

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #624**



**SCHOOL BOARD
WORK SESSION
PACKET**

March 24, 2025

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: March 19, 2025

A work session of the White Bear Lake Area School Board will be held on **Monday, March 24, 2025**, at 5:30 p.m. in Boardroom 200 at the District Service Center at Sunrise Park, 2399 Cedar Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Oneka Elementary Update
2. Update on Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion Program

C. ADJOURNMENT

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM: **Oneka Elementary Update**

MEETING DATE: **March 24, 2025**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

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

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Lori Mosser, Principal of Oneka Elementary will give an update on Oneka Elementary School.



Oneka Elementary

School Board Presentation

March 24, 2025



Agenda

- Overview of Oneka
- Academic Goals
- Family Engagement
- Future Goals & Plans
- Summary



1.

All About Oneka



3

Demographics

- K-5 Neighborhood School
- 443 Students
- 23.65% Free & Reduced Price Lunch
- 22% Students of Color
- Special Education Programming
 - ASD Program
 - DCD Program
 - Cross-Categorical
 - Cluster Pathway Program
 - Tier 2 Program
- 7% of Students Receive Multilingual Services



4

Student Experiences

Wargo



Ashland Theatre



Boosterthon



5

Coding



6



2.

School Academic Goals

Our School's Mission:

The mission of Oneka Elementary, as part of a growing, tight-knit community, advocates for student-focused, innovative education while embracing challenges to promote growth and ensure and empower lifelong learning in a loving, compassionate, and inviting environment where all feel safe to explore and take risks by fostering:

- self-advocacy and agency of their own learning,
- respect for diversity,
- stewardship both locally and globally,
- social and emotional health and wellness, and
- educational opportunities that are authentic, compelling, and relevant.

7

Academic Goals

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

By the end of the spring 2025, 80% of all K-2 students will demonstrate low-risk on FastBridge assessments.

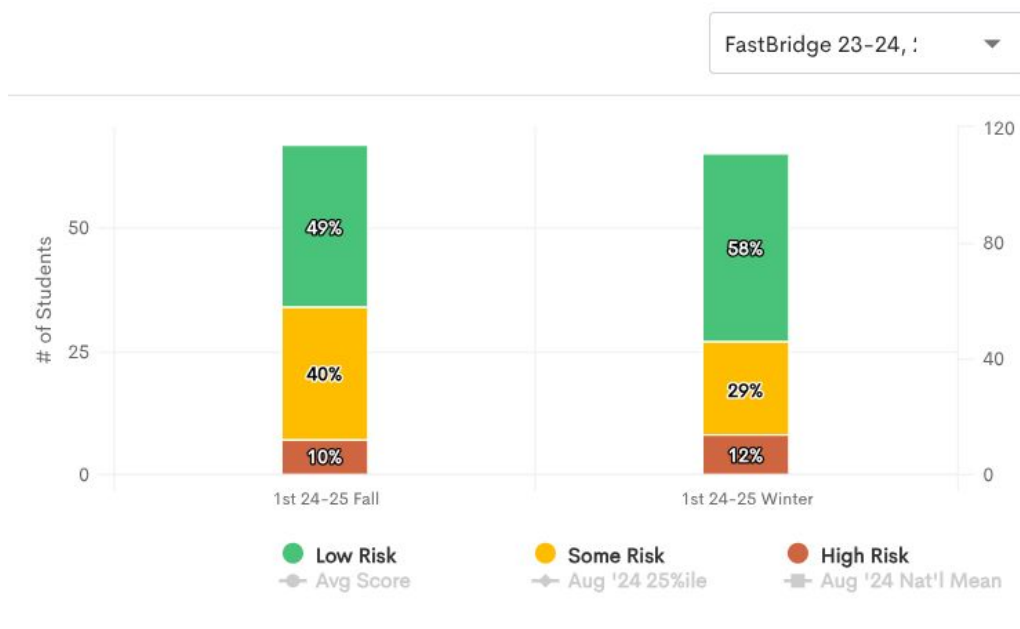
3rd - 5th Grades

By the end of the spring 2025, 75% of all 3rd - 5th grade students will meet or exceed reading and math standards on the MCA/MTAS.

8

First Grade earlyReading Fall 2024 → Winter 2025

FAST - Early Reading English Composite By Grade



9

Making Gains

Fluency Interventions

Teachers work daily with small groups of students in WIN (What I Need) groups to provide targeted instruction.

Progress Monitoring

Teachers document student performance and make adjustments to instruction to continuously improve student outcomes.

Rate of Improvement

Typical rate of improvement is 1.4 words per week. 59% of 22 students at some & high risk are meeting and/or exceeding this rate.

10

3.

Family Engagement



11



10

Annual PTA BINGO! Night



Annual Intentional Social Interaction (ISI)

Our theme for this evening is **BUILDING COMMUNITY**. The purpose of this community dialogue is to become partners with families to close all gaps for students and families so that they can be successful in school and in life.

It is our hope that we will celebrate our differences while uncovering commonalities and connections that will be sustained for years to come.



ONEKA

FAMILY DINNER

Join Us!

April 3rd
5-7 pm

Community Meal

5:00-5:45 **CAFETERIA**
Families will be served dinner through a buffet line of our local favorites before events begin.

Kids Care

5:50-7:00 **GYMNASIUM**
Please drop your students off in the gymnasium where they will participate in their own activities for the evening.

Dynamic Conversations

6:00-7:00 **MEDIA CENTER**
Parents and guardians will then congregate in the media center for community conversations. Bring a plate of food!



- WILD ORCHID
- RED LUNA
- WISE GUYS

 (651) 288-1800
  4888 Heritage Pkwy North, Hugo



ONEKA ART PARTY



WHERE: ONEKA ELEMENTARY

WHEN: FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00PM

EVENTS INCLUDED:

**ART SALE, CHALK, BUBBLES, FACE PAINT, TATTOOS,
FOOD TRUCKS , KONA ICE & MORE!**

Artwork from all students will be placed throughout the school. Families can purchase their children's artwork for a suggested donation of \$3.00. All proceeds will go to the Oneka Elementary PTA.

15

4.

Future Goals & Plans

Increasing student
achievement & closing
the opportunity gap



Strengthening family &
community engagement

16



WB 624 Oneka Elementary



Thank You
for voting us
Best School!



ONEKA ELEMENTARY
4888 Heritage Pkwy North, Hugo, MN
651-288-1800

THANK YOU!

Lori Mosser

Principal

lori.mosser@isd624.org

AGENDA ITEM: **Update on Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion Program**

MEETING DATE: **March 24, 2025**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

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

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning and Ayan Ibrahim, Assistant Director of Educational Equity and Achievement will give an update on the Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion Program.



Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion Program Progress Update

March 24, 2025

Agenda

- Background information
- Provide program's progress, plans, and goals
- Share updates on accomplishments, enrollment, staffing, and curriculum
- Next Steps



How did we get here?

Steering Committee Work

Researched the following questions:

- What are best practices in Spanish Dual Immersion programs, and what would that look like in WBLAS?
- If we had Spanish Dual Immersion, where would it be?
- What are the needs and desires of the community?

Board Approved on October 21, 2024

Launch up to three sections of Spanish Dual Immersion kindergarten at both Otter Lake Elementary and Matoska International for the 2025-26 school year.



GO BEARS

- **Phase 1: May - August, 2024**
District Leadership to study elementary language immersion program models and site location of program within our school district.
- **Phase 2: September - October, 2024**
District Leadership to develop and recommend implementation plan.
- **Phase 3: October - November, 2024**
Oct. 21 Family Info Session to gain clarity and provide information.

Proposal discussed by School Board at October Work Session, with action expected to take place at the November Regular Meeting.
- **Phase 4: November, 2024 - August, 2025**
Program Design Team to develop program specifics.
Immersion program will be marketed and enrollments will continue to be accepted.



GO BEARS

Design Team Work

Vision Statement:

Our global learners will thrive in a dynamic, bilingual, and biliterate environment that nurtures curiosity, values high academic achievement, embraces cultural heritage, fosters a love for learning, and collaborates with family and community to ensure success in a diverse, interconnected world.

Nuestros estudiantes globales prosperarán en un ambiente dinámico, bilingüe y biliterado que fomenta la curiosidad, valora el alto rendimiento académico y la herencia cultural, fomenta el amor por el aprendizaje y colabora con las familias y la comunidad para garantizar el éxito en un mundo diverso e interconectado.

GO BEARS



Curriculum & Instruction

Curriculum & Instruction

The Program Design Team is focused on ensuring that the curriculum is aligned with state and national standards, organized with a clear scope and sequence, and supports universal instruction that leads to measurable student outcomes.

Aligned Curriculum:

- Amplify Caminos (Spanish Language Arts)
- Teachers' Curriculum Institute (TCI) Social Studies (Spanish Version)
- Amplify Science (Spanish Version)
- Math Curriculum - To Be Determined by Fall 2025 (Spanish Version)
- Second Step (Spanish Version)
 - SEL content already embedded in the Spanish scope and sequence for kindergarten

GO BEARS



Professional Development & Training

Professional Development

July 2025

- Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) Summer Institute at the University of Minnesota

August 2025

- Building Specific PD Kickoff

Ongoing

- Dual Immersion Instructional Strategies for immersion teachers and staff



GO BEARS // // // // //



Enrollment & Staffing Update

Enrollment & Staffing

Enrollment

- The enrollment process is still ongoing
- Communication with families will remain a priority
- Kindergarten Gatherings in April

Staffing

- The hiring process is actively underway. We have completed several rounds of interviews and are in a good position to be fully staffed by fall.

GO BEARS //



Family & Community Engagement

Family Engagement

Our efforts to build strong connections with families and the community are actively supported by the collaboration between the Student, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator and the Director of Communications.



- Introductory Open House & Parent Meetings to Gather Feedback Prior to Board Approval
- Focus Groups
- Information and Registration Sessions for Incoming Families
- Kindergarten Gathering
- Ongoing Communication Plan for 2025

GO BEARS

Family Engagement

Our Early Childhood team is working to support our efforts with a launch of a new **¡Hola Ositos! (Hello Little Bears!) Spanish Exposure Preschool Class** to begin in Fall 2025.



¡Hola Ositos! (Hello Little Bears!) Spanish Exposure Preschool Class

This Spanish Exposure class is designed for both Spanish-speaking and non-Spanish-speaking children, fostering their first language while introducing them to a second. Through interactive activities and peer learning, children will explore a new language in a warm and engaging environment. This class also serves as a great stepping stone for those considering our Spanish Immersion program in kindergarten.

- ✓ Transportation will be available based on Otter Lake Spanish Immersion routing
- ✓ Scholarships available for those that qualify
- ✓ Access to Nutrition Services



CLASS LOCATION

Otter Lake Elementary School
1401 County Road H2
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

FOR MORE INFO

Call: 651-653-3100
Email: ec@isd624.org



Register Here!



¡Hola Ositos! (Hello Little Bears!) Clase preescolar de exposición al español

Esta clase de Inmersión en español está diseñada tanto para niños hispanohablantes como para aquellos que no lo hablan, fomentando su lengua materna a la vez que les presentamos una segunda. Mediante actividades interactivas y aprendizaje entre compañeros, los niños explorarán un nuevo idioma en un ambiente cálido y atractivo. Esta clase también es un excelente punto de partida para quienes estén considerando nuestro programa de Inmersión en español en kínder.

- ✓ El transporte estará disponible según Otter Ruta de inmersión en español del lago
- ✓ Becas disponibles para aquellos que califiquen
- ✓ Acceso a los servicios de nutrición



UBICACIÓN DE LA CLASE

Otter Lake
1401 County Road H2
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Llamada: 651-653-3100 Correo electrónico: ec@isd624.org



¡Regístrate aquí!





Next Steps

Next Steps

To ensure a smooth launch of the Spanish Immersion Program in August 2025, we will focus on the following key actions:

- Finalize Enrollment & Staffing
- Refine Curriculum & Professional Development Plan
- Continue Outreach & Engagement
- Prepare for August 2025 Launch



WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
NOW ENROLLING
KINDERGARTEN
FALL 2025


isd624.org