



BEAR'S BULLETIN

GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE
GO EXPLORE GO GRADUATE GO
GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE
GO EXPLORE GO GRADUATE GO



WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2024 EDITION

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FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The Future of Work and Education in White Bear Lake Area Schools

In an era where CEOs and industry leaders grapple with an emerging work landscape, we in education are at the crossroads of the present and future. As stewards of the next generation, our charge in White Bear Lake Area Schools is not merely to prepare students for the world as we know it but to inspire them to shape the world that will be. Our journey begins with a core question: How do we equip our students for a yet-to-be-written future?

Reflect on this - our kindergarteners today will step into their futures as graduates in 2037, embarking on careers stretching into 2075 and beyond. Their professional lives will experience a scale of innovation and change we can only imagine. It's profound thinking and collaboration that inspires us to look beyond the educational models of the past to prepare our students for the decades to follow.

In White Bear Lake Area Schools, our community has rallied around a visionary Strategic Plan, a blueprint for change that honors our legacy yet looks forward with optimism and ambition. Together, we're creating a learning culture that thrives on change, celebrates curiosity, and embraces every student's unique skills and talents.

Continued on page III

TRANSLATIONS

Para Español por favor
llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob
hu rau 651-407-7623

FLIP TO SEE
COMMUNITY
SERVICES &
RECREATION
CATALOG



Residential Customer

ECRWSS EDDM

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit #183

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

School Board Meetings

March 4Regular Meeting
 March 25..... Work Session
 April 8.....Regular Meeting
 April 22 Work Session
 May 13Regular Meeting
 May 20 Work Session
 June 10Regular Meeting

- » 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.

2023-24 District 624 School Board



SCOTT ARCAND
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 Term expires 12/31/24



DEB BEAYED
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 Term expires 12/31/26



ANGELA THOMPSON
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 Term expires 12/31/24

GENERAL SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS:
schoolboard@isd624.org

2023-24 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

- Arianna Vann-Cook, Gr 12
 WBLAHS - South Campus, Representative
- Lydia Kleinhans, Gr 11
 WBLAHS-South, Alternate Representative



District leaders and school board members showed their appreciation for Gray Seever at the January School Board meeting. Gray has served the district by videotaping School Board meetings, and helping with other video projects through the district and the local community cable channel, for the last 25 years.

As he headed off into retirement, the School Board wished him well and thanked him for his decades of service to the district and the community.

INNOVATE GO INSPIRE GO LEAD GO PERFORM
 GO DISCOVER GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL
 GO INSPIRE GO LEAD GO PERFORM
 GO DISCOVER GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL GO
 GO INSPIRE GO LEAD GO PERFORM GO SUCCEED

Continued from cover

Our schools are not silent halls of passive learning; they are vibrant ecosystems of discovery where students are the designers of their futures. We've listened to what matters most to families, community members, and employers, and in response, we've sculpted our Foundations of Success. These pillars - including flexible and critical thinking, community engagement, character, communication skills, teamwork, and a robust educational foundation - are not just academic goals. They are the pillars of the future.

Gone are the days of the factory education model, with its desks in rows and rote memorization. Today, our students navigate a world rich with information, seeking relevance and connection in every lesson. They challenge us to make learning a dynamic engagement with the world. Our commitment to empowering students as designers of their future is alive in every school. From first graders exploring the physics of igloos to high school criminology enthusiasts solving mysteries, our students are proving that learning is not just about absorbing facts - it's about applying knowledge in innovative ways.

Consider the story of our fifth graders, ignited by a classmate's interest in rockets, who transformed their curiosity into a hands-on exploration of aerospace engineering. Or our tenth graders, who, through mock interviews, applied their language arts skills in real-world scenarios, leaving a lasting impression on community interviewers. These life experiences challenge our students to be adaptable, resilient individuals ready for tomorrow's opportunities.

As we witness daily advancements in science and technology, we are reminded of the unknown future our students will navigate. Our gift to them is the ability to learn, relearn, unlearn, and adapt. The future demands not just knowledge, but a profound set of skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and community building. These are the foundations of success with which our students will build their futures and in doing so, shape the world.

Our journey in White Bear Lake Area Schools is more than an educational mission; it's a promise to our students that their futures are boundless and theirs to shape. In preparing our Bears for the future, we are not just educating students; we are nurturing problem-solvers who are ready to make meaningful contributions both locally and globally.

It's a pivotal time to be a learning leader, to witness the beginning of futures filled with potential. We are humbled to guide our Bears into a future that they will not only live, but lead. It's an exciting, transformative journey - and it's only just begun.

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent

WE ARE HIRING!

Find info at isd624.org/employment

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



APPLY
TODAY



White Bear Lake Area Schools

[f](#) [X](#) [YouTube](#) /isd624

See for yourself!

Check out a video highlighting some of the student activities mentioned in Dr. K's article at this QR code, or find weekly videos in the playlist of "The Week in 62.4 Seconds" videos on the district's YouTube channel at youtube.com/isd624.



JANUARY 24, 2024
 "THE WEEK IN 62.4
 SECONDS" VIDEO

District Receives Finance Awards

White Bear Lake Area Schools received the Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The district also received the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO).

These 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 23rd consecutive year the district has received both awards.

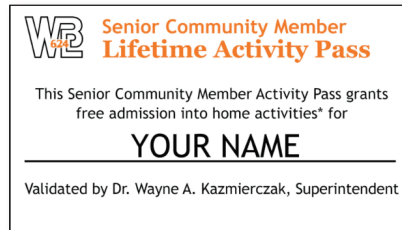
"Receiving this recognition every year for more than two decades is notable," said Superintendent Wayne Kazmierczak. "Our finance team has a long-standing dedication to stewardship, transparency and financial responsibility. Their role in maintaining accountability by appropriately using resources provided by the community cannot be understated."

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."

FREE Senior Activity Pass

More than 1,000 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.

To request a pass, find the application at isd624.org/SeniorActivityPass and your pass will be mailed to you. If you have questions, please contact Rachael Markuson at 651-407-7563 or by email at rachael.markuson@isd624.org.



Requesting an Interpreter

Families and community members can request that a district staff member call them through the use of an interpreter who speaks the language they speak.

Information about how to make the request can be found in text and audio translations, in all languages spoken by students in the district, on the district website or at the QR code below:



Bear Wear Pics!

We are looking for photos of little ones in their "Born to be a Bear" onesies and "I'm a Bear" shirts!

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

Onesies are sent to families who live in the district upon the arrival of a little one, and shirts are given to toddlers when they receive Screen at 3 information. Kindergartners receive shirts when their enrollment paperwork is complete.





Leaders Present at National Design Conference

District leaders accompanied a team from Wold Architects and Engineers, the firm that designed the majority of the district's construction projects made possible by the community's support of the 2019 bond referendum, to present at the EDspaces "Designing the Future of Education" national conference. The annual event is described as the place where leaders and innovators unite to drive the future of learning environments, where technology, space and pedagogy converge.

The district's presentation focused on the design and construction of North Star Elementary, which opened

in Hugo in the fall of 2022. North Star Elementary was carefully planned from the perspective of both the physical space and the pedagogical perspective to support student agency and flexibility. The process included significant stakeholder input throughout the process and professional development to support the mission.

"Innovative and future ready learning environments are being created throughout the district, and while the concept of student agency may not be new we are frontrunners with the work happening at North Star," said Superintendent Wayne Kazmierczak. "We are implementing teaching and learning practices to empower students to lead their learning, and the building is specially designed to support this effort."

The philosophy of supporting student agency and student-centric design was accomplished through a building design that incorporates educational spaces called Learning Studios, where students and educators work together throughout a larger area that can be separated into multiple space configurations. Through a strategic design of the space, the environment has become an essential tool in shaping the student experience. Multi-age learning has been implemented in some of the studios, and sensory spaces where students can reduce anxiety and self-regulate when needed have been incorporated in all of the studios. Every aspect, including furniture, technology and operable walls, is multi-functional in the Learning Studio and adds to the flexibility.

"It was rewarding to share with school and district leaders from throughout the nation, and the world, what we have been able to achieve at North Star," said Principal Dan Schmidt. "We started with a shared dream of how to 'do school differently,' and we were able to realize that dream with the help of a community that supported our vision."

Structural changes are visible, but changes being made to our buildings' learning environments are equally evident. The engagement that multiple community members had in our Strategic Planning process helped us think about how teaching and learning happen in our schools. The facilities projects we've undertaken allow us to serve students differently, using bricks and mortar to transform our students' environments and help them design their future and create their success.

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
- North Star Elementary (New Elementary School)
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 2 Addition

Ready for Fall 2023

- Area Learning Center Phase 2
- Oneka Elementary Updates

Ready for Fall 2024

- WBLAHS opens to grades 9-12 at the current WBLAHS - North Campus location
- 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 houses Early Childhood Center, District Services Center, Senior Center and Transition Education Center



Complete info about the district's facilities projects, including a 2023 Update video, construction details about individual projects, additional videos and presentations, can be found online at isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture.



Community members are invited to stop by for an informal chat with Superintendent Wayne Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee.

7:30-8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 7
Caribou Coffee
Downtown WBL

Watch for dates and details of celebrations related to Building Our Future Construction projects!

Events will be planned to celebrate the history of Sunrise Park Middle School and White Bear Lake Area High School - South Campus.

We will also host events in the fall of 2024 to welcome community members to see Mariner Middle School and the completed White Bear Lake Area High School serving students in grades 9-12.



IMPORTANT DATES

- » MARCH 11-15
NO SCHOOL
(Spring Break)
- » MARCH 29
NO SCHOOL
(Teacher PD Day)
- » APRIL 5
END OF QTR 3
- » APRIL 22
NO SCHOOL
(Teacher PD Day)
- » MAY 7
COFFEE WITH DR. K
7:30-8:30 a.m. at Downtown
WBL Caribou Coffee
- » MAY 27
NO SCHOOL
(Memorial Day)
- » JUNE 6
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Stay Connected - and stay updated on upcoming events!

- **E-Newsletter** - The Community e-Newsletter is sent out each week, with alternating text and video editions. Text editions cover student and staff successes, school and Community Education offerings, and School Board proceedings. Request to be added to the recipient list by sending an email to us at communications@isd624.org.
- **Stay Social** - Join the district's social media circles - Facebook, Twitter/X and YouTube for daily 624 Fact posts and weekly video share-outs. Find links on the District's website.
- **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 can be found at communityservices.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack.



GO DISCOVER.

GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL GO EXPLORE GO GROW GO IGNITE GO INNOVATE GO LEAD GO PERFORM GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE GO GRADUATE GO

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



WHY BE A BEAR?

Benefits of being a BEAR:

- Student-centered instruction. We believe all students grow and learn in different ways and at different rates, all can achieve.
- More academic opportunities to explore interests, excel and design your future.
- Students are agents and owners of their own learning in an environment that is safe, supportive and challenging – with high expectations for student success.
- Our educators inspire, facilitate, and challenge students, nurturing curiosity and confidence. We provide a window to their future.
- We are transforming learning. Our flexible learning spaces and learning studios ignite opportunities for communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

APPLY TODAY



*Design Your Future.
Create Your Success.*

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White Bear Lake Area Schools