The Laker

West Bloomfield SCHOOL DISTRICT

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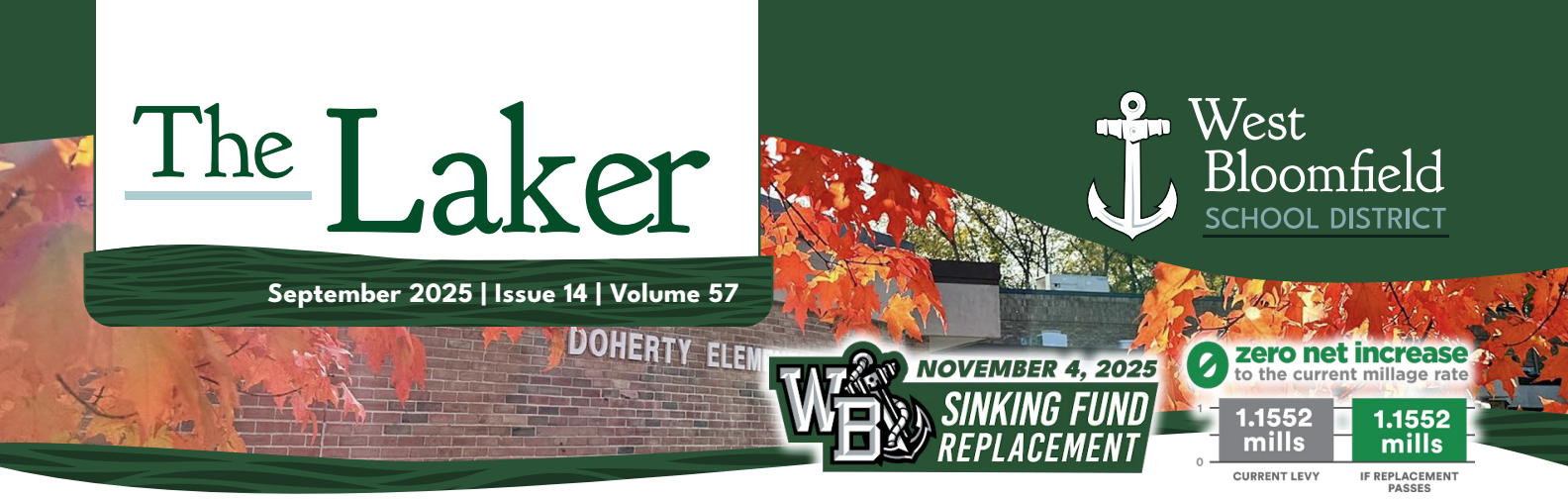

UNDERSTANDING THE 2025 REPLACEMENT SINKING FUND, SCHOOL FACILITIES AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

On November 4, 2025, our community will vote on a sinking fund proposal that replaces the current sinking fund with the same 1.1552 millage rate. There would be **no tax rate increase.**

The West Bloomfield School District has maintained a sinking fund for many years, enabling ongoing improvements without incurring debt. Sinking funds are common in Michigan, with the majority of districts in Oakland County using them to protect and improve their facilities. Unlike bonds, which require voter approval to borrow money up-front for large projects, sinking funds allow districts to levy a small pay-as-you-go property tax to cover ongoing improvements and repairs, including safety enhancements, instructional technology and other critical needs. Together, both tools allow schools to address infrastructure needs while planning responsibly.

Several major capital improvements are already underway! The new multi-use turf field at West Bloomfield Middle School is now complete and will benefit physical education classes, athletics, band, and community events. Construction of the new Sheiko Elementary, which will include a dedicated campus for the West Bloomfield Preschool Academy, is progressing as planned. Brick installation is underway, masonry work is continuing throughout the site and structural components are taking shape.

Preparations have also begun for key infrastructure systems, and we remain on track for an anticipated fall 2026 opening.

At West Bloomfield High School, the design for the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) and STEAM Center, which will include space for a full robotics practice field, has been completed, and the design of the new Doherty Elementary is nearing finalization.

These major projects represent long-term investments in our students' educational environment. The sinking fund helps protect these investments by ensuring that ongoing repairs, safety improvements and essential infrastructure needs can be addressed as they arise.

Legislative updates since our last sinking fund vote have expanded the allowable uses of sinking funds, giving districts greater flexibility to invest in student safety and learning environments. If approved, the fund would generate approximately $3 million per year. Sinking fund dollars would support:

- Repair of school buildings
- School security improvements
- Facilities and infrastructure upgrades, including HVAC systems, boilers, parking lots, sidewalks, roofing, windows, doors, safety hardware and other updates
- Technology purchases and upgrades
- Purchase and maintenance of school buses

These projects will be planned in phases to minimize disruption to student learning.

Sinking fund dollars do not support:

- Administrative costs, staff salaries or wages
- Maintenance expenses
- Operating expenses

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – PLEASE VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 4, 2025.

We appreciate the engagement of our families and community members and invite you to reach out with any questions or for more information.

In Education,
Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent

SAVE THE DATE

September 23 & Oct 2 - No School for Students
October 15 - Late Start
November 4 - No School for Students, Vote
November 12 - Late Start

NEW! West Bloomfield Educational Foundation Derby Event
Saturday, May 2, 2026 at Edgewood Country Club

Free admission for Residents 65+

Laker Senior Gold Cards are available for our West Bloomfield School District residents age 65 and above so they may attend plays, athletic games and musical performances free of charge. Cards are available in the high school athletic office or the ACS Office at 5810 Commerce Road.

Building a FOUNDATION *of Love*

As construction continues at **Sheiko Elementary**, staff took a special step to ensure it's more than just bricks and mortar. They wrote heartfelt messages on red hearts, including words of encouragement, hope and love for future students. The hearts were placed inside the masonry walls, symbolically embedding their care and commitment into the school.

Sheiko Elementary is being built with love to support generations of learners to come.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

Students 18 and older from any district are eligible to register for our English Language Learner program. Classes are held at 7071 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 100, West Bloomfield. Don't wait to learn English or improve your English language skills.

FALL 2025 ENGLISH CLASSES

Registration is open now for morning and evening classes. Call (248) 539-2390 or email melissa.mcdonald@wbsd.org to make a registration appointment.

West Bloomfield School District
PORTRAIT of a GRADUATE

Calendar 2025 - 2026

August 25	First Full Day of School	January 14	Half Day – HS Only
August 29	No School	January 15-16	Half Day – All Schools
September 1	Labor Day - No School	January 19	No School – MLK Jr. Day
September 10	Late Start	February 11	Late Start
September 23	No School	February 16	No School – Mid-Winter Break
October 2	No School	March 11	Late Start
October 15	Late Start	March 20	No School
November 4	No School	March 30 – April 3	No School – Spring Break
November 12	Late Start	April 15	Late Start
November 18	Evening Conferences – Elementary Schools	May 13	Late Start
November 19	Evening Conferences - MS Only	May 25	No School – Memorial Day
November 20	Evening Conference – HS Only	June 3	Half Day – HS Only
November 21	Half Day – All Schools	June 4	Half Day – All Schools
November 26-28	Thanksgiving Break	June 5	Half Day – Students' Last Day
December 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break	June 8	Teachers Last Day – Records Day

School	Start Time	Dismissal Time	Late Start Time	Half Day Dismissal Time
WBHS	7:30 a.m.	2:23 p.m.	9:30 a.m.	10:40 a.m.
Oakland Early College	8 a.m.	3 p.m.	10 a.m.	11:14 a.m.
WBMS, Sheiko & Transition Center	8:20 a.m.	3:12 p.m.	10:20 a.m.	11:22 a.m.
Doherty, Gretchko & Scotch	9:10 a.m.	4:02 p.m.	11:10 a.m.	12:12 p.m.
AM Early Childhood SE	8 a.m.	11 a.m.	10 a.m.	NA
PM Early Childhood SE	12 p.m.	3 p.m.	12 p.m.	NA

Report absences between the hours of 6 p.m. and the start of the next school day by calling the Safeline below:

Doherty Elementary (248) 865-6002
Gretchko Elementary (248) 865-6572
Scotch Elementary (248) 865-3282
Sheiko Elementary (248) 865-6372
WBMS (248) 865-4482
WBHS (248) 865-6722
Transition Center (248) 539-0532

2025 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stacy Brickman, President
Nelson Hersh, Vice President
Ashleigh Davis, Secretary
Wm. Art Holdsworth, Treasurer
Julie Beaty, Trustee
Kirsten Douglass, Trustee
Deborah Evans, Trustee

WBSD Board Meetings are held in the iCenter at West Bloomfield High School at 7 p.m. Board Study Sessions are held at 6:30 p.m., in the ACS building, 5810 Commerce Road.

September 15 - Board Study Session
September 29 - Board Meeting
October 13 - Board Study Session
October 27 - Board Meeting
November 10 - Board Study Session
November 17 - Board Meeting
December 1 - Board Study Session
December 15 - Board Meeting

West Bloomfield School District
Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent
248-865-6485

Call for a Tour
West Bloomfield High School
248-865-6720

Oakland Early College
248-522-3540

Laker Opportunity Center
248-522-3542

West Bloomfield Transition Center
248-539-0532

West Bloomfield Middle School
248-865-4480

Doherty Elementary School
248-865-6020

Gretchko Elementary School
248-865-6570

Scotch Elementary School
248-865-3280

Sheiko Elementary School
(at Abbott site temporarily)
248-865-6370

Adult Ed. English Language Learner
248-539-2390

WB Preschool Academy
248-865-6457

WBSD Communications
Andrea Frank
248-865-6454

Have You Heard?

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

SUMMER CAMP RECAP

For seven weeks over the summer, campers enjoyed outdoor play and indoor assemblies and crafts. Outdoor inflatables and activities were provided by Oakland County Recreation and onsite performances were provided by our friends at the West Bloomfield Public Library. Specialty camps included National Inventors Hall of Fame Camp Invention and Sunset Theatre's "Moana 2."

TICKET TO TUITION

Two deserving seniors earn funds toward college

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II, the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), and the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) celebrated 50 Michigan students who each won up to $50,000 through the Ticket to Tuition giveaway. The program encouraged FAFSA completion and helped remove financial barriers to higher education.

Congratulations to two WBHS seniors, Nathan Herbert and Ah'ja McCoy! Nathan won $50,000 and will be studying engineering at North Carolina A&T. Ah'ja won $10,000 and will be studying engineering at Michigan State University.

LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING

WBSD partners with Henry Ford Health to promote early literacy

West Bloomfield School District is proud to partner with Henry Ford Health West Bloomfield to support early literacy! This summer, WBSD donated 500 copies of "Goodnight Moon" to the Labor and Delivery Unit. Each book will be gifted to new mothers, along with a heartfelt message about the power of reading to children from the moment they are born.

Photo by: WBHS 2025 senior photographer Ari Saperstein/ West Bloomfield School District

FUELING KIDS' FUTURES

Parents of WBSD students can apply to receive six non-perishable meals each Friday of the school year. The goal of Fueling Kids' Futures is to make sure no child goes hungry on the weekend. Run by volunteers, there is NO cost to the families. For the application visit https://www.wbsd.org/community.

WE HAD FUN SEEING FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AT OUR COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT!

More than 225 people gathered to watch "Moana 2" at our largest outdoor classroom at West Bloomfield High School (thank you for the bond that made our scoreboard possible). Thank you to West Bloomfield Parks for your partnership!

WBSD RECOGNIZES ITS TOP SCHOLARS FOR 2024-25

WBSD is excited to recognize five outstanding West Bloomfield High School seniors who were honored as Oakland County Top Scholars by The Oakland Press!

Congratulations!

Finn McIsaac – AP Scholar, All-American Fencer, 4.3 GPA

Carly Lyons – AP Scholar, Scholar-Athlete, Class President, 4.3 GPA

Harshitha Sankaranarayanan – National Merit Scholar, Debate and Model UN Leader, Musician, 4.4151 GPA

Alexander Wszolek – National Merit Scholar, DECA and MUN Leader, Sailing Champ, 4.4259 GPA

Alissa Smith – AP Scholar, HOSA and Law Club Leader, Community Volunteer, 4.3462 GPA

EARLY ON SUPPORTS INFANTS, TODDLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Early On is a comprehensive program in Michigan dedicated to supporting infants and toddlers, from birth to age 3, as well as their families. The program specifically focuses on those who exhibit developmental delays or are at risk of delays due to certain health conditions.

Its primary objective is to connect families with essential social, health and educational services that facilitate the optimal development of their infants and toddlers with special needs.

Research has consistently shown that early intervention plays a crucial role in preventing or mitigating challenges that may arise later in a child's life.

Early On places significant emphasis on early identification and prompt referral, recognizing the criticality of early intervention for infants and toddlers with disabilities. By intervening early, the program aims to minimize potential delays and maximize the benefits of the remarkable brain development that occurs during the first three years of a child's life.

If you suspect that your infant/toddler (ages birth to 3) may need special education services, or has a developmental delay, please contact Early On Coordinator Catherine McCotter at catherine.mccotter@wbsd.org or (248) 804-3906. You may also contact our Special Services Department at (248) 865-6470 to be referred for help within our school district.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. MO AT SCOTCH ELEMENTARY!

Ms. Mo was honored at the Oakland County Community and Adult Educators Award Luncheon at Edgewood Country Club for her dedication to Kids Connect, WBSD's before and after school program.

Thank you, Ms. Mo, for all that you do! Well deserved!

SUSIE AISNER NAMED MICHIGAN'S HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Susie Aisner on being named Michigan's High School Assistant Principal of the Year! This honor is a testament to her dedication, passion and student-centered leadership. Susie was recognized in June at the MASSP EdCon in Traverse City.

From left to right:
Jermaine Evans, Assistant Principal, WBMS
Susie Aisner, EdS, Assistant Principal, WBHS
Eric Pace, Principal, WBHS
Morrison Borders, EdS, Head of School, Oakland Early College

WBHS ALUMNI CLASS OF 1982

Tom Hite, Owner

Hite Photo + The Print Refinery | 6704 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield

Preserving History

Local business owner and proud West Bloomfield High School alumnus, Tom Hite, is celebrating a remarkable milestone – 100 years of capturing and preserving memories, a legacy built across generations. Alongside his brother, Hite has dedicated his work to archiving cherished photos, home videos and historical documents for families, businesses and the broader community. Together, they're not just saving moments – they're safeguarding the stories that shape West Bloomfield's identity.

How has WBHS helped you on your current path?

"WBHS photography teacher Mrs. Ciotti helped me to become a better photographer when I was first starting out. In 1981 we were allowed to leave the school premises with a pass to go practice photography, bring the film back to class, develop and print 8 x 10's right in the classroom. It was great. She was one of many great instructors at the school who guided me on the creative path that I still follow today." Hite said.

What advice do you have for current students?

"Focus on your passions. If you do and become good at what you like, people will pay you for your expertise and you can do what you love forever. Even though you are young and may not know what you want to do in life. You do know what you like and don't like. All you have to do is make a decision in your head to do something. Once you do, your subconscious brain will do the rest. All your daily yes/no decisions will slowly guide you to reaching your goal."

Do you know a WBHS alum who would be a great fit for a spotlight feature? Reach out to andrea.frank@wbsd.org

Hite Staff Photo provided by Simran Bajwa

SAVE THE DATE!

KENTUCKY DERBY *Gala*

Presented by the

WE BELIEVE IN EDUCATION FIRST
WBEF
WEST BLOOMFIELD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

West Bloomfield Educational Foundation

Proceeds benefit students and teachers

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

for more information
www.wbef.org

West Bloomfield SCHOOL DISTRICT

EVENT PARTNERS:

PRESENTED BY

Senior Benefits Plus
Healthcare & Retirement Solutions
www.SeniorBenefitsGuru.com

HEROES APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 | 9–10:30 AM | WEST BLOOMFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | GUEST SPEAKER | PRESENTATION FROM HONOR GUARDS

FREE FOR VETERANS + ONE GUEST
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
REGISTRATION CLOSES 10/27

TO REGISTER, VISIT WBPARKS.ORG/HEROES OR CALL 248-451-1900

SPONSORED BY

WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE PRESENTS

2025-26 SEASON

JOHN LENNON AND ME

Nov 6-8 at 7:00pm

DOROTHY IN WONDERLAND

Dec 6 at 1:00pm

THE FREEWAY

Feb 6-7 at 7:00pm

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

April 23-25 at 7:00pm

WBSD