



BEAR'S BULLETIN

GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE
GO EXPLORE GO GRADUATE GO
GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE
GO EXPLORE GO GRADUATE GO



WELCOME TO
THE SPRING 2025
EDITION

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   /isd624

FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE
AREA SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Community Confidence: Survey Highlights Support and Satisfaction

White Bear Lake Area Schools recently conducted a community and parent survey to gather insights into the district's performance and community perception. The results, presented by Peter Leatherman from The Morris Leatherman Company at a School Board work session, highlight a strong sense of satisfaction and support from both district residents and parents.

The survey, conducted in December, included responses from a random sample of district residents and parents. The results were overwhelmingly positive, with WBLAS scoring above the norm in multiple categories compared to other school districts.

One of the standout statistics from the survey was the overall quality rating of WBLAS. An impressive 86% of residents rated the district favorably, surpassing the typical 80% norm. Parents responded even more positively, with a 91% favorable rating. This reflects a strong sense of confidence in the district's leadership, staff, and educational approach.

When asked about the quality of education provided by WBLAS compared to three years ago, residents showed a 4:1 ratio in favor of improvement, double the standard 2:1 ratio.

Continued on page III

TRANSLATIONS

Para Español por favor
llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob
hu rau 651-407-7623

FLIP TO SEE
COMMUNITY
SERVICES &
RECREATION
CATALOG



Residential Customer
ECRWSS EDDM

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit #183

White Bear Lake Area School District
Community Services & Recreation Department
2399 Cedar Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

School Board Meetings

March 24..... Work Session
 April 14..... Regular Meeting
 April 28..... Work Session
 May 12..... Regular Meeting
 May 19..... Work Session
 June 9..... Regular Meeting
 July 14..... Regular Meeting
 August 11..... Regular Meeting
 August 25..... Work Session

- » School Board meetings take place in the Sunrise Park School Board Room (2399 Cedar Ave. in WBL).
- » Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
- » Agendas, Board Packets, Minutes, Highlights and Video links are posted on the District's website as they become available.
- » Regular School Board meetings are re-broadcast on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area the week of a regular business meeting:
 - Wed. at 2 p.m., 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.
 - Thurs. at 10 a.m.

2025 District 624 School Board



SCOTT ARCAND
scott.arcand@isd624.org
 Term expires 12/31/26



DEB BELOYED
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 Term expires 12/31/26



KATHLEEN DANIELS
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 Term expires 12/31/26



JESSICA ELLISON
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 Term expires 12/31/28



CHRISTINA STREIFF OJI
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 Term expires 12/31/26



ANGELA THOMPSON
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 Term expires 12/31/28

GENERAL SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS:
schoolboard@isd624.org

2024-25 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:

- Lydia Kleinhans, Gr 12, WBLAHS
Student Representative
- Tom Reese, Gr 11, WBLAHS
Alternate Student Representative

District Center offices, Community Room moved to Sunrise Park

District offices, including the Centralized Enrollment Center and the Community Room where board meetings take place, have moved to the Sunrise Park building located at 2399 Cedar Ave. in WBL (formerly Sunrise Park Middle School). The District Service Center entrance is located on the west side of the Sunrise Building along Cranbrook Drive. The Senior Center will also be accessible by the west entrance when the program moves to Sunrise Park this summer.

With District Center vacated, Phase 2 renovations to the building are being made to allow Central Middle School to expand into the space. The Central updates will be ready for Fall 2025.

Renovations will continue at Sunrise, with the Early Childhood Center and Transition Education Center moving into the building in Fall 2026. These changes are part of the district's Building Our Future facilities plan supported by the community's approval of the district's 2019 bond referendum.



GO DISCOVER GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL
GO INSPIRE GO LEAD GO PERFORM
GO DISCOVER GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL
GO INSPIRE GO LEAD GO PERFORM

Continued from cover

Parents were even more supportive, with an outstanding 6:1 ratio favoring educational progress. These numbers indicate that the district's continuous efforts to enhance learning experiences are being recognized and appreciated by the community.

The survey also explored the job performance of WBLAS teachers and instructional staff. The results revealed high approval ratings, with 88% of residents expressing a favorable opinion (compared to the norm of 80%), while parents responded even more positively with a 91% approval rating. This demonstrates the high level of trust and respect the community has for WBLAS educators and their commitment to student success.

In response to a question about phrases people might use to describe WBLAS, "excellent teachers" received the highest favorable response at 95% from both residents and parents. This overwhelming endorsement reflects the incredible work of our educators and the district's dedication to recruiting and retaining top-notch staff members who make a lasting impact on students.

Community investment in WBLAS was another key area of focus in the survey. When asked if the community receives good value from its investment in public schools, 89% of residents responded favorably, exceeding the norm of 85%. Among parents, this figure was even higher at 92%. These results affirm that the district's strategic initiatives and resources are being well-utilized to benefit students and the broader community.

Beyond academic performance and community value, the survey also revealed that parents overwhelmingly feel welcomed and accepted at their child's school. Furthermore, they recognize the genuine care and dedication of teachers and staff. These insights underscore the importance of fostering a positive, inclusive, and supportive educational environment for all students and families.

Mr. Leatherman emphasized that WBLAS is moving in the right direction, and these positive survey results are a testament to the district's collective efforts. Achievements like these are not accidental; they result from the dedication and hard work of educators, administrators, staff, students, and the wider community.

As Superintendent, I am incredibly proud to be part of a district that continuously strives for excellence. I extend my deepest gratitude to our educators, staff, parents, and community members who make WBLAS a place of growth, opportunity, and success. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our students and their future.

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak
Superintendent

Calendars approved

At the December 9, 2024 School Board Regular Meeting, the School Board approved the 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic calendars.

White Bear Lake Area Schools 2025-26 Academic Calendar

Month	Days	Notes
JULY 2025	1-31	1-31
AUGUST 2025	1-31	1-31
SEPTEMBER 2025	1-30	1-30
OCTOBER 2025	1-31	1-31
NOVEMBER 2025	1-30	1-30
DECEMBER 2025	1-31	1-31
JANUARY 2026	1-31	1-31
FEBRUARY 2026	1-29	1-29
MARCH 2026	1-31	1-31
APRIL 2026	1-30	1-30
MAY 2026	1-31	1-31
JUNE 2026	1-30	1-30

☐ First/Last Day of School
☐ No School for Students
☐ Key Date
☐ District Center Closed
☐ No School - Winter Break
☐ No School - MLK, Jr. Day
☐ No School - President's Day
☐ No School - Spring Break
☐ No School - Summer Day
☐ No School - Memorial Day

www.isd624.org | 651-407-7000 | Email: 651-407-7025 | Fax: 651-407-7021

White Bear Lake Area Schools 2026-27 Academic Calendar

Month	Days	Notes
JULY 2026	1-31	1-31
AUGUST 2026	1-31	1-31
SEPTEMBER 2026	1-30	1-30
OCTOBER 2026	1-31	1-31
NOVEMBER 2026	1-30	1-30
DECEMBER 2026	1-31	1-31
JANUARY 2027	1-31	1-31
FEBRUARY 2027	1-29	1-29
MARCH 2027	1-31	1-31
APRIL 2027	1-30	1-30
MAY 2027	1-31	1-31
JUNE 2027	1-30	1-30

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School- and program-specific calendars are available online at isd624.org/about/calendar.

Have you heard?

The district is launching an Elementary Spanish Dual Language Immersion program. Those who are registering for Fall 2025 kindergarten will be able to choose this option. Find complete information at www.isd624.org/immersion.

WE ARE HIRING!

Find info at isd624.org/employment

Competitive wages / On the job training
Chance to work near home / Flexible work hours
Opportunity for: benefits, time off, holidays
Make a difference for kids in your community



Stay Connected

- **E-Newsletter**

The Community e-Newsletter is sent out each week, with alternating text and video editions. Text editions cover student and staff successes, school and Community Education offerings, and School Board proceedings. Request to be added to the recipient list by sending an email to us at communications@isd624.org.

- **Construction Updates**

Find updates about the construction projects happening throughout the district at isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture.

- **Stay Social**

Join the district's social media circles - Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for daily 624 Fact posts and weekly video share-outs. Find links on the District's website.

FREE Senior Activity Pass

More than 1,000 Senior community members (those who are age 65+) who live in the District participate in the Lifetime Activity Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities.

To request a pass, find the application at isd624.org/SeniorActivityPass and your pass will be mailed to you. If you have questions, please contact Rachael Markuson at 651-407-7563 or by email at rachael.markuson@isd624.org.



Senior Community Member
Lifetime Activity Pass

This Senior Community Member Activity Pass grants free admission into home activities* for

YOUR NAME

Validated by Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak, Superintendent

Requesting an Interpreter

Families and community members can request that a district staff member call them through the use of an interpreter who speaks the language they speak.

Information about how to make the request can be found in text and audio translations, in all languages spoken by students in the district, on the district website or at the QR code below:



Digital Backpack

The district's Community Services Department distributes electronic flyers from the school district, as well as local organizations that offer opportunities for youth, on the first and third Thursday of each month.

The Digital Backpack and submission instructions can be found at communityservices.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack.





Building Our Future - Bricks, Mortar, and Programs

The White Bear Lake Area Schools community is on the verge of celebrating the substantial completion of the 2019 bond referendum's comprehensive building projects. This is an exciting chapter for the district, as key projects come to fruition, enhancing the learning environment for students and staff alike.

Celebrating New Spaces

In December, students, staff, alumni, and community members gathered for a pre-game reception and packed the gym at White Bear Lake Area High School for the first Boys' Basketball game of the season. A special dedication honored long-time coach, teacher, and community member Jim Galvin, officially naming the WBLAHS gymnasium "Galvin Court."



Just before the end of the calendar year, the White Bear Lake Area High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) officially opened its doors. This state-of-the-art venue, with a seating capacity of more than 800, has already hosted its first student music performances and will be home to future productions, including the high school's fall musicals. The PAC not only enriches the district's arts programming but also has the opportunity to become a hub for the broader community.



Expanding Educational Opportunities

Beyond infrastructure, the district is committed to innovative academic programs. In Fall 2025, the district will launch an Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion program at Otter Lake Elementary and Matoska International, with each school hosting up to three kindergarten immersion classrooms. The immersion program will serve both Spanish-speaking and non-Spanish-speaking students together in a bilingual environment, fostering academic growth, enhanced language and cultural understanding, social-emotional development, and expanded future opportunities. Find additional details about the program at www.isd624.org/immersion.

PROJECTS

Completed

- Area Learning Center Phase 1
- Lincoln, Matoska, Vadnais Heights and Willow Lane Elementaries Updates
- Transportation Facility
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 1 Gym Addition
- Birch Lake, Lakeaires, and Otter Lake Elementaries Updates
- North Star Elementary
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 2 Addition
- Area Learning Center Phase 2
- Oneka Elementary Updates
- Mariner Middle School
- Central Middle School Phase 1 Updates
- White Bear Lake Area High School
- District Service Center and School Board at Sunrise Park

Ready for Fall 2025

- Mariner Middle School HVAC Improvements
- Central Middle School Phase 2 Updates
- Senior Center at Sunrise Park

Ready for Fall 2026

- Early Childhood Center and Transition Education Center (TEC) at Sunrise Park



Complete info about the district's facilities projects, including construction details about individual projects, videos and presentations, can be found online at isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture.



Community members are invited to stop by for an informal chat with Superintendent Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee.

7:30-8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 6
Caribou Coffee
Downtown WBL



Find us at Marketfest!

Thursday evenings mid-June through July in Downtown White Bear Lake
District booth with WBLAS pencils, tattoos, info & conversation

IMPORTANT DATES

- » **MARCH 10-14**
NO SCHOOL
(Spring Break)
- » **MAY 6**
COFFEE WITH DR. K
7:30-8:30 a.m. at Downtown WBL Caribou Coffee
- » **MAY 26**
NO SCHOOL
(Memorial Day)
- » **JUNE 3**
TEC GRADUATION CEREMONY
12:30 p.m. at Central Middle School Auditorium
- » **JUNE 4**
ALC GRADUATION CEREMONY
6 p.m. at Mariner Middle School Theater
- » **JUNE 5**
WBLAHS GRADUATION CEREMONY
7 p.m. at WBLAHS Stadium (outdoor ceremony)
- » **JUNE 6**
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- » **THURSDAYS MID-JUNE THROUGH JULY**
DISTRICT BOOTH AT MARKETFEST
Downtown White Bear Lake

WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS

WBL 624 NOW ENROLLING STUDENTS K-12
isd624.org FALL 2025

NOW OFFERING
Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion



GO DISCOVER.

   /isd624

White Bear Lake Area Schools