



# VANTAGE POINT

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WEST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
HIGHLIGHTS 2021-2022



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The West Bend School District proudly serves the City of West Bend, Villages of Jackson and Newburg, and Townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison.

### ABOUT US

Enrollment **Approximately 5,900**

Employees **Approximately 800**

Municipalities Served **9**

Number of Buildings **13**

Total Square Footage of Facilities **1.2 million sq ft**

Total Acreage of Facilities **201 acres**

**Enrollment on June 2, 2022:** Early Learning: 348      Decorah: 361  
 Fair Park: 360      Green Tree: 369      Jackson: 333      McLane: 412  
 Silverbrook: 797      Badger: 879      East: 920      West: 1042



**WEST BEND**  
— SCHOOL DISTRICT —  
**EXCELLENCE FOR ALL**

## Message from the Superintendent

In Vantage Point, you will enjoy reading highlights from the West Bend School District 2021–2022 school year regarding our students, staff, and the district. Visit our website at [west-bend.k12.wi.us](https://west-bend.k12.wi.us) to learn more. To stay informed, sign up for the district’s electronic newsletter by sending your email address to [wbsd@wbsd-schools.org](mailto:wbsd@wbsd-schools.org).

We will continue to grow this publication to include a variety of data points about our students, schools, and district. If you have ideas, please don’t hesitate to share. Our schools are the communities' schools and we appreciate the trust our families and communities have placed in us to educate students.

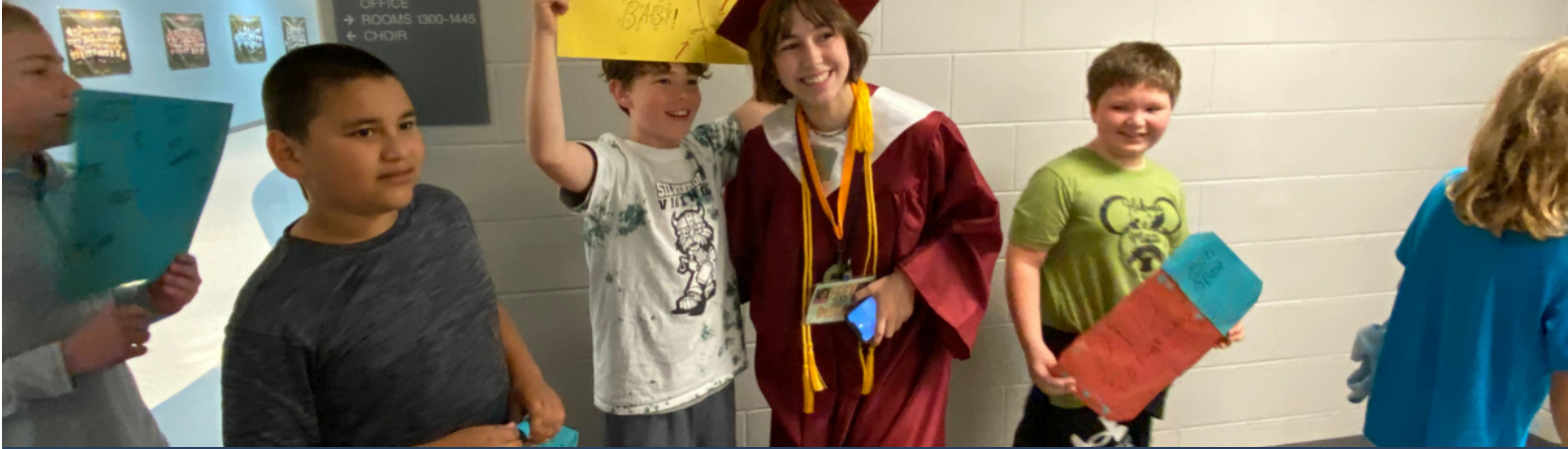
While we have many celebrations, we also value continuous improvement. We look forward to meeting challenges and expanding opportunities in the years to come.

With appreciation,  
Jen Wimmer, Superintendent



In Spring 2022, friends from Rolfs Education Center presented me with a beautiful piece of art featuring both their handprints and their handiwork.





## WEST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION

Preparing All Students for  
College Readiness  
and Career Success

## WEST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT VISION

Excellence for All

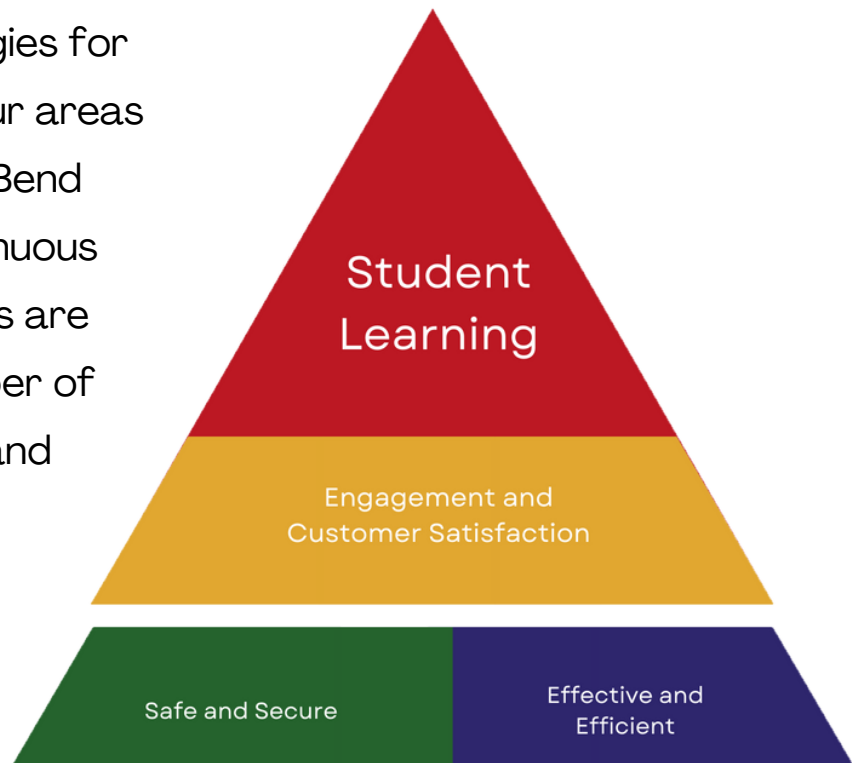
## WEST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT VALUES

- We value visionary leadership and learning for all and are committed to improved outcomes for all students.
- We value stewardship and the engagement of our people and are committed to creating and providing a culture of service excellence.
- We value our people and we are committed to maintaining a physically and emotionally safe environment so everyone can achieve their fullest potential.
- We value innovation and results and are committed to instituting effective and efficient methodology for all levels of the organization.

# Continuous Improvement Planning

Organizing our strategies for improvement within four areas

of focus, the West Bend School District continuous improvement efforts are aligned along a number of objectives, goals, and strategies.



The continuous improvement planning provides the structure to define our priorities for actualizing the values, mission, and vision of the West Bend School District.

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION** WB  
Do you have questions, concerns, or feedback regarding your child, your child's school, or the West Bend School District? Please follow this simple guide to ensure that your voice is heard.

**SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE A GREAT COMMUNICATION TOOL...**  
but it's not an effective way to share questions or concerns about our students, staff members, or district. When you have a question, concern, or feedback, follow these steps:

- 1 REGARDING MY CHILD**  
Please first contact your child's teacher. Many questions and challenges can be resolved in the classroom. You may contact your child's teacher by phone or email using our staff directory (link below). If you still have concerns after contacting the teacher, contact the school principal.
- 2 A SCHOOL RELATED ISSUE**  
Please contact the school's main office for school-related issues. If you have a further concern, contact the principal or assistant principal. A list of phone numbers is available on the website at west-bend.k12.wi.us or in the handbook in the appendices.
- 3 A DISTRICT RELATED ISSUE**  
The superintendent, student services, teaching and learning, facilities, business, and operations staff are located at the Education Service Center. Contact them at 262-306-3800 or wbsd@wbsd-schools.org. Other staff members are listed on the website at west-bend.k12.wi.us.

MAIN DISTRICT PHONE: 262-306-4800

Get tips for the best ways to find the information you need with our [Effective Communication flyer](#).

If you want to get the latest news, send your email address to [wbsd@wbsd-schools.org](mailto:wbsd@wbsd-schools.org) to receive our newsletter. Those with children in the schools get it automatically.

**West Bend School District Update**  
June 1, 2022

Last Day of School is June 3

Thank you for a great school year! The final day is Friday, June 3 and each school will have an early release. The release times are:  
High schools: 10:30 a.m.  
Badger: 11:25 a.m.  
Silverbrook: 11:15 a.m.  
Fair Park: 11:15 a.m.  
Decorah, Jackson, Green Tree, McLane: 11:45 a.m.

**Message to Families**  
On May 31, a message was sent to all families of the school district regarding the consequences of making any real or joking threat to the physical safety of other people have not already [please review the message](#).



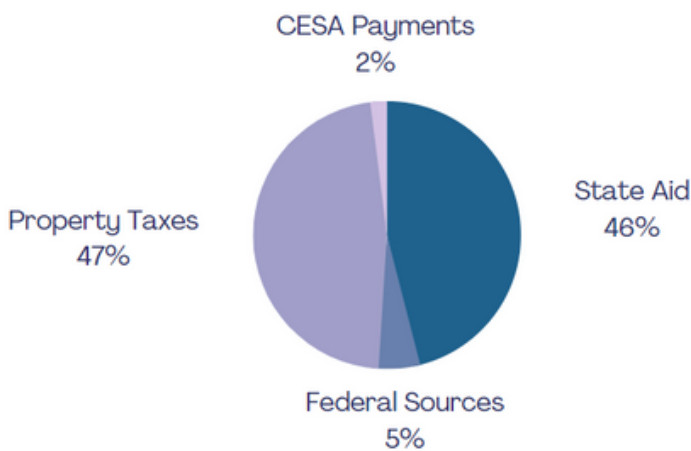
# Budget and Finances

Being responsible stewards of taxpayer funds is a critical role of the West Bend School District and the West Bend School Board. We continually adapt to revenue changes to achieve a balanced budget. While being fiscally responsible, we look for new and innovative ways to improve the district and its outcomes.

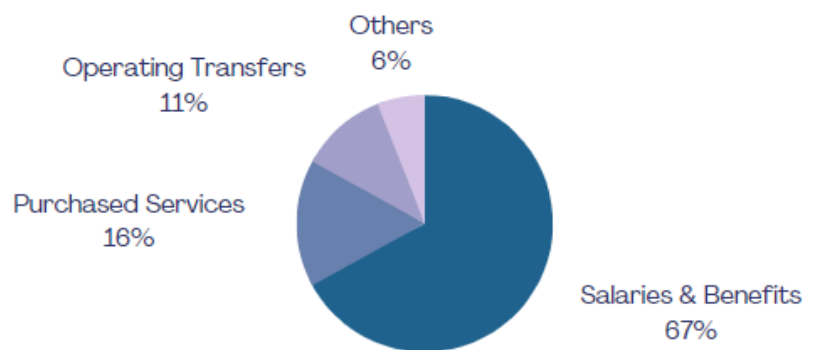
## Continued Balanced Budget Approach

Because expenditures must conform to available revenues to produce a balanced operating budget each fiscal year (July 1-June 30), careful control of costs and strategic allocation of resources is practiced daily.

### Where does the money come from?



### Where does the money go?



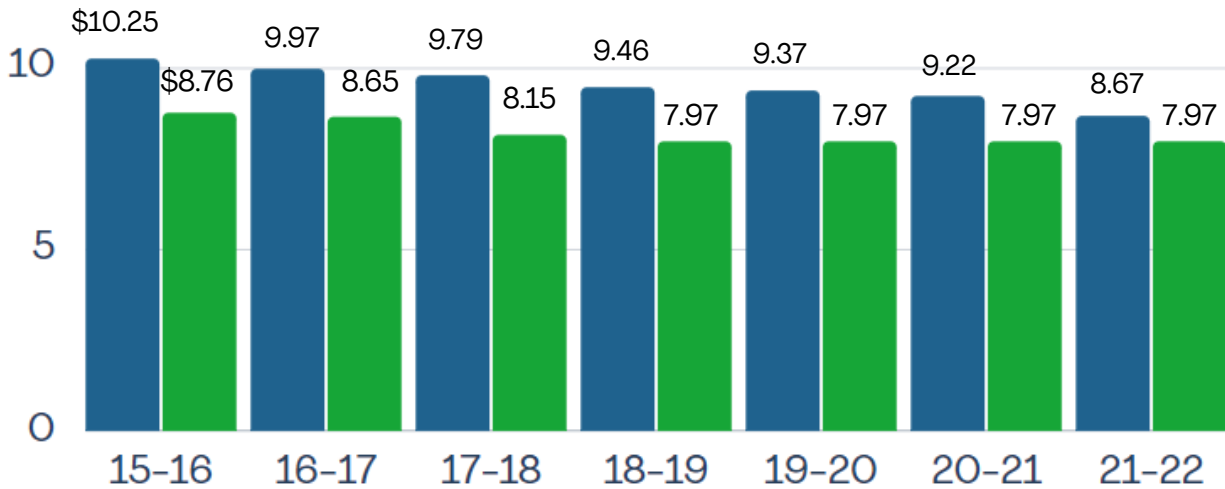
The West Bend School District website includes detailed budget information such as the Budget Publication, Revenue Limit Worksheet, and Annual Budget Hearing Presentation for 2021-2022 and 2020-2021. It also includes five years of audited financial reports. Go to the West Bend School District website [Budget/Finance page](#) for details.

# Mill Rate Remains Low

Wisconsin public school districts derive the vast majority of their revenue through two major sources: state aid and a local property tax levy. Under current Wisconsin law in place since 1993, there is a revenue limit, which is the total funds a Wisconsin public school district can receive from state aid and property taxes combined to be used for general, non-referendum debt, and capital expansion funds. The revenue limit is increased or decreased annually based on the state budget, student enrollment, and special exemptions.

In 2021-2022, the mill rate for the West Bend School District remained at \$7.97 for the fourth straight year. To determine the mill rate, the total tax levy is divided by the total equalized property values across all municipalities within the district. The quotient is multiplied by \$1,000 to determine the mill rate.

*State mill rate average (blue) vs. WBSD mill rate (green)*



## Debt Free in 2023...

The West Bend School District's tax levy for 2022-2023 will include funds for the final payments of the outstanding 2009 and 2012 referendum debt. This plan to pay off the debt early was part of the financial planning strategy by the West Bend School Board. In 2021, the bonds for the outstanding debt were refinanced to gain a lower interest rate, resulting in cost savings. In addition, monies from the tax levy were placed in an interest-bearing account for accelerated repayment. These strategies have resulted in reduced interest costs of approximately \$1,100,000 and repaying of the debt in 14 years (2009 referendum) and 11 years (2012 referendum) rather than the originally-estimated 20 years.



The West Bend School District greatly appreciates the financial effort extended by our communities to support the schools. Our staff works diligently to show our appreciation by working to develop great schools and great students while using resources wisely.



Exceeds  
Expectations

WBSD's 2020-2021 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Accountability Report Card rating was Exceeds Expectations.

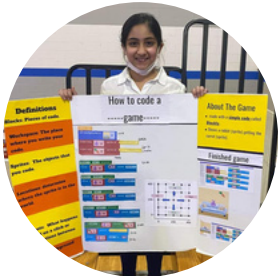
# Teaching and Learning

Through dedicated teachers and support staff, cutting-edge curriculum and tools, and a large variety of classes, West Bend School District students get foundational pieces to be prepared for their journey from high school into college and/or career success.

To establish excellent curriculum resources, the Teaching and Learning Department is committed to not only reviewing and recommending the best tools and resources for student learning, but also giving community members the opportunity to review potential resources.

At the elementary level, several times a year teachers and support staff collaborate to examine classroom outcomes and assessment data to adjust or solidify the academic plan for each student. Beginning in fifth grade, students can take a world language and choose from band, orchestra, or choir. They benefit from a house system that exposes students to several new teachers and friends. Career and Technical Education classes are offered at the middle school level as well as STEM and a variety of extra-curricular clubs and athletics.

Choices and opportunity are abundant at East and West High Schools including 24 Advanced Placement classes, Early College Credit and Start College Now programs, 29 transcribed credit courses, and a variety of work-based learning experiences. Career and Technical Education at East and West High Schools continues to grow. An EMT course in partnership with MPTC is new for 2022-2023, while enrollment in the classes increases each year.





# Student Services



Encompassing family support, nursing, psychology, school counseling, and special education, the West Bend School District's student services staff utilize great expertise to meet the varying needs of students and families.



Their goal is not complex: to ensure that all students are provided with the assistance and support they need to be successful. At times the challenges for students are complex and the work involves a variety of services, therefore collaboration is a valuable tool for staff to fully support students and families.



The West Bend School District is proud of the WBSD Way, a framework of supports designed to maximize academic engagement and achievement. The WBSD Way promotes and teaches the WBSD Way pillars:

- Be Safe,
- Be Ready,
- Be Respectful, and
- Be Responsible.



The WBSD Way and the district's social and emotional learning program work to help students be successful learners.





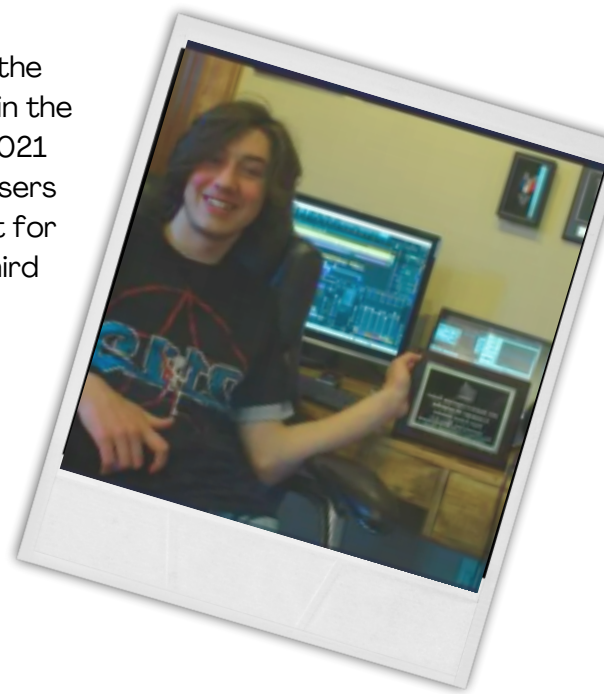
## Our Students

At the West Bend School District, we strive to meet the needs of all learners and provide them opportunities to examine a variety of interests and talents through a large number of academic choices, visual and performing arts, athletics, and co-curriculars and clubs. We also believe that succeeding in school means being happy at school. Dedicated teachers, administrators, support staff, and volunteers focus on creating a positive, happy place to learn.



Connor Markohn ('23) is quite the composer. He won first prize in the high school category of the 2021 Wisconsin Alliance for Composers Student Composition Contest for his vocal piece "Storm" and third place for his jazz composition "Par'lel Pizzazz." He was also selected to the 2022 Wisconsin School Music Association High School State Honors Mixed Choir.

Other students selected for the 2022 Wisconsin School Music Association State Honors Music Project choir and orchestra include Chloe Bauer ('26), Katelyn Mekka ('28), Lilly Beane ('25), Michael Collins ('23), and Owen Damkot ('24).



After winning the CESA 6 Regional Spelling Bee, Noah Becker ('26), competed against 56 other spelling bee winners at the State Spelling Bee and tied for 6th place.



**BADGER**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

The 24 AP classes offered at East and West High Schools provide opportunities for all students to take on a significant challenge that can result in great reward. From 2017-2021, East and West students have earned a potential 2,901-4,835 college credits while in high school.

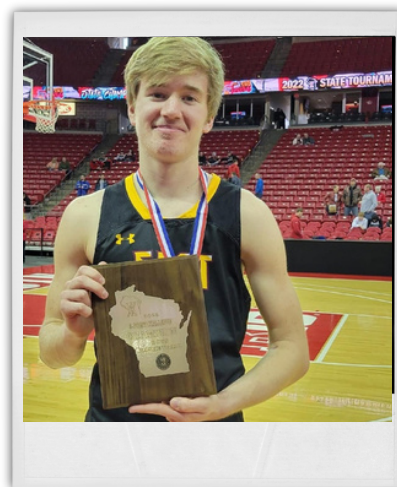


The first game played on the newly-remodeled Carl M. Kuss Field at Regner Park was between the West Bend East and West baseball teams on May 26

Briana Schauble ('24), a member of the East/West co-op snowboard team, won the state championship in snowboard boardercross.



Katie Gloyd ('24) has completed three novels, all of which have won awards from the Midwest Regional Competition of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Her latest novel is called *Freaks*. Learn more about Katie in our [WBSD News article](#).



Severin Hilt ('23) took his three-point sharpshooting to the state level by winning the WIAA three-point shooting contest. Severin was chosen to compete based on his season statistics.



## Student-Athletes Qualify for State

High school student-athletes qualifying for their respective state championships in 2021-2022 represented East/West Co-op boys and girls swim and dive, West boys cross country and wrestling, East boys cross country, East wrestling, East and West girls gymnastics, East and West boys bowling, East/West co-op snowboard, East and West dance, East/West co-op ski, East/West co-op Trail Sharks mountain biking, East and West boys and girls track and field, and East boys tennis.



"The Badgers" a sixth-grade Battle of the Books team at Silverbrook were state champions in the Battle of the Books competition. Emmory Kleiss, Emmeline Novack, Lannin Novack, and Isaac Jerich placed first out of 213 teams in the state.

Being one of the West 2022 valedictorians wasn't the only major accomplishment for Lexi Williams. She achieved a dream of attending Harvard University where she will begin her studies in August 2022.



Students who placed in the UWM-WC Festival of the Arts include:

- Bella Downs ('27) 1st Place and Best of Show in Collage/Prints
- Kayla Killey ('27) 2nd Place in Drawing
- Desirae Wollner ('22) 2nd Place in 3D/Ceramics and Jewelry
  - Favee Xiong ('23) 1st Place and Best of Show in Drawing
  - Grace Melstrand ('24) 1st Place in Painting
  - Norah Johnstone ('23) 2nd Place in Drawing
  - Matthew Moran ('22) 2nd Place in Painting
  - Jeanie Eisen ('24) 4th Place in Drawing.

## Numerous Scholarships Go to Deserving Students

The annual Scholarship Awards event at East and West High Schools provided a large number of scholarships from this generous community in the total of \$899,500. They went to 157 East and West seniors for post-secondary education at four-year and two-year colleges, universities, and technical schools. The total amount is an increase of more than \$66,000 from 2021.

West Bend West student Courtney Rummel ('22) qualified for her first Winter Olympics at just 18 years old. She competed in the snowboard big air and slopestyle competitions at the Olympics in Beijing, China.

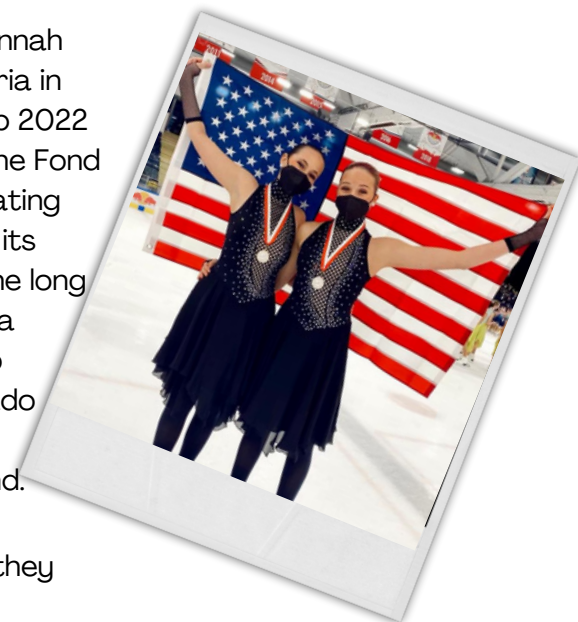


## Students Display their Expertise and Knowledge

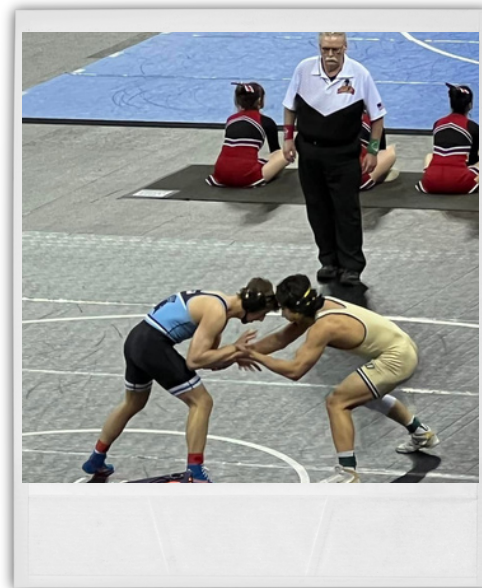
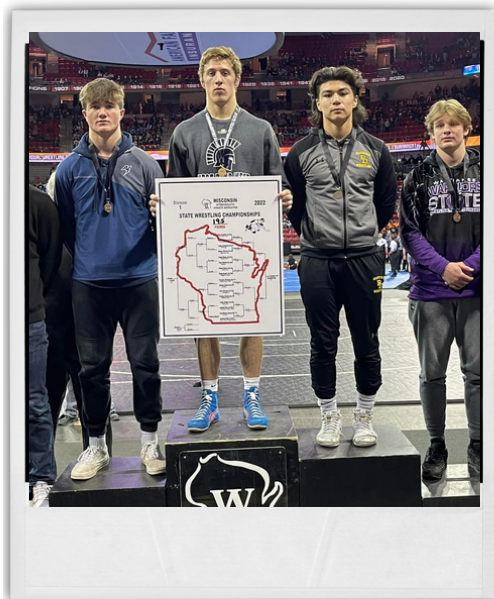
There are more than 35 co-curriculars and clubs available to students at East and West High School. This school year, teams of students placed at the Science Olympiad, Wisconsin Civics Games, speech and debate competitions, ADAMM Technicians of Tomorrow Automotive Skills Competition, Future Business Leaders of America championships, and the state ProStart culinary competition.



Figure skaters Izzy DeGroot ('22) and Hannah Andrews ('24) traveled to Salzburg, Austria in February to compete at the Mozart Cup 2022 as part of Team USA and members of the Fond du Lac Blades junior synchronized ice skating team. At the Mozart Cup, the team had its second highest score of the season in the long program to finish third overall and earn a bronze medal. Izzy and Hannah, who also competed at the U.S. nationals in Colorado Springs, are also members of the Kettle Moraine Figure Skating Club in West Bend.



Not only are they brothers, they are identical twins and elite wrestlers. Cole and Connor Mirasola ('24) of the West wrestling team, qualified for the WIAA State Wrestling Championships for the second year. In the finals, Connor went first at 182 lbs. and pinned his opponent in 27 seconds. Not to be outdone by his brother, when Cole was up at 195 pounds, he also won his match for a state title. Also competing at the WIAA Championships for West were Ethan Bast, Ben Bast (4th at 113 lbs), and Carter Lovy (6th at 152 lbs). For East, Kasey Gish was 3rd at 170 lbs.



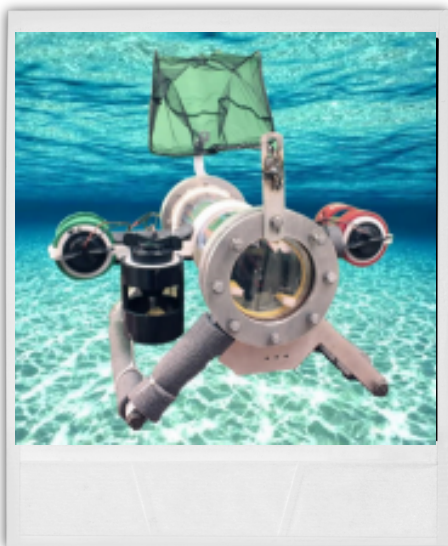
## Many Options to Grow an Interest

Choices to examine interests and learn in the process abound at Silverbrook Intermediate School and Badger Middle School. Whether it is intramurals at Silverbrook or athletic teams at Badger, competition is on the board. At Silverbrook, the variety of after-school clubs goes from American Sign Language to archery to drawing and band, orchestra, and choir clubs. Badger too offers so many choices from sewing, to art, to running, to chess. Go to the [Silverbrook](#) and [Badger](#) websites to learn more or contact the schools for details.

# Career and Technical Education

There is a pathway to success with the numerous Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses available to all students at Badger Middle School and East and West High Schools. Students can explore their career and personal interests with a wide variety of courses in Business and Information Technology, Family and Consumer Science, and Technology and Engineering.

By partnering with MPTC, students can earn post-secondary credits while still in high school. [Review more information on CTE.](#)



Remote Operated Vehicle (an underwater robotics competition), Skills USA, Bots IQ (Battlebots), Future Business Leaders of America, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, ADAMM Technicians of Tomorrow Automotive Skills Competition, and ProStart Culinary competitions are co-curriculars and clubs that offer a wealth of hands-on experience, problem solving skills, and competition. Over the years, hundreds of students have represented East and West well and gained immeasurable experiences.

See career clusters, detailed descriptions, course sequences, and more in the [West Bend High Schools Career and Course Planning Guide](#). This document is used by students to plan their high school courses.

Architect (interior, exterior, and landscape), plumber, art director, CNC machinist, graphic designer, automotive technician, engineer (mechanical, structural, electrical, civil, environmental, etc.), photographer, and robotic programmer are just a short list of the technology education career paths that begin at East and West High Schools.

[Review detailed information](#) on the many technology education courses and more at East and West.

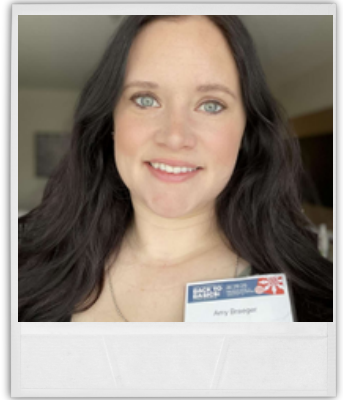


# Our Staff



Scott Mindel, a social studies teacher at East High School, was named 2022 Teacher of the Year by the American Legion Post 36. Mindel won the award for “his dedicated projects involving veterans programs at the high schools.” For several years, Mindel has created and updated a West Bend High School Veterans

Tribute video that includes the students and staff of East, West, and the old West Bend High School who have served in the military.



District Nurse Amy Braeger was invited to join the board of directors of the Wisconsin Association of School Nurses. Braeger has been the West Bend School District nurse for nearly six years.



Elementary girls are training for a 5k as part of their Girls on the Run Clubs. Melissa Bobinski and Chelsea Wolf of McLane Elementary started the first Girls on the Run Club in the WBSD in fall 2019 and now Kathy Baumann and September Bentley have joined as assistant coaches. In 21-22, Margaret Erdman, Jill Riffel, and Rebecca Janich started the club at Fair Park. The clubs train to run a 5K in November. Read more the WBSD News [Connections Through Physical Activity](#).



## Support Staff Awards

Five employees of the West Bend School District were chosen for 2022 Support Employee of the Year Awards. The awards recognize outstanding contributions to the district by people who are aides, custodians and maintenance workers, clerical workers, nutrition workers, or other office staff.

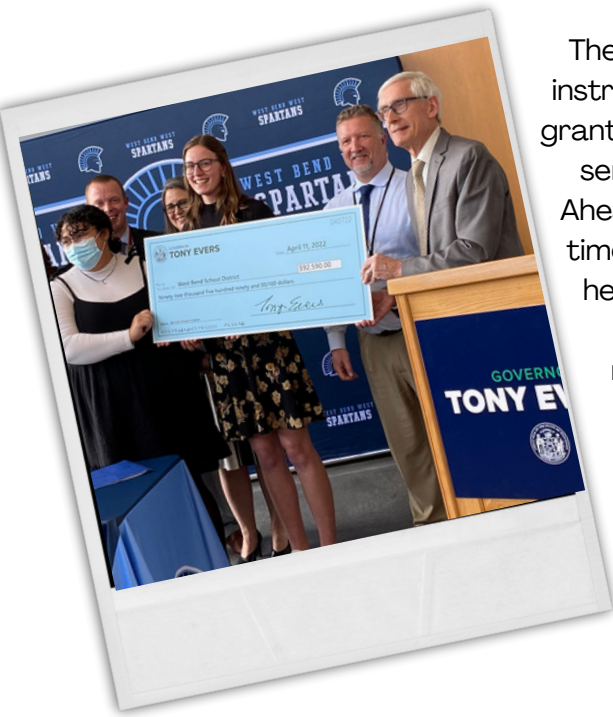
Winners include:

- Pam Adams, Jackson
- Tina Corazzi, Green Tree
- Josh Dahlen, McLane
- Ann Fichtner, Silverbrook
- Christie Seymer, East and West

## Rolf's Awards

The 51st Annual Rolf's Educational Foundation Awards were given to four dedicated employees of the West Bend School District for their many contributions to students, staff, and families. Each award comes with a \$1,000 gift. The 2022 awards were given during Staff Appreciation Week to:

- Stacy Baldwin, Silverbrook
- Craig Barnes, Jackson
- Amy Carver, Jackson
- Susan Saric, East and West



The Student Services staff were instrumental in earning a \$92,000 grant to be used for mental health services as part of the Get Kids Ahead initiative. The grant is one-time funding that can be used to help schools build or strengthen their capacity to support the mental health framework and needs of students. Our intent is to strengthen our comprehensive school mental health framework to make it even more effective and sustainable after the grant funds are used.

Staff from the Technology Department and teachers earned a \$14,000 grant from Project Lead the Way to offset the cost of implementing a Project Lead the Way AP Computer Science class beginning in 2023-2024. The three-year grant will cover participation fees and core teacher training.



Mark Drake, a social studies teacher for West, was selected to join the Teacher Advisory Council for the National Constitution Center. As part of the council, Drake can choose West

West science teacher Mitch Ziesemer earned the American Meteorological Society's Certified AMS Teacher designation after completing coursework and being engaged in raising earth science literacy. He was also appointed to the American Meteorological Society's Board on Pre-College Education.



and East students to participate in a virtual scholars program on the constitution.

The board seeks to promote pre-college education in science and mathematics, specifically through atmospheric, oceanic, and hydrological sciences.



Follow us on Instagram for details on events and accomplishments: @westbendschooldist.

In March 2022, a WBSD News article explained the numerous ways the high schools honor those who are currently serving or have formerly served in the military. That includes plaques, sculptures, and military signing day. Read [High Schools Honor Military Year Round](#).



Photograph courtesy of Wisconsin  
Capitol Photographer



The West Bend High Schools symphonic band performed at the Wisconsin State Capitol in May 2022.

To learn more about the West Bend School District and its schools, go to [west-bend.k12.wi.us](http://west-bend.k12.wi.us).

To get the West Bend School District Update newsletter via email, send information to [wbsd@wbsd-schools.org](mailto:wbsd@wbsd-schools.org).

To call a school or find staff member contact information, go to [Connect With Us](#) on the website.

# West Bend Joint School District #1

There is one Head Start building and six community-based 4K locations. There are five K-5 elementary schools, one 5-6 intermediate school, one 7-8 middle school, and two 9-12 high schools which are located in the same building. The West Bend School District includes the City of West Bend, Village of Jackson, Village of Newburg, and whole or parts of the Townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison, which is a total of 201 square miles.

Education Service Center  
735 S. Main Street  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-306-4800  
[west-bend.k12.wi.us](http://west-bend.k12.wi.us)  
Superintendent: Jen Wimmer



Decorah Elementary  
1225 Sylvan Way  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-335-5480  
[west-bend.k12.wi.us/des](http://west-bend.k12.wi.us/des)  
Principal: Adrienne Schneider



Fair Park Elementary  
519 Indiana Avenue  
West Bend, WI 53090  
262-335-5515  
[west-bend.k12.wi.us/fpes](http://west-bend.k12.wi.us/fpes)  
Principal: Tristan Hayes



Green Tree Elementary  
1330 Green Tree Road  
West Bend, WI 53090  
262-335-5520  
[west-bend.k12.wi.us/gtes](http://west-bend.k12.wi.us/gtes)  
Principal: Jennifer Potter



Jackson Elementary  
W204N16850 Jackson Dr.  
Jackson, WI 53037  
262-335-5475  
[west-bend.k12.wi.us/jes](http://west-bend.k12.wi.us/jes)  
Principal: Darci VanAdestine



McLane Elementary  
833 Chestnut Street  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-335-5490  
[west-bend.k12.wi.us/mes](http://west-bend.k12.wi.us/mes)  
Principal: Andy Kasik



Silverbrook Intermediate  
120 N. Silverbrook Drive  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-335-5500  
west-bend.k12.wi.us/sis  
Principal: Lance Roell  
Asst. Principal: Heather  
Geldnich



Badger Middle School  
727 S. 6th Ave.  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-335-5455  
west-bend.k12.wi.us/bms  
Principal: Dave Uelmen  
Asst. Principal: Tyler Wood



East High School  
1305 E. Decorah Road  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-335-5530  
west-bend.k12.wi.us/ehs  
Principal: John Graf  
Asst. Principal: Zach Daniels  
Asst. Principal: TBD



West High School  
1305 E. Decorah Road  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-335-5530  
west-bend.k12.wi.us/whs  
Principal: Ralph Schlass  
Asst. Principal: Jared Kiesow  
Asst. Principal: Lisa Paulin



Rolfs Education Center  
737 South 3rd Street  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-335-5471  
west-bend.k12.wi.us/elp  
4K/EC Administrator:  
Matt Durant  
Head Start Administrator:  
Jaime Malsom





West Bend School District  
Education Service Center  
735 S. Main Street  
West Bend, WI 53095  
262-306-4800

Teaching & Learning Department  
262-335-5408

Technology & Libraries Department  
262-335-5505

Business & Finance Department  
262-335-6193

Communications Department  
262-335-5459

Facilities & Operations Department  
262-335-6188

Health Services Department  
262-306-4488

Human Resources Department  
262-335-8313

Relationships & Engagement Department  
262-306-4800

School Nutrition Department  
262-335-5528

Student Services Department  
262-335-5425

Superintendent's Office  
262-335-5435

## **SCHOOL BOARD**

CHRIS ZWYGART, president  
[czywgart@wbsd-schools.org](mailto:czywgart@wbsd-schools.org)

NANCY JUSTMAN, vice president  
[njustman@wbsd-schools.org](mailto:njustman@wbsd-schools.org)

KURT REBHOLZ, treasurer  
[krebholz@wbsd-schools.org](mailto:krebholz@wbsd-schools.org)

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