



# Vantage Point

*West Bend School District  
Highlights 2024-2025*

**WB**  
WEST BEND  
JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

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Vantage Point is a yearbook of highlights from the West Bend School District for the 2024-2025 school year. It provides a snapshot of the many accomplishments of our students, the dedication from our staff, and the support we are lucky to have from our families and community.

Special recognition goes out to all in our school district that exhibited innovation and compassion for all in educating students. The students, staff, and families of the West Bend School district are truly second to none.

Please keep in mind this report is for the previous year's activities and the pictures and information in this publication are from 2024-2025.

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## The West Bend School District

Schools: East High, West High, Badger Middle, Silverbrook Intermediate, Decorah Elementary, Fair Park Elementary, Green Tree Elementary, Jackson Elementary, McLane Elementary

Programs: Washington County Head Start, West Bend Virtual Academy, Early Learning

Municipalities Served: City of West Bend, Villages of Jackson and Newburg, all or portions of the townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison.



# Facilities Referendum Approved

The 2024-2025 school year began on a high note for the students, staff, families, and communities of the West Bend School District. In November 2024, voters supported the West Bend School District's \$106.25 million facilities referendum. This investment is paving the way for district right-sizing: five buildings will be closed, a new Jackson Elementary School will be built, security will be enhanced across all schools, and critical infrastructure—like outdated mechanical systems—will be modernized.

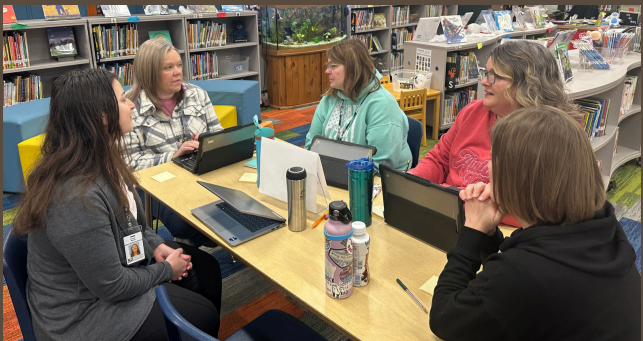


**WEST BEND SCHOOLS**  
Design & Construction

School Year Calendar Year		2024-25				2025-26				2026-27				2027-28													
		2025								2026								2027									
		Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall		Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall		Winter		Spring		Summer		Fall			
		D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Jackson Elementary	Design																										
	Bidding																										
	Construction																										
McLane & Green Tree	Design																										
	Bidding																										
	Construction																										
Badger & Silverbrook	Design																										
	Bidding																										
	Construction																										
High Schools	Design																										
	Bidding																										
	Construction																										

## Achieving a Favorable Rate

The first phase of borrowing as part of the referendum—\$80 million in general obligation bonds—has been successfully completed. Just as with a home mortgage, interest is charged on borrowings. Leading up to the referendum vote, the West Bend School District provided an estimated “total cost” of the referendum, which included a potential interest paid on funds borrowed. However, we locked in a favorable interest rate for our first borrowing and that will end up nearly \$8 million less in interest over the life of the loan than was estimated. The remaining \$26.25 million will likely be borrowed in 2026.



This favorable interest rate was achieved through another positive development. Standards & Poor (S&P), the international financial organization, reviewed the district’s financial health prior to issuing the bonds and upgraded its credit rating from AA- to AA. This upgrade places the WBSD’s credit rating in the top 19 percent of school districts in Wisconsin that are rated by S&P.

# Facilities Referendum Approved

## Reconfiguration Details



The facilities referendum addresses declining enrollment and aging buildings by closing Decorah and Fair Park Elementary Schools, Rolfs Education Center (which houses Head Start and some of the Early Learning Program), and the district office (which also houses students in Alternative Education Programs). Jackson Elementary will be rebuilt.

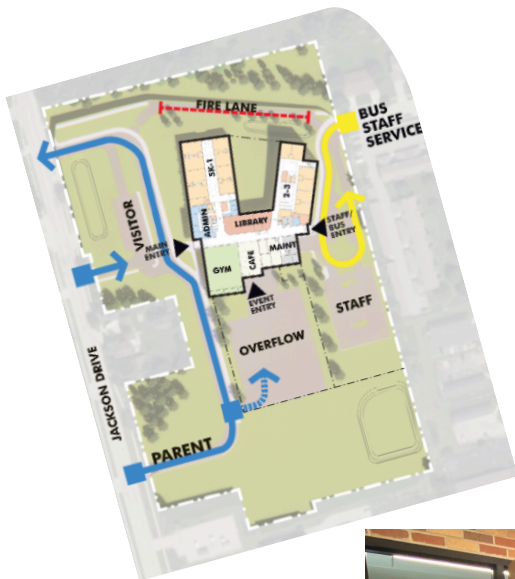
Of course, it is difficult to close schools that have been serving students and families so well for many years. However, the reconfiguration allows all elementary students in the district to attend updated schools that have newly-installed security features, updated mechanical systems, and more modern amenities.

The closure of Rolfs Education Center, with the classes moved to remodeled rooms in Green Tree and McLane will take place in fall 2026.

In fall 2027, several aspects of the reconfiguration will be complete:

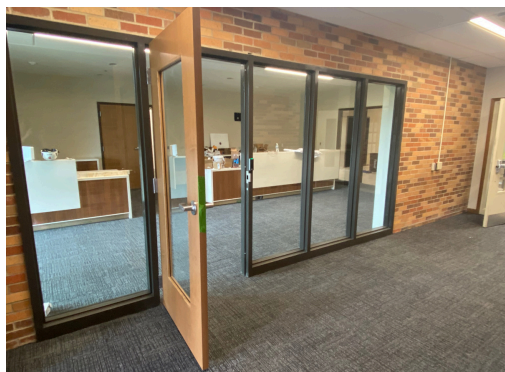
- New Jackson Elementary School opens and original school closes
- Silverbrook Intermediate School becomes Silverbrook Elementary School, serving grades K-5
- Decorah and Fair Park Elementary Schools close

## Current Updates



The preliminary design of the new Jackson Elementary shows a west-facing building that will be built on district-owned land south of Main Street. The design is a culmination of months of work with a committee of Jackson Elementary staff and district administration, a survey of families, and even input from students. The construction will begin in spring 2026.

Construction was moved ahead one year for some capital improvements at Green Tree and McLane Elementary Schools. At the start of the 2025-2026 school year, secure entry sequences, some bathroom upgrades, and window and door replacements, and other maintenance projects were complete. Exterior site work for both schools will take place in 2026.



# West Bend School District Updates in 2024-2025

## *4K Nature-Based Program Moves*

Beginning in September 2025, the West Bend School District will operate one of its two nature-based 4K programs at its Outdoor Science Education Center. This 40-acre site, located across the street from the high schools building near the southeast corner of River and Decorah Roads, includes a heated building, nature trails, and ponds.

Operated through a partnership with the Kettle Moraine YMCA, the nature-based 4K program features students spending two days a week at Holy Trinity Church Preschool in Newburg and two days at the Outdoor Science Education Center. The other nature-based 4K program is also operated as a partnership with the YMCA and is located at Trinity Lutheran and Camp Silver Brook, both in West Bend.

The 4K program is available at no cost for families residing within the West Bend School District attendance area, and families living outside the district are welcome to apply through the Parental Choice program.



## *Change in High School Athletic Conferences in 25-26*

Most of the WIAA-sponsored sports at East and West High Schools will be part of the newly-created Glacier Trails Conference beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Members of the conference include West Bend East, West Bend West, Kettle Moraine Lutheran, Kewaskum, Plymouth, Port Washington, and Sheboygan South.

Not all the East and West WIAA-sponsored sports will be in the new conference:

- Remaining in the North Shore Conference:
  - Football (for the 2025-2026 school year and then move into the Glacier Trails Conference)
  - Girls and boys Rush Co-op Lacrosse
  - Girls Swim and Dive (co-op team)
- Gymnastics (co-op team) will be in the Greater Metro Conference in 2025-2026
- Ice Bears Boys Co-op Hockey team will remain in the Classic Eight Conference
- Lakeshore Lightning Girls Co-Op Hockey team will remain in the Eastern Shores Conference

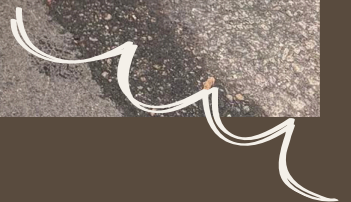
# Academics & Opportunity in 2024-2025

## *K-6 Achievement*

Released in November 2024, the 2023-2024 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Accountability Report Cards are a snapshot of achievement in the schools. Both Decorah and Green Tree earned the highest rating possible, Significantly Exceeds Expectations. Fair Park, Jackson, McLane, and Silverbrook each earned Exceeds Expectations.

Data from multiple school years is used to produce results for each school in four Priority Areas: Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-Track to Graduation. Other elementary accomplishments:

- For the third straight year, Green Tree earned a perfect Math Growth score of 100.
- Growth scores for both Decorah and Green Tree ranked in the top 10% of elementary schools in the state.
- Silverbrook's Growth score has increased for four consecutive years.
- Among Washington County elementary schools, McLane was in the top 3 in English Language Arts achievement and Jackson was in the top 3 in math achievement.
- McLane and Jackson had Achievement scores that have ranked in the top 25% of districts in the state for four consecutive years.
- Fair Park's Achievement score has increased for three consecutive years.



# Academics & Opportunity

## *Opportunities and Choice in 7-12*

Kyle Wawrzyn knew what he wanted to be when he grew up. So he worked with Kris Kemp, school counselor for East and West High Schools, to make sure it happened sooner rather than later by taking full advantage of the Career Prep dual enrollment program of Moraine Park Technical College available at the high schools.

The goal of the Career Prep Program is to promote and support high school to college transitions for career and technical education students. Transcribed courses, which are Moraine Park Technical College courses taught by high school teachers using technical college curriculum and textbooks, are available at East and West.



Kyle's plan worked so well that he was both a 2025 East High School and Moraine Park Technical College graduate. Kyle earned his Technical Diploma in the Electricity program and his OSHA 10 certification from Moraine Park Technical College. He accepted a position with Staff Electric as a construction wireman, which will lead him to become an apprentice and eventually a journeyman electrician.



At East and West High Schools, there are several dual enrollment programs where students can earn college credits before they ever step onto a two- or four-year college campus:

- Advanced Placement (AP) - East and West High Schools offer up to 27 courses.
- Project Lead the Way - Classes in computer science, biomedical science, and engineering.
- Cooperative Academic Partnership Program (UW Oshkosh) and Partnership in Education (UW-Whitewater) - several classes are offered virtually
- Early College Credit - students take courses at an institution of higher education for high school and/or college credit
- Start College Now - college courses are taken at Wisconsin Technical Colleges

# Academics & Opportunity

## Students Are Challenging Themselves

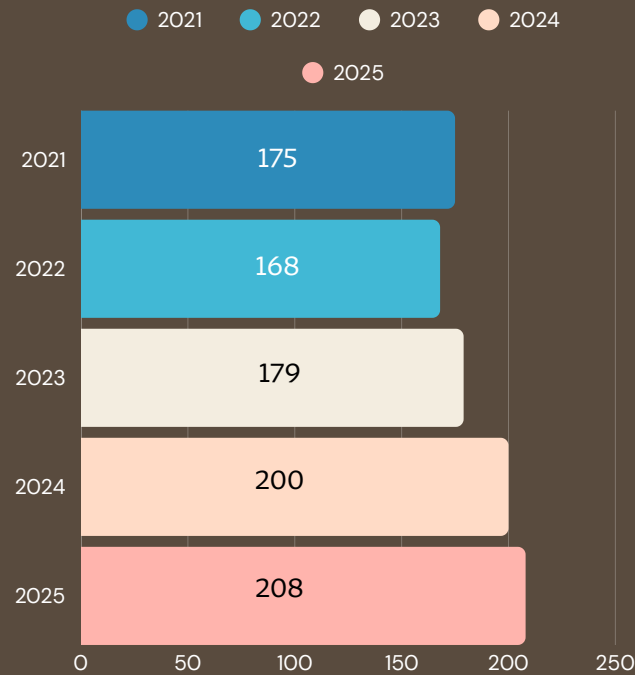
Taking an Advanced Placement (AP) class is a commitment to time management, challenging coursework, and test preparation. However, students of East and West High School don't back down. The West Bend School District supports access for all students to take AP courses regardless of their college and/or career goals, however they are encouraged to speak with teachers, school counselors, and family members to ensure a schedule supports the academic rigor.

Students enrolled in AP courses are exposed to college-level curriculum, expectations, and the AP exam is taken in the spring. If the score of the exam is at the appropriate level, the student will receive college credits.

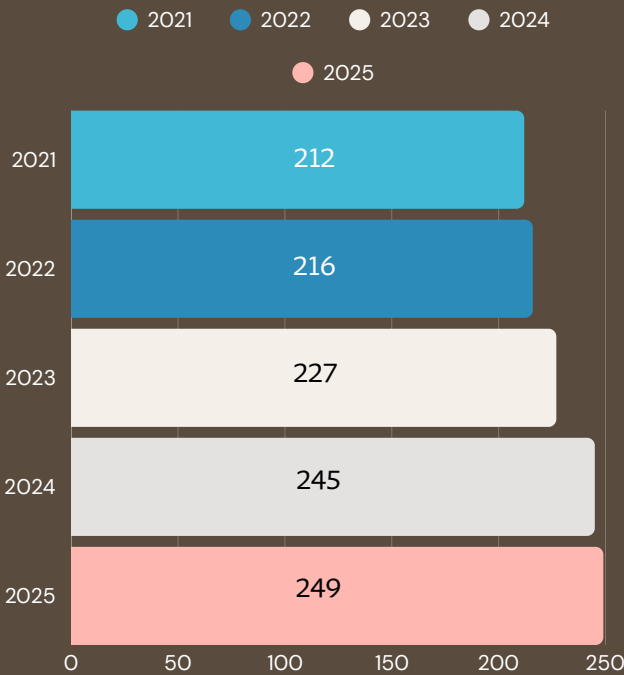
94% of West students who took AP exams in 2025 scored a 3 or higher

92% of East students who took AP exams in 2025 scored a 3 or higher

East AP students with Exam Scores 3+



West AP students with Exam Scores 3+



# Metrics on Student Behavior

When the behavioral expectations are clear for students, and when students also know the disciplinary responses to certain behaviors, the vast majority rise to meet the expectations. In fact, everyday the West Bend Schools welcome thousands of students into its buildings and every single day, a great majority easily meet the behavioral expectations each school has set for them.

The West Bend School District uses a comprehensive data driven approach to behavior that includes setting clear expectations, implementing consistent responses, family engagement, a mental health framework, and targeted professional learning for staff. This approach has resulted in notable results, including meeting and exceeding behavior goals.

## *Percentage of students with no violations:*

Disruptive behavior 96.8%	Fighting 99.7%
Disrespectful behavior 95.7%	Threats 99.1%
Insubordination 96.3%	
Personal Tech 91.9% (0 or 1 violation)	

Administrators and staff continue to strive for a positive, engaging, and productive climate in the schools as a means to affect student behavior in a good way. The specific behavior goals for each school in 2024-2025 centered around fostering respectful, safe environments, resulting in incredibly low numbers in some of the most serious behavior categories.

## *Office referrals:*

85% or more of all students had 0 or 1 major office referral  
95% had 5 or less

Jared Kiesow and Dave Riley, assistant principals at the West Bend High Schools, presented “Supporting and Responding to Student Behavior through Disciplinary Rubrics” at the Wisconsin Associate Principal Conference on the high school’s student discipline framework. The session highlighted the process used to develop the disciplinary rubrics and demonstrated how they use the rubric in response to various scenarios.



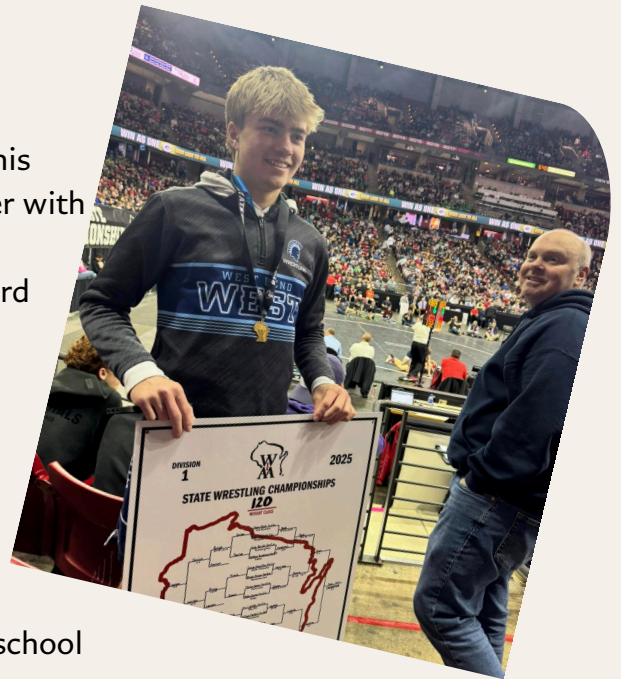
# Student and Staff Achievements



## *We are the Champions*

West senior Ethan Bast completed his amazing high school wrestling career with his second straight WIAA State Championship. His 2024-2025 record was 45-2!

McKennah Orth, a senior at East, was the 2025 WIAA State Gymnastics All-Around, Vault, and Floor Exercise champion—the first East student to be a state gymnastics champion. She also set school records in floor and all-around.



## *Placing at State*

The West Bend Co-op Boys Swimming and Diving team took fifth place out of 37 schools at the 2025 WIAA State Championships. A number of the swimmers finished in the top eight:

- 2nd: 200 Medley Relay with Drew Gundrum, Weston Keppert, Dawson Walters, and Wesley Aleithe
- 2nd: 400 Free Relay with Wesley Aleithe, Weston Keppert, Drew Gundrum, and Dawson Walters
- Dawson Walters took 3rd in the 100 Butterfly and 4th in the 200 Freestyle
- Drew Gundrum took 7th in the 100 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke
- Weston Keppert took 8th in the 100 Backstroke

# Student and Staff Achievements



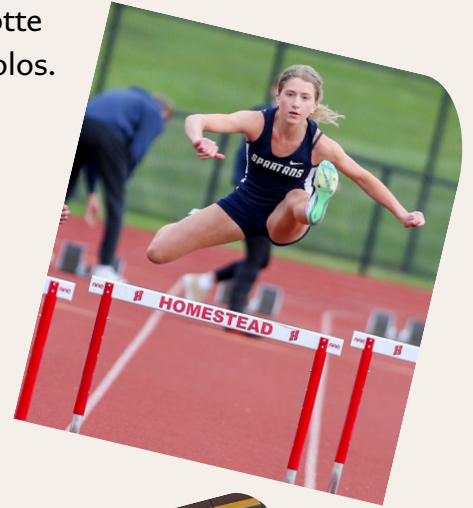
## *Placing at State, cont.*

Not only did East senior Maddie Rummel place second in floor exercise at the 2025 WIAA State Gymnastics meet, she also placed sixth in the 2024 WIAA State Diving meet.

At the Wisconsin Association of Cheer and Pom Coaches State Championship, the East Dance Team earned 4th place in Division 2 Kick, 6th place in Division 2 Jazz, and 7th in Division 3 Pom. In addition, seniors Gia Burgos, Raegan Cunningham, Mikayla Schroeder, and Aubrey Turcotte made the All-State Team with their solos.



West junior Rylee Faehling took second in the 300 hurdles at the WIAA State Track and Field Championships and West sophomore Jack Lubinski took fifth in wrestling in his first trip to the state championships.



## *Setting Volleyball Records*

Several West volleyball records were set and broken. Kylee Altendorf reached milestone achievements in career digs and kills; Maddie Abel reached 2,000 assists, and Emmy Miller reached 1,000 digs.



## *Bauer Has Triple Crown*

West senior basketball player Carson Bauer achieved the "triple crown" in his final West season. He is now the West record holder for the most points scored in a game, a season, and a career.



## *Milestone for Guse*

Paige Guse scored her 1,000th career point for the West basketball team. She is only the fourth Spartan to reach this milestone.



# Student and Staff Achievements

## *ACT Aces*

Noah Becker, a West junior in 2024-2025, earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT, which fewer than 0.3 percent of all test takers nationwide achieve.

Fifteen seniors from East and West scored either 35, 34, or 33 on the ACT when they took it as juniors in 2024. From West, Maddee Bell, Samantha Eckert, Liam Mickie, Evelyn Miller, Cadence Pauli, Elyse Reedell,



Owen Schloemer, Vincent Somers, Reed Strohfeldt, and Mason Warczak. And, Dakota Gunnare, Annelise Paczesny, Ian Ressler, Reed White, and Evelyn Wolfe from East.

## *Book Battles Abound*

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association, Battle of the Books is a fun, statewide program that is designed to promote a love of reading. It is wildly popular in grades 4-8, with a total of 546 students participating. One of the teams at Silverbrook tied for 15th at the state competition and earned Honors Club status by scoring more than 300 points.



## *Badger Teacher Earns Award*

Jessica Tortomasi, a reading interventionist at Badger Middle School, won an Outstanding Educator award from WEA Member Benefits. This award honors the exceptional contributions of Wisconsin public school educators.

# Student and Staff Achievements



## *Merit Finalists*

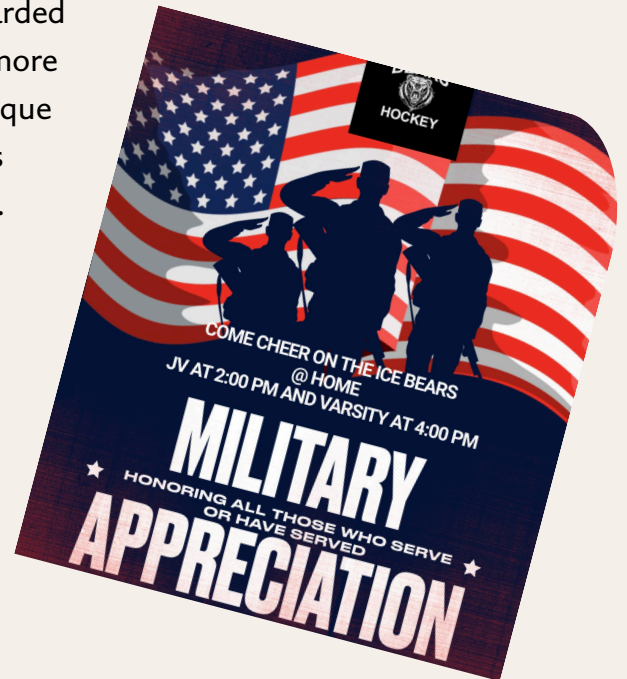
Samantha Eckert (West) and Evelyn Wolfe (East) were named National Merit Semifinalists, placing them in the top one percent of students nationwide based on PSAT scores. Elyse Reedell (West) was named a Commended Student, recognized for her exceptional academic promise.

## *Scholarships will Help Grads*

More than 150 East and West High Schools seniors were awarded scholarships through COLUMNS and other sources totaling more than \$940,000 in community-based support. This effort, unique to our region, connects students with local donors and makes post-secondary education more accessible for many students.

## *Giving Back*

At its annual Military Night event, the Ice Bears Co-op Boys Hockey team raised \$4,000 for U.S. Hockey Players Support Our Troops. This is a family-sponsored campaign that supports Gold Star Families, service members, and projects that support them.



## *Best in the Region*

The East and West High Schools Student Council won the prestigious Wisconsin Association of School Councils Spirit of Excellence Award for Region 4. This award recognizes schools for achieving excellence in leadership, sportsmanship, and service to their school and communities.

In addition, Skip Clark, longtime advisor of the student council and science teacher for East, was named Region 4 Advisor of the Year.



# Student and Staff Achievements

## *Grant Helps Mental Health*

The Youth Impact Club at Badger Middle School received a \$500 grant from the Green Bay Packers Community Impact Project for service projects that impact their school, neighborhood, or community. The club promotes positive mental health so they created "Lift Kits." Students can give one to a classmate if/when that peer needs a positive "lift." The "Lift Kits" will include water, snacks, inspirational stickers, and inspirational messages.



## *Students Place at Auto Event*

Connor Trahan (East) and Maximus Costa (West) placed third out of 16 teams in the annual Waukesha County Technical College automotive competition. They each won more than \$2,000 in tools and a tool box.

## *Achieving Graduates*

Three West Bend students were part of the larger group that completed Project SEARCH, gaining employment skills through internships with West Bend Insurance.

Ten West Bend students graduated from the GPS Education Partners program, where academic coursework is combined with job site experiences.

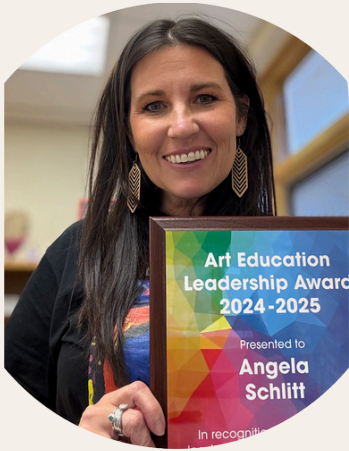
Fifty-five high school students earned graduation cords for completing Youth Apprenticeships, with some earning jobs right after graduation.



On May 28, the largest ever group of seniors from East and West signed on the dotted line for military service. Twenty students signed to serve in the Air Force ROTC, Army ROTC, Navy ROTC, Army, National Guard, Marines, and Navy.



# Student and Staff Achievements



## *Special Award for Jackson Art Teacher*

Angela Schlitt, art teacher at Jackson Elementary, was awarded the Art Education Leadership Award from Artsonia. The award honors pioneers in the art education community who inspire their peers and engage their students in art.

## *Civics Specialists*

For the first time in school and competition history, three teams from the same school qualified for the 2025 Wisconsin Civics Games State Competition—of course, those three teams were from the West Bend High Schools. At the Wisconsin Newspaper Association 2025 Wisconsin Civics Games State Championship, two of the teams from East and West placed in the top three.

The team of Charlie Benning, Teddy Danaher, Wyatt Schloemer, Owen Schloemer, and Mason Warczak took second place. Taking third was the team of Aubrey Enright, Amanda Hull, Georgia Janssen, Faith Mueller, and Elli Schrauth.



## *Awards in the Arts*

The high school musical “Little Shop of Horrors” was nominated for 13 Jerry Awards, which recognize excellence in student theater across Wisconsin and are among the most competitive in the state.

At the band, orchestra, and choir State Solo and Ensemble competition, three entries won the prestigious Exemplary Performance Award. Winners were Lilly Beane for her clarinet solo; Sophia Bowen, Chloe Bauer, Shay Feiter, and Tatiyana Patrick for a voice quartet; and PULSE, the band’s jazz ensemble.



East junior Vincent Zirbes received a national Gold Medal in the 2025 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for his drawing “Time’s Inescapable Grasp.” Vincent was one of 110,000 teens who entered more than 310,000 original works of art. Previously, he won four Gold Key Art Awards through the regional Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and one of those has now won the national award.



**WEST BEND**  
— SCHOOL DISTRICT —  
**EXCELLENCE FOR ALL**