563 to request an application via mail.



Building Our Future Facilities Process

The facilities projects that were approved by the community in 2019 are underway, with final stage construction happening at buildings throughout the district.

Those who wish to do so can follow along on the district's facilities process at isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture.

See details and updates on individual projects, as well as presentations about the overall process.



Transforming Learning and Seeing Results

Most of us are familiar with Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. In the child's fairy tale, Alice asks the mysterious Cheshire Cat: "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat. "I don't much care where--" said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

Continued on reverse

TRANSLATIONS

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625.

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623.

ISD624.ORG



Honoring Graduates

Members of the Class of 2024 were recently celebrated throughout the district by families, friends and staff members as they received their diplomas. Congratulations, graduates!



Applauding Retirees

Families and staff members recently gathered for a Retirement Luncheon to honor 2023-24 retirees. The School Board thanked retiring employees for a total of more than 815 years of service to the students, families and community! See a video honoring all retirees on the district's YouTube channel.



White Bear Lake Area Schools
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Find us at Marketfest!

Our school principals, district administrators and School Board members have enjoyed the chance to have conversations with community members again this summer at our district Marketfest booth.

Stop by Thursdays through July 25 in Downtown White Bear Lake to pick up a free pencil and Bear Paw tattoo.

We look forward to seeing you!

JOIN US FOR THE
2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR!

Enrollment information at
isd624.org/enroll

FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS   /isd624

Superintendent's Message continued



For far too many American youth over recent decades, this conversation mirrors their school experience. Many students navigate their education with uncertainty, going through the motions, following instructions, and

collecting diplomas, yet they leave still wondering. This passive learning, a remnant of the Industrial Revolution, prepared students in an assembly-line fashion but fails to equip them for a rapidly changing world.

Recognizing this problem in 2017, the White Bear Lake Area Schools Strategic Planning Team set a vision to transform learning. What if our schools could ensure students realize their unique talents and abilities to make meaningful contributions with local and global impact? What if we promote, encourage, and support students' personal learning experiences and aspirations? What if we built a future where students design and create their future?

Today, the work of our Strategic Planning vision is evident. Recent interviews with elementary students about their learning experiences revealed significant insights. Students as young as 8 and 9 described making daily decisions that impact their learning, from choosing where to sit for focus or collaboration to managing their schedules and transitioning between activities. These students are no longer passive recipients of information but active participants in learning.

A district-wide commitment to student success has led to gains for high school students as well. Our graduation rates lead state averages across all demographic groups. In 2023, our South Campus boasted a graduation rate of 93%, including 82% of special education students, 94% of Black or African American students, 95% of White students, and 75% of Hispanic/Latino students. Additionally, our district was recognized on the College Board AP Honor Roll for maintaining high expectations, expanding access to advanced coursework, and closing achievement gaps.

This investment in our youth has profound community implications. A high school diploma significantly increases lifetime earnings—by an average of one million

dollars per student. Thus, as we transform individual lives, we infuse over \$24 billion into our economy over their lifetimes.

Our students are succeeding. Our girls soccer, girls basketball, and boys hockey teams earned bids to state tournaments; our Knowledge Bowl team reached state for the first time; our theater program excelled in the Spotlight Theatre Awards (with the most awards in the last 15 years); and our high school bands and robotics team earned regional recognition. Two of our students completed the highest number of Ford Automotive Career Exploration program modules in the United States, supported by our partnership with Ford Motor Company.

The future demands variety in skills and talents, and children driven by their intrinsic interests and motivations will excel. Rather than filling students with information, authentic learning ignites curiosity and creativity. Unlike Alice in Wonderland, in White Bear Lake Area Schools, students discover their talents and design their futures from an early age. The days of "I don't much care" need to be well behind us.

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent