



Dear Families,

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625
Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! On the reverse you will find annual legal notices and updates about what is new in our schools. But first, please take a moment to read exciting updates!

Strategic Plan Update

More than 200 district staff and community members came together last year to participate in the district's strategic planning process, allowing us to start the year strong as we begin implementation of a new Strategic Plan, which was unanimously approved by the School Board last spring.

Core to the district's plan are our efforts to ensure each student is the primary agent in their learning, provide expanding access to a broad range of opportunities for all students, foster community engagement and partnerships, and build organizational capacity. We will also embrace all cultures with humility and respect, ensure learning environments enhance students' educational experience, engage families as partners in the education of their children, and ensure the social and emotional growth of our students.

This fall, each individual school and program will embark on their own strategic conversations. Staff, families and community members are welcomed into the discussion as these voices are vital to the important conversations that will be taking place during this process.

Comprehensive Facilities Planning

Our projected enrollment growth underscores the need for a comprehensive facilities review and planning process that will be kicked off this fall and continue throughout the year. The district worked with a local company this summer to collect data about our facilities. Next steps include community involvement, with engagement efforts taking place in order to collect input from the community at large.

A facility planning committee will be formed and comprised of a trio of teams focused on the areas of learning spaces, community spaces, and physical conditions. The district will kick off this engagement process after the plan is discussed and approved at the September School Board Regular meeting. You are encouraged to watch for the information to be shared, or to contact my office now to request that we send you information about ways you can be involved as soon as details are available.

I look forward to seeing you this fall at our schools, student activities and events, and to the opportunity to greet each of you personally.

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak, Superintendent
651-407-7563, superintendent@isd624.org

It's a 624 Fact

Mission

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
- Diversity of people and ideas
- Safe, nurturing and inspiring environments
- Exceptional staff and families committed to student success
- Abundant and engaged community partners

Stewardship

- The White Bear Lake Area School District has received the **excellence in financial reporting awards** from both the Association of School Business Officials and Government Finance Officers Association for **18 consecutive years**.
- The district has a **AA bond rating**, which we have received from Standard and Poor's every year the district has applied since 2010.
- In recent years, our strong bond rating has resulted in **savings to taxpayers of approximately \$2 million** in interest costs.

Upcoming District Events & Dates:

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| Oct. 1 | Deadline for opt-outs for Directory Info & Military Release (<i>see reverse</i>) |
| Oct. 1-6 | Homecoming Week |
| Oct. 5 | Parade & Football Game |
| Oct. 6 | BearPower Homecoming
6.24K Family Fun Run/Walk |
| Nov. 8 | All-District Parent Safety Night |

www.isd624.org



651-407-7500



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IMPORTANT DISTRICT NOTICES

Student Directory Information

Student directory information is considered “public” under state and federal laws. Unless parents give specific instructions to the contrary, schools must release directory information to anyone who requests it.

Public directory information includes, but is not limited to: the student’s name, photograph, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (i.e., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended.

If you do not wish this information to be given out about your child, send written notification including: name of the student and/or parent, if applicable; home address; school presently attended by student; parent’s legal relationship to student, if applicable; and specific categories of directory information to be made not public without the parent’s or eligible student’s prior written consent, which shall only be applicable for that school year. Notification should be sent to: Restrict Directory Data, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110, no later than Monday, October 1, 2018.

Complete White Bear Lake Area School Board policies can be found at www.isd624.org/about/schoolboard-policies.asp

Release of 11th/12th Grade Data to Military Recruiters

Federal law requires high schools to provide military recruiting officers access to public directory data (above) and the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of all 11th and 12th grade students. Parents have a right to refuse release of this data by sending written notification to: Refuse Release to Military Recruiters, White Bear Lake Area Schools, 4855 Bloom Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110, no later than Monday, October 1, 2018.

Stay connected!

Community e-Newsletter “Join Our Email List” on the front page of the District website to receive the Community e-Newsletter, sent out twice a month. The piece covers School Board proceedings, student and staff successes, and school and Community Education offerings. A video edition is sent out twice a month as well.

Stay Social Join White Bear Lake Area Schools’ social media circles - Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Find links on the District’s website.

#BackToSchoolBears Facebook Challenge We are so excited for the first day of school and upcoming school year and can’t wait to hear why you are too! Find details about a fun photo contest on the District’s website or Facebook page.

Community Channel Watch us on Cable Channel 20 in the local viewing area with District information and updates. School Board meetings are broadcast after regular business meetings on Wed. at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Thurs. at 10 a.m.

District Policies

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2018-19 UPDATES

Safety & Security

The District recently hired a Safety and Emergency Supervisor to work throughout the District on safety initiatives. Also, beginning this fall, all middle school and high school students have access to the Student Well-Being Tip Line, to report concerns regarding a student’s well-being: mental health, chemical use, social isolation, bullying, harassment, etc.

Career Pathways

Career Pathways programs are available to our high school students in four areas: Manufacturing, Construction, Information Technology and Healthcare.

College credits

Our high school students can choose from more than 40 college-credit courses. The total value of credits earned by WBLAHS students was more than \$2.4 mil at U of M tuition rates last year.

Partnerships

The District has program and facility community partnerships with YMCA, MacPhail Center for Music, White Bear Center for the Arts, and Tamarack Nature Center. Academic partnerships with local universities and international schools also offer students innovative opportunities.

AVID

Middle and high school students benefit from a rigorous Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program that is expanding. Students collaborate, engage in inquiry, and learn college-level reading, writing and study strategies.

Student support

Elementary literacy coaches and K-12 instructional technology coaches work with teachers and students. Teacher teams collaborate to analyze student data and adjust instruction based on student needs.

Gifted & Talented

Gifted cluster groupings challenge students at every elementary school. Explorations, a school-within-a-school for the exceptionally gifted, is housed at Lincoln Elementary.

Strategic Plan

The Board approved a new Strategic Plan that will guide District direction for years to come.

Facilities Planning

The District will embark on a comprehensive facilities planning process this fall, engaging with the community to find the right fit for the district as we continue to change and grow.



White Bear Lake Area Schools
www.isd624.org * 651-407-7500



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