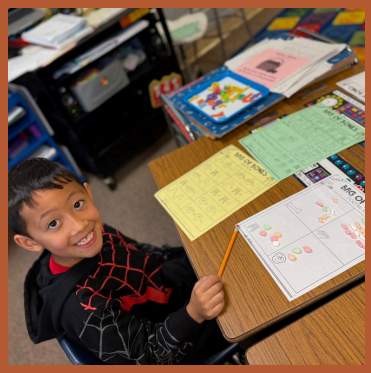






Vantage Point

West Bend School District Highlights 2025-2026

WB

WEST BEND
JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1





Dr. Jen Wimmer, Superintendent

Welcome to Vantage Point, a yearbook of highlights from the West Bend School District for the 2025-2026 school year. From the first day of the school year to the final bell, the 2025–2026 school year was filled with moments that remind us why this community and the incredible students at the heart of it are so special. Whether on the stage, in the classroom, on the field or the court, our students showed up in the most inspiring ways. To our students: Your curiosity, creativity, and determination made this a school year worth celebrating. You tackled challenges, discovered new passions, cheered each other on, and grew in ways that will carry you far beyond the school hallways.

To our teachers, coaches, support staff, and administrators: Your dedication goes far beyond the hours on the clock. You build relationships, spark potential, and show up every single day for the students and families who count on you.

And to our families and community partners: Your support makes all the difference. From volunteering and attending events, to cheering from the stands and trusting us with your children each day; thank you for your support. As you view Vantage Point, I hope you feel the pride and joy that defined this school year.

Jennifer Wimmer, Superintendent, West Bend School District

Table of Contents

02 Superintendent Message

03 Table of Contents
Jackson Logo Gets a Makeover

04 Student & Staff Achievements

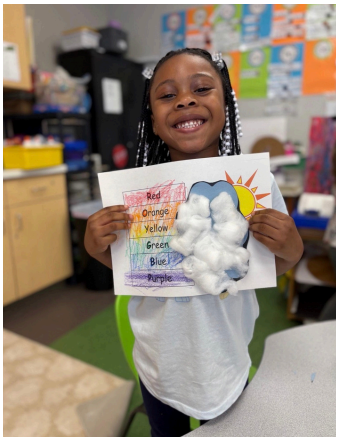
07 Financial Responsibility

10 High Schools Configuration

11 Construction Update

15 Academic & Behavior Highlights











Jackson Logo and Mascot Get a Makeover

In the year leading up to moving into a new building, staff, students, and families of Jackson Elementary School agreed it was time to give the school logo and mascot, JJ the Jaguar, a makeover. Working with an engaged committee and a talented graphic designer, JJ got a great makeover that updates his look.



JACKSON
JAGUARS

Student & Staff Achievments



ACT Accomplishments

11

Eleven students from East and West High Schools scored 33 or higher on the ACT in March 2025. Noah Becker scored a perfect 36. Students include: Anna Popp (West), Amelia Riley (East), Madeline Hesse (East), Olivia Friedemann (West), and Ryleigh Herbert (West). Back row, left to right: Benjamin Sajdak (East), Connor Kohlhaas (East), Jack Davis (West), Noah Becker (West), and Elliot Weber (West), Beckett Thill (East).

High Honors for Golfers





The Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin recognized Hailee Hammer and Sammie Delaney of the East/West Co-op Girls Golf Team as 2025 Academic All-State honorees. To earn the honor, the student-athlete must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher and had participated in at least 75 percent of their team's varsity competitions during the 2025 season.

3.25



Singers in All-State Event

Eight Silverbrook Intermediate School choir students participated in the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association annual all-state choir performance. Photo left to right: Lydia McKuen, Paityn Spaeth, Rilee Weber, Sophia Herdeman, Joni Lenzo, Emelia Moebius, Amelia Wicks, and McKenna Boisvert.

8

3

The East High School dance team took third in Division 4 Pom at the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches state competition in La Crosse.





1

Miles Riemer, an eighth grade student at Badger, took first place in the CESA 6 Regional Spelling Bee, advancing to the state spelling bee.

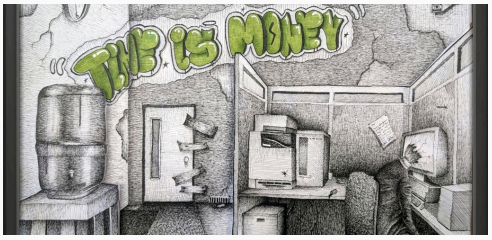
Student & Staff Achievments

5









High School Artists Recognized

A very prestigious and long-running recognition program for creative teens has awarded five East students with art awards. The 2026 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards recognized:

- Willow Lindoerfer, Honorable Mention, Ceramics & Glass
- Tatiyana Patrick, Gold Key, Drawing and Honorable Mention, Drawing
- Allison Wagner, two Honorable Mentions, Painting
- Rose Ziemer, Silver Key, Drawing and Silver Key, Illustration
- Vincent Zirbes, Gold Key, Drawing, Gold Key, Ceramics & Glass, and Silver Key, Drawing

Math Masters

Eleven Badger students and two Silverbrook students competed as a team at the Milwaukee Chapter Mathcounts competition at UW-Milwaukee, finishing fifth. Mathcounts is a nationwide math competition for middle school students.

13



Bowlers Excel

The East Boys Bowling team and Jared Becker of the West Boys Bowling team qualified to compete at the BCAW High School Bowling Club State Championships.





1

FBI Academy Rep.

East freshman Evan Kemps was selected to be the Wisconsin representative for the FBI National Academy Youth Leadership Camp in Quantico, Virginia. Only one student per state is chosen.

Boys Swim and Dive at State

10

The West Bend High Schools Boys Swimming and Diving team finished 10th at the WIAA State Championships. Drew Gundrum took third in the 100 meter freestyle and fourth in the 100 meter backstroke. The 200 meter medley relay team of Wesley Aleithe, Drew Gundrum, Colton Multerer, and Jay Paruch took fourth.

Student & Staff Achievments



Snowboarding at State

2

At the 2026 WIARA State Snowboard Championships, Gavin Schauble took second overall after finishing first in Slalom, second in Boardercross, and 12th in Giant Slalom.

Wrestler Places at State



3

At the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Championships, junior Jack Lubinski finished 3rd at 113 lbs.



Figure Skater Competes on International Stage

West junior Moira Andrews, a member of the Fond du Lac Blades synchronized figure skating team, represented the USA at two international competitions. The team competed in the Netherlands for the Lumiere Cup and in Poland at the Hevelius Cup and brought home the bronze medal.

2



11

Musical Award Nominations & Awards

The cast and crew of the West Bend High Schools production of SIX, The Musical received 11 Jerry Award nominations, which recognize and honor excellence in high school musical theater. The production won three Jerry Awards. East junior Bella Downs received a Spirit Award, which is a specific honor given to cast members, stage crew, or student directors who display outstanding passion, positivity, and dedication to their theater community. Also winning Jerry Awards were production staff Rich Hawthorne for Outstanding Scenic Design and Blaine Rakowski for Outstanding Lighting Design.

Student & Staff Achievments



Author of Recycled Wins Award

Fifth-grader Brennen Zaeske tied for first place in the fifth-grade category for his book *Recycled* in the State of Wisconsin 2026 Mary Jo Nettesheim Literary Competition sponsored by the Wisconsin State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma. Brennen's book was one of 773 books submitted.

Two Are "Exceptional" Musicians

At the Wisconsin School Music Association's Solo and Ensemble event, the judges select the two most exceptional performances, which is a way to expand recognition of outstanding performers at the State Solo & Ensemble Festival. There were nine West Bend High School students nominated among band and choir, and Grace Last (french horn) and Riley Tanner (parade drum) received the awards.



Excel Champion

Mason Indiraraj, a senior at West, is the Wisconsin State Champion in Microsoft Excel, taken as part of the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification program. This achievement reflects exceptional technical skill, dedication, and mastery of one of the most in-demand tools in today's professional world. Mason went on to place third in the national championship and received a $1,000 scholarship.

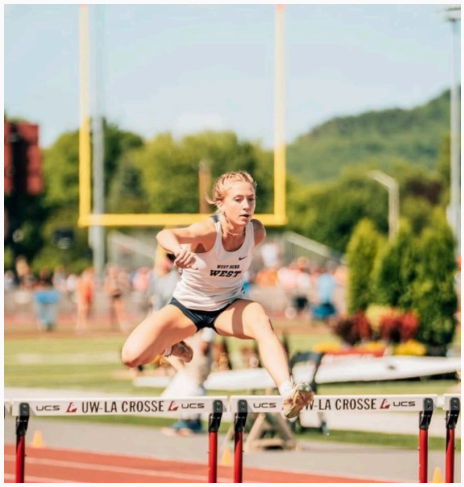


Financial Responsibility

School funding is shaped by many factors including revenue limits, state equalization aid, vouchers, and local property taxes. Although school funding decisions are made throughout the year, they often come into focus for community members when property tax bills arrive each December.

To help keep our community informed, **WBSDfunding.org** provides clear information about how school funding works and the intentional steps the West Bend School District has taken to maintain a strong, sustainable financial future despite ongoing funding challenges. We invite you to explore the site to learn more about the district's commitment to responsible financial stewardship.

Student & Staff Achievments



Faehling is State Champion

West senior Rylee Faehling made her mark on the WIAA State Track and Field Championships. She not only won the 300M hurdles, becoming the state champion, she did so with the second fastest time in state history. Rylee also finished third in the 100M hurdles and fourth in the long jump. In the 4 x 200M relay, she and her teammates Sloan Godbout, Katie Hutchins, and Sarah Hutchins took fifth. In addition, Sarah Hutchins was 13th in the 200M and 18th in the 100M.



Relay Breaks School Record at State

For the West boys competing at the state track and field championships, the 4 x 800M relay team of Carter Hackman, Ethan Hackman, Matthew Krawzik, and Cade Wanie took 11th with a new school record. Cade Wanie took 12th in the 1600M, Bradley Frank 19th in the high jump, and Carter Hackman was 19th in the 800M.

West Wins First All Sports Cup

West High School won the inaugural Glacier Trails Conference All Sports Cup. The high school with the most conference team titles receives the cup. West won six conference team titles in boys cross country, volleyball, boys swim and dive, boys tennis, boys track and field, and baseball.

Band Students in State Music Project

Two West Bend High Schools band students were chosen for the Wisconsin State Honors Music Project, a prestigious, nationally-recognized program organized by the Wisconsin School Music Association. Izzy Fink (junior hornist) and Riley Tanner (junior percussionist) were accepted to the program.



Student & Staff Achievments

Head Start is Excellent

The West Bend School District's Head Start program for Washington County earned the prestigious National Head Start Association's Program of Excellence Accreditation. Only 11 Head Start programs of the 1,600 in the country received this accreditation.



Nurse is National Speaker

District Nurse Amy Braeger was a featured speaker at the Project ADAM National Conference in Milwaukee. Project ADAM is a nationwide children's cardiac health program created in 1999 to treat sudden cardiac arrest in children and adolescents. Braeger is responsible for bringing the program to the West Bend Schools, ensuring each school is "Heart Safe," meaning each has a plan, trained individuals, and readily accessible automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to respond to cardiac emergencies.

Ripplinger Wins Awards



Fourth-year West football coach Taylor Ripplinger was named Coach of the Year for the North Shore Conference. He led the team to a 7-3 record and to the playoffs for the first time in 15 years. In addition, the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association named him Region Coach of the Year.

Herb Kohl Foundation Award for King



Grace King, an English Language Arts teacher at Badger, is one of only 100 teachers in the state of Wisconsin to win a 2026 Teacher Fellowship award from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation. King is part of a group of distinguished educators recognized for their exceptional leadership, dedication to students, and commitment to educational excellence. There were more than 1,200 nominations and 100 total winners.

Seven Teachers are Board Certified

Seven teachers in the West Bend School District earned National Board Certification, the highest, most respected professional credential in teaching. Kevin Doornek and Kristen Koenigs of Silverbrook earned the certificate in math. Hailey Dougherty of East and Danielle Schumacher of West earned it in English and Mitchell Ziesemer of West earned it in science. In addition, Allyson Guzan, kindergarten teacher at Fair Park and Rebecca Sohm, special education teacher at Fair Park, earned it in elementary. This accomplishment requires rigorous self-assessment, classroom evidence, and a strong dedication to continuous improvement.

High Schools Configuration



On March 23, 2026, the West Bend School Board voted to approve combining West Bend East and West High Schools into a single school beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, taking two schools that have proudly been separate since 1970 while sharing a campus, a community, and a common mission, and combining them into West Bend High School.

After the referendum of 2024, the West Bend School District examined the configuration issue again with a goal of determining what high school configuration would best serve students, staff, and the community in the years ahead. Hearing from a wide range of voices was central to the process. The district made intentional efforts to reach students, families, staff, and community members through multiple channels to get their feedback.

West Bend High School will carry forward the best of what East and West have always represented and will be positioned to serve students, families, and the community.





Construction Updates

Great progress has been made on the construction projects that are part of the 2024 facilities referendum. In fact, construction was moved ahead one year for some capital improvements at Green Tree and McLane Elementary Schools. Over 82 calendar days in the summer of 2025, multiple construction crews working over multiple shifts were able to complete most of those improvement projects. Final projects at Green Tree and McLane were completed in fall and winter 2025.

Green Tree Elementary









- Relocated the main office to create a secure entry sequence, which included carefully removing and relaying brick to install new doors/windows and support beams
- Built a larger health room
- Installed new electrical wiring, LED light fixtures, and energy-saving sensors/dimmers
- Completed ADA restroom updates in kindergarten and Early Learning Program areas









- Replaced hallway flooring in all older areas of the school
- Replaced the fire alarm system
- Demolished and installed 26 window openings in the original building sections
- Complete remodeling of bathrooms
- Exterior doors replaced
- Replaced the generator
- (Currently) Repaving and reconfiguring front parking lot and drop off/pick up area
- (Currently) Installing playground equipment previously at Rolfs Education Center

Construction Updates

McLane Elementary











- Replaced more than 90 windows (some original), prioritizing learning spaces; updated ceilings, soffits, and HVAC piping to accommodate installations
- Renovated classrooms to create a secure entry sequence
- Built a larger health room
- Replaced the fire alarm system
- Remodeled basement/lower level bathrooms for ADA accessibility
- Replaced fire doors and hardware
- Installed 75 new HVAC sensors/thermostats with centralized computer-based controls for efficiency
- Added restrooms and casework to Early Learning classrooms
- Replaced security systems that run the bells, clocks, and public address system
- Replacing gymnasium bleachers and floors
- Repaving the parking lot and exterior railings
- Replacing elevator





High Schools Campus Update

For several months, the West Bend School District and West Bend High Schools administration and staff have been actively collaborating with design and construction partners on the planned improvements and upgrades for the high schools building. Much progress has been made for a cost-effective plan that puts student needs first. Construction will be complete in August 2028.

Construction Updates

Jackson Elementary

A ceremonial groundbreaking was held in May 2026 for the new Jackson Elementary School while just behind the event the construction equipment continued to work on preparing the site for the foundation. Construction on the west-facing building that is one block south of Main Street and Jackson Drive continues to move forward and the new school will be opened in August 2027, educating grades K-5.





When complete, the school will have classrooms for kindergarten through 5th grade, art and music, and a separate gymnasium and cafeteria. It will also feature secure entrances and other security measures, flexible instructional spaces with natural daylight, and a safe and efficient drop off and pick up process.







Construction Updates

BADGER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Badger and Silverbrook



In summer 2026, construction at Badger includes:

- Replacement of a full fire alarm system including cabling, speakers, light strobes, panels that ties into other life safety alerting systems.
- Replacement of the gym floor and bleachers.
- Remodel of portions of the boys and girls locker room area to create ADA accessible restrooms/shower areas and repurpose un-needed space into smaller learning spaces.
- Replacement of some doors in the music area.
- Updates to HVAC control systems, sensors, etc.



Silverbrook will become an elementary school in 2027, therefore the work to convert some of the classrooms to kindergarten rooms with en-suite bathrooms begins in summer 2026. In addition, the work includes:

- Remodel existing space to create a special ed program room.
- Replace original building loading dock.





SILVERBROOK VIKINGS

Construction Borrowing Complete

The West Bend School District has completed borrowing the $106.25 million for all projects related to the facilities referendum. Leading up to the referendum vote, the West Bend School District provided an estimated “total cost” of the referendum, which included potential interest paid on funds borrowed. At that time, the “total cost” was estimated at $165.45 million. However, now that favorable interest rates have been locked in, a cost avoidance of $10.7 million, or an 18% reduction in interest from the “total cost” projection, was secured.

Academics & Behavior



For the first time, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Accountability Report Cards used two school years of data to develop the annual "school report cards." The West Bend Schools continued to score well.

For the fourth straight year, Green Tree earned a perfect Math Growth score of 100. Green Tree's Growth Score also ranked in the top 10 percent of elementary schools in the state.

In the area of On-Track to Graduation, Jackson, McLane, and Silverbrook scores all rank in the top 10 percent of state elementary schools.



Significantly Exceeds Expectations: Decorah Elementary School, Green Tree Elementary School, and Silverbrook Intermediate School

Exceeds Expectations: Fair Park Elementary School, Jackson Elementary School, McLane Elementary School

Meets Expectations: Badger Middle School, East High School, West High School, West Bend School District

Advanced Placement Accolades

For Advanced Placement (AP) coursework achievement, both East and West received Pacesetter Awards from the Wisconsin Advanced Placement Advisory Council (WAPAC) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Both schools earned Level 2, meaning among the full student body, 20 percent of students or more participated in at least one AP exam and 65 percent or more earned scores of 3 or above on the exams (which earns college credit). East and West were part of 198 schools in Wisconsin earning this special recognition. AP courses are college-level work taken while still in high school and offer the opportunity to earn college-level credit or placement.

AP

Academics & Behavior

Since implementing a data-driven behavioral framework districtwide that includes setting clear behavioral expectations, implementing consistent responses, family engagement, a mental health framework, and targeted professional learning for staff, the results have been impressive for the West Bend School District.

A reflection of the positive results from this framework show up in the three-year reduction in **major behavioral referrals** per school year.

Behaviors classified as "MAJOR" are handled by an administrator who conducts an investigation, assigns an action/ consequence, communicates with the student's guardian(s), and creates a plan for follow up.

2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
5.6%	4.7%	3.5%
of full student body had 2-5 major referrals	of full student body had 2-5 major referrals	of full student body had 2-5 major referrals

1

85% or more of all students have 0-1 major office referrals **(93.80 percent)**

2

95% or more of all students have less than 5 major office referrals **(97.7 percent)**

The West Bend School District is expanding proactive school-based interventions and increasing access to mental health services to keep the positive momentum. That work helped to achieve both districtwide 2025-2026 behavioral goals.

WEST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

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2026 WIAA Track and Field ~~State Champion~~ Rylee Faehling











Thank you for your support of the West Bend School District.



