

CommunicAT

WINTER 2023



EXPERIENCE OUR OUTSTANDING EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS



BRIAN GERSICH
Superintendent,
Waconia Public Schools

One benefit of the District Office being located at the Educational Services Center is that we are located in the same building as our early learning programs. With a short walk down the hall, I can find myself in a classroom with our youngest learners who are enrolled in one of our many Wildcat Preschool classes.

There are a number of studies, scholarly articles and research-based opinions on the importance of early learning education to the long-term growth and development of students, but witnessing it in-person is far more powerful.

Wildcat Preschool teachers and staff have a number of goals when students walk through their doors. Those goals include providing play-based inquiry, nurturing curiosity, providing a joy of learning, and supporting physical, intellectual, and social/emotional readiness skills using a research-based curriculum to support kindergarten readiness.

Three to five year olds who attend Wildcat Preschool will experience a curriculum that is intentionally



aligned with ISD 110 curriculum to create a seamless transition to kindergarten.

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Due to increased demand and popularity, Wildcat Preschool is expanding for the 2023-24 school year. New class times, more classrooms, additional staff and an elementary school-based classroom at Laketown Elementary School are all being added beginning next Fall.
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I highly encourage families who are looking for a preschool option for their children to attend the Wildcat Preschool Open House from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, at our Early Learning Center, located at 520 Industrial Blvd. This is an opportunity for parents/guardians to meet preschool staff, see a preschool classroom, and ask questions about Wildcat Preschool.

For more information about Wildcat Preschool class offerings, costs, and registration information, I invite you to see Page 3 of this edition of the CommunicAT.

WILDCAT PRESCHOOL IS 4-STAR PARENT AWARE RATED, THE HIGHEST RATING AWARDED.

Learn more:
www.waconiacommunityed.org



KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN FOR FALL OF 2023



Do you have a child who is eligible to start kindergarten in the Fall of 2023? Now is the time to complete the online enrollment process by visiting www.isd110.org/enrollment.

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Kindergarten is an exciting and important time in a student's life as they will develop and grow many academic, social, and emotional skills that will lay the foundation for their K-12 journey.
.....

In Waconia Public Schools, we strive to form a partnership with parents and guardians to create a safe, caring and cooperative environment. Our talented, caring, and dedicated teachers and staff will create developmentally appropriate activities throughout the day to meet the varying needs and

to optimize learning for all students in the areas of cognitive development, gross and fine motor skills, and social and emotional development.

We have three outstanding elementary schools - Bayview, Laketown, and Southview Elementary Schools - that serve students in grades K-5. If you are unsure which elementary school your child will attend, visit the District website and use our Interactive District Boundary Map tool.

Waconia Public Schools provides a standards-based curriculum in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health, Physical Education, Music, Art, and Media Skills to fully prepare all students to be successful life-long learners. Language Arts and Mathematics provide the core of the academic program for kindergarten students.

Our Kindergarten program challenges students to develop academically, socially and emotionally. We emphasize the introductory skills of reading, writing, mathematics, and problem-solving.

Our students are provided individualized support as they progress, at varying rates, through each developmental milestone.



To learn more about the Kindergarten experience in Waconia Public Schools, visit bit.ly/110KGuide or use your mobile device to scan the QR code to view and download the District's Kindergarten Guide.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW NIGHTS

Families will be invited to attend Kindergarten Preview Night in May. This is a great opportunity to get inside your child's school and learn about the exciting opportunities that await Kindergarten students in Waconia.

Meet your principal and kindergarten teachers, explore your new school, check out a kindergarten classroom, learn how to get involved in the PTO, and more!

Preview Night Dates:

Bayview Elementary | May 15, 2023

Laketown Elementary | May 4, 2023

Southview Elementary | May 2, 2023

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GO WILDCATS!

FALL ATHLETIC RECAP

Congratulations to all fall sport athletes and coaches for a successful season and for representing Waconia Public Schools in a positive way. Your hard work and determination led to the creation of lifelong memories, relationships and lessons.

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

The girls swimming and diving team qualified for the True Team State Meet and had 10 individuals qualify for the State Meet in eight different events. All-Conference honorees included Claire Canfield, Jordyn Grotbo, Amalia Schaefer, Laura Stockinger, Hailey Stotko and Abigail Voelker. All-Conference Honorable Mention honorees included Mallory Haas. Voelker was named All-State after placing sixth in the 100-yard butterfly at the State Meet.



VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team finished the season with a record of 11-10 and was eliminated from postseason play in the section quarterfinals by Chanhassen. All-Conference honorees included Natalie Feddema and Lily Thurk. All-Conference Honorable Mention honorees included Julianne Feddema and Bailey Gohlke.

FOOTBALL

The football team finished the season with a 7-3 record before falling to Chanhassen in the section 2AAAAA semifinals. All-Conference honorees included Jack Dalbec, Brody Leen, Tate McDonald, Max McEnelly, Alex Riley, and Anders Rodning. All-Conference Honorable Mention honorees included Gabe Kamann, Alex Mansager, Coleman Monskey, Bo Schmeig, and Jorge Toledo. McEnelly earned a number of statewide distinctions including being named a Mr. Football Finalist, First-Team All-Metro by the Star Tribune, and All-Metro by KARE-11.



BOYS SOCCER

The boys soccer team finished the season with a 6-6-3 record and was eliminated from postseason play in the section quarterfinals by Shakopee. All-Conference honorees included Asher Johnson, Jacob Krugerud and Evan White. All-Conference Honorable Mention honorees included Cooper Burman and Broyden Stuewe. Johnson, who led the team in scoring with 13 goals, was named Second-Team All-State.

GIRLS SOCCER

The girls soccer team finished the season with a 6-8-2 record and was eliminated from postseason play in the section quarterfinals by Chanhassen. All-Conference honorees included Morgan Lyon and Brynley Theis. All-Conference Honorable Mention honorees included Samantha Lange and Natalie Thiesfield.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

The boys cross country team placed eighth at both the Metro West Conference Meet and the Section 2AAA Meet. Jack Ulrich was the team's lone All-Conference honoree, while Mason Behrens was named All-Conference Honorable Mention.



GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

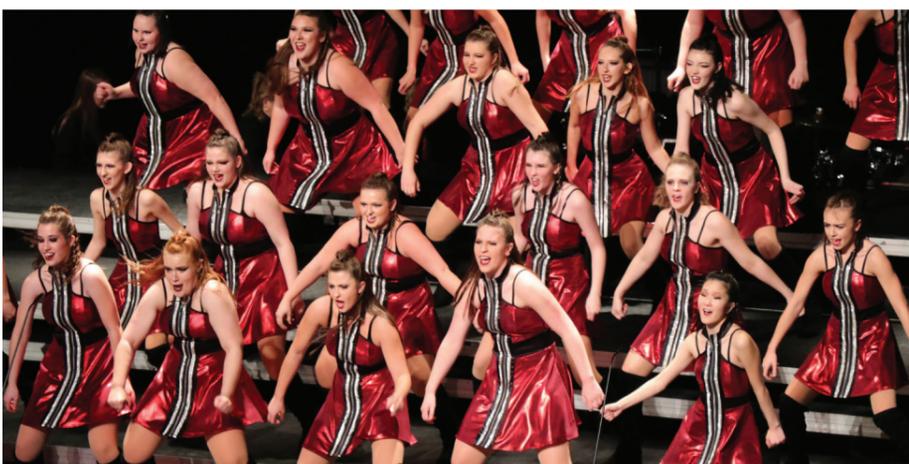
The girls cross country team captured the 2022 Metro West Conference Championship. Junior Madeline Lage earned All-State honors after placing 8th at the State Meet with a school record time of 18:17. All-Conference honorees included

Lage, Amelia Herold and Avery Hess. All-Conference Honorable mention honorees included Danica Kendrick and Jaidee Goehring.

GIRLS TENNIS

The girls tennis team was eliminated in the second round of the Section 2AA Tournament by the eventual champions from Minnetonka. Ashley Bryfczynski was the team's lone All-Conference honoree. All-Conference Honorable Mention honorees included Brianna Bollig and Mackenna Forster.

GO WILDCATS!



Waconia Public Schools' three show choirs – Power Company, The Current, and Shockwave – hosted their annual Premiere Night on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at the Waconia High School Performing Arts Center.

The show choirs are in the middle of their competition schedule which includes dates in Iowa, Wisconsin and South Dakota this year. Waconia High School will host Star Power 2023, one of the premiere high school show choir events in the Midwest, on Saturday, Feb. 18. Last year's competition featured performances by more than 20 choirs hailing from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Nebraska.



Waconia's curricular choirs and bands performed in the annual Yuletide Festival on Dec. 8-9 at the Waconia High School Performing Arts Center.

EIGHTEEN WMS STUDENTS NAMED TO UW-EAU CLAIRE HONOR BAND

Eighteen Waconia Middle School students participated in the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Honor Band on January 27.

This is the highest number of Waconia students that have ever been accepted to this honor ensemble.

The students traveled to the UW-Eau Claire campus and rehearsed with music educators Renee Rademaker, Dr. John R. Stewart,

Director of Concert Bands, and Dr. Phil Ostrander before performing a concert later that evening. Congratulations to the following students:

7TH GRADE

Marcus Bauer, Percussion
Riley Collins, Alto Saxophone
Megan Lewis, French Horn
Anna Ludford, Percussion
John Meyeres, Percussion
Kate Stineman, Percussion
Becca Thomas, Trumpet

8TH GRADE

Alaina Bode, Trombone
Venice Lonnes, Clarinet
Teagan Collins, Oboe
Maddie Hartmann, Clarinet
Sonja Johnson, Flute
Bennet McCurry, Tuba
Lauren Thaemert, Clarinet
Andie Tiller, Flute
Mia Tiller, Oboe
Miles Tyhurst, Clarinet
Everett Worm, Baritone

SCHOOL BOARD THANKS OUTGOING MEMBERS; WELCOMES FOUR NEW MEMBERS

The December 19 Regular Meeting of the School Board marked the final meeting for four outgoing board members, including Mike Bullis (2011-2022), Rachel Myers (2019-2022), Brian Rothstein (2011-2019; 2021-2022), and Jackie Johnson (2019-2022).

The four outgoing members were presented with a lifetime pass to Waconia Activities as a showing of appreciation for their years of service and a way for them to stay active and engaged in our school community.

The Board held its annual organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 3 at the District Office. Newly elected board members Kelly Amott, Jesse Bergstrom, Melanie Hagen and Kimberly Kelzer-Breeden recited an oath of office at the onset of the meeting. The full board then nominated and voted members into officer positions including Dana Geller as Chair, Luke DeBoer as Vice Chair/Clerk and Alycia Myers as Treasurer.

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD CALENDAR:

- February 13, 2023** | Work Session | 7:00 p.m.
- February 27, 2023** | Regular Meeting | 7:00 p.m.
- March 13, 2023** | Work Session | 7:00 p.m.
- March 27, 2023** | Regular Meeting | 7:00 p.m.
- April 11, 2023** | Work Session | 7:00 p.m.
- April 24, 2023** | Regular Meeting | 7:00 p.m.



Outgoing school board members (L to R) Mike Bullis, Rachel Meyers, Brian Rothstein and Jackie Johnson

MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Waconia Public Schools recently hired Steven Jensen as the District's new Director of Community Education. Jensen started his new role on January 16 and replaces Tiffany Nelson, who announced her resignation after 21 years of service to the District.



Jensen brings more than 11 years of experience working in community education, including the last four years as Director of Community Education for Jordan Public Schools. Prior to his current role in

Jordan, Steven worked for eight years in the Burnsville Eagan Savage Public Schools Community Education Department in a coordinator role. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management from Gustavus Adolphus College and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership with a Director of Community Education License from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

As Director of Community Education, Jensen will be responsible for the overall planning, implementation, fiscal control and operation of Community Education programs and its staff in the areas of Early Childhood Family Education, Kids' Company, Wildcat Preschool, adult enrichment, youth recreation and enrichment programming.

WILDCAT PRESCHOOL TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 21



Wildcat Preschool, a 4-Star Parent Aware Rated early learning program, strives to educate, collaborate, empower and support families, nurture development and treat all with respect. Due to increased demand and popularity, we are excited to announce that we are expanding our preschool offerings for children ages 3-5 for 2023-24.

OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

Join us for our Open House on Tuesday, February 21 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at our Early Learning Center, located at 520 Industrial Blvd. in Waconia. Meet the preschool staff, see inside a preschool classroom, and ask questions to learn more about Wildcat Preschool!

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Current preschool families and ISD 110 employees may begin enrolling for Wildcat Preschool at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 21 and continuing through Friday, March 3. Families new to Wildcat Preschool may begin enrolling at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 21. All registrations are completed online and will follow a two-step process.

First, you will register through Affinity, the online Community Education registration system. For the second step, you will register with ISD 110 through Infinite Campus Online Registration. A non-refundable registration fee of \$45 is due at the time of registration.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about Wildcat Preschool or the registration process you can visit the Community Education section of the District website or call the Early Learning Programs office at 952-442-0613.



2023-24 CLASS OFFERINGS

Days	Time	Ages	Location	Fees
Tue/Thur AM 3 sessions	8:30-11:00 AM	3, early 4	Early Childhood Family Center	\$110 - Monthly tuition \$80 - One time supply fee
Tue/Thur PM 1 session	12:00-2:30 PM	3, early 4	Early Childhood Family Center	\$110 - Monthly tuition \$80 - One time supply fee
Mon/Wed/Fri AM 2 sessions	8:30-11:00 AM	3 and 4	Early Childhood Family Center	\$155 - Monthly tuition \$105 - One time supply fee
Mon/Wed/Fri Extended Day 1 session	8:30 AM-1:30 PM	4 and up	Early Childhood Family Center	\$295 - Monthly tuition \$120 - One time supply fee
Mon-Thurs PM 2 sessions	12:00-2:30 PM	4 and up	Early Childhood Family Center	\$195 - Monthly tuition \$130 - One time supply fee
Mon-Fri AM 1 session	8:30-11:00 AM	4 and up	Early Childhood Family Center	\$250 - Monthly tuition \$105 - One time supply fee
Mon-Fri PM 1 session	12:00-2:30 PM	4 and up	Early Childhood Family Center	\$250 - Monthly tuition \$140 - One time supply fee
Mon-Fri Full Day 1 session	7:55 AM-2:30 PM	4 and up	Laketown Elementary	\$650 - Monthly tuition \$200 - One time supply fee

FUTURE ACADEMIC CALENDARS

The School Board approved academic calendars for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years at its November 28 Regular Meeting.



Downloadable and printable one-page versions of both calendars are available on the district website at bit.ly/110calendars or by using your mobile device to scan the adjacent QR code.

2023-24 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:

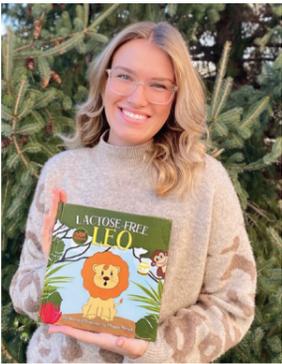
- Aug. 28, 2023**
First Day of School, Gr. 1-12
- Aug. 30, 2023**
First Day of Kindergarten
- Nov. 20-24, 2023**
Fall Break
- Dec. 25, 2023-Jan. 2, 2024**
Winter Break
- March 4-8, 2024**
Spring Break
- May 24, 2024**
Class of 2024 Graduation
- May 30, 2024**
Last Day of School

CommunicAT

WINTER 2023



CHILDREN'S BOOK BY RECENT GRADUATE LANDS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEDIA CENTERS



“ I think the main thing that I'm hoping students who read the book will learn is that sometimes differences can be small or large and sometimes you can't see them but that doesn't mean they aren't affecting someone.”

- MAGGIE MERNIK
Author, Illustrator, & 2019 Graduate

Students in Waconia's three elementary schools have a new book available to them in their respective media centers and the author and illustrator is 2019 Waconia graduate Maggie Mernik.

Mernik is a senior at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul who expects to graduate this spring with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Nutrition. About two years ago she had a dream about a children's book series that was dedicated to helping children learn about health related differences regarding nutrition and overall health and wellness. That dream and Mernik's own personal experiences with food

sensitivity and intolerance led to her publishing the book "Lactose-Free Leo."

When Waconia Public Schools Director of Nutritional Services Barb Schank caught wind of the new book, she purchased several copies to be placed in the District's elementary schools and the early childhood programs library.

After graduating from St. Thomas, Mernik is hoping to attend graduate school to become a registered dietitian nutritionist. She also plans to continue writing and illustrating children's books and is already working on a second book in the series.

You can read more about Lactose-Free Leo and support Mernik's work by visiting www.wildwellnessbooks.com.

On the go - on your phone, tablet, or computer

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isd110.org



UPCOMING KEY DATES AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 3 Conferences/In-Service/Flex Day (No School E-12)
- 17 2-Hour Early Release (E-12)
- 20 Presidents' Day/Teacher Flex Day (No School E-12)

MARCH

- 2 End of Trimester 2 (K-5/WHS)
- 3 Teacher Workday (No School E-12)
- 6-10 Spring Break (No School E-12)
- 31 End of Quarter 3 (WMS)

APRIL

- 7 2-Hour Early Release (E-12)
- 10 No School E-12

MAY

- 26 7:00 p.m. | Class of 2023 Graduation
- 29 Memorial Day (No School E-12)

JUNE

- 1 Last Student Day
- 2 Last Teacher Work Day

For All Academic Calendars and High School Activities, visit isd110.org

BECOME A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER!

Make a positive impact in our Schools!

- Flexible!
- Rewarding!
- \$130/day
- Free School Lunch when you Substitute!

OTHER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Kids' Company
- Health Associate
- Educational Assistant
- Performing Arts Facilities Coordinator
- Security Monitor



Visit www.isd110.org or Scan Here to see all of our Open Opportunities!



#WeAreONE10!