The Laker

December 2025 | Issue 15 | Volume 58

West Bloomfield SCHOOL DISTRICT

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thank You, District Voters, For Your Support!

Thank you, West Bloomfield School District voters, for standing up for our students, staff and community. Your support during the November 4 election for the Sinking Fund shows what's possible when we stay united around one simple truth – our kids deserve our best and the best.

Our community chose unity, progress and the future of public education. Together, we're protecting our schools, strengthening our community and ensuring every child learns in a safe and inspiring environment.

I truly appreciate the expertise of our community partners, the Clerk's office in each of the municipalities that serve WBSD residents, election workers, and volunteers. Thank you to the following organizations for hosting polling locations: Covenant Baptist Church, Marshbank Park, Temple Israel, Waterford Oaks Activity Center, and West Bloomfield Township Public Library.

On Election Day, some of our buildings were polling locations, while others hosted professional development for hundreds of district employees. WBSD staff is focused on one common mission: to support each student's needs by providing the opportunities, experiences and educational tools for their journey, so that we can one day achieve our vision where each student is empowered for their life ahead as contributors, communicators, collaborators, and critical thinkers.

We look forward to continuing our momentum together.

Yours in Education,
Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 16 - WBMS Orchestra Concert at WBMS
December 17 - WBMS Choir Concert at WBMS
December 18 - WBMS Band Concert at WBMS
January 5 – Back to School
January 18 - United We Walk at WBMS
January 20 - Doherty & Sheiko Elementary Band/Orchestra/Choir Concert at WBMS
January 21 - Gretchko & Scotch Band/Orchestra/Choir Concert at WBMS
January 22 - District Kindergarten Info Night at WBMS
January 28 – WBMS Parent Info Night

LAKER News & Notes

Laker Opportunity CENTER

Students aged 16-22 across Michigan can enroll in Laker Opportunity Center for credit recovery and high school completion.

SAVE THE DATE!

2 p.m., Sunday, January 18, West Bloomfield Middle School, is the 32nd United We Walk event with the theme "One Dream, One World, One Walk." This is three events in one: 2 p.m. program celebrating peace and unity with Keynote Speaker Kenneth Gutman, superintendent at Oakland Schools; 3 p.m. walk with drumline, then community service and children's activities. In inclement weather the walk will be held inside the school. Scan the QR code for more information.

A million reasons to support WBEF: West Bloomfield Educational Foundation (wbef.org) has raised over a million dollars to date to provide educational programming in our classrooms, and to help buy state-of-the-art technology. This fall, they presented 42 grants to teachers. Sponsorships and tickets are now on sale for the Kentucky Derby Gala! Join us for a night of fun and fundraising, all in true Derby style!

Check out WBSD Community Education for after-school programming! More information at https://wbsdec.ce.eleyo.com/

FREE ADMISSION FOR RESIDENTS 65+

Laker Senior Gold Cards are available for West Bloomfield School District residents aged 65 and above so they may attend plays, athletic games and musical performances free of charge. Cards are available at district schools and the ACS Office at 5810 Commerce Road.

THIS JUST IN!

Genevie Good, Oakland Early College senior, was named a Commended Student in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program!

Left OEC Teacher Mrs. Wieland, right Genevie Good

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE GRADES 6-8

FIRST Tech Challenge students work together with their parent coaches and mentors to design and build dynamic robots to compete in an exciting game released every September. On and off the field, students develop STEM skills, engage in community outreach, practice engineering innovation, and build confidence to help them succeed. The game theme for 2025-2026 is DECODE. WB Robotics fundraiser is every second Wednesday of the month now through May at The Lodge in Keego Harbor. Twenty percent of all purchases will be donated to WB Robotics, bring this in!

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Matthew Williams II, a fifth grader at Gretchko Elementary. He placed third at the MLB's Pitch Hit & Run Competition during the World Series in Toronto, Ontario!

WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION 1 FIVE-YEAR RECAP

Our district supports 38 sports programs, and we are proud of how they've performed over the years.

Here's a refresher for you:

2025
WBHS Boys Cross Country was the OAA Blue Championship

WBHS Girls Golf won the OAA Gold Championship

2024 Division 1 Girls Basketball State Champions

2023 MIHS Co-Ed Figure Skating State Champions

2022 Division 1 Girls Basketball State Champions

2022 MHSSA Girls Snowboarding State Champions

2020 Division 1 State Football Champions

Elizabeth Eichbrecht broke the MHSAA state record in the 500 Free with a time of 4:43.80. Elizabeth is currently a senior at WBHS.

We are proud of all our athletes, and we appreciate the support you give them every year!

TOPPING OUT CEREMONY AT THE NEW SHEIKO ELEMENTARY ON WALNUT LAKE ROAD

The final steel beam was placed, symbolizing the completion of the building's structural frame and the teamwork that made it possible. Thank you to our construction partners, architects and district team members for your dedication, collaboration and hard work in bringing this vision to life.

Each beam represents progress toward a beautiful, modern learning environment for our students and community. We can't wait to see this project continue to take shape – the best is yet to come!

BOARD OF EDUCATION Progress Report

Together, we embody what it means to be Lakers—driven by purpose, unity, and a shared commitment to excellence. The progress highlighted in this report is a testament to our collective dedication to fostering academic growth and creating endless opportunities for every learner. Like a crew rowing in rhythm toward a common horizon, we continue to build learning environments where curiosity ignites, achievement shines, and every student is inspired to reach their fullest potential.

Stacy Brickman
President, Board of Education

ACADEMICS

STEAM

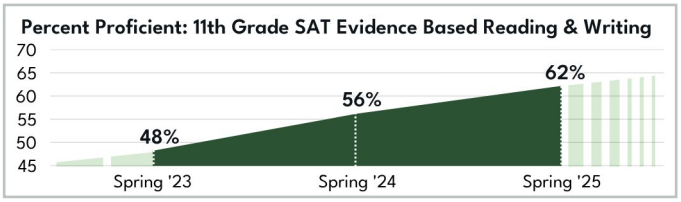
K-12 programming in STEAM continues to grow, ensuring that WB students have access to innovative programming that connects Science, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. In fact, across all grade levels, the district utilizes Project Lead the Way curricular resources to create a highly engaging experience.

EL Education

The West Bloomfield School District is proud to launch EL Education as the new K-5 literacy curricular resource. This knowledge-building resource integrates science and social studies concepts, helping students deepen understanding through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Each elementary student now receives 120 minutes of daily literacy instruction that blends whole-group lessons with differentiated support—ensuring all learners grow as readers, writers, and thinkers.

SECONDARY SAT GROWTH

West Bloomfield High School's focus on data-driven instruction is yielding strong results. Over the past three years, the percentage of students proficient on the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing section has increased by 14% since 2023. This growth reflects the school and district's commitment to continuous improvement, targeted support, and ensuring every student is prepared for success beyond high school.



LEVELING UP IN MATH

West Bloomfield is opening doors of opportunity for our young mathematicians! Our Level Up Math program gives students in grades 1-5 the chance to learn one grade level ahead, setting them on a path toward Algebra 1 in 8th grade and AP Calculus in high school. Since 2024-25, participation has grown 47% in elementary and 14% in middle school. This is proof that opportunity and challenge are multiplying!

PERFORMING ARTS GROWTH

Three years ago, our district began offering 5th grade students the choice to participate in Band, Orchestra, or Choir. Since that time, our secondary performing arts programs are reaping the benefits. All performing arts programs have experienced significant growth over the past three years, with overall enrollment increasing by 25-40% when compared to the 2024-2025 school year. Besides the quantitative improvement in enrollment, the "head start" in 5th grade for band, orchestra, and choir has meant some programs are able to begin the 7th grade curriculum while still in 6th grade.

NUTRITION & WELLNESS

GROWING MINDS & GROWING FOOD

Sheiko Elementary School is cultivating curiosity and lettuce! The school operates two Fork Farms Flex Farms, indoor vertical hydroponic systems that allow students to grow fresh lettuce right in the lunchroom. Students are learning about the stages of plant growth, sustainability, and healthy eating. Once harvested, they get to enjoy the fruits—or leaves—of their labor.

YES, CHEF!

Chef Jesse and Food Service Director Andrea Grobe visited Doherty Elementary School to demonstrate fresh fruit and vegetable recipes, including **Roasted Root Veggie Chowder** and a sweet potato dessert. The student taste testers gave it rave reviews. Check out the recipe link:

WBSD.org/departments/nutrition-services

Fall 2025 Recipe Card

FINANCE

Voters approved a Sinking Fund Replacement on November 4th, ensuring $3.2M annually to support

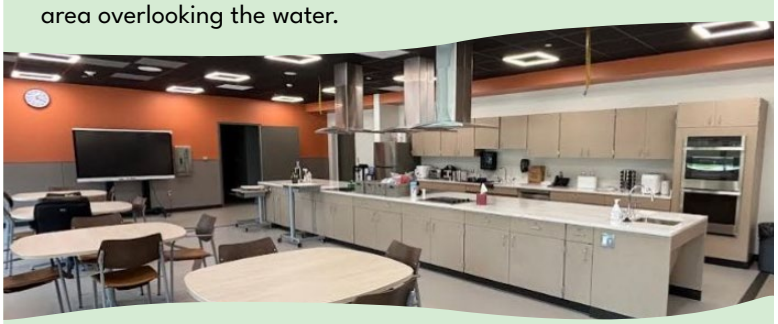
- Facility and infrastructure improvements
- Safety and security measures
- Technology devices and infrastructure

WBSD maintained a balanced budget with a clean and unmodified finding on our financial audit. District's fund balance as a percentage of total expenditures is 22.6% at June 30, 2025.

DOHERTY ELEMENTARY DESIGNS

Designs have been completed for Doherty, featuring Great Laker Wilderness themes for an engaging educational environment that immerses students in Michigan's rich natural heritage, fostering a deep appreciation for the world around them.

Two stories of classrooms include abundant natural light accompanied by advanced safety features and a secure playground area overlooking the water.



ADULT TRANSITION CLASSROOM

Kitchen, bathroom, and shared learning spaces were completed for Adult Transition students to practice life skills.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION & S.T.E.A.M. ADDITION AT WBHS ADVANCES EDUCATION

Designs have been completed, featuring abundant natural light, engineering workspaces, robotics lab, and a gaming space for hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math.

WBHS ALUM SPOTLIGHT ON Eddie Grantling Class of 2021

What advice do you have for current students?

My advice to current students is to take every learning opportunity seriously, whether it's in school, at OSTC or through hands-on experience. Even if you're not sure of your exact career path yet, focus on building skills and work habits that will serve you anywhere – like showing up on time, staying curious and taking pride in your work.

Education comes in many forms, and sometimes real-world experience can teach you lessons that are just as valuable as what you learn in the classroom. Stay motivated, ask questions and don't be afraid to start early – your effort now will pay off later.

How did you hear about OSTC Campus, and how long did you attend?

I heard about OSTC through my high school, West Bloomfield High School, and I attended the Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing program during my junior and senior years. I took the bus from WBHS to OSTC each day. The experience was definitely worth it – I gained hands-on experience with robotics, hydraulics, pneumatics, and other engineering technologies that helped me feel confident entering the workforce right after graduation.

I'm still in touch with a few classmates from OSTC, and it's great to see many of them also working in skilled trades or technical careers.

How did WBHS help you on your current path?

West Bloomfield High School helped me by giving me a strong academic foundation and connecting me with OSTC, which set me up for success in the automotive industry. WBHS teachers encouraged me to explore my interests in engineering and hands-on learning, and that motivation carried over to my career at Detroit Diesel Corporation.

The support and opportunities I had at WBHS taught me to work hard, manage my time and take pride in my accomplishments – skills that have been essential in my professional life. Not to add, I did all this during COVID.

Photo courtesy of Detroit Diesel Corporation

OaklandSchools
TECHNICAL CAMPUSES

Do you know a WBHS alum to be featured? Reach out to andrea.frank@wbsd.org.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

Did you know our weekly updates are translated into 42 languages based on family preference, and we have over 60 languages spoken in our schools? We work diligently to ensure all families feel welcome and included in our school community.

Adults interested in learning English are encouraged to call (248) 539-2390 or email melissa.mcdonald@wbsd.org for information. The next classes run January 5-April 30. Call today to register.

West Bloomfield
PRESCHOOL ACADEMY

POP UP & PLAY

PRESCHOOL INFO NIGHT

Children are welcome to attend!

MARCH 18
6-7 P.M.

Where playing is learning!

ON-SITE ENROLLMENT

- Meet Caring Staff
- Flexible Scheduling & Programs
- 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1
  4 year old Preschool is FREE!

Meeting location: West Bloomfield School District
5810 Commerce Rd., West Bloomfield
(corner of Commerce & Hiller)
For More Info Call (248) 865-6466

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.

December 15 - Board Meeting
January 12 - Board Study Session
January 26 - Board Meeting
February 9 - Board Study Session
February 23 - Board Meeting
March 9 - Board Study Session
March 23 - Board Meeting
April 6 - Board Study Session
April 20 - Board Meeting
May 4 - Board Study Session
May 18 - Board Meeting
June 1 - Board Study Session
June 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