



Dear Families,

## Welcome the 2024-25 school year!

We are thrilled to kick off the new year and celebrate alongside you! Thank you for being partners in building a bright future for our children, schools, and community.

Our classrooms buzz with creativity and innovation, fostering critical thinkers, problem solvers, and compassionate leaders ready to make a local and global impact. This success is fueled by dedicated teachers, supportive families, and engaged community members like you.

Stay connected! We'll keep you informed with regular updates via email, voice calls, and social media. Please ensure emails from your child's school or [communications@isd624.org](mailto:communications@isd624.org) reach your inbox.

Together, let's make this year remarkable!

We appreciate your collaboration and look forward to a terrific year.

Go Bears!

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent  
White Bear Lake Area Schools

p.s. Looking to join our amazing team? We're still hiring paraprofessionals and Extended Day staff for the 2024-25 school year. Make a difference! Competitive wages & flexible hours. Apply now: [isd624.org/employment](https://isd624.org/employment).

[isd624.org](https://isd624.org)

651-407-7500



[/isd624](https://isd624.org)

Find info about head lice, immunizations, medications at school, and resources at [isd624.org/programs/health-services](https://isd624.org/programs/health-services).

ISD 624 does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX, including in employment. Complete information in SB Policy 522.

# It's a 624 Fact

## 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

## Equity Commitment

To nurture the whole student, we disrupt systemic inequities by recognizing, honoring, and embracing all cultures with humility and respect.

## Stewardship

The District has received excellence in financial reporting awards from both the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association.

## Stay connected!

### Community e-Newsletter

"Sign up for the e-Newsletter" on the Community e-Newsletter page (under About tab at [isd624.org](https://isd624.org)) to receive the text/video editions sent each week.

### Stay Social

Join White Bear Lake Area Schools' social media circles - Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Find links on the District's website.

### Coffee with Dr. K

Families and community members are invited to stop by throughout the academic year for *Coffee with Dr. K* events, informal chats with Superintendent Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee. Find us at Caribou Coffee in Downtown WBL:

- Nov. 19 from 4-5 p.m.
- Feb. 27 from 12-1 p.m.
- May 6 from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

## Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 3 - 1st Day Gr. 6 & 12

Sept. 4 - 1st Day Gr. 1-5 & 7-9

Sept. 5 - 1st Day Gr. K, 10-11 & 12+

Sept. 9 - 1st Day Early Childhood

Oct. 6-12 - Homecoming Week

Oct. 11 - Deadline for Directory Info & Military Release opt-outs

## IMPORTANT DISTRICT NOTICES

### Student Directory Information

Student directory information is considered “public” under state and federal laws. Unless parents give specific instructions to the contrary, schools must release directory information to anyone who requests it.

Public directory information includes: name; photograph; information provided by the student for inclusion in school-approved publications; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; names and pictures of students participating in or attending extra-curricular activities, school events, and HS league activities/events; major field of study; dates of attendance; grade level; enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time); degrees, honors and awards received; and previous educational agency or institution attended.

If you do not wish for this information to be given out about your child, send written notification including: name of the student and/or parent, if applicable; home address; school presently attended by student; parent’s legal relationship to student, if applicable; and specific categories of directory information to be made not public without the parent’s or eligible student’s prior written consent, which shall only be applicable for that school year. Notification should be sent to: Restrict Directory Data, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., WBL, MN 55110, no later than Friday, Oct. 11, 2024.

### Release of 11th/12th Grade Data to Military Recruiters

Federal law requires high schools to provide military recruiting officers access to public directory data (above) and the names, addresses and home phone numbers of all 11th and 12th grade students. Parents have a right to refuse release of this data by sending written notification to: Refuse Release to Military Recruiters, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., WBL, MN 55110, no later than Friday, Oct. 11, 2024.

### Nutrition Services Updates

We are a part of Minnesota’s Free School Meals Program, which means that all students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school for the upcoming school year. **Even with this free meal benefit being available to all, it is still very important that families fill out the Application for Educational Benefits because children may qualify for other benefits** such as: reduced sports/activity fees, reduced internet access and utility bills, reduced AP test registration and college application fees, reduced drivers training and more! Complete the Application for Educational Benefits online directly at [www.schoolcafe.com/isd624](http://www.schoolcafe.com/isd624). Paper applications can be requested by contacting Nutrition Services at 651-407-7515.

### ParentVUE

ParentVUE by Synergy is our student information system that supports student demographics, schedules, attendance, grades and more. Find information, resources, tips and links about the system at [isd624.org/ParentVUE](http://isd624.org/ParentVUE).

### Digital Curriculum Tools Notification

We use a variety of digital tools to support student learning. Technology vendors and software are utilized to support work as we help all students develop the skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.

An inventory of our curriculum, testing, and assessment tools are available at [www.isd624.org/departments/technology/digital-curriculum-tools](http://www.isd624.org/departments/technology/digital-curriculum-tools), including an outline of the student data elements within each tool. The list is maintained and communicated annually to all families at the start of the school year.

Contact [susan.herder@isd624.org](mailto:susan.herder@isd624.org) if you have questions regarding specific digital tools used in classrooms.

### Emergency Weather Closing

When a decision is made to close schools, an announcement will be made over major radio and television stations as early in the morning as possible. The announcement will identify our school district as White Bear Lake Area Schools. Efforts will also be made to use the parent notification alert system to notify families of school closures. If no announcement is made, schools will be in session as scheduled. Parents may also check the District website or Facebook/Instagram page.

### District Policies

Complete School Board policies at [isd624.org/about/district-policies](http://isd624.org/about/district-policies).



### Building Our Future Update

This is a historic moment for our school district and the greater White Bear Lake Area community. For the first time in over four decades, all ninth through twelfth-grade students will attend classes at a single high school building this fall. This significant change was made possible by the community’s overwhelming support for a \$326 million bond referendum, a milestone in state history when it was approved in 2019.

Our commitment to creating inspiring learning environments has brought to life the vision outlined in our Strategic Plan. By providing flexible spaces and learning studios, we have empowered our students to take ownership of their education. These spaces spark communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

Our middle schools are also undergoing exciting changes. Sunrise Park Middle School, now known as Mariner Middle School, has moved into the former South Campus building. Last spring, a community celebration marked this transition. Hundreds of students, staff, alumni, and community members gathered to enjoy student performances, learn about the school’s history, and share cherished memories.

Central Middle School has undergone significant renovations this summer. A new gymnasium has been added, and existing classrooms and offices have been renovated. Construction will continue through the fall of 2025, focusing on the Learning Commons and cafeteria. Additionally, the current District Center will be renovated and integrated into Central.

Another project that will be completed in phases through the fall of 2025 is the Sunrise Park building. The District Center offices will move to Sunrise in December. Beginning in the fall of 2025, Sunrise will be home to the Early Childhood Center, Senior Center, and Transition Education Center.

Complete information about the district’s facilities projects can be found at [isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture](http://isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture).

[isd624.org](http://isd624.org)



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