

The Laker



December 2023 | Issue 9 | Volume 51



Hello, Lakers! We are proud to be a steadfast anchor for this community, supporting each student's needs by providing opportunities, experiences, and educational tools for generations to come.

The Board of Education voted to approve a return to K-5 elementary buildings, joining 88% of Oakland County in that model. In support of this upcoming change, Lyle Crocodile will be accompanying students from early childhood to graduation moving forward. Lyle reminds students about the depths of opportunity to explore in West Bloomfield School District. The WB Middle and High School logos will continue to feature the familiar Laker athletics mascot but watch this spring for new elementary branding.

Additional information is on our website—WBSD.org—or call my office at any time with questions. I hope that our community will continue to work with us in the best interest of our students, sharing their concerns and helping us in developing solutions.

There will be an opportunity for voters to decide on an operating millage renewal in connection with the 2024 presidential primary election. This is not an increase in taxes, but a renewal of the current operating millage rates. This funding source represents approximately 17% of our budget (see sidebar inside for ballot language). Questions have been raised about the election timing of this ballot measure, and I want to make our reasoning very clear. WBSD collects its taxes in the summer. By holding this election tied to the Michigan presidential primary election, the millage will be renewed ahead of the summer, resulting in no funding loss to the district.

We believe our students are thriving, and we are so thankful for the community support you all provide. We look forward to continued collaboration to attract and retain students and staff and reinvigorate our partnerships with the community.

- Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
Superintendent

WBSD PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR

December

Dec. 14—WBHS Winter Band Concert 7 p.m.
Dec. 20—WBHS Winter Concert 7 p.m.

January

Jan. 11—WBHS Orchestra Concert 7 p.m.

February

Feb. 15—WBHS Orchestra Pre-Festival Concert 7 p.m.
Feb. 28—WBHS Band Pre-Festival Concert 7 p.m.

March

March 1-2—WBMS Musical Theatre Performances 7 p.m.
March 5—WBHS Pre-Festival Choir Concert 7 p.m.

April

April 25-27—WBHS Spring Musical 7 p.m.
April 26—WBHS Spring Musical 1 p.m. matinee

May

May 9—WBHS Spring Band Concert 7 p.m.
May 15—WBHS Spring Choir Extravaganza/Senior Celebration 7 p.m.
May 21—WBHS Orchestra Coda Concert 7 p.m.

WBMS EARNs 2023 OUTSTANDING PROJECT FOR LEARNING SPACE



West Bloomfield Middle School is featured in the Fall 2023 Learning By Design magazine, the premier source for education design innovation and excellence as an Outstanding Project in the New Construction category.

French Associates worked with West Bloomfield School District and engaged stakeholders including students, staff, parents and community members to envision a learning environment that also met the social/emotional and safety needs of students, staff and visitors.

The design pays attention to natural light and connections, and also supports a shift to Learning Communities. Each “community” has classrooms surrounding a common area and that “family room” opens to the main corridor creating a front door. This also shrinks the size of the school to “houses” where students receive all their core instruction.



A COMMUNITY SPACE

Pictured below is the WBMS Auditoria which is used for school meals, performances, and other events & gatherings. On November 7, which students had off for election day, West Bloomfield School District partnered with West Bloomfield Parks, Township and Public Library to host the Heroes Appreciation Breakfast, which is free for veterans and their plus one. Over 100 veterans attended. The keynote was Robert W. Smith, III, of West Bloomfield who retired from the army with the rank of Major General.



“The design pays attention to natural light & connections”



WBSD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Enrichment, Theatre, Recreation and Art

Each K-5 school has a unique After the Bell schedule, check out WBSCommEd.org

SPRING BREAK CAMPS MARCH 25-29, 2024



- **LEGO Camp** - Imagine and create with LEGOS.
- **Sports Camp** - Keep your kiddos active during the break!

For timing, location, and more information, visit us online at: WBSCommEd.org, enter "Spring Break Camps" into the search bar.



SAVE THE DATE LAKER BOT FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 20, 2024
9 a.m. - Noon
West Bloomfield Middle School



Robotics Demonstrations & Award Ceremony



ADULT (18+) ENGLISH LEARNERS

January 8 — May 1
Registration Fee: \$50

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
Level 1—9:30 a.m.-12 noon
Level I, 2, 3—6:30-9 p.m.

Private tutoring is available, ages 18+

email melissa.mcdonald@wbsd.org
or call 248-539-2390 to schedule
a time to register.

Laker
Opportunity
CENTER

**CREDIT
RECOVERY**
**HIGH SCHOOL
COMPLETION**

Ages
16-22

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Stacy Brickman, President
Nelson Hersh, Vice President
Julie Beaty, Secretary
Carol Finkelstein, Treasurer
Ashleigh Davis, Trustee
Deborah Evans, Trustee
Wm. Art Holdsworth, Trustee

WBSD Board meetings are held in the iCenter at WBHS at 7 p.m. Board study sessions are held at the ACS building, 5810 Commerce Road, at 6:30 p.m.

December 18 - Board Meeting
January 8 - Board Study Session
January 22 - Board Meeting
February 5 - Board Study Session
February 12 - Board Meeting
March 4 - Board Study Session
March 18 - Board Meeting
April 1 - Board Study Session
April 15 - Board Meeting
May 6 - Board Study Session
May 20 - Board Meeting

West Bloomfield School District
Superintendent Dania H. Bazzi, PhD
248-865-6485

West Bloomfield High School
248-865-6720

Oakland Early College
248-522-3540

The Laker Opportunity Center
248-522-3542

West Bloomfield Transition Center
248-539-0532

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

Adult Ed. English Language Learner
248-539-2390

WB Preschool Academy
248-865-6457

SAILING STATE CHAMPS



Jack Armstrong brought home West Bloomfield Sailing's first Michigan Laser Radial State Championship title in our history! Brent Armstrong also placed 3rd in States Laser Full Rig. We are very proud of these brothers and wish them and the rest of the team fair winds at Nationals in New Orleans at Great Oaks.

Pictured left to right: Brent Armstrong, Alex Wszolek, Jack Armstrong, Vincenzo Paliga, and Liam Gilin.

UNITED WE WALK JAN 14, 2024

Join us for the 30th Celebration of United We Walk on Sunday, January 14, 2024. This year's theme is: The King in Me: We Walk in Unity, Equality and Community. The program begins at 1 p.m. at West Bloomfield Middle School, and includes community service projects. For more information, please contact Jennifer.Graham@wbdsd.org

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDS BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Trivia Night rocked an 80s theme this year as 250 attendees raised funds for Blessings in a Backpack, a program that provides meals for students in need over every weekend of the school year.

If you missed the event but would still like to donate, please visit BlessingsInABackpackMI.org

- » Go to Donate.
- » Pick Online or By Mail.
- » Fill out the form.
- » Be sure you are donating to the West Bloomfield/Keego Harbor Program.



CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS



The WBHS Girls Cross Country Team won the OAA Blue Division League Championship for the first time since 1990! Top runners included Jalia Marks (3rd), Anasofia Alegre (5th) and Emma Burrows (10th). Also running were Amelie Burtka, Christina Dinnan, Caroline Fernandes. Congratulations to all!

FREE ADMISSION TO DISTRICT EVENTS FOR RESIDENTS 65+!



Laker Senior Gold Cards are available for our West Bloomfield School District residents age 65 and above. Gold cards allow senior citizens to attend school district events such as plays, athletics games, and musical performances free of charge. Cards are available at district schools and the Administration and Community Services Building, 5810 Commerce Road. Cards may not be used for facility rentals, tuition-based programs or MHSAA tournament events. Present your card at the ticket booth to receive a complimentary ticket. This is our way of thanking you for your support of our public schools.



WEST BLOOMFIELD PRESCHOOL ACADEMY

West Bloomfield Preschool Academy utilizes the HighScope curriculum, promoting active play and participation through indoor and outdoor educational experiences. Our intentional preschool spaces encourage many types of play across various interest areas. Furniture is arranged to establish visual boundaries and promote independence in cleaning up. Educators also provide materials that are appropriate for their students' developmental levels, can be used in a variety of ways, and reflect the experiences and cultures of the children in our program.



Theme: **Volunteers Make the World Go 'Round!**



**Friday,
May 10**

Awards Breakfast
at Temple Israel

**CELEBRATE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT
& VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP**

**PRESCHOOL
ENROLLMENT
OPENS
FEB 12, 2024**

SCAN
TO APPLY



SCHOOL OF CHOICE

Pending school board approval, the district will once again be participating in Schools of Choice (SOC) for residents of Oakland County. The application window will also coincide with applications to participate in the district's STEAM program. Watch for the window to open in January.

For more information on how to apply, visit wbsd.org or call 248-865-6453.



\$1M DONATED BY WBEF TO CLASSROOMS

Did you know the West Bloomfield Educational Foundation (WBEF) has raised over a million dollars to date to provide educational programming in our classrooms and help buy state-of-the-art technology? Teachers carefully research what materials will make the classroom experience more impactful. The innovative technologies and academic tools make learning more engaging and creative. Partnering with generous community members like you, the WBEF has impacted every grade at every school in the district.

The WBEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. If you have already designated your year-end gifts, please save the date for a fun adult event this winter. WBEF will be hosting our annual **Casino Night** on Friday, February 2, 2024, at Glen Oaks Golf Club. This is an evening where Adults Play and Kids Win! If you have any questions, please call Andrea Frank at (248) 865-6467 or email andrea.frank@wbsd.org.



ALUMNI PROFILE:

Laura Morton

Laura Morton, WBHS Class of 1982, is a best selling author, mental health advocate, fearless storyteller, motivational speaker, life coach, award-winning filmmaker, entrepreneur, and self-proclaimed warrior. She is the author of over 60 books and a staggering 21 New York Times bestsellers, with a wide range of celebrities, including, Jennifer Hudson, Al Roker, Deborah Roberts, Justin Bieber, the Jonas Brothers, Susan Lucci, Joan Lunden, Melissa Etheridge, Katherine Schwarzenegger, Kathy Ireland and Danica Patrick — just to name a few. She has also written business books with John Maxwell, Bob Parsons, Dave Liniger, Glenn Stearns and many others. She is a world class collaborator in publishing and provides a unique insight and perspective through her work.

Laura has also been involved in the entertainment industry for more than 30 years as a writer, producer and entrepreneur. She was Co-Executive Producer of *The Palazzo Riggi*, the reality television series pilot produced in conjunction with E! and Ryan Seacrest Productions. Laura also co-directed, produced and wrote the award winning documentary, *Anxious Nation* (AnxiousNation.com), focused on the crisis of anxiety in America, especially its impact on our youth and their families, available for streaming on Amazon and AppleTV. As the parent of an anxious teen, Laura felt that she was failing her daughter as a parent. She made this film from the heart as a way to offer hope, strategies and support to others.

Laura did not come by these accomplishments easily, as her original career path did not go as planned. However, she believes that you are in charge of your destiny and that when you take the reins, you take control of your journey. Her personal life and career have exemplified this belief and she has spent much of her career motivating others to do the same. Her talks on living a truly fearless life, living a life of significance, life lessons she's learned from writing and telling others' stories, the art of collaboration, and more, have been a source of inspiration and guidance for many.



HOW HAS WBHS HELPED LAURA?

"I found my passion for writing while at WBHS. I was encouraged to be creative and learned the fundamentals and art of telling a good story. There were numerous teachers who had an impact in one way or another and I am very grateful for their contributions that led me on this path."

LAURA'S ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS:

"Take the time to figure out what gets you excited. Don't feel pressured to do or be something that doesn't feel authentic to who you are or what others expect you to become. I never dreamed I'd someday be a bestselling author or award-winning filmmaker. My path found me through many years of exploring and understanding my purpose and passion. If you aim to make a difference, everything else will follow."

OEC RAISES \$3K AT 5K



At Oakland Early College, we do school differently; through our partnership with Oakland Community College, we provide an early middle college experience where OEC students are simultaneously enrolled in high school and college classes at no cost to families. All students in 9th through 11th grade whose families reside in Oakland County can apply.

Here, students earn transferable college credits, up to an associate's degree, that will follow them to a four year university. There is also an option to earn a work certificate through one of OCC's many programs. All students are supported by our tenants of college, culture, community, and connection in a small and diverse school community while they progress through our five year high school program.

Tied to those tenants, each year OEC students host a 5K and entrance is free if you donate to one of the charities students pick in one of their regular town halls. OEC partners with the Oakland Community College Office of Student Engagement on this event. This year the students chose these beneficiaries:

- 01** Oakland County Foster Closet
(827 hygiene items collected)
- 02** OCC Orchard Ridge Food Pantry
(1187 non-perishable foods)
- 03** Rham World Wide
(2310 items of gently used clothing)



BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to maintain the number of mills required to be levied for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 18.6967 mills (\$18.6967 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, and 4.6587 mills (\$4.6587 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) against principal residences, qualified agricultural property, qualified forest property, supportive housing property, property occupied by a public school academy, industrial personal property and commercial personal property, in West Bloomfield School District, Oakland County, Michigan, be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2025 to 2034, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect from combined property taxes authorized herein if the millage is approved and levied in 2025 is approximately \$13,371,684 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2024 tax levy)?

Paid for by
West Bloomfield School District
5810 Commerce Rd.
West Bloomfield, Michigan 48324

KINDERGARTEN

Where the *Adventure* Begins

Kindergarten Round-Up

Wednesday, January 24

6:30 p.m.

West Bloomfield Middle School



WBSD

WBSD



Straighten Your Smile Confidently: Invisalign for Teens

ONE of the most common questions Dr. Andrea Nakisher is asked at her practice, Nakisher Orthodontics, is: "Is Invisalign right for my teenager?"

The reasons to choose Invisalign for teens, Dr. Nakisher said, is aesthetics, comfort, improved oral hygiene and there is no need for dietary restrictions.

Custom fit Treatment with Invisalign involves using a series of clear, removable aligners to straighten the teeth. They're custom-fabricated for each patient and are designed to gradually move teeth to their desired position.

The treatment process typically begins with a consultation where one of the orthodontists at Nakisher Orthodontics evaluates the patient's teeth and develops a personalized treatment plan. Nakisher Orthodontics has offices in Farmington Hills and Commerce Township.

"One of the most significant advantages of Invisalign for teenagers is its discreet appearance," Dr. Nakisher said. "Invisalign is virtually invisible, allowing teens to maintain a natural smile throughout their treatment."

There are no more worries about the metal brackets and wires associated with traditional braces. Invisalign aligners are made from a



Dr. Nakisher

smooth, comfortable plastic that eliminates the irritation and soreness that may be associated with braces, allowing teens to easily go about their daily activities. Easy on, easy off Invisalign aligners are removable, making it easier for teens to maintain proper oral hygiene.

They can simply take out the aligners to brush, floss and eat without any restrictions. Traditional braces come with a long list of foods to avoid, such as sticky candies and popcorn. Invisalign eliminates these dietary restrictions since the aligners are removed when eating.

Teens can enjoy their favorite foods without worrying about damaging their orthodontic appliances. Invisalign also typically requires fewer orthodontic appointments compared to traditional braces. This is great for busy teenagers who have school, extracurricular activities and social lives to balance.

Best of all, Invisalign allows teens to achieve a beautiful smile without the self-consciousness often associated with traditional braces. Their self-esteem and confidence receive a significant boost.

Step by step

Once a teenager begins Invisalign treatment, they will receive a series of aligners to be worn for about 22 hours a day. Every one to two weeks, they will switch to a new set of aligners as their teeth gradually shift into the desired positions.

Teens must be committed to wearing the aligners as recommended for their treatment to be effective.

"Invisalign for teens is a fantastic alternative to traditional braces, offering aesthetic, comfort, and lifestyle benefits," Dr. Nakisher said. "It provides teenagers with the opportunity to straighten their teeth and achieve a confident, beautiful smile without the challenges associated with metal braces."

Invisalign is a viable, effective, and convenient option to improve smiles. Call Nakisher Orthodontics at (248) 855-4142 to schedule a complimentary consultation.