

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT #624**



**SCHOOL BOARD
WORK SESSION
PACKET**

October 27, 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: October 22, 2025

A work session of the White Bear Lake Area School Board will be held on **Monday, October 27, 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. BEAR Care Update
2. Matoska International Update
3. 2026-27 Course Proposals
4. 2026-27 and 2027-28 Calendar Update

C. OPERATIONAL ITEMS

1. Action on Tentative Agreement – 2025-27 White Bear Lake Area Educators

D. ADJOURNMENT

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM: **BEAR Care Update**

MEETING DATE: **October 27, 2025**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

CONTACT PERSON(S): **Lisa Ouren, Director of Student Support Services**

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Jessica Miehle from St. Catherine's University will present an update on the Bear Care Health and Wellness Clinic, a non-profit organization that provides no-cost health services to all students in the White Bear Lake Area School District. Their mission is to provide accessible, affordable care to improve health and educational outcomes.

BEAR CARE



Dr. Jessica Miehle
Executive Clinic Director

Dr. Nellie Swanson
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Dr. Lisa Borneman
Licensed Independent
Clinical Social Worker

ABOUT US

Rise Up Health Clinics

- 501(c)(3)
- Operates the Bear Care Clinic (school-based health center)
- Partnership with the WBLA School District

Mission

RUHC provides accessible, affordable health care to children of all ages in the district, to improve health and educational outcomes.

Location and Hours

- In WBLAHS - between main office and health office
- Before/after school hours



New video produced
and created by
WBLAHS student,
Ben McMillen!

Services Available

- Sports physicals
- Wellness exams
- Illnesses
- Immunizations
- Mental health
- Nutrition counseling
- Outreach, education
- Occupational therapy

CLINIC STAFF



**Dr. Amy Gordon, DNP,
RN, NP-C**
Family Nurse Practitioner



**Dr. Kayla Skeate, DNP,
APRN, CPNP-PC**
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner



**Dr. Nellie Swanson, DNP,
MPH, APRN,
CNP/CPNP-PC**
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner



Dr. Amy Kelly, MD
Pediatrician



**Dr. Megan Baumler,
PhD, RDN, LD**
Registered Dietitian Nutritionist



**Dr. Lisa Borneman,
DWS, MSW, LICSW**
Mental Health Provider



**Dr. Jessica Miehle, DNP,
RN, PHN**
Executive Director
Founder



**Dr. Kara Koschmann,
PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC**
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Medical Director



**Amy Martinez Svendsen,
BSN, RN, PHN**
Nurse Manager



**Heather Bacon, APRN,
CNM, PHN**
Quality Improvement and Systems
Coordinator



Katie Bowen, MSN, RN
Registered Nurse



**Katie Juergens, BSN,
LSN, PHN**
Registered Nurse

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Pharmacist
Interim Board Chair

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Chemical Health Specialist
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Board Member

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Board Member

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Teacher
Board Member

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Forensic Accountant
Treasurer

Brian Peloquin

Director of Student Activities
Board Member

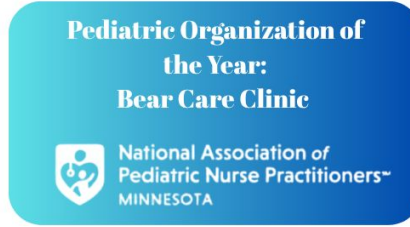
ACHIEVEMENTS



Twin Cities Business Magazine highlighted the Bear Care Clinic in March 2025.

[Article Link](#)

Essential Community Provider (safety net): a health care provider that serves high-risk, special needs, and underserved individuals



The Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNP) awarded Bear Care the Pediatric Organization of the Year in April 2025

Gold Standards Achievement for quality measures by the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics



Best pediatric clinic 2025 - White Bear Lake Magazine

ART PROJECT

In the spring of 2025, **Mr. Gritzmacher's art class** designed and created artwork for the Bear Care Clinic. A grant from the Greater White Bear Lake Area Foundation was used to purchase art supplies for this project. Students conducted research on clinic space conceptions and created art that would provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for patients visiting the clinic.



NUTRITION OUTREACH - FLAVOR LAB

Fall 2025
CMS Cooking Classes



Fall 2025
Lincoln Elementary Garden Club



NEW - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Program Goals: Strengthen students' executive functioning, social-emotional learning, and life skills

Elementary-aged - held at Oneka



Planning



Organization



Time Management



Working Memory



Metacognition



Self-Control



Attention



Task Initiation



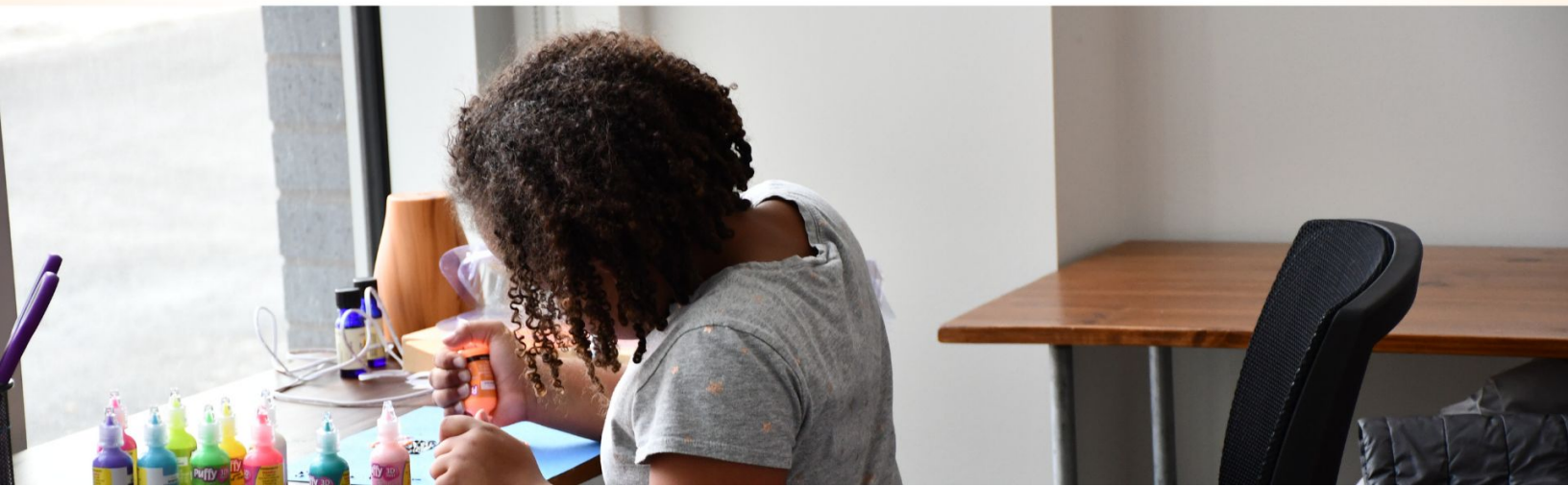
Flexibility



Perseverance

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Grief groups
- Individual counseling
- Mobile counseling
- Collaboration with schools and staff



HEALTH SERVICES

Continue to expand services to meet the community's needs:

- Naloxone designation achieved
- Wart treatment
- Skin issues
- Foreign objects in eyes
- In-house strep cultures
- Partnership with community pharmacy

Families were asked if the Bear Care Clinic helped students avoid missing school.

- Majority = avoided missing ½ day of school
- Some = avoided missing 1-4 full days of school
- Reduced travel time (before and after-school appointments)
- Fewer missed work hours
- Improved health care access with minimal school disruption

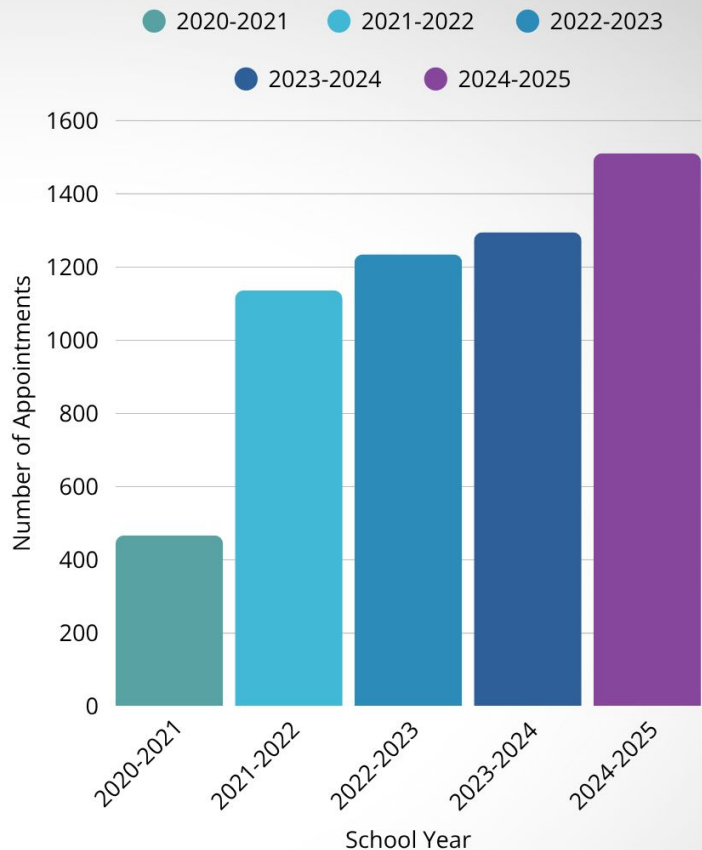
APPOINTMENTS

2024-2025: A record year of patients!

1511 Appointments

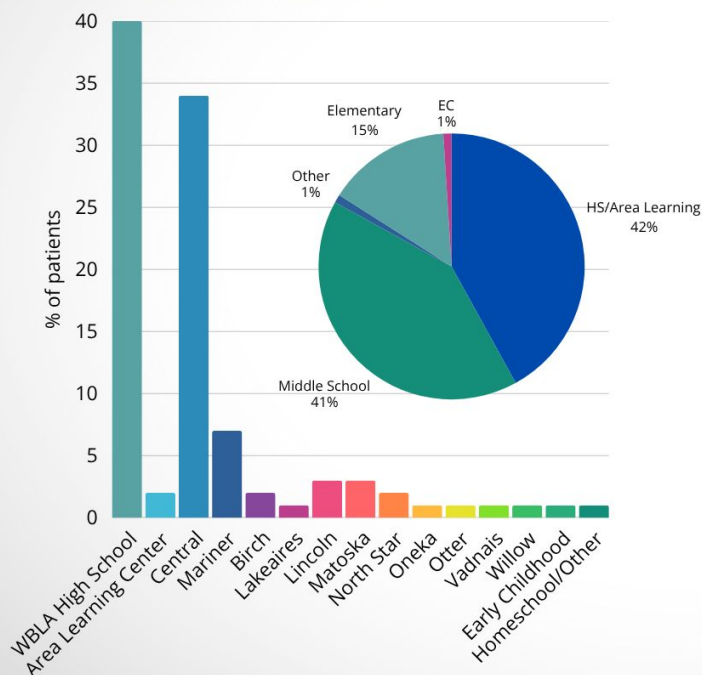
2025-2026 ~ 500 patients as of today

- 14 mobile clinics scheduled

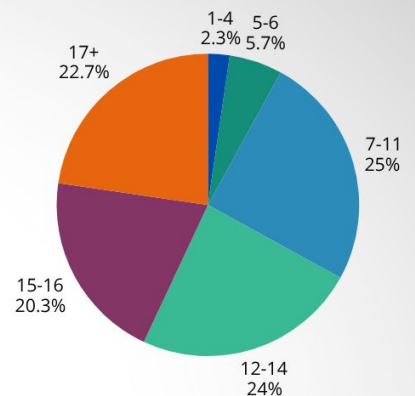


PATIENTS SERVED

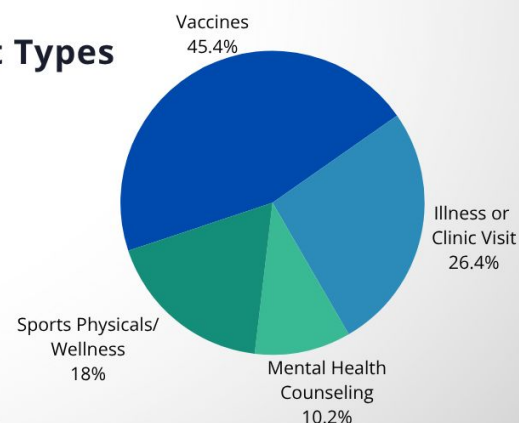
Patients' Schools



Patients' Ages



Appointment Types



EVALUATION SURVEY

44%

The percentage of families who used Bear Care services and reported facing challenges in affording health care costs.

If you had not used the Bear Care Clinic, where would you have gone for health care?

21%

Emergency Department or Urgent Care

9%

No care

Why did you use the Bear Care Clinic?

1. Convenient to my schedule
2. Convenient to where I live
3. Cost
4. The care provided is thoughtful, high-quality, and individualized

"She walked downstairs to get her vaccine and walked right back to class."

"I didn't have to miss work."

"They came to his school so he missed 5 minutes of class opposed to ½ day."

"It's personalized, they remember you, they are quick and kind."

"Bear Care was amazing! We are a young family... The WBL schools and the investment the community was making in them attracted us to purchase our first home in WBL..."

"We feel very lucky to live in an incredible district and have these resources available to our child."

"I recommend the clinic to all of my family who live in the district and friends. They were helpful, professional and even followed up with an email to check in on my child and see if her symptoms were improving!"

"The provider we saw for our child's ear infection check was wonderful- our son was so comfortable with her and she was the best medical care provider we have ever seen when it came to interacting with a child patient. Thank you so much Bear Care!"

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

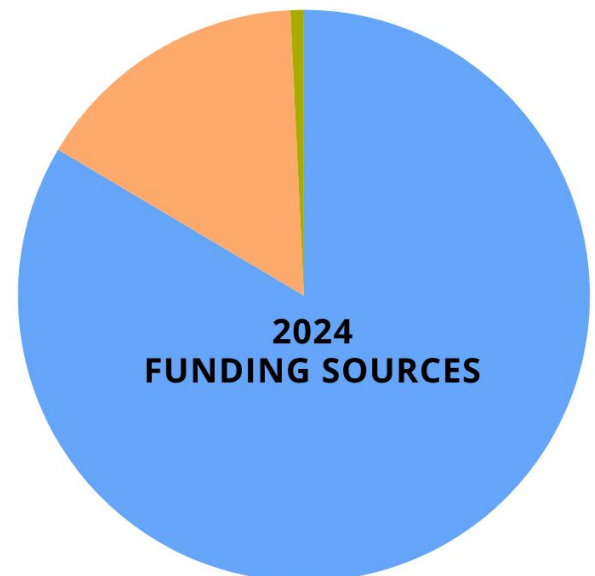
Rise Up Health Clinics has continued to diversify its financial portfolio to further its mission of providing accessible care. We are extremely grateful for the support from our partners.

Billing Practices

1. Align with our mission to serve all children, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay
2. Families who are able to pay may do so in full or in part
3. Support a steady revenue stream to fund clinic services



● Grants ● Insurance Payments ● Donations

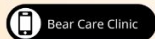


THANK YOU!

Thank you, White Bear Lake Area School District, for the ongoing partnership. The integration of the high school has been exciting and joyful to witness, and the new clinic space has expanded our ability to see more patients.

Rise Up Health Clinics is dedicated to evolving to meet the needs of the district and community, and we look forward to continuing to serve White Bear Lake Area School District students!

- Rise Up Health Clinics



Clinic location:

**In White Bear Lake Area High School - Door A
5045 Division Ave., White Bear Lake, MN**



(651) 444-6750



BearCare@RiseUpHealthClinics.org



www.riseuphealthclinics.org



AGENDA ITEM: **Matoska International Update**

MEETING DATE: **October 27, 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 John Leininger, Principal, will give an update on Matoska International Elementary School.

Matoska International



October 27, 2025

Matoska

Mission Statement

The mission of Matoska International, an International Baccalaureate World School community of globally minded lifelong learners who are compassionate citizens, is to ensure the needs of individual learners are met so that students have agency and achieve their maximum potential through a vital system distinguished by:

- developmentally appropriate teaching and learning, using research based strategies
- a commitment to establish and nurture strong relationships within our learning community
- providing a safe, supportive environment through equitable practices
- encouraging student and staff agency through meaningful interactions
- recognition, validation and deeper understanding of each child's cultural and personal identities

Immersion

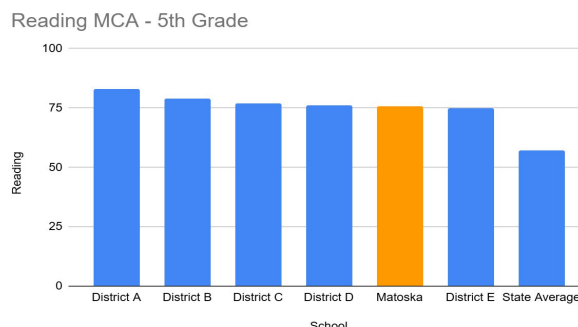
Matoska International is well known for providing the International Baccalaureate program here in White Bear Lake. Notable this year has been the launch of the Dual Language Immersion program in Kindergarten.

In the future we will will present a more detailed presentation of the Immersion program. A few highlights:

- 42 kindergarten students enrolled in Spanish Dual Language Immersion at Matoska
- Very positive feedback from parents and families
- 80/20 language immersion model
- Recognition within the immersion community as “doing it right”

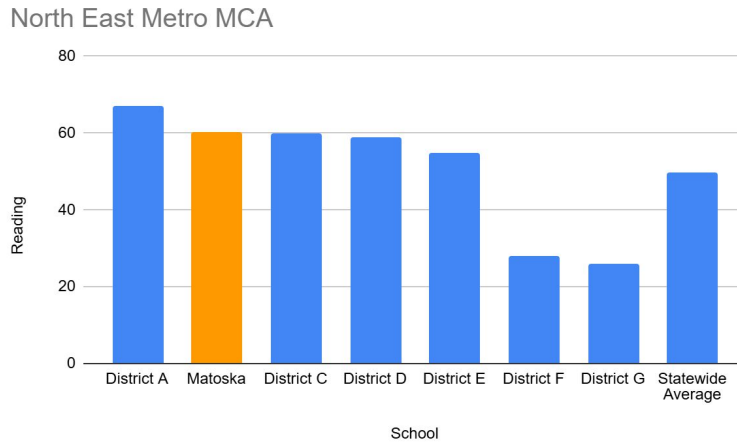
Student Achievement

- 2025 MCA Reading: 75.6% of Matoska 5th graders scored a meets or exceeds state standards.
 - 2025 MCA Reading: In the state of Minnesota 49.9% of 5th grade students scored a meets or exceeds.
 - 75.6 places Matoska 5th grade students in the top Tier for the State of Minnesota.
 - (Minnetonka, Westonka Wayzata, Orono, Waconia)
- This class entered first grade during the Pandemic and scored 32% *low risk* on FastBridge Early Reading.



North East Metro

- Matoska students grades 3rd-5th performed well in the the North East Metro on the 2025 MCA Reading Assessment.
 - Forest Lake, Stillwater, Centennial, North St. Paul, Mounds View, Mahtomedi



Student Achievement

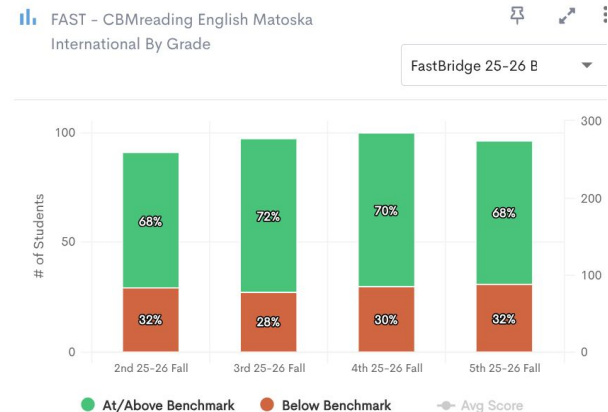
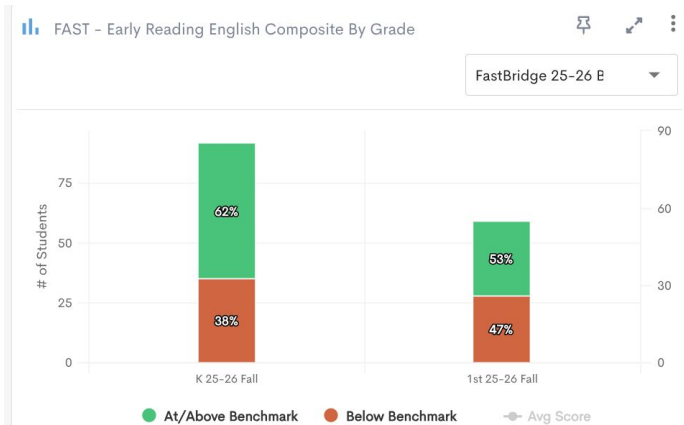
- Special Education Success!
 - The average growth towards CBMreading (fluency) benchmark was 80%

Grade	CBM Benchmark	Avg Start	Avg Finish	Percent Growth
2	101	34	72	111.76%
3	125	34.8	69.8	100.57%
4	147	47.1	80.3	70.49%
5	162	73.7	104	41.11%

- *FastBridge CBM (Curriculum-Based Measurement) Reading is a universal screening and progress monitoring tool used to assess a student's oral reading fluency and accuracy. It involves a student reading grade-level passages aloud for one minute to measure words read correctly.*

Student Achievement

- Looking Forward:
 - Matoska students are poised for success!



Towards the Future

Literacy

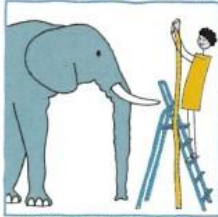
- 3rd Year of new English Language Arts curriculum implementation
- All classroom teachers completed LETRS training
- Focus Areas**
 - Designing instruction based on individual student needs
 - Providing early intervention and supports
 - Increasing student reflection and ownership

Math

- Core curriculum pilot in preparation for curriculum adoption
- 38% of teachers have completed additional training in:
 - How children develop mathematical understanding
 - Instructional practices to support
- 5 teachers participating in math core curriculum pilot program

Towards the Future

LEARNER PROFILE ATTRIBUTES



INQUIRERS



KNOWLEDGEABLE



THINKERS



COMMUNICATORS



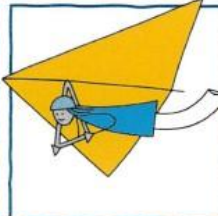
PRINCIPLED



OPEN-MINDED



CARING



RISK-TAKERS



BALANCED



REFLECTIVE

Illustrations by Chris Gadbury

Q & A

Thank you for supporting our school!
Questions/Comments?

AGENDA ITEM: **2026-27 Course Proposals**

MEETING DATE: **October 27, 2025**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Discussion Item**

CONTACT PERSON(S): **Jennifer Babiash, Director of Teaching and Learning**

BACKGROUND:

Jen Babiash, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Russ Reetz, Principal of White Bear Lake Area High School will present the secondary course proposals for the 2026-27 school year.

White Bear Lake Area High School

2026-27

Course Proposals



October 27, 2025

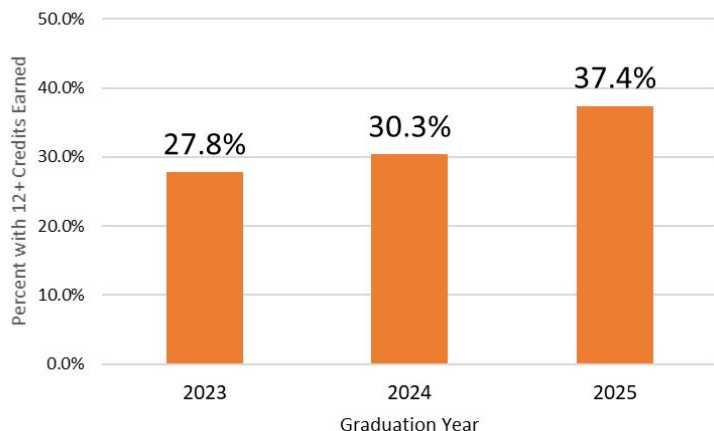
GO BEARS



CACR Goal

All Students Career and College-Ready & Prepared for Life-Long Learning

Percent of Graduation Class with 12+ College Credits Earned



How is this measured? 3 credits per semester were assigned for:

- CIS and CitHS the student had to earn a C- or better to earn college credit
- PLTW the student had to earn a B- or better to earn college credit
- AP the student had to get a score of 3 or better on the AP test
- PSEO, the student had to pass the class
- Articulated college credit classes like Woodworking, the student had to pass the class



High School Core Values

We exist to influence student belonging, agency & efficacy for and of learning

All students say yes!

- ❖ Do I belong here?
- ❖ Is this meaningful?
- ❖ Can I do this?

Core Values

- ❖ Relationships
- ❖ Ownership
- ❖ Awareness
- ❖ Respect

Student Experience

- ❖ Enhanced Course Guide 2024-25
- ❖ Move to Trimesters 2025-26

New Course Proposals



English Language Arts (ELA) Options 2026-2027

(*new courses)

ELA 9 (2 or 3 trimesters)

General 9: 9A, 9B, 9C

Accelerated 9: 9A, 9B

ELA 10 (Required: 1 course from A and 1 course from B)

A Options (Literature)

Literature & Culture (ELA 10A)

Literature Across Eras (Honors ELA 10A)

B Options (Composition)

Real World Writing & Communication(ELA 10B)

Creative Nonfiction (Honors ELA 10B)

*AP Seminar (10-12, fulfills both A and B)

English Language Arts (ELA) Options 2026-2027

(*new courses)

ELA 11/12 (Required: 2 courses from C. and 2 courses from D)

11th and 12th must take one from C and one from D each year

C Options (Literature)

American Identity (ELA 11A)

World Literature

*Mystery, Horror & Psychological Thrillers

*Shakespeare

*Fantasy & Science Fiction

Reading Across Curriculum-12th grade only

D Options (Composition)

Persuasion and Rhetoric (ELA 11B)

College Prep Writing

Public Speaking

*Poetry Workshop

*Creative Nonfiction Workshop

*Short Story Workshop

*Journalism II: Yearbook

Fulfills both C and D for 11th or 12th grade

AP Literature
AP Composition
*AP Seminar

Fulfills both C and D for 12th grade only

CIS Literature (12th only)
CIS Writing (12th only)

English Language Arts (ELA) Options 2026-2027

(*new courses)

Electives

Film Studies (12)

**Book Cafe (9-12)*

**Introduction to Creative Writing (9-12)*

**Journalism I: Introduction to Journalism and Publishing (9-12)*

**Literature of Humor, Comedy, and Satire (10-12)*

**Narratives of Resilience (10-12)*

**Professional Communications (11-12)*

**Theater Performance (9-12)*

**Writing Structure and Grammar (9-12)*

Art

Sports Photography & Multimedia 2, Grades 9-12, One Trimester, Elective Prerequisite: Sports Photo & Multimedia 1
Printmaking, Grades 9-12, One Trimester, Elective
Jewelry, 9-12, One Trimester, Elective

Education

Multicultural Approaches to Education (EDUC 2350) 10-12, One Trimester, Elective
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Physical Education

Power Basketball 2, Grades 10-12, One Trimester, Elective
Prerequisite: Power Basketball 1
Power Volleyball 2, Grades 10-12, One Trimester, Elective
Prerequisite: Power Volleyball 1

Science

CIS Intro to Physics (PHYS 1101W), Grades 11-12, Two Trimesters, Required Option
Prerequisite: Algebra and Geometry and a B or higher in Algebra 2/Trigonometry or equivalent

Social Studies

Ethnic Studies YPAR (Youth Participatory Action Research), Grades 11-12, One Trimester, Elective
Prerequisite: Ethnic Studies US History, or Ethnic Studies World History
History Through Pop Culture, Grades 9-12, One Trimester, Elective
Debate 2: Tournament Debate, Grades 10-12, One Trimester, Elective

Technology Education

Architectural Design 2, Grades 9-12, One Trimester, Elective
Prerequisite: Architectural Design 1

World Language

American Sign Language (ASL) Literature and Film Making, Grades 9-12, One Trimester, Elective Prerequisite: ASL 1
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Heritage Spanish 2, Grades 10-12, One Trimester, Elective Prerequisite: Heritage Spanish 1

Work Based Learning

Career Seminar, Grades 11-12, One Trimester, Elective

Work Experience, Grades 11-12, One Trimester, Elective
--

Course Name Change, or Grade Level Change Requests



Art

Current Course:

Proposed Change:

Sports Photography and Multimedia	Sports Photography and Multimedia 1
Ceramics 1	Course description change (Add wheel throwing)
Sculpture and Jewelry	Name change to Sculpture 1 (Add hand throwing)
Ceramics 2	Added Sculpture 1 as additional pre-req

English Language Arts

Current Course:

Proposed Change:

Honors English Language Arts 10 A	Literature Across Eras
Honors English Language Arts 10 B	Creative Nonfiction Workshop
Honors English Language Arts 9	Accelerated English Language Arts 9
English Language Arts 10A	Literature and Culture
English Language Arts 10B	Real World Writing and Communication
English Language Arts 11A	American Identity
English Language Arts 11B	Persuasion and Rhetoric
Film Studies	Grade 12, Elective

Health and Physical Education

Current Course:

Proposed Change:

First Aid and CPR-CitHS (HPER 1103) Grades 9-12	Grades 10-12 Prerequisite: Grade 10: GPA 3.0 unweighted & Grade 11-12: GPA 2.6 unweighted
Introduction to Exercise Science-CitHS (HPER 1205) Grades 11-12 Two Trimesters	One Trimester
Weights for Athletes FWS (Fall, Winter, Spring) Grades 9-12 One Trimester	May take up to three trimesters per year FWS can be taken multiple years *9th grade must be registered or participating in a White Bear Lake High School athletic program

Health and Physical Education

Current Course:

Proposed Change:

Weights for Athletes Zero Hour FWS (Fall, Winter, Spring) Grades 9-12 One Trimester	May take up to three trimesters per year FWS can be taken multiple years *9th grade must be a junior varsity or varsity in season athlete, or coach approval
Yoga and Fitness Trends Grades 9-12	Grades 10-12
Power Basketball	Power Basketball 1
Power Volleyball	Power Volleyball 1

Math, Science & World Language

Current Course:

Proposed Change:

Algebra 3/Trigonometry and Analytic Geometry A/B	Algebra 3 A/B
Planet Earth and Its Climate	Combine two courses into one course (Incorporate Green Foundations: Sustainability)
Chemistry A	Chemistry Structures & Reactions
Chemistry B	Quantities & Solutions
Heritage Spanish	Heritage Spanish 1

Social Studies, Special Education, & Technology Education

Current Course:

Proposed Change:

World History A & B	Offer additional course as a hybrid option
Developmental/Adapted Physical Education (D/APE) A/B/C	Physical Education Essentials A/B/C
Architectural Design	Architectural Design 1

Request to Remove Courses



Course Removals

Current Course:

Rationale:

German 1, 2, 3 & 4 and CIS German 1003 & 1004 (Middle School and High School Courses)	Courses have not run in over 3 years
AP Art History: Ancient to Medieval AP Art History: Renaissance to Modern	Courses have not run in over 3 years
Consumer Economics & Consumer Economics Hybrid	Consistent attrition of course
Computer Hardware Technology (Tech Depot) A, B, & C Media and Informational Production	Will offer as service learning instead of a class Not enough student enrollment to run
Percussion Ensemble Beginner Instrumental Ensemble	Incorporate it into current instrumental courses Not enough student enrollment to run
Health and Physical Ed 11/12 & Online	No longer needed for students at 9-12 campus
Honors Physics A & B AP Environmental Science A & B Green Foundations: Sustainability	Replace with CIS pending instructor approval Course has not run in over 3 years Incorporate it into current course

Course Removals

Current Course:

Rationale:

Honors United States History A & B	Offer AP United States History with college credit options
Graphic Arts 2	Has not run in over 3 years
Creative Writing/Creative Writing Hybrid	Being replaced with Introduction to Creative Writing
Yearbook A, B, C	Being replaced with Journalism II: Yearbook
Introduction to Ethnic Studies Education (EDUC 2230)	Being replaced with Multicultural Approaches to Education (EDUC 2350)

What questions do you have?

Thank You!



2026-27 Secondary New Course Proposals

Art

New Course Title	Course Description
Sports Photography & Multimedia 2 Grades 9-12 One Trimester Prerequisite: Sports Photo & Multimedia 1	This course is an independent study course for students who wish to further develop their skills and partnerships covering WBLAHS sporting and school wide events. Students will be working with athletes, coaches, administrators, and other partners to help promote and celebrate our student athletes, clubs, and events. In this course it will be a requirement and expectation to cover events beyond the school day in order to capture content to be utilized in class. Content will be applied to social media posts, hype videos, and other forms of journalism and promotion. <i>*Elective</i>
Printmaking Grades 9-12 One Trimester	Make Art That Multiplies! Unlock your creative potential in this hands-on course exploring the fun world of printmaking, such as lithography, etching, engraving, monoprint, intaglio, and serigraphy, to name a few you will explore. You'll master traditional and DIY techniques, focusing on creating artwork that is both unique and reproducible to share with others. We will be using both professional quality and common materials, learning to develop your unique creative voice through image making, editioning (making multiple originals!), and experimentation. Get ready to print, press, and transform simple materials into awesome art! <i>*Elective</i>

Education

New Course Title	Course Description
Multicultural Approaches to Education (EDUC 2350) Grades 10-12 One Trimester	This course guides students to develop a curriculum philosophy that reflects their beliefs and values and builds a repertoire of instructional strategies, tools, and resources designed to foster increased student power, achievement, and equity in education for all students. Students will examine research-based instructional strategies for successfully meeting the varying needs of students from ethnically, ability, culturally, socioeconomically, and linguistically diverse groups. <i>*Elective</i>

English Language Arts: Composition

New Course Title	Course Description
Poetry Workshop Grades 11-12 One Trimester	In this workshop-style course, students will read, analyze, and write poetry while strengthening their skills as creative and critical thinkers. Through close study of diverse poets and styles, students will experiment with form, voice, and imagery to develop their own work. Emphasis will be placed on the writing process: drafting, revising, and sharing in a supportive community of writers. Alongside creative expression, students will practice analytical writing, reflection, and composition strategies. <i>*Meets Composition Graduation Requirement</i>
Creative Nonfiction Workshop Grades 11-12 One Trimester	The core of creative nonfiction demands that writers commit equally to factual accuracy and narrative craft. Students will learn to develop a distinctive, authentic voice while mastering the structure necessary to transform lived experience and rigorous research into compelling literature. This course is designed for students ready to look closely at the world—and their place in it—and share those observations with precision and artistry. <i>*Meets Composition Graduation Requirement</i>
Journalism 1: Introduction to Journalism and Publishing Grades 9-12 One Trimester	This introductory course is for beginning Journalism students who will create our school's newspaper, yearbook, and daily video announcements in Journalism 2. <i>*Elective</i>
Journalism 2: Yearbook Grades 10-12 Year Long	For Journalism students who want to document the year's events and achievements of White Bear Lake Area students. Collaborative, organized, and creative students: sign up for this class! <i>*Meets Composition Graduation Requirement</i>
Short Story Workshop Grades 11-12 One Trimester	This course will focus intensely on the core mechanics that make a story work: developing complex, memorable characters; structuring effective plots and subplots; crafting believable and motivating conflict; using dialogue that feels authentic; and deploying setting to create mood and atmosphere. Students will also analyze professional short stories to understand techniques like point of view, narrative voice, and the critical importance of a powerful opening and a resonant ending. <i>*Meets Composition Graduation Requirement</i>

Writing Structure & Grammar Grades 9-12 One Trimester	This course helps students strengthen their writing by focusing on grammar, sentence structure, and clear communication. Students will practice applying grammar rules, improving sentence variety, and organizing ideas effectively in different types of writing. Emphasis is placed on accuracy, clarity, and real-world application, giving students practical tools to succeed in both academic and everyday writing. <i>*Elective</i>
Introduction to Creative Writing Grades 9-12 One Trimester	This course provides students with opportunities to develop their voice, imagination, and command of language through the art of written expression. In this elective, students explore a variety of genres—including poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, drama, and hybrid forms—while studying the introductory tenets and craft techniques used by professional writers. <i>*Elective</i>
Narratives of Resilience Grades 10-12 One Trimester	This literature course highlights stories, voices, and perspectives often overlooked in the traditional literary canon. Students will engage with a wide range of texts—including novels, poetry, drama, and essays—by authors whose identities, experiences, and themes are historically underrepresented. This course invites students to discover literature that highlights perspectives of resilience and expands understanding of culture, identity, and the human experience. <i>*Elective</i>

English Language Arts: Literature

New Course Title	Course Description
Mystery, Horror, and Psychological Thrillers Grades 11-12 One Trimester	This course examines how writers use fear, suspense, and the unknown to explore the human condition. Through novels, short stories, and film, students will analyze the techniques of mystery, horror, and psychological thrillers while considering the cultural and psychological questions these texts raise. Coursework emphasizes close reading, discussion, and analytical writing aligned to Minnesota state English Language Arts standards, with opportunities for creative response as well. <i>*Meets Literature Graduation Requirement</i>
Fantasy and Science-Fiction Grades 11-12 One Trimester	Fantasy literature and science fiction immerses 11th and 12th-grade students in the imaginative worlds of science fiction and fantasy, examining these genres as expressions of human intellect, societal critique, and boundless creativity. Students will move beyond "just reading" and use speculative fiction as a lens to critically analyze pressing real-world issues and examine their own understanding of the world as it is through what "could be". <i>*Meets Literature Graduation Requirement</i>

Shakespeare Grades 11-12 One Trimester	Students examine the major plays across Shakespeare's distinct periods and genres, including his histories, comedies, tragedies, and romances. The historical context of the works is also considered. <i>*Meets Literature Graduation Requirement</i>
Literature of Humor, Comedy, and Satire Grades 10-12 One Trimester	A survey course of American writers, in comedy, satire, and humor genres. This course explores American humor through literary works that use wit to critique social dynamics. Students will examine satirical writings from diverse authors, analyzing humor as a tool for social commentary. Writers/performers to study include: Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut, Mel Brooks, Richard Pryor, David Sedaris, Tina Fey, Mindy Kahling, and various other contemporary comedians. <i>*Elective</i>
Book Cafe Grades 9-12 One Trimester	This course rekindles the joy of reading for fun by creating a relaxed, community-centered environment where students can explore books that genuinely interest them. At least half of the course will be devoted to independent, student-selected reading, allowing each student to pursue genres, authors, and topics that speak to their interests and identities. Students will also engage in guided mini-lessons on reading strategies, literary elements, and thematic analysis to deepen comprehension and strengthen academic literacy skills. <i>*Elective</i>

English Language Arts: Public Speaking

New Course Title	Course Description
Professional Communications Grades 11-12 One Trimester	This course is designed for 11th and 12th- grade students to develop foundational skills in professional communication for academic, workplace, and social contexts. By blending written, oral, and digital communication methods, students learn to convey ideas clearly and confidently in various settings. The curriculum focuses on both the theory of communication and practical application through a variety of real-world scenarios and projects. <i>*Elective</i>
Theater Performance Grades 9-12 One Trimester	This course will introduce the student to the fundamentals of theater, including acting, movement, voice, script analysis, and technical production, while also fostering creativity, collaboration, and self-confidence. These courses often culminate in practical experiences like group performances and technical work, allowing students to explore various roles within a theatrical production, such as performer, designer, and director. <i>*Elective</i>

English Language Arts: Advanced Placement

New Course Title	Course Description
AP Seminar Grades 10-12 Two Trimesters	AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational, literary, and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments. <i>*Meets Literature and Composition Graduation Requirement</i>

Physical Education

New Course Title	Course Description
Power Basketball 2 Grades 10-12 One Trimester Prerequisite: Power Basketball 1	This advanced-level basketball course is designed for students who have already developed a foundational understanding of the game and are ready to refine and expand their skills. This course emphasizes advanced offensive and defensive strategies, conditioning techniques, and in-depth game analysis. Students will engage in competitive drills, structured scrimmages, and situational play designed to enhance decision-making, leadership, and teamwork at a higher level of intensity. The course incorporates video breakdowns, statistical evaluation, and tactical adjustments to deepen players' understanding of basketball as both athletes and scholars of the game. <i>*Elective</i>
Power Volleyball 2 Grades 10-12 One Trimester Prerequisite: Power Volleyball 1	This advanced-level volleyball course is designed for students who have mastered the fundamental skills and are ready to enhance their performance through higher-level techniques, strategies, and competitive play. This course emphasizes advanced offensive and defensive systems, court awareness, and specialized position training. Students will participate in rigorous drills, tactical scrimmages, and situational gameplay to strengthen decision-making, teamwork, and leadership in competitive environments. The course will also integrate fitness conditioning, video analysis, and strategy development to help students refine their performance and deepen their understanding of the sport. <i>*Elective</i>

Science

New Course Title	Course Description
CIS Intro to Physics (PHYS 1101W) Grades 11-12 Two Trimesters Prerequisite: Algebra and Geometry and a B or higher in Algebra 2/Trigonometry or equivalent	Fundamental principles of physics in the context of everyday world. Use of kinematics/dynamics principles and quantitative/qualitative problem-solving techniques to understand natural phenomena. Lecture, recitation, lab. Students can earn four University of Minnesota credits. <i>*Meets Science Graduation Requirement</i>

Social Studies

New Course Title	Course Description
Ethnic Studies YPAR (Youth Participatory Action Research) Grades 11-12 One Trimester Prerequisite: Ethnic Studies US History, or Ethnic Studies World History	Students will gain a deeper understanding of how they can convert their learning into real-world impact and action. Students will engage deeply with their research project, which will require them to continue developing their skills in critical analysis, reading, writing, and community leadership. This course is open to all students interested in exploring topics they learned in previous Ethnic Studies courses. <i>*Elective</i>
History Through Pop Culture Grades 9-12 One Trimester	This course is an interdisciplinary humanities course that investigates how popular culture reflects, reshapes, and sometimes rewrites our understanding of history. By analyzing films, music, television, advertisements, comics, magazines, and other cultural artifacts, students will explore key historical events, movements, and social changes from the 20th and 21st centuries. <i>*Elective</i>
Debate 2: Tournament Debate Grades 10-12 One Trimester	This course's emphasis is placed on refining advanced debate techniques, deepening research and case-building abilities, and honing rhetorical style within specific debate formats such as Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Congressional, and Policy Debate. Through individualized coaching, peer collaboration, and performance-based assessment, students develop confidence, strategic thinking, and professional communication skills essential for academic and civic discourse. <i>*Elective</i>

Technology Education

New Course Title	Course Description
Architectural Design 2 Grades 9-12 One Trimester Prerequisite: Architectural Design 1	This course is a continuation of architectural design. Students will study Commercial Design and architecture. Course content will focus mainly on commercial design. Students will design businesses, restaurants, theaters or stadiums. Students will be working with computer aided design software to develop concepts and present design solutions for class assignments. Using real-time modeling software, students will develop an increased visual perception and understanding of commercial structures through 2D and 3D formats. Students will be involved in field trips to commercial job sites as well as business, theaters, and stadium tours. Student portfolios will be used to present and evaluate coursework. <i>*Elective, this course satisfies Art requirement.</i>

World Language

New Course Title	Course Description
American Sign Language (ASL) Literature and Film Making Grades 9-12 One Trimester Prerequisite: ASL 1	This course will offer students to imagine, create and publish an ASL film. This course will incorporate all the elements of ASL Storytelling along with filmmaking and editing. The course will explore themes and storytelling elements based on literature, watching films, creating storyboards through the lens of Deaf Culture. <i>*Elective</i>
Heritage Spanish 2 Grades 10-12 One Trimester Prerequisite: Heritage Spanish 1	Continues the development of reading, writing, and academic language skills for students who use Spanish at home. Taught entirely in Spanish, this course deepens cultural understanding and strengthens communication through authentic literature, media, and writing. Students refine grammar, expand vocabulary, and engage in discussions about topics relevant to the Spanish-speaking world. Highly recommended for students pursuing the Minnesota Seal of Biliteracy, which may qualify them for two to three semesters of Minnesota State College and University credit in Spanish. <i>*Elective</i>

Work Based Learning

New Course Title	Course Description
Career Seminar Grades 11-12 One Trimester	Students will explore their career interests while focusing on career planning. Students will identify and practice the skills needed to seek and successfully secure employment; understand the importance of health, safety, and human resource regulations in the workplace; understand the employability skills needed to maintain employment; practice effective communication in the workplace; and understand financial terminology as it relates to employment. <i>*Elective</i>
Work Experience Grades 11-12 One Trimester	Students will apply career development and employability skills before, during and after their work experience. Students will complete a work experience in a career field of interest; demonstrate appropriate workplace safety procedures; demonstrate professional and ethical behavior in the workplace; collaborate and work effectively as a team member; and communicate effectively in multiple formats in the workplace. <i>*Elective, may take multiple times</i>

AGENDA ITEM: **2026-27 and 2027-28 Calendar Update**

MEETING DATE: **October 27, 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 will present an update on work that is occurring regarding the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school year calendars. An updated and detailed 2026-27 calendar and 2027-28 calendar with key dates will be presented for action at the November 10, 2025 School Board meeting.

Calendar Updates

2026-27 and 2027-28

Dr. Alison Gillespie

White Bear Lake Area Schools 2026-27 Academic Calendar

JULY 2026							JANUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29
								31					

AUGUST 2026							FEBRUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		1	2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		7	8	9	10	11	12
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		14	15	16	17	18	19
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		21	22	23	24	25	26
30	31							28					

24 Convocation
25-27 Teacher Work and Staff Development
31 First Day of School: 6 & 9

1 No School - Winter Break
4 School Resumes
18 No School - MLK, Jr. Day
19 Non Student Day*
12 Non Student Day*
15 No School - Presidents' Day

GO BEARS

Calendar Parameters

- Collectively bargained contract parameters must be followed unless a mutually agreed upon change to these parameters has been made.
- The academic calendar with key dates is proposed to the School Board two school years in advance.
- The detailed and final academic calendar is proposed to the School Board one school year in advance.
- Non-students days must be inclusive of K-12 students with the exception of opening and closing school year practices.
- In determining the placement of non-student days, a variety of factors will be considered to be inclusive of the needs of students, staff, and families.
 - These factors include the placement and spacing of holiday breaks, recognition of religious observances, and the overall balance of instructional time throughout the year.



Process

- Calendar Committee provides feedback to various areas of consideration.
- District, building, and staff leadership provide feedback through collaborative meetings and surveys as appropriate.
- Final calendar format determined by District Leadership.



26-27 and 27-28 Calendar Overview

- **School year start date:** The proposed calendars include start dates prior to Labor Day.
 - Benefits:
 - Four instructional days before labor-day with a four-day holiday weekend.
 - Earlier end to the school year (June 4 and June 2 vs. mid-June).
 - More instructional time before state testing.
 - Improved alignment of trimester transitions with natural breaks, reducing interruptions in learning.
 - Better scheduling for extended school year programs for special education students and staff.

EMPOWER GO EXC
 INNOVATE GO INS
 FORM GO BEARS GO
 GO EXCEL GO EXPL
 INSPIRE GO LEAD
 GO ACHIEVE GO CRE
 EXPLORE GO GRAD
 GO LEAD GO PERFOR
 GO ACHIEVE GO CRE
 EXPLORE GO GRAD
 GO LEAD GO PERFOR
 GO ACHIEVE GO CRE

26-27 and 27-28 Calendar Overview

- **Community Feedback**
 - In November 2024 survey, community members (63%-28%) and parents (50%-39%) supported a pre-labor day start.
 - In a survey of educators, about half favored a pre-labor day start.
- **Legislative Context:**
 - A recent state law allows districts to begin the school year on or after September 1 during the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.
 - *Minnesota Statute, section 120A.40: (b) A district may begin the school year on any day before Labor Day: (1) to accommodate a construction or remodeling project of \$400,000 or more affecting a district school facility.*

2026-27 Calendar

White Bear Lake Area Schools 2026-27 Academic Calendar

JULY 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JANUARY 2027 S M T W Th F S 1 No School - Winter Break 2 School Resumes 3 No School - MLK, Jr. Day 4 No Student Day* 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
AUGUST 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 24 Convocation 2 25-27 Teacher Work and Staff Development 3 31 First Day of School: 6 & 9 4 1 5 2 6 3 7 4 8 5 9 6 10 7 11 8 12 9 13 10 14 11 15 12 16 13 17 14 18 15 19 16 20 17 21 18 22 19 23 20 24 21 25 22 26 23 27 24 28 25 29 26 30 27 31 28	FEBRUARY 2027 S M T W Th F S 12 Non Student Day* 13 No School - Presidents' Day 14 1 15 2 16 3 17 4 18 5 19 6 20 7 21 8 22 9 23 10 24 11 25 12 26 13 27 14 28 15
SEPTEMBER 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 First Day of School: 1-5, 7-8 2 10-12+ (all 1-12+ attends) 3 First Day of School: K (all K-12+ attends) 4 No School - Labor Day 5 First Day of School: EC 6 1 7 2 8 3 9 4 10 5 11 6 12 7 13 8 14 9 15 10 16 11 17 12 18 13 19 14 20 15 21 16 22 17 23 18 24 19 25 20 26 21 27 22 28 23 29 24 30 25	MARCH 2027 S M T W Th F S 1 End Trimester 2 2 Non Student Day* 3 No School - Spring Break 4 Non Student Day* 5 1 6 2 7 3 8 4 9 5 10 6 11 7 12 8 13 9 14 10 15 11 16 12 17 13 18 14 19 15 20 16 21 17 22 18 23 19 24 20 25 21 26 22 27 23 28 24 29 25 30 26 31 27
OCTOBER 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 Non Student Day* 2 15-16 No School - Education Minnesota Conference 3 1 4 2 5 3 6 4 7 5 8 6 9 7 10 8 11 9 12 10 13 11 14 12 15 13 16 14 17 15 18 16 19 17 20 18 21 19 22 20 23 21 24 22 25 23 26 24 27 25 28 26 29 27 30 28 31 29	APRIL 2027 S M T W Th F S 1 Non Student Day* 2 1 3 2 4 3 5 4 6 5 7 6 8 7 9 8 10 9 11 10 12 11 13 12 14 13 15 14 16 15 17 16 18 17 19 18 20 19 21 20 22 21 23 22 24 23 25 24 26 25 27 26 28 27 29 28 30 29
NOVEMBER 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 End Trimester 1 2 25-27 No School - Thanksgiving Break 3 Non Student Day* 4 1 5 2 6 3 7 4 8 5 9 6 10 7 11 8 12 9 13 10 14 11 15 12 16 13 17 14 18 15 19 16 20 17 21 18 22 19 23 20 24 21 25 22 26 23 27 24 28 25 29 26 30 27	MAY 2027 S M T W Th F S 1 No School - Memorial Day 2 1 3 2 4 3 5 4 6 5 7 6 8 7 9 8 10 9 11 10 12 11 13 12 14 13 15 14 16 15 17 16 18 17 19 18 20 19 21 20 22 21 23 22 24 23 25 24 26 25 27 26 28 27 29 28 30 29 31 30
DECEMBER 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 24-31 No School - Winter Break 2 1 3 2 4 3 5 4 6 5 7 6 8 7 9 8 10 9 11 10 12 11 13 12 14 13 15 14 16 15 17 16 18 17 19 18 20 19 21 20 22 21 23 22 24 23 25 24 26 25 27 26 28 27 29 28 30 29 31 30	JUNE 2027 S M T W Th F S 1 Last Day of School 2 1 3 2 4 3 5 4 6 5 7 6 8 7 9 8 10 9 11 10 12 11 13 12 14 13 15 14 16 15 17 16 18 17 19 18 20 19 21 20 22 21 23 22 24 23 25 24 26 25 27 26 28 27 29 28 30 29

■ First/Last Day of School ■ No School for Students
 ■ Key Date ■ District Center Closed

*Non Student Days - Staff engage in curriculum work, professional learning and instructional delivery, assessment reporting, conferences and communication with parents.
 Approved at the _____ School Board Meeting.

www.tb624.org 651-407-7500 Español: 651-407-7625 Hmong: 651-407-7623

2027-28 Calendar

White Bear Lake Area Schools 2027-28 Academic Calendar

JULY 2027							JANUARY 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2							3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

AUGUST 2027							FEBRUARY 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							21
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	1	2	3	4	5		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
29	30	31					20	21	22	23	24	25	26
							27	28	29				

SEPTEMBER 2027							MARCH 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2							3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31		26	27	28	29	30	31	

OCTOBER 2027							APRIL 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31							30						

NOVEMBER 2027							MAY 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30						28	29	30	31			

DECEMBER 2027							JUNE 2028						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29	30	

■ First/Last Day of School ■ No School for Students
 ■ Key Date ■ District Center Closed

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*Non Student Days: Staff engage in curriculum work, professional learning and instructional delivery, assessment reporting, conferences and communication with parents.
 Approved at the _____ School Board Meeting.

Next Steps

- Verification and final approval of calendars by all relevant district departments.
- Final calendars to the School Board for action on November 10.

Questions?

C. OPERATIONAL ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM: **Action on Tentative Agreement – 2025-27
White Bear Lake Area Educators**

MEETING DATE: **October 27, 2025**

SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: **Operational Item**

CONTACT PERSON(S): **Matthew Mons, Executive Director of Human
Resources and General Counsel**

BACKGROUND:

The District has reached a tentative agreement with the White Bear Lake Area Educators for the 2025-2027 contract period. The Union voted to ratify the agreement on October 10, 2025.

Matthew Mons will be available to answer questions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the proposed 2025-2027 White Bear Lake Area Educators tentative agreement by passing the following resolution.

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, the White Bear Lake Area Educators have voted in support of the tentative agreement;

THEN BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District 624 approves the 2025-2027 contract and authorizes the Chair and Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the School Board.