



BEAR'S UPDATE

Next Year

As more becomes known about COVID-19 and state-level guidelines are updated, we continue to adjust plans that will help us provide the safest back-to-school experience for all of our students.

We are currently exploring three different scenarios for this fall: 1) In-person school with social distancing practices; 2) Hybrid model of distance learning and in-person school with social distancing practices; and 3) Distance learning.

We will share information with families and the community in late July when we have received final guidance from the state and we are able to solidify the district's plan.

Building Our Future Facilities Process

Planning committee members throughout the district have attended a total of more than 100 facilities meetings since November's approved bond referendum, shaping the plans as we Build Our Future.

Complete information about the facilities process is available on the district's website.



Superintendent's Message

The end of the 2019-20 school year was certainly a whirlwind, to say the least. The importance of community, in both the traditional and virtual sense, was proven time and time again. Our motivation for finding new and creative ways to provide community support has never been stronger.

Continued on reverse.

Translations:

Para Español por favor llame al 651-407-7625

Xav tau ntawv Hmoob hu rau 651-407-7623

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Applauding retirees

This year's retirees represent almost 800 years of service to the district. While we weren't able to host a Retirement Celebration this spring to give each retiree their Bear statue, a listing of retirees and video is available on our website at www.isd624.org/Retirees2020.



Graduations

We ended the unusual 2019-20 school year with celebrations of our Class of 2020 and unique pick-up events at each of our buildings. Virtual graduation ceremonies are available for viewing on the district's website at www.isd624.org/2020Graduations.



Free Summer Meal Access for Children

The district's Summer Food Service Program offers meal pick-up on Wednesdays, with each meal bag containing at least 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches. There is no need to sign up.



School Site Pick-Up and Neighborhood Meal Pick-Up are available throughout the district. Find locations and current information at www.isd624.org/FreeSummerMealAccess.





White Bear Lake Area Schools

BEAR'S UPDATE

Summer 2020



Equity Commitment and Assessment

In the spring, students in grades 5-12 were invited to participate in an Equity Assessment as a way to understand how to improve the equity and quality of education in our schools. This assessment aligns with our District Strategic Plan and the work that our community engaged in around building the future of our district.

Equity Commitment

To nurture the whole student, we disrupt systemic inequities by recognizing, honoring, and embracing all cultures with humility and respect.

4-Way Equity Decision Making Protocol

1. How does this help to provide opportunities to students who have been marginalized within the system in the past?
2. How does this help to ensure equitable access for all?
3. How does this help to eliminate barriers based on race/ethnicity, gender, disability, age, or other protected groups?
4. How does this ensure that the same rigorous standards for academic performance exist for all students?



FREE Senior Activity Pass

Senior community members (age 65+) who live in the District are invited to participate in the Senior Activities Pass program and enjoy complimentary admission to school activities. Find the application on the District's website, www.isd624.org, or call the Superintendent's Office at 651-407-7563 to request one via mail.



Connect with us

Stay informed - find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The website also offers a Community e-Newsletter, calendars that have a subscribe feature, links to pertinent news and information, and robust search functionality.



www.isd624.org

Superintendent's Message continued

Since state-wide distance learning began in March, COVID-19 has not only challenged us to provide education in a different format, but propelled us to find new ways to provide important services during this time, as well. A new hub on the district's website, www.isd624.org/Support-Hub, was added to provide information about essential services including district supports, crisis response, basic needs, mental health and well-being, physical health, social emotional learning and more.

Information about free meals that are available to all children through the district's Summer Food Service Program can be found among the Support Hub offerings, along with details about a Free Bear Care Mental Wellness Support Line available every Wednesday this summer that connects parents to resources that can meet the mental wellness needs of their children ages birth-age 21.

More recently, the district added resources to the Support Hub to help families discuss race, traumatic events, and coping with grief after community violence. Providing support to students who are struggling is never more important than when something happens in our society that triggers immeasurable anger and confusion. As a district, we will continue to prioritize our growth by focusing on our Equity Commitment: "To nurture the whole student, we disrupt systemic inequities by recognizing, honoring, and embracing all cultures with

humility and respect." We want to offer all of our students the support they need in whatever ways we can.

While it was exciting to interact in new ways "in the classroom", staff members also worked hard this spring to ensure each student knew they were missed. Elementary staff members spread cheer to families through teacher parades, driving routes in their school boundaries to say hello to students in a socially distanced way, while both of our middle schools created fun videos to connect with students.

Older students were honored, as well. Regular in-person commencement ceremonies were replaced with celebrations of the Class of 2020 members from WBLAHS, the ALC, and Transition Education Center via virtual ceremonies. All families were able to cheer for their graduates as they came across the screen, with the ALC and WBLAHS ceremonies even premiering on YouTube, a first for the district.

The commitment to supporting others that each of us made as the world took a turn into "unprecedented" this spring will forever be remembered. I am so proud to serve alongside our students, staff, families and community members as we continue to navigate through these challenging times together.

*Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak,
Superintendent*