

BOARD OF EDUCATION SEAT ELECTIONS



EVERY January, our Board of Education spends a portion of the January Board meeting electing new officers for the year. The Board of Education officers for 2023 are:

Stacy Brickman – President
Nelson Hersh – Vice President
Julie Beaty – Secretary
Carol Finkelstein – Treasurer

Board members Deborah J. Evans, Ashleigh Davis, and Wm. Art Holdsworth will serve as trustees for 2023. Congratulations to our board members on their elected positions!

BOND INITIATIVE

ON May 2, 2023, residents of West Bloomfield School District will be asked to consider a \$148 million bond



proposal to address high-priority facility improvements over the next 10 years, with the goal of improving students' educational experiences and learning outcomes.

This bond proposal is estimated to result in a **zero net increase over the 2022 debt millage rate**. This edition of *The Laker* will discuss the potential impact of this ballot question. Please turn to page L-19 to learn more about it.

STUDENTS EARN ALL-STATE HONORS

FOUR West Bloomfield High School students were recently selected to participate in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association All-State Ensembles: All-State Jazz Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Choir. This is the highest musical honor among high school musicians across the state. Congratulations!

Neel Kamath – Bassoonist – All-State Orchestra
Daniel Lee – Violist – All-State Orchestra
Xavier Haber – Voice – All-State Choir
Nolan Pratt – Trumpet – All-State Jazz Band

KINDERGARTEN
Where the Adventure Begins

Have you registered your child for Kindergarten yet?

Register by March 31!
www.wbsd.org/parents/kindergarten

WEST BLOOMFIELD
SCHOOL DISTRICT



THE WEST BLOOMFIELD EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



2023 CASINO NIGHT

AFTER three years on hiatus, Casino Night returned with a bang to families across the West Bloomfield School District.

The concept is simple: parents play and kids win! More than 200 parents and staff members gathered together at Farmington Hills Manor to play bingo, craps, blackjack, bid on silent auction items, win raffle prizes, dance, eat, and enjoy each other's company.

Over \$25,000 was raised on this night alone – all for a great cause!

This night would not have been possible without the commitment and support of so many community volunteers, our principals, District staff, and the dedicated planning committee.

"We are beyond grateful to our community partners, helping us make this a night to remember," said Sheryl Bienstock, WBEF's committee chair.

If you were unable to attend, and wish to support the WBEF, please visit www.wbef.org.

Thank you to our dedicated WBEF Board of Directors for continuously making a positive impact!

Chairperson: Sheryl Bienstock
Vice Chairperson: Cristina Elsen
Secretary: Kathy Sheiko

Directors

Sylvia Brown, Terri Compton, Elizabeth Fenn-Zubrzycki, Aaron Fogarasi, Jennifer C. Hill, I.D. Jegede, Juliet Jozwick, Neena Sandhu, Matt Sikora, Sara Ward, and Kim Wolenberg.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all of our Casino Night sponsors.

Premier Event Sponsors

George W. Auch Construction
Great Lakes Furniture Supply, Inc.
Katherine Law and Lisa Rozum
Durham School Services
Kaye Financial
Student Transportation Services
TMP Architecture

Additional Event Sponsors

Berger, Ghersi & LaDuke PLC
Sheryl Bienstock
Clark Hill, PLC
Cochrane Foundation
Good Life Agency
DM Burr
Doherty Elementary School PTO
DZI Snow Removal/Maintenance
Executive Energy Services
Gretchko Elementary School PTO
Jet's Pizza, Keego Harbor
Tim and Kelly Lata
Meemic, IDJ Agency
MESSA
William Piontkowski



Protocol Mold Testing
Roosevelt Elementary School PTO
Scotch Elementary School PTO
Sehi Computer Products
Sheiko Elementary School PTO
Paul and Kathy Sheiko
Spaulding DeDecker
Kim Wolenberg

AD HOLDER

WBHS STUDENT-ATHLETES COMMIT TO COLLEGE

Plans to attend Albion College to play lacrosse. She plans to major in marketing.



Plans to attend Central Michigan University to play baseball. His goal is to major in business and pursue a career in marketing.



Plans to attend Florida A&M to play basketball. She plans to study either sports management, sports medicine, or psychology.



Graduated from WBHS in December. He committed to the University of Michigan and will play football.



Graduated from WBHS in December. He committed to the University of Michigan and will play football.



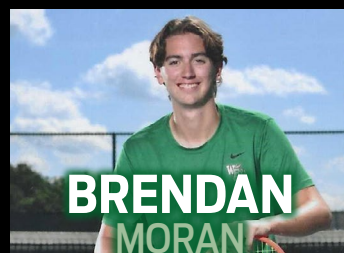
Plans to attend Western Michigan University to play football. He plans to study pre-law.



Plans to attend Cornerstone University to play baseball. He plans to study business marketing.



Plans to attend Grand Valley State University to play football. He plans to major in exercise science.



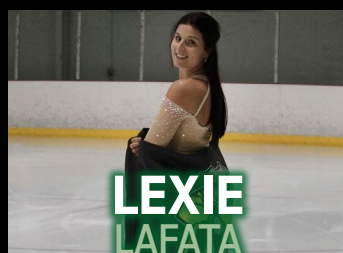
Plans to attend Adrian College to play tennis. He plans to study sports medicine.



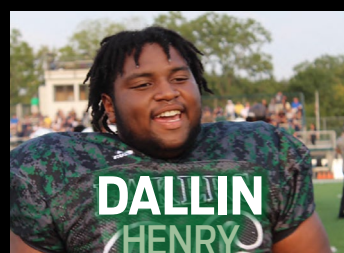
Plans to attend Grand Valley State University to play football. He would like to major in criminal justice or political science.



Plans to attend Concordia University to play baseball. He would like to major in business management and minor in youth ministry.



Plans to attend Adrian College to figure skate. She plans on majoring in secondary education with concentrations in English and social studies.



Plans to attend Adrian College to play football. He would like to major in either business or mechanical engineering.



Plans to attend Grand Valley State University to play football. He plans on majoring in business.



Plans to attend Grand Valley State University to play football. He plans to study sports management.



Plans to attend Central Michigan University to play football. He plans to major in psychology.



Plans to attend Grambling State University to play soccer. She plans to major in criminal justice.

AD HOLDER

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JONATHAN ZHANG WBHS Class of 2019



Jonathan Zhang is a senior at Harvard University studying social studies, an interdisciplinary honors major, with a minor in Arabic and computer science.

Deferring work at McKinsey & Company as a business analyst post-graduation, Jonathan will join a cohort of 150 students from 36 countries to pursue a fully funded, one-year master's in Global Affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

As a Schwarzman Scholar, he will continue his thesis research on contemporary Sino-Arab relations by looking at the impacts of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative on geopolitical development in Saudi Arabia in relation to Vision 2030.

Having traveled to Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, he is inspired to spearhead U.S. foreign developmental policy in the region.

Currently, Jonathan is a Harvard

2023 Class Marshal, a lifetime position to represent his class and encourage continued engagement with the alumni community. In addition, he is the COO of Global Research and Consulting, a 501(c)3 nonprofit with over 1,000 active members across 20 chapters worldwide to complete high-impact, pro-bono consulting projects for leading NGOs and social impact organizations, including the World Bank and United Nations.

He views his role at GRC as one of breaking down barriers to entry for marginalized minorities that historically are underrepresented in consulting.

How has West Bloomfield High School prepared you for your current path?

Diversity is celebrated in a place like West Bloomfield High School, and it was not until years later that I realized just how multifaceted the community was. More important than the wealth of educational opportunities afforded

to students, WBHS prepares people to become citizens of the world. It was from growing up with divided lunch tables of the Jewish and Arab populations in middle school that inspired me to engage with the

Israel-Palestine conflict, hearing stories from both sides while swapping snacks.

WBHS was a place that challenged my thinking and preconceptions. Policy debating under Mr. Thursam made me reconsider what my core values were and be more conscientious in my approach. Even compared to Harvard, WBHS has world-class teachers that equipped me with a global mindset to navigate differences and difficult conversations in order to better serve the wider community.

What advice or words of wisdom do you have for current students?

"Fake it till you make it." I used to think as a freshman that high school seniors knew everything and had their whole lives figured out. In college, I looked back and saw

just how little I knew and reflected on how little I still know. High school is a time of experimentation and of learning who you are. Be unafraid to try new things and

experience more of the world. Even now, I'm unsure about what lies in the future for me, but I am confident that no matter what, the experiences that I've gained will continue to guide me on my path.



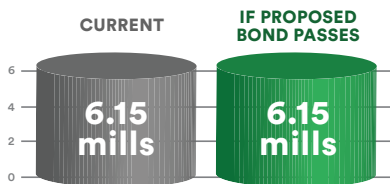
What's on the May Ballot?

On May 2, 2023, voters in WBSD will consider a bond proposal focused on major upgrades at our elementary schools and high school STEAM/CTE program, multi-activity fields, as well as technology.

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, it is estimated that the District will be able to maintain the existing school debt levy totaling 6.15 mills and issue the bonds with a **ZERO NET INCREASE** over the prior year's debt millage rate. The bond proposal authorizes \$148 million in bonds.

Financial Impact

**zero net
increase**
over 2022 debt millage rate



What can Bond dollars be used for?

- ☒ Construction and remodeling of facilities
- ☒ Purchase of technology equipment and infrastructure
- ☒ Purchase of equipment and furniture
- ☒ Site improvements
- ☒ Purchase of buses

What can't Bond dollars be used for?

- ☐ Staff salaries and wages
- ☐ General operating expenses, repairs, and maintenance
- ☐ Classroom supplies and textbooks
- ☐ Administrative costs



West Bloomfield School District Residents

The School District is in a unique position to secure funding for up to \$148 million of facility improvements through the sale of bonds without having to increase its total debt millage over the 2022 debt millage rate. Under Michigan law, this bond funding must be restricted to capital improvements, such as technology, buses, and facility improvements, and cannot be used to pay salaries, benefits, or other operational costs.

These facility improvements will provide students with safer, more modern, and more comfortable learning environments, with the goal of improving their educational experiences and learning outcomes. The facility improvements include the construction of two new elementary schools at the Doherty and Sheiko sites, full renovation of the career and technical education space at West Bloomfield High School, technology upgrades, and many other projects described in this brochure. I encourage you to read more about the 2023 Bond and reach out to me if you have any questions.

In Education,

Dania H. Bazzi

Dania H. Bazzi, PhD

Superintendent
dania.bazzi@wbsd.org

Did you know?

According to the U.S. Department of Education and the National Center on Education Statistics, for a child "the difference between receiving an education in a really well-designed, modern new school and a typical 42-year old school can be compared to writing in sand vs surfing the Internet."

**PLEASE VOTE
MAY 2, 2023!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.WBSD.ORG OR SCAN QR CODE



Focus Areas



Enhanced Elementary Programming through New and Remodeled Schools



Dedicated Early Childhood Spaces in a North and South Elementary Building Location



High School STEAM/CTE Addition and Remodeling and Enhanced Outdoor Multi-Activity Spaces



Operational Efficiency, Environmental Quality, and Safety through Infrastructure Upgrades

Major Project Features

Enhancing elementary learning environments and safety through the construction of two new schools to replace Doherty and Sheiko Elementaries, and providing additions and renovations to Gretchko and Scotch Elementaries.

Creating dedicated Early Childhood space offered in both a north and south elementary building location, to respond to the unique needs of our young learners.

Upgrading infrastructure at the 50-year-old West Bloomfield High School, including STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) and CTE (Career Technical Education) spaces and outdoor multi-activity upgrades to the press box, main stadium scoreboard, grandstands, concessions, and adding pickleball courts.

Upgrading technology (infrastructure, student and staff devices, classroom AV equipment and phone system).

Replacing school buses and investing in property acquisition.

Upgrading the 70-year-old Abbott building infrastructure and adding an addition for the Central Office function.

How was this Bond plan developed?



TMP ARCHITECTURE AND AUCH CONSTRUCTION conducted assessments of all District buildings to identify building infrastructure and program deficiencies.

JANUARY 2022

THE BUILDING FUTURES COMMITTEE (BFC) a community and staff-based group, created a vision for facilities that would meet the District goals of engaging, safe, and excellent programs.

THE BFC held multiple meetings to form consensus on a recommendation to the **BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE)** regarding a potential bond proposal.

THE BOE unanimously supported the May 2, 2023 Bond Proposal for a \$148 million bond, an estimated zero net increase to the current bond millage rate.

NOVEMBER 21, 2022

Planning Begins

Board Approval

Future-Ready Learning Environments



Enhanced Elementary Programming



Exciting Possibilities Across All Elementary Schools

Our new and remodeled elementary buildings will be designed to support innovative teaching practices, keeping in mind the importance of safety and security, collaboration, hands-on learning, wellness, arts and music, special needs, natural light, acoustics, and appropriate technology integration.



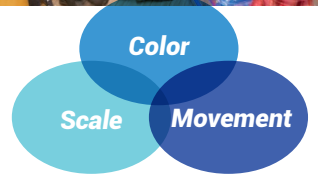
Upgrades to elementary sites will support age-appropriate, accessible, and safe playgrounds and outdoor learning opportunities, as well as separation of bus, auto and pedestrian traffic. Dedicated space in north and south elementary buildings will be designed for early childhood education.



Dedicated Early Childhood Spaces



Spaces designed for the early learner



High School STEAM/CTE Addition and Remodeling



What could our High School STEAM/CTE lab addition look like?

- Flexible furniture to allow individual, small, or large group collaboration
- Access to utilities, i.e. gas, water, power, etc.
- Presentation areas
- Ample, dedicated, and secure storage areas
- Abundant technology
- Optimized research, analysis, interaction, and hands-on activities

Did you know?

80%

of students say their STEAM career knowledge increased because of their afterschool experiences

\$100k

The average salary for STEAM-based jobs

10.2m

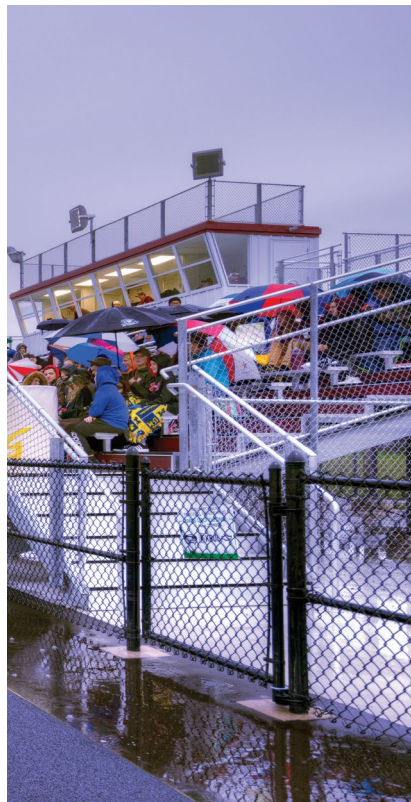
People work in a STEAM field in the US as of 2020

Pictures in this brochure depict spaces that could be achieved in the 2023 Bond.

Outdoor Multi-Activity Area Upgrades



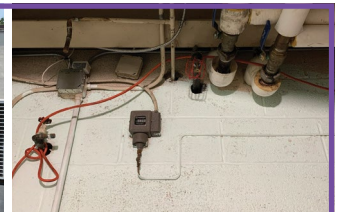
- Main Stadium Scoreboard
- Grandstands and Press Box Replacement
- New Pickleball Courts
- Concessions



Infrastructure Upgrades

A comprehensive building condition study was completed in 2022 to determine critical infrastructure needs for the next five years. Items identified included mechanical, electrical, site, roofing, interior finishes and casework, building envelope, and technology infrastructure. The goal for these improvements is to keep our existing buildings in good working condition, thus creating safe and comfortable spaces for our students and staff. The high school, Gretchko and Scotch Elementaries, and the Abbott building will receive these improvements. In addition, the Central Office function will move to the Abbott building which will receive a modest addition to accommodate space needs.

Existing Conditions



Average age of
our Buildings

64yrs*
*excluding new middle school

Additional 2023 Bond Upgrades

Technology Upgrades

Approximately \$10 million of the 2023 Bond has been allocated for classroom technology improvements over the next six years.

Bus Purchases

Approximately 20 buses will be replaced in the bond program.

70% of our **4,900** students use buses

2023 Bond Goals

Enhance outdoor amenities to engage and support community activities

Protect residential property values through a strong and solid school system

Improve elementary spaces and experiences for all young learners in our community

Provide safe spaces with technology that engage students and promotes a collaborative and stimulating atmosphere

Improve operational efficiency and environmental quality by upgrading outdated building systems/finishes

What if the May bond doesn't pass?

With a bond passage, WBSD receives \$148 million to address infrastructure deterioration and further develop our engaging programs. Without this bond, the District would have to draw from our General Fund to manage urgent issues and let other District concerns and goals fall to the wayside. Our intention is to avoid negative impacts on student learning and achievement that would arise if we took away general fund dollars from our classrooms and teachers.

PAID FOR BY WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT / 5810 COMMERCE ROAD, WEST BLOOMFIELD, MI 48324

estimated
**zero net
increase**
over 2022 debt millage rate

VOTE ON
OR BEFORE

MAY 2, 2023!

AD HOLDER



PRESCHOOL READINESS

HOW do you know if your child is ready for preschool and how can you help your child prepare for his or her first learning experiences?

Children are ready when they are between the ages of three and five. Most preschools accept children who will be three by December 1 of that school year.

Generally, by three and four years of age, children begin showing simple self-care skills. Children establish independence by dressing themselves and wanting to complete simple tasks on their own. They are often able to use the bathroom and wash their hands with minimal assistance.

One of the ways parents can help their children prepare for this transition is by allowing them to do tasks by themselves. Allow children to dress themselves in easy-to-wear clothing – elastic waist pants and Velcro shoes make it easy to dress themselves and quick for changes when in the bathroom.

Preschool is a social atmosphere and children are able to interact with an average of 10-15 other peers of the same age. Conflict is normal at this stage and part of the developmental process.

To help your child prepare for social interactions and

experiences in preschool, begin exposing them to their peers outside of the classroom. Activities such as library classes, playground and park visits, indoor and outdoor play areas and play dates can be very beneficial in preparing your child for preschool.

Preschool is time away from the child's main caregiver, and often this is the child's first experience away from their security. One of the ways to assist with this transition is to begin taking breaks away from your child. Have a friend or sitter watch your child as you take time to run a quick errand or even a walk around the block. Extend the time as your child becomes more accustomed to your absence.

The West Bloomfield Preschool Academy offers three-hour classes on set routine days in addition to a variety of half and full-day programs on both the north and south sides of the District. Please call (248) 865-6466 or visit www.wbsd.org/west-bloomfield-preschool-academy-home.



WEST BLOOMFIELD PRESCHOOL ACADEMY

ENROLL TODAY!



CALL TODAY! | (248) 865-6466 | www.wbsd.org

- Our programs utilize the research-based HighScope preschool curriculum that prepares students for the West Bloomfield School District curriculum
- Hands-on learning in language, literacy, math, science, social studies, and technology
- Creative, physical, health, social-emotional, and intellectual development
- FREE Preschool Programs available - Great Start to Readiness Program (GSRP)
 - Must be four by September 1, 2023
- Full-time, part-time, and extended-day options available for 3 to 5-year-olds
- Traditional Preschool, Jr. Kindergarten, Stepping Stones, and Multi-Age Programs

A NEW LEADER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

KATHI Luthe has been selected to serve as the new coordinator for the West Bloomfield Preschool Academy.

Kathi has been the assistant coordinator since 2017. Prior to that, Kathi served as a lead teacher in the Great Start to Readiness Preschool Program at Roosevelt Elementary School and also as a traditional preschool teacher for several years. Kathi started with the West Bloomfield School District as a Kids Klub staff member in 2000.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Oakland University, with a double concentration in social studies and language arts. Kathi has a teaching certificate with a ZA endorsement in Early Childhood Education and also has her master's in early childhood education.



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD UNITED WE WALK

ON Sunday, January 15, more than 300 people gathered together at the new West

Bloomfield Middle School to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at United We Walk.

Students, staff, families, and community members enjoyed a short program, several activities including collecting donations, a bone marrow drive, painting peace rocks, and a walk in memory of Dr. King.

"Our student co-chairs, Poetry/Oratorical Contest winners did a magnificent job capturing Dr. King's essence," said United We Walk Committee Chairperson Jennifer Graham. "We are energized by the passion and knowledge that was displayed. On behalf of United We Walk, we would like to thank our community for joining us for such a wonderful event."

It was great to have the community come together on what would have been Dr. King's 94th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his "I Have A Dream" speech.



West Bloomfield School District

Dept. of Public Relations and Marketing

248-865-6454

www.wbsd.org

Editors.....Kendra Montante
Andrea Frank

Our Mission:

"The Laker strengthens the vital relationship between West Bloomfield School District and the community by clearly communicating in a timely and relevant manner the many successes of our students, schools, and community."

West Bloomfield School District

Dania H. Bazzi, PhD

Superintendent

West Bloomfield High School

248-865-6720

Oakland Early College

248-522-3540

West Bloomfield Transition Center

248-865-6470

West Bloomfield Middle School

248-865-4480

Doherty Elementary School

248-865-6020

Gretchko Elementary School

248-865-6570

Roosevelt Elementary School

248-865-6620

Scotch Elementary School

248-865-3280

Sheiko Elementary School

248-865-6370

Notice of Nondiscrimination:

It is the policy of the West Bloomfield School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, height, weight, religion, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in employment or any of its programs or activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Eric Whitney, Assistant Superintendent for Talent Development and Management. 5810 Commerce Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48324. (248) 865-6424

ADULT EDUCATION/ELL

Dawn Hanford, Coordinator

J&S Office Center

7071 Orchard Lake Rd.

Ste. 100, West Bloomfield, MI 48322

(248) 539-2390

Register from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Monday - Thursday

Students 18 and older are welcome from any district.

Adult Education ELL Spring Tuition Schedule

Spring Session 5: May 1 - May 24 (4 weeks)

Advanced/Intermediate English

Mon./Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$50

Conversation/Current Events

Tues. 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. \$50

American Customs and Culture (online)

Tues. 10 a.m. - Noon (FREE)

Spring Session 6: June 5 - June 28 (4 weeks)

Advanced/Intermediate English

Mon./Wed. 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. \$50

Conversation/Current Events

Tues. 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. \$50

American Customs and Culture (online)

Tues. 10 a.m. - Noon (FREE)

Community Education Office

Administration and Communication Services (ACS)

5810 Commerce Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48324

(248) 865-6462

Kathi Luthe Coordinator, Early Childhood

Collette Goestenkers Early Childhood Preschool Administrative Assistant

Beth Helka Kids Klub and Tween Time Administrative Assistant

Dawn Hanford Adult Education/ELL Coordinator

Melissa McDonald Adult Education Administrative Assistant

Andrea Frank Coordinator, Community Enrichment

Dawn Jacobsen Adult Education Secretary

AD HOLDER



2023 Summer Camps

Location, hours, and registration are online. Visit wbsdec.ce.eleyo.com, enter "summer camp" in the search bar. Summer Camp is staffed by WBSD employees who are creative, enthusiastic, and dedicated to the well-being of all campers.



WBSD Wrestling Club

Leading the program are West Bloomfield's own middle school wrestling coaches, Coach Tom DeGrand and Coach Carlos Acosta. The experience, expertise, and passion from Coach Mike Zimmnicki, Coach James Hitchcock, and Coach Tim Burzynski result in a team that is able to provide unparalleled support for youth wrestlers.

Second and third grade Math Pentathlon practice at Gretchko Elementary School playing Sum Dominoes and Dice. Stretching their math thinking through fun and competition!



Math Pentathlon

WBSD Community Education offers after school Math Pentathlon practices for grades K-7. The program is spearheaded by parent volunteer coaches and mentors. A special thank you to all of the parents who go above and beyond to make math fun!



West Bloomfield Middle School Robotics

AnchorBots FTC Team 14649
WBMS students competed at the FIRST Michigan State Championship on December 15-17, 2022 at Calvin University in Grand Rapids. It was the final FTC event for some of the seasoned team members. They were honored by "running" the final matches of the event. We can't wait to see your robotics skills in action at WBHS!



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 15, 2023

9 a.m. – Noon

LakerBot Festival

West Bloomfield Middle School

Robotics demonstrations and award ceremony

