



# BEAR'S BULLETIN

GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE  
GO EXPLORE GO GRADUATE GO  
GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE  
GO EXPLORE GO GRADUATE GO



WELCOME TO THE  
SPRING 2026 EDITION

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/isd624

FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE  
AREA SCHOOLS

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

*Education, opportunity and connection*

As we dive into 2026, our schools are bustling with activity – and if you follow our social media pages or YouTube channel, you've likely seen the energy firsthand. Our weekly video series, The Week in 62.4 Seconds, offers a quick glimpse into the vibrant learning happening across the district. From engaging science experiments and meaningful collaborations with community partners to creative projects that showcase our students' artistic talents, these snapshots capture the heart of our classrooms and hallways.

Amid all this learning, students are also planning for what comes next in their educational journeys. This is an especially exciting time for everyone from our incoming early childhood and kindergarten families to our middle and high school students. While it's hard to believe registration for the 2026-27 school year is already underway, families have been busy exploring our registration guides and discussing which courses and programs will be the best fit for their children's unique interests and goals.

*Continued on page III*

*Join us for 2026-27!*

Find complete enrollment information - for students registering for all levels - at [www.isd624.org/enroll!](http://www.isd624.org/enroll!) (or scan QR code at right)



### TRANSLATIONS

Para Español por favor  
llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob  
hu rau 651-407-7623

FLIP TO SEE  
COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION &  
RECREATION  
CATALOG

Residential Customer  
\*\*\*ECRWSS EDDM\*\*\*

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit #183

White Bear Lake Area School District  
Community Education & Recreation Department  
2399 Cedar Avenue  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

**School Board Meetings**

March 2 .....Regular Meeting  
 March 23..... Work Session  
 April 13 .....Regular Meeting  
 April 27 ..... Work Session  
 May 11 .....Regular Meeting  
 May 18 ..... Work Session  
 June 8 .....Regular Meeting  
 July 13.....Regular Meeting  
 August 10 .....Regular Meeting  
 August 24 ..... Work Session

- » Board meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Sunrise Park
- » Agendas, Board Packets, Minutes, Highlights and Video links are posted on the District’s website as they become available.
- » Regular School Board meetings are re-broadcast on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area the week of a regular business meeting:
  - Wed. at 2 p.m., 6 p.m. & 9 p.m.
  - Thurs. at 10 a.m.

**2025-26 District 624 School Board**



**SCOTT ARCAND**  
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 Term expires 12/31/28



**ANGELA THOMPSON**  
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 Term expires 12/31/26



**KATHLEEN DANIELS**  
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 Term expires 12/31/26



**JESSICA ELLISON**  
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 Term expires 12/31/26



**DAN SKAAR**  
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 Term expires 12/31/28



**CHRISTINA STREIFF OJI**  
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 Term expires 12/31/26

**GENERAL SCHOOL BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS:**  
[schoolboard@isd624.org](mailto:schoolboard@isd624.org)

**2025-26 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:**

- Tom Reese, Gr 12  
 WBLAHS, Representative
- Lily Johnson, Gr 11  
 WBLAHS, Alternate Representative

**Understanding the Role of School Board**

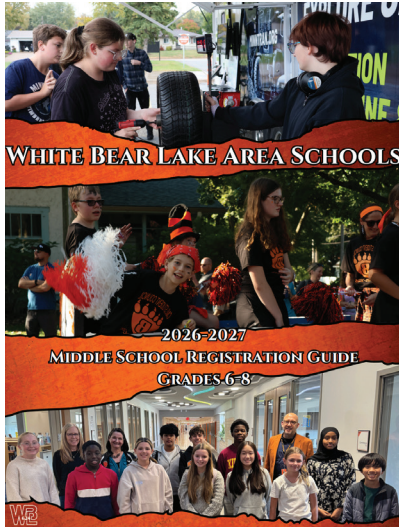
In our district, voters elect school board members to represent the interests of all citizens and students. The board’s primary responsibility is to supervise and evaluate one employee -- the superintendent. Working in consultation with the board, the superintendent serves as the district’s chief administrator, overseeing all operations across schools and departments.

Like many school districts nationwide, White Bear Lake Area Schools operates under a policy governance model. This means the school board sets direction by adopting policies that outline the principles guiding district management. The superintendent and administrative team then develop specific regulations and recommendations to support and carry out those policies.

While board members exchange ideas and debate issues, once a vote is taken, all members speak with a single voice. This unified stance ensures clarity and consistency in the direction given to district leaders and staff.

Community members often approach the board with issues they care deeply about, but under policy governance, the board focuses on defining what the district provides, to whom, why, and at what cost — not how. The “how” belongs to the superintendent and administration.

Ultimately, the board’s role is to interpret the community’s needs, consider all perspectives, and make decisions in the best interest of students and the broader district. By practicing policy governance, the White Bear Lake Area School Board fulfills its key purpose: serving as a united, though not always unanimous, governing body for the community it represents.



*Continued from cover*

For our youngest learners, the district offers a variety of ways to personalize the educational experience – from half-day and full-day early childhood programs to neighborhood elementary schools and specialized districtwide options like International Baccalaureate (IB) and Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion. Each of these pathways provides students with distinct opportunities to grow academically, socially, and culturally.

Middle school and high school students are also making pivotal choices that help shape their future paths. With hundreds of courses to choose from – ranging from core academics and the arts to hands-on Career Pathways and college-level classes – students can explore their passions, challenge themselves, and bridge the gap between classroom learning and their life goals beyond graduation.

The district's Annual Update, shared with the community in December, highlighted many of the successes happening across our schools. Thanks to innovative programs, rigorous instruction, and strong relationships between staff and students, the majority of our students are exceeding expected academic growth.

High school students continue to take advantage of opportunities to earn college credit while in high school. Last year alone, White Bear Lake Area High School students earned college credits valued at \$4.3 million. With 47 college-level courses taught right at WBLAHS, students are not only challenging themselves academically but also helping their families save on future tuition costs.

The district's commitment to being a strong steward of community resources remains clear. White Bear Lake Area Schools has earned financial reporting awards for 25 consecutive years and continues to build and maintain strong partnerships throughout the community.

As we move further into 2026, we are proud to be an integral part of this vibrant and supportive community. Every success we celebrate – whether it's a student's first day of kindergarten, a musical performance, or a high school student earning college credit – reflects the shared dedication of our families, staff, and community members who make White Bear Lake Area Schools a great place to learn and grow.

We are proud of the work happening each day in our schools, and we remain grateful for the support of a community that values education, opportunity, and connection.

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent

### *2026-27 and 2027-28 Calendars Approved*

The School Board recently approved the 2026-27 Academic Calendar and the 2027-28 Academic Calendar.

Both approved calendars include start dates prior to Labor Day, which falls later than usual in both 2026 and 2027. The earlier start provides several benefits, including four instructional days before Labor Day with a four-day holiday weekend, and an earlier end to the school year – June 4, 2027, and June 2, 2028 – rather than mid-June.

In addition to the calendar shift, the late-August start allows for more instructional time before state testing and better alignment of trimester transitions with natural breaks, reducing interruptions in learning. It also allows for better scheduling for extended school year programs for students with special needs and staff.

The approved calendars are available on the district's website at [www.isd624.org/about/calendar](http://www.isd624.org/about/calendar).

# WE ARE HIRING!

Find info at [isd624.org/employment](http://isd624.org/employment)

Competitive wages / On the job training  
 Chance to work near home / Flexible work hours  
 Opportunity for: benefits, time off, holidays  
 Make a difference for kids in your community



## Digital Backpack

The district's Community Education and Recreation Department distributes electronic flyers from the school district, as well as local organizations that offer opportunities for youth, on the first and third Thursday of each month.

The Digital Backpack and submission instructions can be found at [communityservices.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack](http://communityservices.isd624.org/about/digital-backpack)



## Requesting an Interpreter

Families and community members can request that a district staff member call them through the use of an interpreter who speaks the language they speak.

Information about how to make the request can be found in text and audio translations, in all languages spoken by students in the district, on the district website or at the QR code below:



## Stay Connected

- **E-Newsletter**

The Community e-Newsletter is sent out each week, with alternating text and video editions. Text editions cover student and staff successes, school and Community Education offerings, and School Board proceedings. Request to be added to the recipient list by sending an email to us at [communications@isd624.org](mailto:communications@isd624.org).

- **Construction Updates**

Find updates about the construction projects happening throughout the district at [isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture](http://isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture).

- **Stay Social**

Join the district's social media circles - Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for daily 624 Fact posts and weekly video share-outs. Find links on the District's website.

## FREE Senior Activity Pass

More than 1,000 Senior community members (those who are age 65+) who live in the District participate in the Lifetime Activity Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities.

To request a pass, find the application at [isd624.org/SeniorActivityPass](http://isd624.org/SeniorActivityPass) and your pass will be mailed to you. If you have questions, please contact Rachael Markuson at 651-407-7563 or by email at [rachael.markuson@isd624.org](mailto:rachael.markuson@isd624.org).



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

## Building Our Future

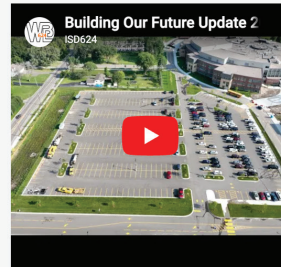
The district's Building Our Future website page has a new addition – the 2025 video update. These project highlights have been pulled together each year, going back to 2020. The set of videos showcases the construction journey we've taken – and it's fun to see just how far we've come!

Thank you to the White Bear Lake Area Schools community for supporting the 2019 bond referendum that made these facilities improvements possible. Our students, families and community will benefit from the projects for years to come.

2025 Update



2024 Update



2023 Update



2022 Update



2021 Update



2020 Update



## Projects made possible by the community's support of the 2019 Building Our Future bond referendum:

### Completed

- Area Learning Center Phase 1
- Lincoln, Matoska, Vadnais Heights and Willow Lane Elementaries Updates
- Transportation Facility
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 1 Gym Addition
- Birch Lake, Lakeaires, and Otter Lake Elementaries Updates
- North Star Elementary
- WBLAHS - South Campus Phase 2 Addition
- Area Learning Center Phase 2
- Oneka Elementary Updates
- Mariner Middle School
- Central Middle School Phase 1 Updates
- White Bear Lake Area High School
- District Service Center and School Board at Sunrise Park
- Mariner Middle School HVAC Improvements
- Central Middle School Phase 2 Updates
- Senior Center at Sunrise Park

### Ready for Fall 2026

- Early Childhood Center and Transition Education Center (TEC) at Sunrise Park



Information about the district's facilities projects, including construction details about individual projects, videos and presentations, can be found at [isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture](https://isd624.org/BuildingOurFuture).

## Spring 2026 District Theatre Performances

Schools throughout the district are performing on stage this spring. Find details for elementary school productions on a News post on the district website, [www.isd624.org](http://www.isd624.org), and mark your calendar for these middle school and high school productions:

### Middle School Musical (Central & Mariner students)

#### Matilda Jr.

7 p.m. April 23 & 24

1 p.m. April 25

Central Middle School Community Auditorium

Tickets will be available later this spring.

### White Bear Lake Area High School

#### Spring Musical:

#### Dear Evan Hansen: The Broadway Musical

April 9-12

WBLAHS PAC

Tickets will be available later this spring.

#### Full Length Play:

#### Pride & Prejudice

May 21-23

WBLAHS Original Theater

Tickets will be available later this spring.



Community members are invited to stop by for an informal chat with Superintendent Kazmierczak over a cup of coffee for the last of three events that have taken place this school year:

- May 5, 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Downtown WBL Caribou Coffee



## June 25 - Spirit Night

Stop by the district's Marketfest booth on Thursdays this summer in Downtown White Bear Lake!

AND - wear orange and join us for an "Orange Out" photo at 6:30 p.m. on June 25! We're sponsoring WBLAS Spirit Night, filling 4th Street with activities and student groups.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- » **MARCH 9-13**  
NO SCHOOL  
(Spring Break)
- » **MAY 5**  
COFFEE WITH DR. K  
7:30-8:30 a.m. at Downtown WBL Caribou Coffee
- » **MAY 25**  
NO SCHOOL, DISTRICT OFFICES CLOSED  
(Memorial Day)
- » **JUNE 2**  
TEC GRADUATION CEREMONY  
12:30 p.m. at Central Middle School Auditorium
- » **JUNE 3**  
ALC GRADUATION CEREMONY  
6 p.m. at WBLAHS PAC
- » **JUNE 4**  
WBLAHS GRADUATION CEREMONY  
7 p.m. at WBLAHS Stadium (outdoor ceremony)
- » **JUNE 5**  
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- » **THURSDAYS, JUNE 18 - JULY 30**  
DISTRICT BOOTH AT MARKETFEST  
Downtown WBL
- » **AUGUST 31**  
2026-27 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: 6 & 9
- » **SEPTEMBER 1**  
2026-27 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: 1-5, 7-8 & 10-12+
- » **SEPTEMBER 2**  
2026-27 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: K
- » **SEPTEMBER 4 & 7**  
NO SCHOOL
- » **SEPTEMBER 8**  
2026-27 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: EC

# GO DISCOVER.

EVER GO EMPOWER GO EXCEL GO EXPLORE GO IGNITE GO INNOVATE  
GO PERFORM GO SUCCEED GO BEARS GO ACHIEVE GO GRADUATE



**FALL '26 KINDERGARTEN  
ENROLLMENT IS  
NOW OPEN!**



## WHY BE A BEAR?

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

*Design Your Future.  
Create Your Success.*

**Int'l Baccalaureate (IB)  
& Elementary Spanish  
Dual Immersion  
programs available!**

FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE  
AREA SCHOOLS

   /isd624

White Bear Lake Area Schools