

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #624**



**SCHOOL BOARD
WORK SESSION
PACKET**

April 28, 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: April 23, 2025

A work session of the White Bear Lake Area School Board will be held on **Monday, April 28, 2025**, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 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. Otter Lake Elementary Update
2. Vadnais Heights Elementary Update
3. Career Pathways Update

C. ADJOURNMENT

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM: **Otter Lake Elementary Update**

MEETING DATE: **April 28, 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 Ang Nelson, Principal of Otter Lake Elementary will give an update on Otter Lake Elementary.

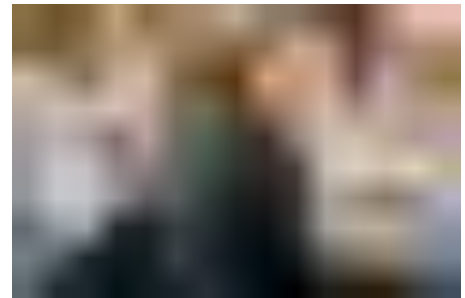
Otter Lake Elementary

School Board Presentation
4.28.25

Each student,
every day

Agenda

- Overview of Otter Lake Elementary
- Otter Lake Elementary Priorities
- Academic Goals
- Student Experience Goal
- Family Engagement
- What's next?



Otter Lake Elementary



Otter Lake Elementary Priorities



Mission of Otter Lake Elementary

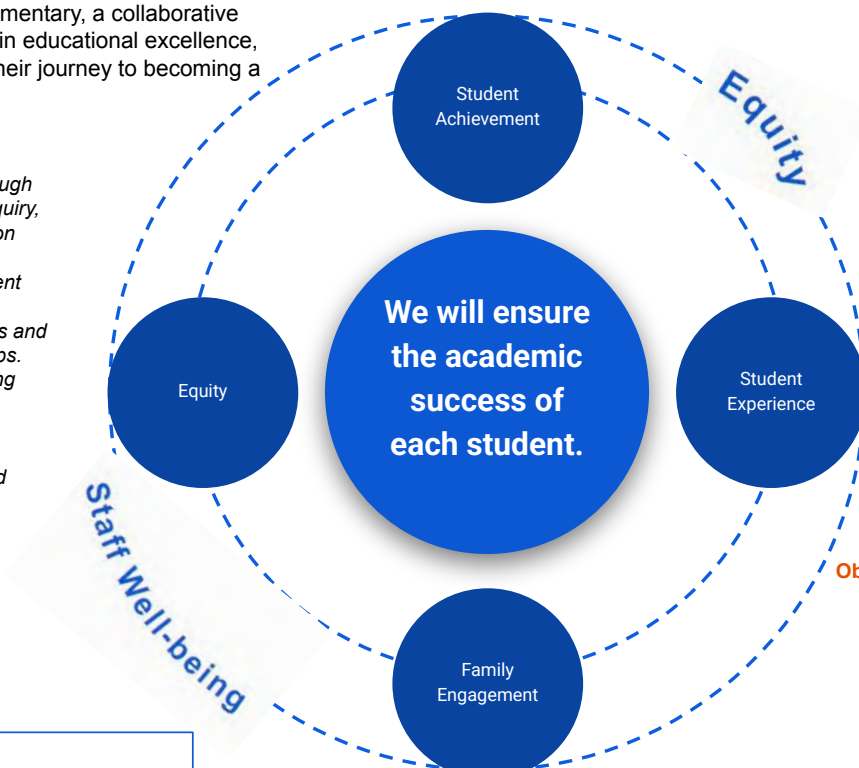
The mission of Otter Lake Elementary, a collaborative learning community engaged in educational excellence, is to nurture each student in their journey to becoming a lifelong learner.

We are distinguished by:

- authentic learning through critical thinking and inquiry, effective communication and creative problem solving driven by student engagement.
- intentional partnerships and meaningful relationships.
- honoring and respecting each person's culture, learning style and perspective.
- kindness, empathy and compassion.

Future Tactics

*We will ensure the social and emotional growth of each student.
*We will foster intentional, meaningful, and collaborative relationships with students, families, and the greater community.



Otter Lake Elementary Priorities 2024.25

Objectives of Otter Lake Elementary

- 100% of students will be academically and emotionally prepared for the next step in their learning journey.
- 100% of students feel cared for, valued and respected.
- 100% of students are connected in meaningful relationships within Otter Lake and the greater community.

Academic Goals



Academic Goals

By spring 2025, 80% of students will demonstrate low risk as measured by grade level FastBridge assessments and 95% of students with IEP Literacy objectives will have met their goal.

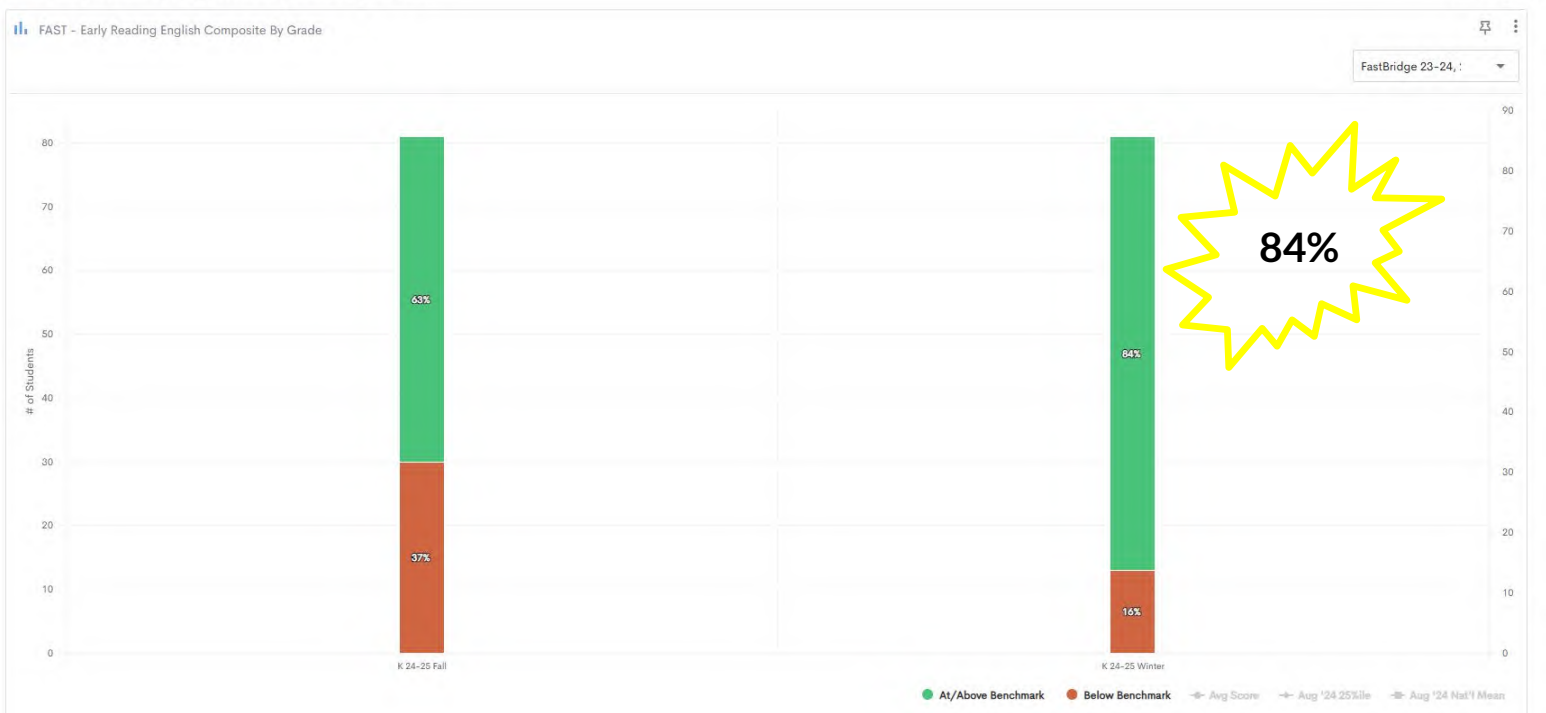
*What is FastBridge?: A researched based universal screener and progress monitoring tool.

*What is Low Risk?: A student is considered on track and may not need intervention to meet grade level standards.

GO BEARS

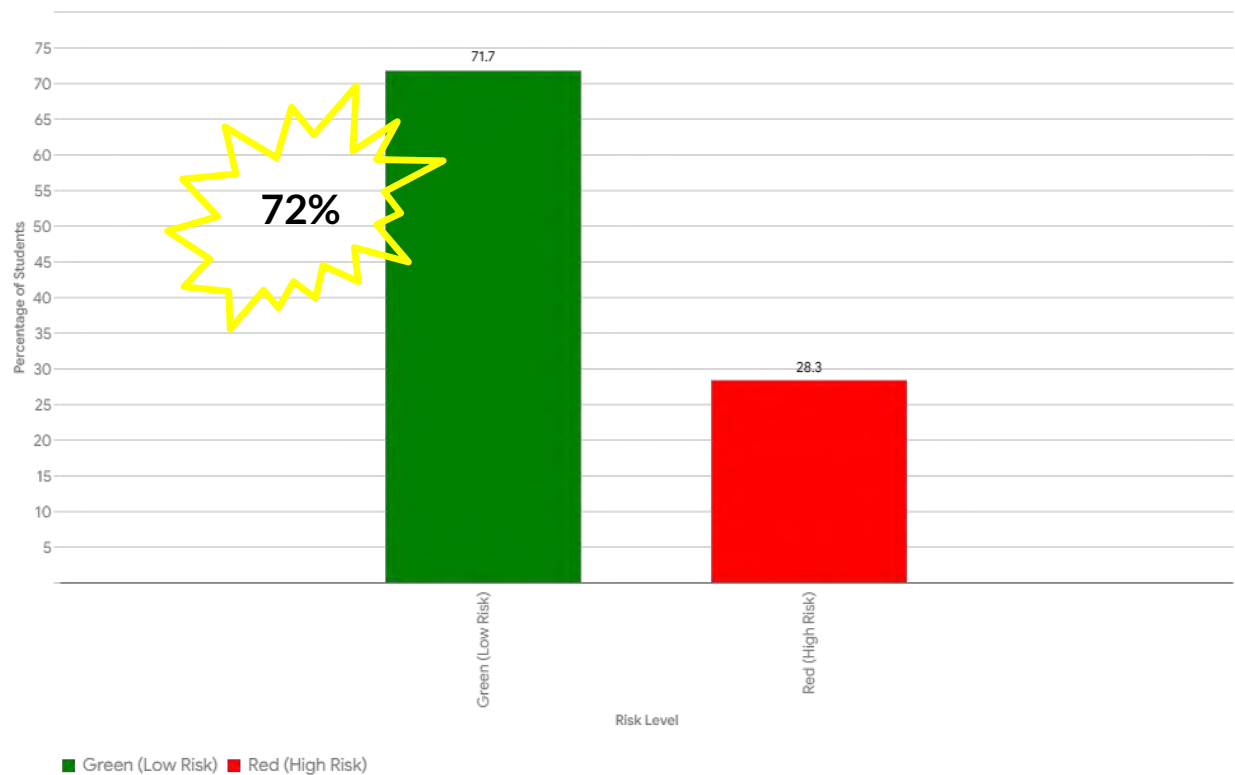
Kindergarten

FAST - Early Reading English Composite By Grade



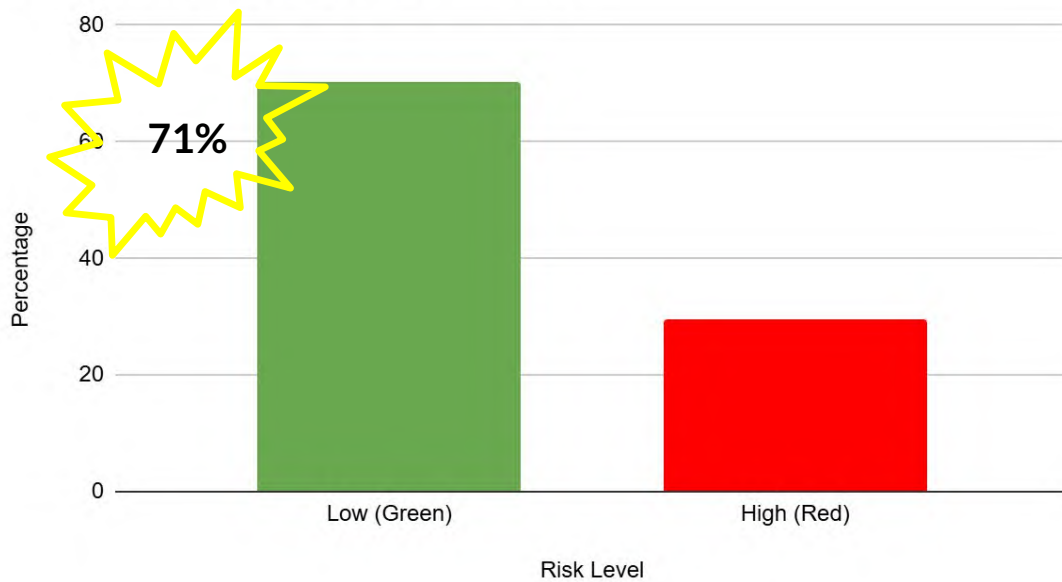
Risk Levels of 1st Grade Students

1st Grade



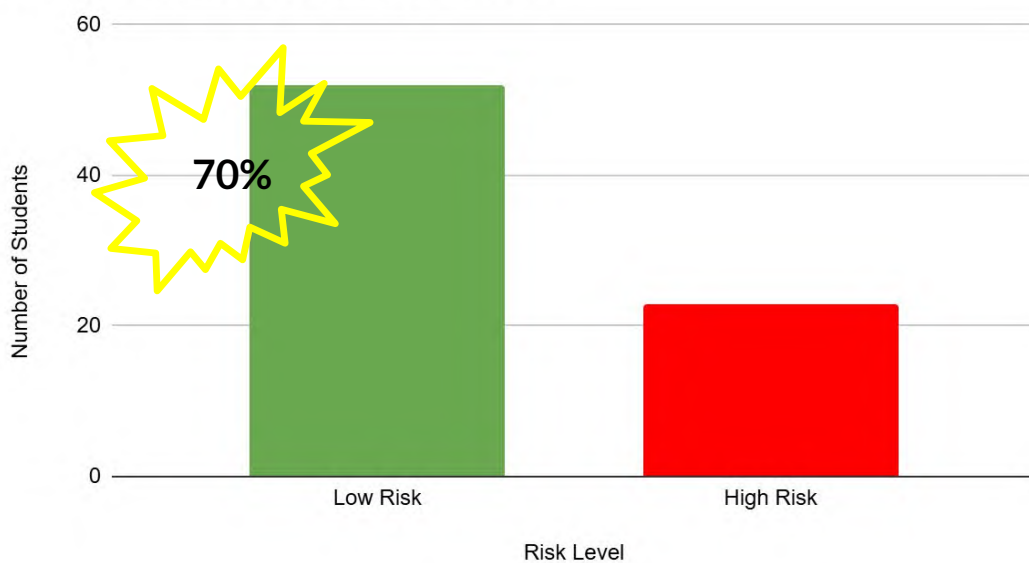
2nd Grade

Risk Level of 2nd Grade Students



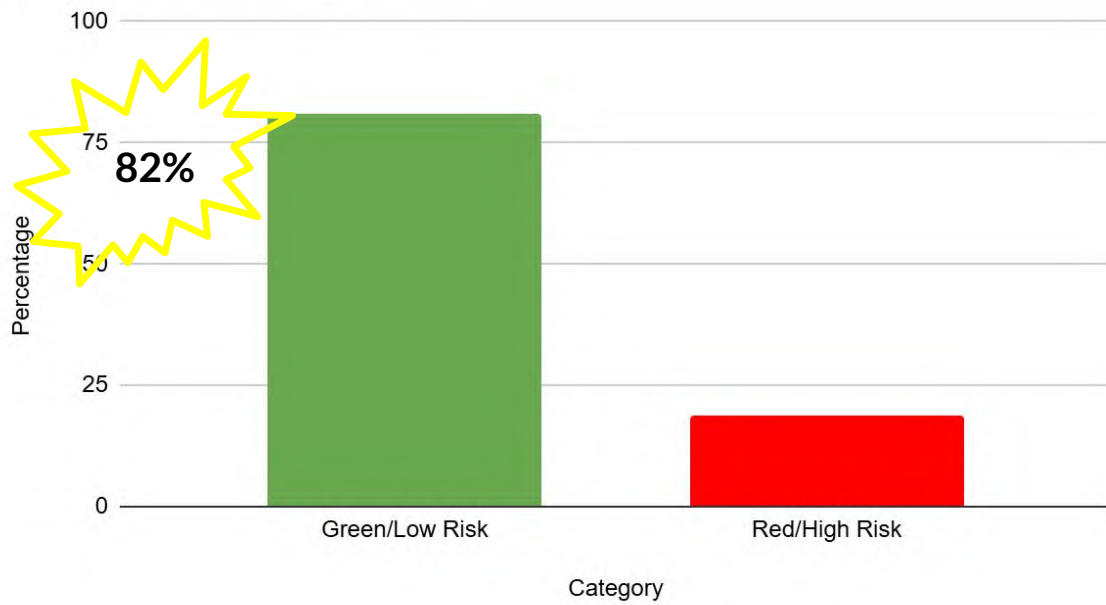
3rd Grade

Risk Level of 3rd Grade Students



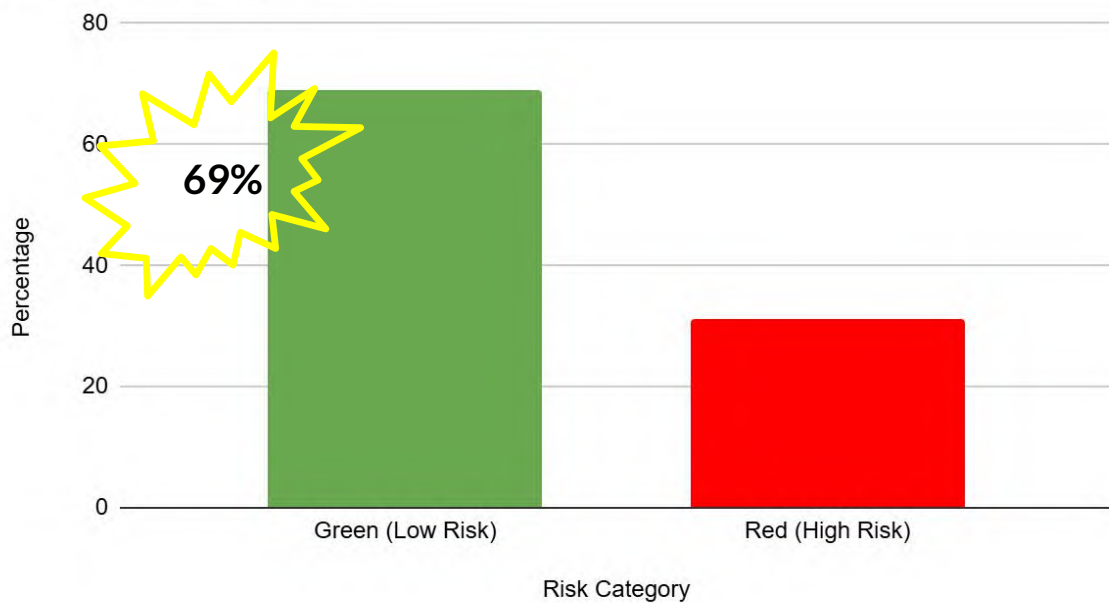
4th Grade

Risk Level of 4th Grade



5th Grade

Risk Level 5th Grade



Academic Goals: Action Items

Tier 3: 1-5%

High-Intensity Support for individual students

Tier 2: 5-15%

Early Intervention - High-Efficiency Strategic Support using small group interventions

Tier 1: 100%

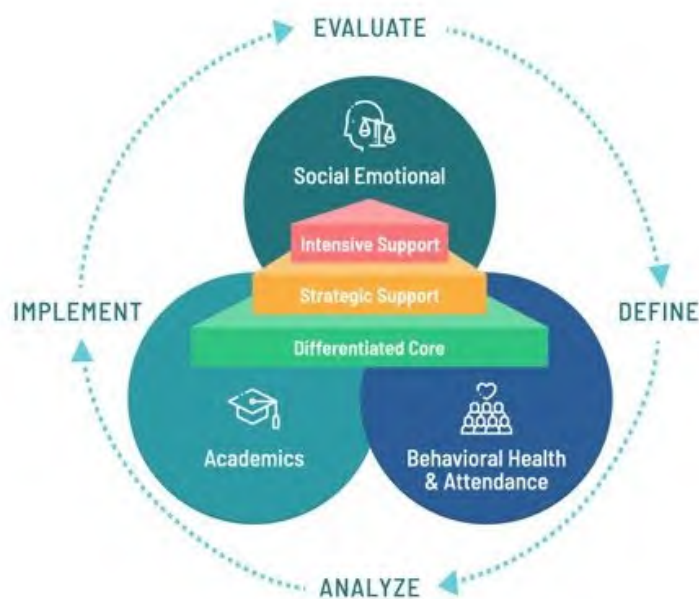
Differentiated Instruction for all students —using best evidence-based supports. Students receive additional support at Tier 2 and Tier 3.



From Branching Minds

GO BEARS

Academic Goals: Action Items



- Instructional Schedule
- **WIN Time and MTSS process**
- Professional Development
- **Collaboration**
- Parent Volunteers

From Branching Minds

GO BEARS

Student Experience Goal



Family Experience



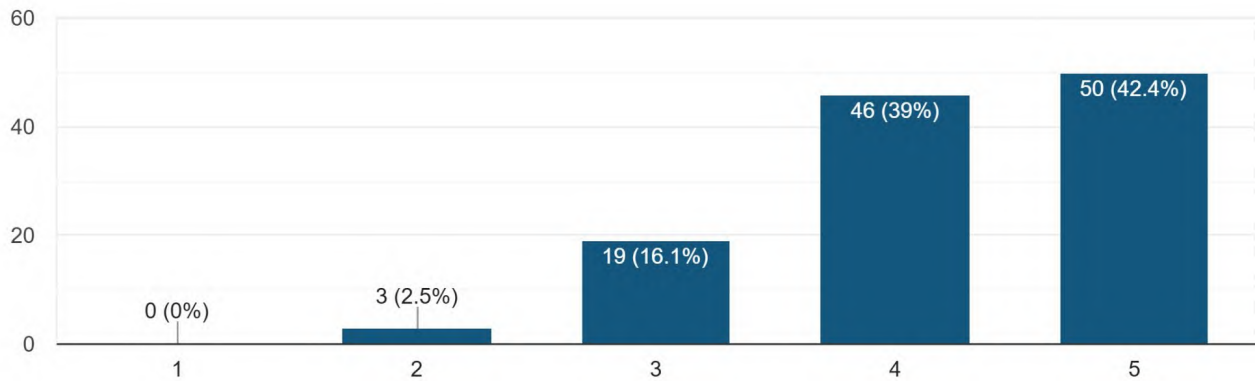
Family Experience Goals

By spring 2025, 60% of Otter Lake Families identify feeling meaningfully connected to the Otter Lake Elementary School community.



Family Experience Goal

On a scale of 1 to 5, how connected do you feel to the Otter Lake Elementary School community?
118 responses



81.4% of Families Surveyed! (119 families)

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Family Experience Goal: Action Items

Goal 1: Relationship and Trust Building Between Families, Students, & WBL Staff is Prioritized

Best Practice- We will be flexible in order to respond to each Family's needs: offering flexibility with meeting times and frequency, language needs, transportation needs, technology needs, communication preferences, and including considering and accommodating when possible preferences such as paper vs. online, phone call vs. Googlemeets, scheduled check-in times, and etc.

Goal 2: Families Exercise their Own Capacity to Advocate for Their Children in School

Best Practice- We will share information pertinent to Student progress with Families on a regular basis, and will provide alternative ways for Families to receive this information if they do not have access to the internet or other forms of technology, for example, Progress Reports can be printed and sent home, or information can be shared during scheduled family check-ins (online, or in person).

Goal 3: Staff Navigate Discomfort to Reflect upon their Perspective, Biases, and Assumptions to be more Culturally Responsive

Best Practice- We will provide our staff with adequately guided opportunities and space to learn and reflect on Bias & Equity on an ongoing basis. Adequate guidance will ensure that Staff stay on track with their learning.

Goal 4: All Information supporting Student Growth and Success is Shared

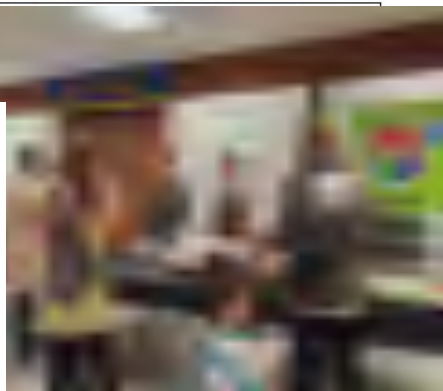
Best Practice- We will provide all information to families in a form and language that is accessible throughout the year.

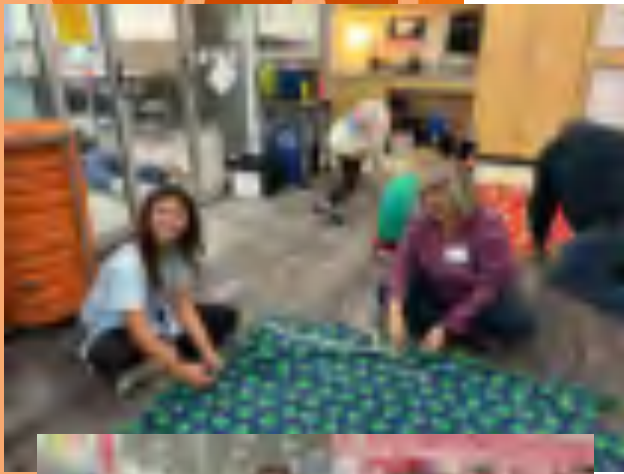
- Family Advisory Council, PTA, Focus Groups
- **Community Dinner and Conversation**
- Free Family Nights (Bingo, Crafts/Gym)
- **Meaningful Conferences**
- Consistent Communication
- **Volunteer Program**
- Carnival!

GO BEARS

Please let us know if your student needs help in any of these areas:

Academic:	Social/Emotional:
Reading	Forming Relationships (being and keeping a friend)
Writing	Self-Advocacy (asking for what they need)
Math	Emotions (big reactions, keeping to self)
Science	Solving Problems (with others or by myself)
Specialists	Do they struggle in any of these areas?





Family Experience Goal: Volunteer Program

- Over 200 volunteers throughout the year, at least 5-15 per day
- Help with literature groups, math games, Student Ambassadors, or other tasks

"One of my favorite things about volunteering is supporting teachers with menial tasks so they can focus on other aspects of teaching!" ~Volunteer

"One of my favorite things about volunteering is getting to know the staff, the students, and being more involved in what our kids are learning. It was nice seeing what they're doing during the day." ~Volunteer

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

What's Next?



*Design
Your
Future*



*Create
Your
Success*





Future Opportunities

- 4th and 5th Grade Day of Service (6.3.25)
- New Playground!
- Spanish Dual Immersion Kindergarten

NOW OFFERING
Spanish Dual Immersion Program



WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS

WB 624

NOW ENROLLING
KINDERGARTEN
FALL 2025

isd624.org

Otter Lake Chant!

Ms. Nelson: Who are we?

Students: BEARS!

Ms. Nelson: What do we do?

Students: We respect!

Ms. Nelson: What do we do?

Students: We are responsible!

Ms. Nelson: What do we do?

Students: We are ready!

Ms. Nelson: Why do we do it?

Students: Because I deserve the best!

Go BEARS!

Questions?



AGENDA ITEM: **Vadnais Heights Elementary Update**

MEETING DATE: **April 28, 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 Sara Svir, Principal of Vadnais Heights Elementary will give an update on Vadnais Heights Elementary.



Vadnais Heights Elementary

School Board Update

4/28/2025

**Vadnais Heights Elementary is the
cornerstone of our community.
Together we...**

- Value each person as we provide a high quality education,
- Help our community as we prepare students academically and socially,
- Enrich lives as we inspire students, and
- Safe spaces are created that celebrate diversity and foster lifelong learning.

Vadnais Heights Information

- 400 Students: Kindergarten - 5th Grade
- 3 - K-5 Neighborhoods: Grizzlies, Polars & Kodiaks
- 42.7% Free & Reduced - Title I School
- 49% Students of Color
- 17.5% Multilingual Services
- 19.3% Special Education Services
- 100% Amazing - Students, Families & Staff



V.H.E.S. 2024-2025 Building Goals

Literacy:

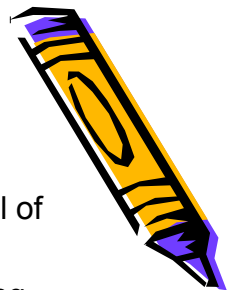
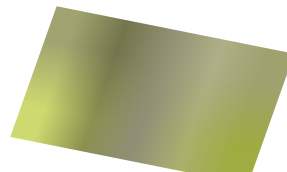
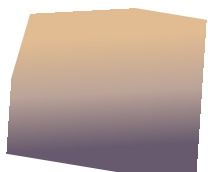
- V.H.E.S K-1 students will increase reading proficiency based on FastBridge earlyReading from an average level of 65% proficient in the spring of 2024 to a level of 80% proficient in the spring of 2025.
- V.H.E.S 2-5 students will increase reading proficiency based on FastBridge aReading from an average level of 61% proficient in the spring of 2024 to a level of 75% proficient in the spring of 2025.

Student Experience:

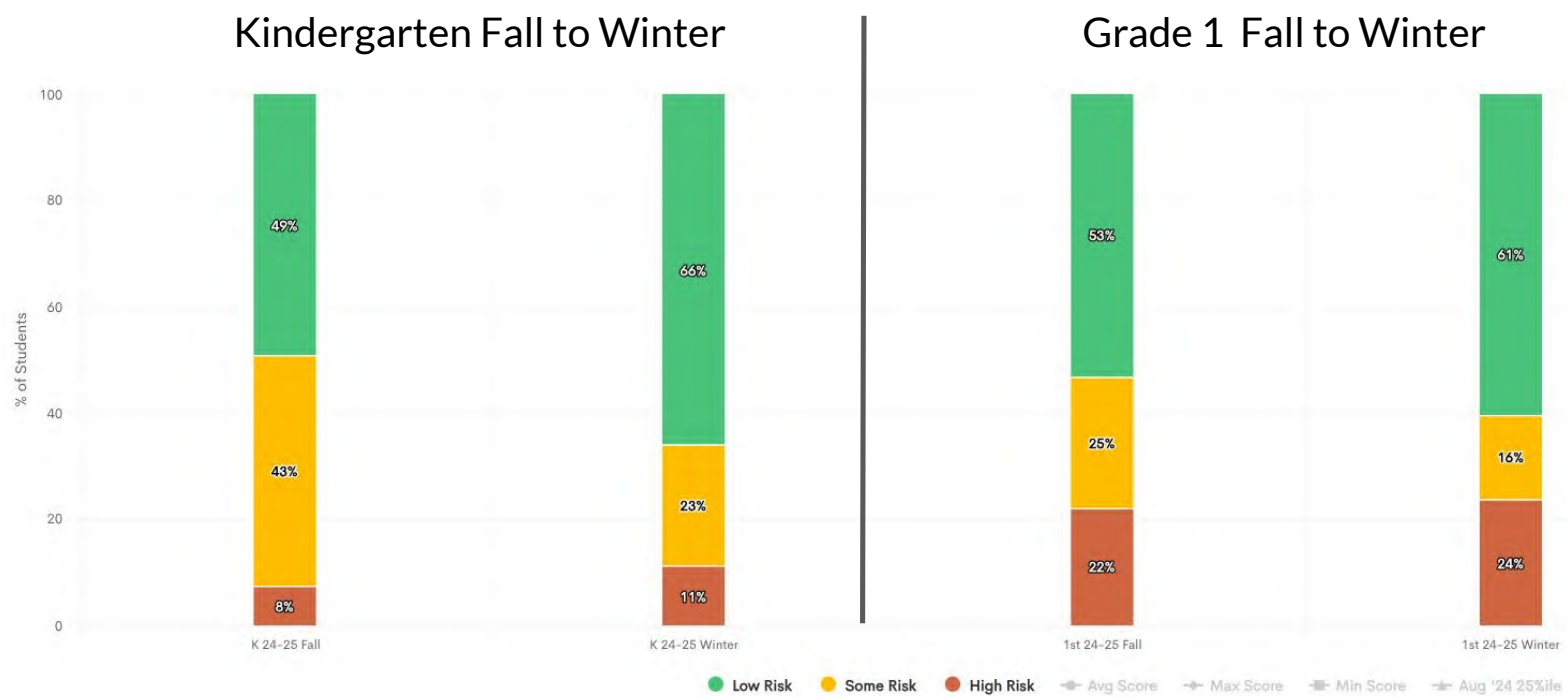
- We will survey students 3 times during the 2024-'25 school year to learn the extent to which they feel safe, valued, engaged and connected at school.

Equity:

- V.H.E.S. 3-5th grade ML students from the spring of 2024 to the spring of 2025 will demonstrate growth towards proficiency on the aReading from a level of 32% proficiency on average to a level of 60% proficient on average.

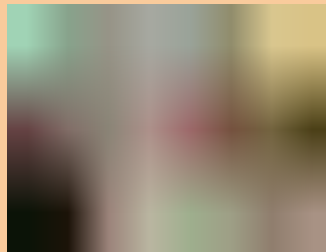
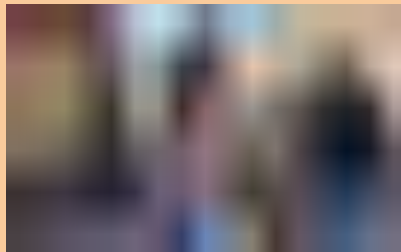
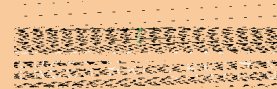


Vadnais Heights Elementary - Grades K and 1 FastBridge earlyReading Composite



Community Engagement & Partnerships

- City of Vadnais Heights
 - Earth Day
 - Vadnais Heights Days
- Vadnais Heights Fire Dept.
- Vadnais Heights Lions
 - Food & Toy Drives
 - Social Studies & Tech.
- Kline Nissan & Sustainable Automotive
 - Earth Day - Saplings for Students



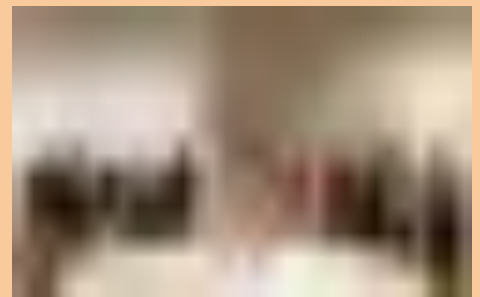
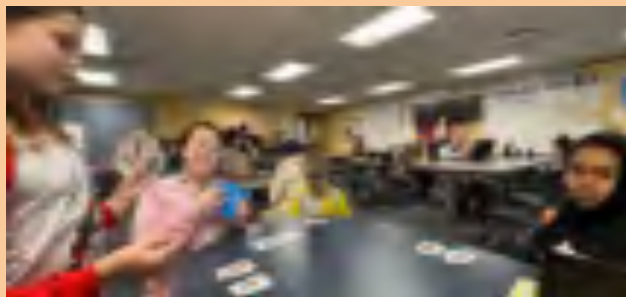
Community Engagement & Partnerships

- Kids Hope
 - Mentorship Program
- University of MN
 - Reading Buddies
 - College Course On-Site
 - Year-Long Student Teachers
- Children's Performing Arts
 - 101 Dalmatians



Community Engagement & Partnerships

- Community, Connections & Conversations
- Bear Bash
- Snow Much Fun
- Spring Extravaganza
- PTO



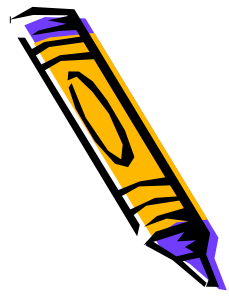
School Climate and Culture

- School-Wide BEAR(s) Time (Brave, Empathetic, Aware, Responsible & Safe) Daily w/ Teachers
- Social/Emotional Learning Lesson for Primary & Intermediate Students each Week (BARR/2nd Step)
 - Behaviors of Concern/Risk-Taking - April 29
 - U-Time: *"Sorry" is Just a Word* - why apologizing is important and how to do it
- Friday 5th Grade News
 - Veterans Day Program - Annual Event
 - Community Service Projects
 - March Book Madness



As We Finish the Year Strong...

- Spring Assessments - Academic & Social/Emotional
- School Wide Run Club
- Color Run, Talent Show & Field Day
- Survey for Students & Parents - What's going well & What can we do better?
- Educators Thriving - Professional Development on Core Values
- Spring Extravaganza - Student Concert & Community Service Project



Vadnais Heights Elementary is a proud neighborhood school with strong community connections, a commitment to students and learning, and a belief in the power of partnering with parents to support every child's success.



Thank You!
Sara Svir, Principal

AGENDA ITEM: **Career Pathways Update**

MEETING DATE: **April 28, 2025**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

CONTACT PERSON: **Jen Babiash, Director of Teaching and Learning**

BACKGROUND:

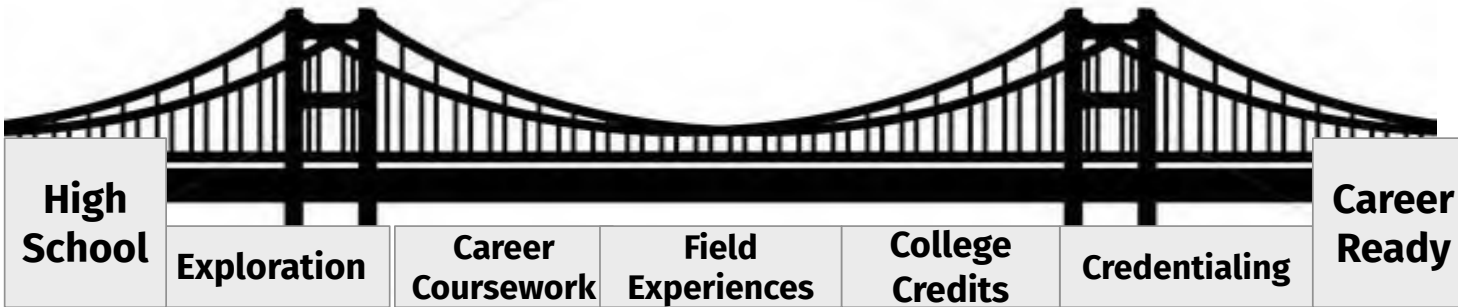
Jen Babiash, Director of Teaching and Learning, Russ Reetz, High School Principal, and Katy Olson, Career Pathways Coordinator, will provide an update on Career Pathways.

Career Pathways Update

Katy Olson, Career Pathways Coordinator
Russ Reetz, High School Principal



Career Pathways



-Building a bridge to accelerate students' journey from middle school to high school to college and careers.

Design your future. Create your success.

GO BEARS



The National Career Clusters Framework serves as a guiding organizational structure...to create inclusive, industry-responsive, and learner-centered CTE programs and experiences. ~Released Fall 2024

GO BEARS

Ramsey County Career Cluster Data

12 of 16 career clusters are forecast to decline in overall employment over the next 10 years

4 Clusters Forecasting GROWTH

1. Human Services (+7.4%)
2. Information Technology (+6.8%)
3. Health Science (+3.5%)
4. STEM (+2.8%)

GO BEARS

White Bear Chamber of Commerce & Vadnais Heights Economic Development Council (VHEDC)

Minnesota Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships

Work-Based Learning

Industry Certification	Number of Students
OSHA10	10
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) <i>*Semester 1 only</i>	16
Ford ACE (Automotive Career Exploration)	<i>Pending</i>
First Aid/CPR	92 <i>*36 additional expected</i>
ServSafe <i>*Semester 1 only</i>	23

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- ★ Entire Junior Class
 - ★ Small groups of 80 spent approx. 2 hours in the simulation
 - ★ 200 community volunteers
- GO BEARS**////////////////////

Design your future. Create your success.



Future Bear Educators Update

- **Intro to Urban Education** (concurrent enrollment w/ Minneapolis College)
 - 18 students
- **Future Bear Educator Field Experience**
 - 14 students
 - 8 different elementary school Extended Day programs & the Mariner Middle School AVID Tutor Program

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



School Grounds Coffee Shop

- ★ 46 student baristas gained work experience
- ★ 1 student hired by Nutrition Services as Student Manager
- ★ 23 students earned the ServSafe certification (19 in progress for Sem 2)
- ★ Partnership with student support services - assist with cleaning & organizing
- ★ Students bake & package fresh baked scones & cookies to sell
- ★ Average daily sales \$400-600
 - Hit over \$1,000 a few times
- ★ Students highlighted in the White Bear Press & White Bear Magazine (May issue)

GO BEARS //

- ❖ \$9,000 in revenue
- ❖ Students work directly with BSN to design merchandise
- ❖ Students select what to sell
- ❖ Student develop promotional events & various discounts
- ❖ Students did a redesign of the store layout

Students take a sense of pride in running the store.



Mr. Dahm
Business Teacher

[The store] is a good way to get students in the school spirit mode.



Mr. Dahm
Business teacher

Duplicat

Unleash your roar @ our school store!





2025-26 Enrollment

NEW

Visual Communication Careers Pathway development

- Sports Photography & Media
- Sports & Media Marketing

NEW

Drone Flight Academy

Computer Hardware Technology

First Aid & CPR / Certified Nursing Assistant / Intro to Healthcare Careers

Math for the Trades

Digital Photography

Slight Increase: Intro to Construction Trades & Small Engines

GO BEARS

Design your future. Create your success.

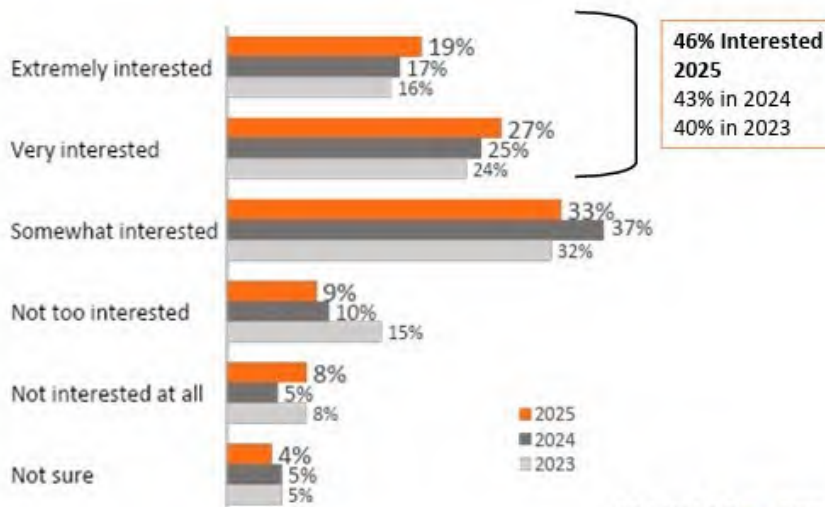
CTE Remains a High Priority, Growing Interest

How important are each of the following to you when it comes to your student's education?
Among Current MS and HS Parents (n=123)

Phrase	Ranked #1-3
Classes that focus on gaining skills in a specific field	35%
Classes that allow you to explore different careers of interest	35%
Comprehensive advising that meets each students needs	31%
Participating in sports	31%
Earning college credits while in high school	29%
Participating in clubs/extracurriculars	25%
AP, IB, or other advanced classes	24%

How interested are you in a CTE program for your student?

Parents of Students w/o CTE (n=204)



ADVANCE CTE
State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work

[Resource](#)

How important are each of the following to you when it comes to your student's education?
Among Current MS and HS Parents (n=123)

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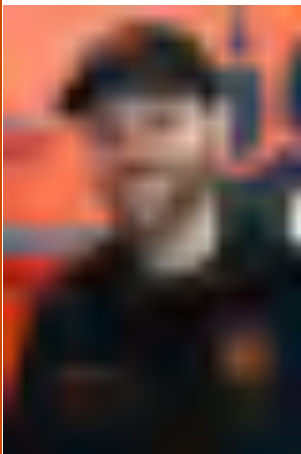


WBLAS
5
1
2
7
3
6
4

GO BEARS

Exemplary Secondary Program of the Year

WBLAS Automotive Career Pathway & Mr. Doescher



“This award showcases secondary level transportation programs that serve as exemplary models of institutional support, instructional leadership, and program-wide excellence.”



MINNESOTA STATE
Transportation Center of Excellence