



WELCOME TO
THE FALL 2025 EDITION

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FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE
AREA SCHOOLS

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

*White Bear Lake Area High School:
A Community's Pride and a Model of
Student Success*

There's a special kind of energy that fills the halls of White Bear Lake Area High School — an unmistakable sense of pride and purpose that's easy to spot, even for those just passing through. Guests touring the recently completed campus often express awe at the state-of-the-art design, and their admiration speaks volumes. It's a visible reminder of the community's support and foresight in passing the Building Our Future bond referendum in 2019. Thanks to that investment, the high school now stands as a testament to thoughtful planning, innovation, and opportunity.

That excellence has not gone unnoticed. The White Bear Lake Area High School construction project was recently named one of the Top Projects of 2024 by Finance & Commerce, a publication that highlights the best in development and design. The building's architecture and function-forward layout are not just aesthetically impressive — they're fostering a culture of collaboration, connection, and student empowerment.

But the impact of this transformation goes far beyond the building itself.

Continued on page II

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

Aug. 11..... Regular Meeting
 Aug. 25..... Work Session
 Sept. 8..... Regular Meeting
 Sept. 22..... Work Session
 Oct. 13..... Regular Meeting
 Oct. 27..... Work Session
 Nov. 10..... Regular Meeting
 Nov. 24..... Work Session
 Dec. 8..... Regular Meeting

- » All Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. and take place in the Community Room at District Service Center (2399 Cedar Avenue).
- » 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.

Continued from cover

Inside these walls, students are thriving. Recent data shows that White Bear students took 828 Advanced Placement (AP) tests this past school year, with 79% of those earning scores of 3 or higher — the benchmark at which many colleges award credit. That academic momentum continues through a variety of college-level programs. Students are accumulating college credits through AP courses, concurrent enrollment, Project Lead the Way and Post-Secondary Enrollment Options. In fact, the total value of college credits earned by White Bear students while still in high school last year approached \$3 million — a remarkable return on investment for families and a head start for students.

White Bear Lake Area High School is also preparing students for life with hands-on, real-world experience. Career Pathway programs span nine key industries — from automotive and construction to health and wellness, education, IT and more — and offer students the chance to graduate with both professional certifications and a clear sense of direction. Through an extensive list of extracurricular activities, students are allowed to find their passion and hone the skills of the grit and determination.

Graduates are showing very publicly just how far preparation can take them. This spring, White Bear alumnus Joel Reichow made headlines by winning Grandma's Marathon with a time of 2:11:58, becoming the first athlete to win both the full and half marathon events in Duluth's storied race history. His win was celebrated not only for the feat itself, but also for the clear connection to his roots — from mentions of his high school coach's influence to the familiar orange and black of his race-day gear.

Meanwhile, other Bears are breaking into the big leagues — literally. Nolan Roed, a recent White Bear graduate and captain of the 2023-24 Boys' Hockey Team, was signed by the National Hockey League's Colorado Avalanche. Another alumnus, Derrick Smith, who graduated in 2022, has had a standout career as a pitcher at North Carolina State and was drafted by Major League Baseball's Colorado Rockies.

All of this adds up to something that the White Bear Lake Area Schools community can be truly proud of. From rigorous academics to activities and career-readiness, White Bear students are stepping into the world with confidence, preparation, and Bear pride — and it's clear the best is yet to come.

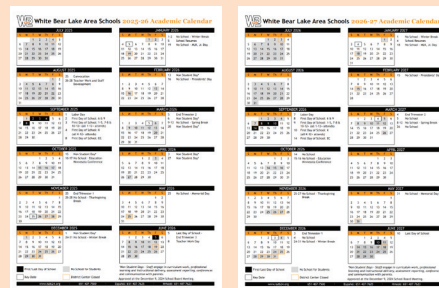
Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent

Calendars

The 2025-26 and 2026-27 academic year calendar one-page flyers are now available online on the district's website, directly at isd624.org/about/calendar.

A printed 2025-26 Calendar will be mailed to all district families in late-August. Community members who would like a copy of the printed calendar are invited to pick one up in September at District Center (2399 Cedar Avenue, White Bear Lake).

The online calendar available at the district's website allows users the ability to subscribe to building-level and program-specific calendars.



INNOVATE GO DISCOVER GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL
 INNOVATE GO INSPIRE GO LEAD GO PERFORM
 DISCOVER GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL GO
 INSPIRE GO LEAD GO PERFORM GO SUCCEED

New District-wide Hires & Assignments



Jennifer Chappuis

Jennifer Chappuis has been chosen to serve as the district's new Assistant Director of Early Childhood Programs. Chappuis brings more than 22 years of experience as a dedicated educator and school leader, most recently serving as a PK-5 principal in Cannon Falls. She holds an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and is deeply committed to building welcoming, developmentally appropriate learning spaces where all children and families feel valued and supported.



Jessica Edwards

Jessica Edwards has been named the Community Education and Recreation Department's new Enrichment & Development Specialist. Edwards steps into this district-level position after serving as the Out of School Time Site Supervisor at Vadnais Elementary. During the past 18 years, she has shown unwavering dedication to and passion for our community by serving students and families in our school age care, enrichment, targeted services and grant programs.



Disa Fabeck

Disa Fabeck joins the district in the role of Educational Technology and Assessment Coordinator with more than 15 years of experience in K-12 education. Her professional background includes serving as a high school science teacher as well as a District Coordinator for Research, Assessment, and Gifted Education. She brings extensive expertise in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), standards alignment, and data analysis. In recognition of her contributions, Fabeck was named Employee of the Year by Columbia Heights Public Schools in 2021. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership at Bethel University.



Morgan Baumbach

Morgan Baumbach recently joined the team as the district's Theater Technical Director. In this role, he leads all technical operations for school productions and supports a wide range of events in the district's performance spaces. With a strong background in technical theater and facility management, Morgan brings a deep commitment to producing high-caliber productions while creating meaningful educational opportunities for students. Prior to joining White Bear, Morgan served as the District Auditorium and Facilities Coordinator for Lakeville Area Schools.

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

**APPLY
TODAY**



Now hiring for 2025-26:

- Substitute Teachers
- Extended Day staff
- Nutrition Services staff
- Bus drivers
- Paras
- MORE!

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.

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

**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

Bear Wear Pics!

Email communications@isd624.org a photo of your little one(s) in their "Born to be a Bear" onesie or "I'm a Bear" shirt and you may find them featured in a District publication!

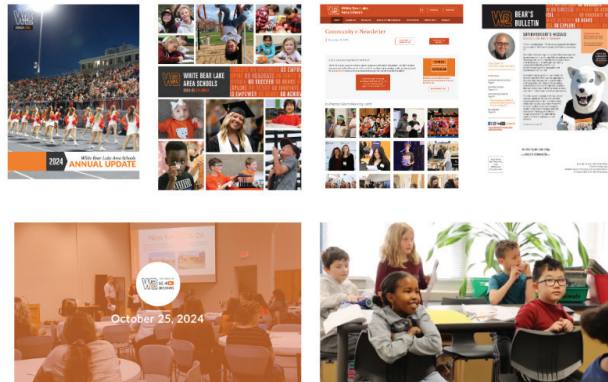
Onesies are mailed to families who live in the district upon arrival of a little one. Shirts are given to toddlers when they Screen at 3. Kindergartners receive shirts with completed enrollment paperwork.



District Receives National Communications Awards

The district recently received 2025 Awards of Excellence – the highest award possible – from National School Public Relations (NSPRA) for the following Communications Department publications and projects:

- 2024 Annual Update
- 2024-25 Calendar
- Community e-Newsletter
- Fall 2024 Bear's Bulletin
- Video Series - "The Week in 62.4 Seconds" videos
- Building Our Future - Impact on Teaching and Learning video



District Recognized for Farm to School initiative

ISD624 was recognized as a Bronze Berry Honoree in the 2025 Minnesota Grown Cream of the Crop Awards for Farm to School and Early Care, which recognizes K-12 school districts, early care centers, and family day cares that go above and beyond to promote and serve foods grown and raised by Minnesota farmers and producers.

"This recognition for White Bear Lake Area Schools is a testament to our Nutrition Services team's dedication to providing students with healthy, locally sourced meals while also supporting Minnesota's agricultural economy," said Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Tim Wald. "Our participation in programs like these helps to build stronger connections between local farms, classrooms, and our community."

Some highlights from the WBLAS application include offering local options on the menu (cherry tomatoes, summer squash, mini bell peppers, purple sweet potatoes, carrots, apples, maple syrup, and edamame), sharing Pine Tree apples at community events, and supporting local food taste tests.

Local partnerships include food sourced by:

- Hamel Maple Syrup, Hamel
- Hmong American Farmers Association, West St. Paul
- SnoPac Farms, Caledonia
- Hugh's Gardens, Halstad
- Pine Tree Apple Orchard, WBL
- The Good Acre Food Hub, Falcon Heights
- Taylor Ventures, Marine on St. Croix
-
- MhanPaj's Garden, WBL
-

Building Our Future Update

While most of the facilities projects approved by the community in 2019 are now complete, final-stage construction continues at two buildings: Central Middle School and Sunrise Park.

Central Middle School students, who have already been enjoying the new gymnasium added during Phase 1 last summer, will soon benefit from this summer's Phase 2 upgrades. These include an expanded cafeteria, a new Learning Commons, and the transformation of former District Center areas back into academic spaces, adding valuable square footage to the school.

Community members are invited to check out the completed construction projects at Central Middle School by joining us for a Community Open House event that will take place during Homecoming week, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24.

Meanwhile, District Services Center offices have fully settled into their new home at Sunrise Park, following the move during the 2024-25 school year. Since spring 2025, School Board meetings have taken place in the Community Room boardroom at Sunrise. Most recently, the district's Senior Program transitioned to Sunrise Park, following a celebratory farewell picnic at Normandy Park.

Construction is also underway to prepare Sunrise Park to house the Early Childhood Center and Transition Education Center, with programming set to begin in the new space in Fall 2026.



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



Carla Triggs named 2025 WBLAE Teacher of the Year

Mariner Middle School Language Arts teacher Carla Triggs was named White Bear Lake Area Educators' 2025 Teacher of the Year at a celebration and recognition ceremony this spring.

Triggs was chosen from an impressive slate of finalists from throughout the district:

- Lubna Abu-Sharkh, Multilingual Educator, Willow Lake Elementary
- Kelly Humphrey, Grade Two, Lakeaires Elementary
- Katie Solem, Grade Four, Oneka Elementary
- Kyle Lewis, Special Education, Otter Lake Elementary
- Sarah Treanor, Grade Four, Matoska International

BUILDING PROJECTS

Completed projects

- Area Learning Center Phase 1
- Lincoln, Matoska, Vadnais Heights and Willow Lane Elementaries Updates
- New Transportation Facility
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 1 Gym Addition
- Birch Lake, Lakeaires, and Otter Lake Elementaries Updates
- North Star Elementary (New Elementary School)
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 2 Addition
- Area Learning Center Phase 2
- Oneka Elementary Updates
- WBLAHS opens to grades 9-12 at the former WBLAHS - North Campus location
- Current WBLAHS - South Campus opens as Mariner Middle School
- Central Middle School Phase 1 updates

Ready for Fall 2025

- Central Middle School Phase 2 updates
- Sunrise Park houses District Services Center and Senior Center

Ready for Fall 2026

- Sunrise Park houses Early Childhood Center and Transition Education Center



Central Middle School Community Open House 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 24

Check out the completed construction projects at Central Middle School by joining us for a Community Open House event that will take place during Homecoming week, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 24.

Attendees will have an opportunity to check out the gymnasium addition and the building's renovated spaces — including the expanded cafeteria, new Learning Commons and renovations made to the former District Center areas to return them to middle school spaces.

The renovations are part of the district-wide projects made possible by the community's support of the 2019 Building Our Future bond referendum.



IMPORTANT DATES

- » **SEPT. 2**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
for Grades 6 & 9
- » **SEPT. 3**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
for Grades 1-5, 7-8 & 10-12+ (all 1-12+ attends)
- » **SEPT. 5**
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
for K
- » **WEEK OF SEPT. 9**
FIRST WEEK for
Early Childhood Programs
- » **SEPT. 21-27**
HOMECOMING 2025
Sept. 26 - parade in
Downtown WBL, football
game at WBLAHS Stadium



Community members are invited to stop by for an informal chat with Superintendent Wayne Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee for the first "Coffee with Dr. K" event of the school year!

4-5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11
Caribou Coffee in Downtown WBL

Stay Connected — and keep an eye out for upcoming events!

- **E-Newsletter** - The district's award-winning 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.
- **Stay Social** - Join the district's social media circles - Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for daily 624 Fact posts and award-winning weekly video share-outs. Find links on the District's website.
- **Digital Backpack** - The 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 can be found at communityservices.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack.

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GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL GO EXPLORE GO LEAD GO IGNITE GO INNOVATE

S
GO PERFORM GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE GO GET IT DONE

T
GO EXCEL GO GRADUATE GO IGNITE GO INNOVATE GO

FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS



- **Student-centered instruction.**
We believe all students grow and learn in different ways and at different rates — that all can achieve.
- **Expanded academic opportunities.**
Our students explore their interests, excel and design their futures.
- **Empowered, supported learning.**
Students are agents and owners of their learning in an environment that is safe, supportive and challenging — with high expectations for student success.
- **Inspiring, nurturing educators.**
Our educators facilitate learning and challenge students — fostering curiosity and confidence.
- **Transformative learning.**
Our flexible learning spaces and learning studios ignite opportunities for communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

White Bear Lake Area Schools