

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #624**



**SCHOOL BOARD
WORK SESSION
PACKET**

August 26, 2024

Independent School District No. 624

MISSION STATEMENT

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*

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 624
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110**

To: Members of the School Board

From: Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak
Superintendent of Schools

Date: August 21, 2024

A work session of the White Bear Lake Area School Board will be held on **Monday, August 26, 2024**, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 112 at District Center, 4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2024-25 School Year Cell Phone Procedures
2. Overview of Back to School Events

C. REVIEW OF SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION*

D. ADJOURNMENT

**This portion of the meeting may be closed to discuss evaluation of superintendent, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(a).*

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM: **2024-25 School Year Cell Phone Procedures**

MEETING DATE: **August 26, 2024**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

CONTACT PERSON: **Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent
for Teaching and Learning**

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, will present guidelines for student cell phone use in the 2024-25 school year. These guidelines aim to minimize distractions and create a supportive learning environment that fosters student success.



Student Cell Phone Use Guidelines

2024-25 School Year

Introductions



Dr. Alison Gillespie
Assistant Superintendent
for Teaching and
Learning



Cathryn Peterson
Principal
Central Middle School



Russ Reetz
Principal
WBLAHS



Why?

The Impact of Cell Phones on Learning

Distraction: Research shows cell phones are a major source of distraction in the classroom. We want students to be able to develop meaningful relationships with their peers and our school staff.

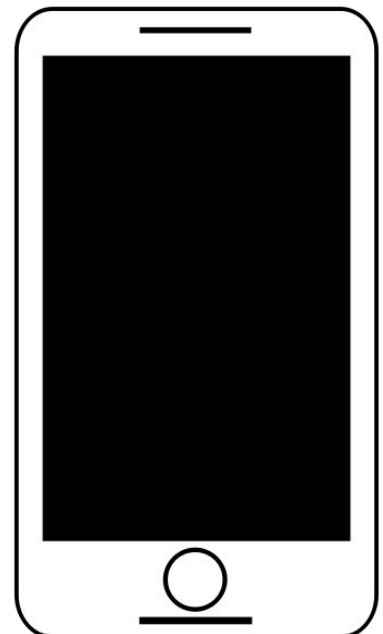
Reduced Focus and Attention: Constant notifications and the temptation to check social media can significantly impact students' ability to focus and sustain attention.

Negative Impacts on Student Health, Well-Being, and Academic Performance: Studies have linked excess cell phone use to lower grades and poorer health, well-being and academic outcomes.

K-12 Guidelines Overview

Cellphone Use During School: Cellphones are not allowed during class time and should be stored in lockers or backpacks, silenced.

Cellphone Use Outside of Class: Schools determine when cellphones can be used before/after school or during breaks.



Creating a Supportive Learning Environment

Increased Focus & Engagement: Minimizing distractions leads to improved focus and engagement in learning, and deeper connections with classmates and educators.

Improved Academic Performance: Reduced distractions can lead to better academic outcomes.

Safer and More Respectful School Climate: Schools have seen a reduction in student behavior incidents including cyberbullying, creating a safer and more respectful learning environment.

Teaching Responsible Technology Use: The guidelines help students develop healthy habits around technology use.

Working Together for Success

Student Education: Schools will educate students on the rationale behind the guidelines and responsible cell phone use. For the majority of our schools, these expectations have been in place and will not be a change for students.

Parent/Guardian Communication: Our Principals and Site Leaders will clearly communicate the guidelines and expectations to parents/guardians. We need your help and partnership as we work together to help our students.

Teaching Training: Where practices have changed, we will provide teachers with training and resources on implementing guidelines. Educators and administrators will continue to partner to ensure ongoing support.

Ongoing Review and Adjustment: Together, we will continuously review and adjust the guidelines based on feedback and effectiveness.

Questions?

Thank You!

Resources

Bender, P. K. (2012). The Impact of Cell Phone Use on Student Performance. *Journal of Media Education*, 3(3), 1–5.

Common Sense Education. (2019). 6 Ways Schools Are Managing Students' Cellphone Use.

National School Safety and Security Services. (2023). Cell Phones and School Safety.

Cavanaugh, C., Hargis, J., Kamali, T., & Soto, M. (2014). Using mobile devices in the classroom: A review of the literature. *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*, 46(4), 347-368.

Willard, N. (2020). Cell Phones, Student Rights, and School Safety: Finding the Right Balance. *NASSP Bulletin*, 104(1), 5-20.

AGENDA ITEM: **Overview of Back to School Events**

MEETING DATE: **August 26, 2024**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

CONTACT PERSON(S): **Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent**

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent will provide an overview of the back to school events happening across the district.



2024-25

Beginning of School Report

- Back to School preparations
- Construction timeline
- Celebratory events

GO BEARS //



Back to School preparations

- Back to School page of website
- School-specific communications to families
- School-specific back to school events
- Enrollment
- We are hiring
- Convocation event



Construction timeline

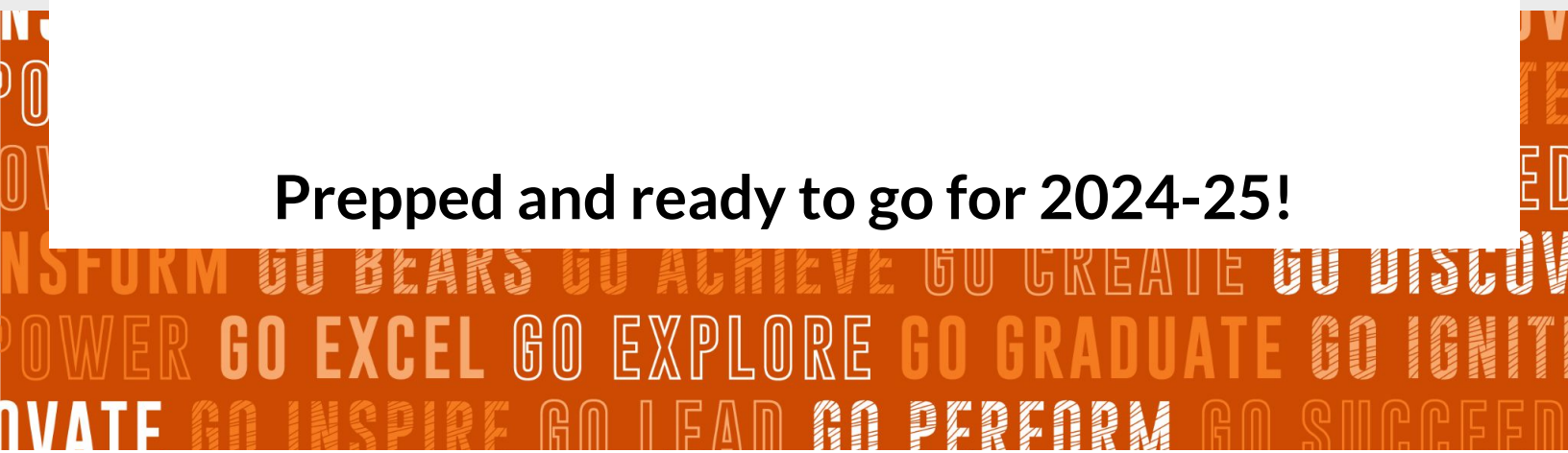
- Crews working to finish projects at:
 - Central Middle School
 - Mariner Middle School
 - White Bear Lake Area High School
 - Hugo Elementary (temporary site for Transition Education Center)



Celebratory events

- **Aug. 29** - Community Open House at White Bear Lake Area High School from 3-6 p.m.
- **Oct. 6-12** - Homecoming
- **Oct. 9** - Community Open House at Mariner Middle School (details to follow)

Prepped and ready to go for 2024-25!



C. REVIEW OF SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

AGENDA ITEM: **Review of Superintendent's Evaluation***
MEETING DATE: **August 26, 2024**
SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**
CONTACT PERSON(S): **Jessica Ellison, School Board Chair**

BACKGROUND:

The School Board will review and discuss the evaluation of the superintendent for the 2023-24 school year.

This portion of the meeting will be closed as permitted by Minnesota statutes.

**This portion of the meeting may be closed to discuss evaluation of superintendent, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(a).*