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# Headlines & Happenings

WINTER 2025

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*Westonka Public Schools prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the District's Title IX Coordinator. The complete nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be found at [www.westonka.k12.mn.us/TitleIX](http://www.westonka.k12.mn.us/TitleIX).*

## Upcoming Events



March 13-16	<b>"Disaster! The Musical"</b> presented by the Westonka Community Theatre	WCT presents their spring musical at the Westonka Performing Arts Center. Learn more and purchase tickets at <a href="http://www.WestonkaPAC.com">www.WestonkaPAC.com</a> .
April 3	<b>Groundbreaking Ceremony</b> for the redesigned high school building	Join us at 4 p.m. on the north side of the high school for a special groundbreaking ceremony, including music, refreshments, interactive stations and more!
May 21	<b>Ribbon-Cutting Event</b> for the new high school tennis courts	Help us cut the ribbon on the high school tennis courts at 5 p.m. The event will include a short presentation, refreshments and open play of tennis and pickleball.
June 2	<b>Graduation Day</b> for the Mound Westonka High School Class of 2025	The Mound Westonka High School commencement will be held Monday evening, June 2. Congratulations graduates and families!
June 3	<b>Last Day of School</b> for grades K-11	Summer break officially begins June 4, 2025. Have a great summer White Hawks!

### Two Westonka educators are candidates for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Education Minnesota announced in February that Westonka teachers Sarah Wright from Shirley Hills Primary School and Wendy Richards from Mound Westonka High School are among the 142 candidates for 2025 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. Finalists for the state award will be announced in March.

### Westonka Public Schools online enrollment open for 2025-26

Westonka's award-winning schools are now accepting enrollments for the 2025-26 school year. Families are encouraged to enroll their student(s) through our convenient online enrollment portal. While open enrollment is still available for most grade levels, families who live outside school district boundaries are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible to secure placement. To learn more and apply, please visit [www.westonka.k12.mn.us/enroll](http://www.westonka.k12.mn.us/enroll).

### Westonka Class of 2025 prepares to take flight

It's an exciting time for Westonka seniors and their families as the Class of 2025 solidifies their postsecondary plans. Next fall, Westonka graduates will be attending renowned colleges and universities, joining the military, enrolling in trade programs and pursuing international opportunities. Follow along as they share their plans on Instagram [@mwhs.2025](https://www.instagram.com/mwhs.2025). We're proud of our seniors!

### Westonka High School groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for April 3

The community is invited to a special groundbreaking ceremony for the redesigned Westonka High School on April 3, 2025. Join us at 4:00 p.m. on the north side of the building for a fun event, including music, light refreshments and interactive stations highlighting the transformational facilities project.

[EXPLORE MORE INSIDE >>](#)





# Superintendent's Report

WESTONKA SUPERINTENDENT KEVIN BORG

# Construction Updates

2023 BOND REFERENDUM PROJECTS

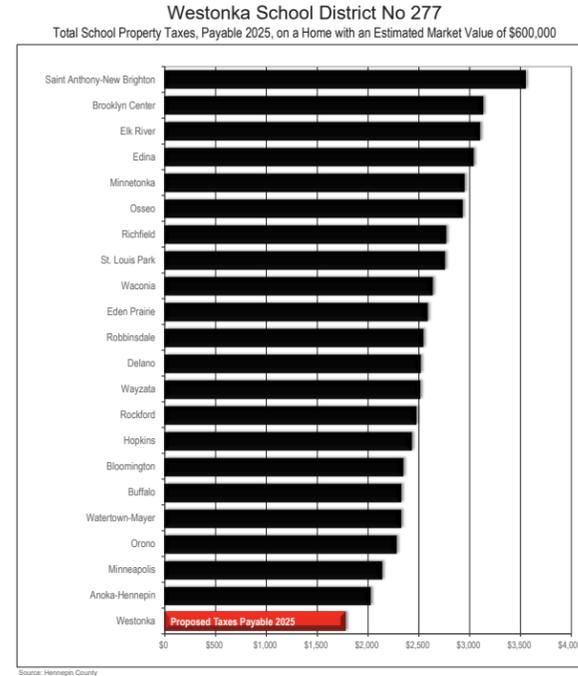


## Westonka in stable financial position

As you may have seen in the news, large and small school districts across Minnesota are grappling with significant budget shortfalls. It's a tough situation that's forcing schools to make difficult decisions about staffing, programs, and the resources available to students. Fortunately, Westonka Public Schools is in a more stable financial position thanks to a combination of factors, most notably our community's generous support and the careful fiscal management of our district and school board.

In 2019, voters approved a ballot question that brought Westonka's operating levy authority closer to that of our eastern neighbors. The levy increase made a significant impact on our ability to maintain essential services, preserve high-quality programs, and support the success of all students. It has also helped us weather unexpected challenges. Additionally, the Westonka School Board's prudent use of short-term pandemic funding and our annual process of challenging the budget have helped to stabilize finances. This is not to say that Westonka is immune to the financial pressures that come with inflation, unfunded mandates and changes in state and federal funding, but it does mean that we can be more strategic and proactive in how we manage our resources.

Recently, there has been increased media and public focus on government spending at both the state and national levels. For over 15 years, Westonka's administration and school boards have been dedicated to continuously reviewing our budget to ensure we are using resources efficiently. Our goal is always to identify any areas where we can make thoughtful reductions or adjustments that preserve the quality of education our students receive. As we move forward, Westonka remains dedicated to maintaining a strong foundation for our students' success, even in times of uncertainty.



Even with the passage of the 2023 bond referendum, Westonka Public Schools continues to have the **lowest total school property taxes in Hennepin County**

## REDESIGNED WESTONKA HIGH SCHOOL WILL FEATURE NEW PROGRAMMING IN MEDICAL FIELDS, MACHINING AND CONSTRUCTION



The redesigned Westonka High School will feature state-of-the-art EMS/EMT and Certified Nursing Assistant facilities, including an ambulance bay for training

With the passage of the 2023 bond referendum, Westonka Public Schools is taking an exciting step into the future with a total redesign of Westonka High School. In addition to transforming the entire school's physical space, this project will significantly expand career-focused programs for students.

### Expanding Career Pathways

One of the most exciting components of the high school redesign is the introduction of vocational programs designed to equip students with the skills needed for in-demand careers. Among the new and expanded offerings are courses in **construction trades, machining, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and emergency medical services**, all of which will provide hands-on experience and prepare students for immediate entry into high-demand fields.

"These innovative improvements, like the addition of an ambulance bay at the high school, are going to be a real game-changer for Westonka students and educators," said Mark Femrite, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. "Thanks to the community's support and industry partnerships, we're going to be able to provide hands-on, real-world experiences right on campus, allowing students to learn in an environment that mirrors the workplace and giving them the tools and confidence they need to succeed after high school."

"Additionally, almost all of the new vocational programs will lead to either a state or national certification, which represents the mastery of critical skills in these fields that employers are actively seeking," Femrite added.

### Building Community Connections

As part of the expansion, Westonka is forging valuable partnerships with local organizations to ensure that students have access to top-tier training and authentic experiences. Growing relationships with **Ridgeview Clinics, Harrison Bay Senior Living, Presbyterian Homes and Dunwoody College of Technology** will not only support students but also help local businesses by providing a steady pipeline of skilled, trained workers. It's a win-win for both the students and the community.

### Looking Ahead

The new vocational options are just one part of the exciting changes underway at Westonka High School. The redesign is focused on creating spaces that foster innovation, collaboration and hands-on learning. With the support of the community, businesses and organizations, Westonka Public Schools is laying the foundation for a future where students are empowered to explore diverse career paths and make meaningful contributions to society.

## Join Us!

WESTONKA HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDBREAKING APRIL 3

The community is invited for a fun event as we break ground on the redesigned Westonka High School!

### Westonka High School Groundbreaking Thursday, April 3, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Join us on the north side of the high school, 5905 Sunnyfield Road E, for a special ceremony, including:

- Interactive stations
- Light refreshments
- Music
- Commemorative keepsakes



### What's Next in the Project?

- Join us for the Westonka High School groundbreaking ceremony at 4 p.m. on April 3, 2025. The high school redesign is scheduled to begin in April.
- Middle school construction project, including the relocation of the main office to create a secured entrance and related security improvements, is set to begin in June.
- New high school tennis courts (also lined for pickleball) will open this spring for school and community use.

LEARN MORE: [WESTONKA.K12.MN.US/BONDPROJECTS](https://www.westonka.k12.mn.us/bondprojects)