



# KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE" September 2024 kingsleyschools.org

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## KINGSLEY HIGH SCHOOL LAUNCHES NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S FIRST NAVAL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER'S TRAINING CORP



Kingsley High School is proud to announce the launch of Northern Michigan's first Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (NJROTC) - Enrollment for the Class is Now Open!

The brand new unit is the first program north of Flint, Michigan, and will be offered to all high school students as a daily elective class.

The NJROTC program offers a comprehensive four-year curriculum centered on naval science and leadership development. Students will explore topics like naval history, strategy, navigation, astronomy, meteorology, oceanography, marksmanship, and engineering. These in-class experiences will be by extracurricular activities that

will be enriched by extracurricular activities that may include shooting practice, military site visits, ceremonies, and field trips.

The curriculum also incorporates essential life skills such as personal fitness, financial literacy, college prep, and mental health. The class will impart lessons applicable to every student, whether on a military trajectory or not.

"NJROTC has a lot of the things the community has asked for; SAT prep, financial planning, how to stand up to bullying, how to prepare a college application, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and managing anxiety and stress," said KHS teacher Kristen Bauer. *Continued on page 2*

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# Kingsley High School Launches Northern Michigan's First Naval Junior Officer's Training Corp

*Continued from front page.* The class is not a recruiting program, but rather a class rooted in the core values of the Navy.

"The Navy is looking to start these programs across the country to help students gain better leadership, citizenship, and pride in their country," said Instructor Gunnery Sergeant Mathew Barr.

"This class is for students who want to have the experience of the military and gain all the intangible stuff like leadership, integrity, commitment, and discipline. I guarantee students will never want to leave this class. It becomes a family, like a close-knit unit like we are in the military."

Launching this program has been a dream years in the making for longtime KHS teacher Kristen Bauer. She was inspired initially by her uncle who was a student in the NJROTC. After visiting a unit at Belleville High School downstate, she met Gy. Sgt. Mathew Barr and knew it would be a great fit for Kingsley High School.

"This program helps every kind of student become active, acquire leadership skills, and give them that next level training they'll need for college, trade school, or the workplace," said Mrs. Bauer. "This isn't just for one type of student. It takes a student from wherever they are now and helps them grow."

"It's about figuring out that you are stronger than you think, that you can do more than you think, and being able to stand up on your own and figure out that you're a powerful person."

35+ students are already signed up, and enrollment will remain open through the first few weeks of the school year.

"I joined this class because it's stuff I love to do, and I just hate sitting in the classroom. I think it'd be really cool to be able to do all this stuff that I've done before and love to do," said Junior Isaiah Cosgrove.

*Students who would like to join the class may email Kristen Bauer at [kbauer@kingsleyschools.org](mailto:kbauer@kingsleyschools.org)*



## Meet the Instructor: Gunnery Sergeant Mathew Barr

-Enlisted in the Marine Corps because of 9/11, spent 15 years in the military

-Worked in many positions including Helicopter Rope Suspension Instructor, Black Belt Martial Arts Instructor, Mortar Unit Leader, Infantry Unit Leader, Scout Sniper Unit Leader, Ground Combat Element Officer, and Infantry Instructor training thousands in war fighting and tactics

-Deployed to 40+ countries to work with and train American allies, conduct combat missions, lead training cycles, and execute deployments



## NJROTC Students Meet Navy's Blue Angels

During the National Cherry Festival, a few students who are signed up for NJROTC got to meet the Blue Angels!

Students will have the chance to participate in several kinds of extracurricular opportunities like this. The NJROTC website lists several experiences other units have participated in:

- Orientation visits to naval and military bases
- Cruises aboard US naval vessels
- Leadership training in the spring and summer
- School and local activities like parades, community service, athletic events, underwater robotics, and regional and national competitions

## Meet Elementary Assistant Principal Marshall Collins



Born and raised in Northport, Michigan, Marshall Collins started his career in education in his hometown, where he worked as a teacher, coach, and athletic director across 11 years.

Recently, he started looking for a leadership position and was drawn to Kingsley Area Schools.

“You hear so much about this growing community here. Kingsley has always been successful in sports, and I’ve always liked the Kingsley Stag swag,” said Mr. Collins. “When this opportunity popped up, I jumped on it.”

He was also drawn to Kingsley’s close-knit feel.

“I’m from a small school, small town, and I get the same small-school vibe here,” said Mr. Collins. “I am excited to pitch in and do my part to make sure everything works.”

Mr. Collins will work as a team with Principal Goethals on all administrative matters and will have his office inside the middle school building to primarily oversee fourth and fifth grade students, but he will be supporting both buildings.

“I am excited to work with Mr.

Collins to make sure that all of our staff and students feel supported and have what they need. We have been working together all summer and are excited for everyone else to join us,” said Principal Goethals.

When Mr. Collins started this summer, one of the first things he did was go through flashcards with students’ photos to learn all of his new students’ names.

“The best part about being an educator is the kids. That’s simple. Just watching students learn and grow over time. Being around little learners is the most important piece,” said Mr. Collins.

**Welcome to Kingsley Area Schools, Mr. Collins!**



## Welcome Back to Kingsley Elementary!



**By Kristin Goethals**  
Elementary Principal  
kgoethals@kingsleyschools.org

I hope you had a wonderful and restful summer break filled with memorable moments and quality family time. I enjoyed lots of quality time with my children before sending my two oldest off to college where they are prepping for their rugby season. The rest of our family is gearing up for football season. As we embark on a new school year, I am excited to see our hallways filled with the energy and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and families.

We are thrilled to welcome our new families to Kingsley Elementary School! Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning for another year, we are committed to providing a supportive, engaging, and enriching educational experience for your children.

Our dedicated team of educators has been working diligently over the summer to prepare for a successful year. We have many exciting changes as we shifted teachers around the buildings to support our students. The elementary school also shifted to include our fifth grade students and we are excited to support them.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our office staff, teachers, and I are here to support you and ensure a positive and productive school year for everyone.

It is going to be a great year! Go Stags!

## Kingsley Elementary’s Molly Dunham Receives Regional Teacher of the Year Award

On August 13, Mrs. Dunham received her Regional Teacher of the Year award.

The third-grade teacher was selected as the best educator in all of Northern Michigan. She and nine other finalists were recognized at a ceremony in Lansing, Michigan at the Michigan Department of Education.

**Congratulations Mrs. Dunham!**





**Class of 2025 Students and Families: KAS administration wants your input. Scan the QR code and fill out the survey today!**

## Cafeteria News



**By Kristy Donner**  
Dining Services Director  
kdonner@kingsleyschools.org

### Free Breakfast & Lunch for All Students

KAS will be participating in the Michigan School Meals Program again this year. What does that mean? ALL students enrolled are eligible for breakfast and lunch at school with NO charge. *If you have not completed your household Education Benefits Form please go to [Kingsley.familyportal.cloud](https://kingsley.familyportal.cloud) or pick up a paper form at any school office.*

### What's Included with a school breakfast or lunch?

A meal includes an entrée, fruit, veggies, and a low-fat milk. Our team will encourage students to take advantage of the fruit and vegetable bar! Therefore, if a team member sees your child with only an entrée we will encourage them to grab a fruit or veggie, however, it is always the students choice. Students must take a fruit or vegetable with the entrée to qualify for a free breakfast or lunch.

As participants in the National School Breakfast and Lunch program, we are obligated to follow all regulations. These include serving sizes, calorie content, and nutritional guidelines pertaining to all food offered for sale during the school day.

### Things to Come! Elementary School

- Lucky tray day 2nd Tuesday of EVERY month
- September 5 National Pizza day
- September 18 National Cheeseburger Day
- October 2 Cookie Day
- October 8 National Pierogi Day
- October 17 National Pasta Day

### 4th Grade - 12th Grade

- Wednesdays: International Travel
- Fridays: BBQ picnic style lunch days
- September: Breakfast prize month –get

entered into a prize drawing every time you come and get school breakfast for the month!!

- October 2 Sweet treat day
- October 11 Homecoming Fun

**Do you have food allergies or dietary needs?** If your child has a food disability allergy or dietary needs we must receive a Special Dietary Statement, completed by a licensed medical professional (MD, DO, NP, PA) if they plan on eating a school meal. Our child nutrition team is not able to monitor or safe guard any food allergies in our cafes unless we receive a special dietary form on file for your student, per the Michigan Department of Education. After receiving, we can make a plan to safe guard for food allergies in our cafes, provide more information including ingredient labels, a specific dietary plan, and more. Dietary Forms are available on our website.

### How to Add Funds to Accounts

One breakfast and lunch are free for each student per school day. Extra items maybe available for purchase. Accounts must have funds or cash in hand to purchase extra items. Additionally, deposits can be made at your child's school by sending cash or a check payable to Kingsley Schools for no fee.

**Work with Us!** Enjoy the Food Service Industry, but wish you had weekends and holidays off? Enjoy working with kids and in a fun environment? We are currently looking for Part Time and On call Workers.

**Competitive hourly pay & benefits**  
**Hours are Mon-Fri with major holidays off**  
**Apply Online at: [Compassgroupcareers.com](https://compassgroupcareers.com) or [indeed.com](https://indeed.com).**

*For more information email Kristy Donner at [kdonner@kingsleyschools.org](mailto:kdonner@kingsleyschools.org)*

**Check out the new Athletics Website!**

**Sports forms, schedules, rosters, photos, and more are now located directly on our district website, [kingsleyschools.org](https://kingsleyschools.org).**

## Kingsley Athletics Family Passes On Sale Now



**Available for purchase at the high school office or athletic office for cash or check. Please make checks to Kingsley Area Schools.**

**Family: \$150**  
**Adult: \$80**  
**Student: \$50**

# Fifth Grade Merges to Elementary School



**By Kristin Goethals**  
Elementary Principal  
kgoethals@kingsleyschools.

I wanted to reach out and touch base about a couple of things for the 2024-2025 school year. First and foremost, we have made the decision to merge the fifth grade to the elementary school as it is more of an elementary age. This will change the configuration of the middle school to be true middle school grades of 6-8.

The elementary will operate the group of preschool through fifth grade students. With the changes, some things will stay the same, and a few will change, so we will focus on the changes that occur with fifth grade students:

You will still be housed in the middle school building, just down the hall from the 4th grade. The 5th graders will not have overlap with the middle school students, except a shared choir time with 6th grade for those taking choir.

The 5th grade will operate on a bell schedule. The students have already selected their electives for the upcoming year. You will receive your child's schedule in the mail in mid August.

5th grade students take their electives and their lunch from the middle school building. This will continue.

Key Staff: Principal-Mrs. Kristin Goethals, Counselor-Mrs. Emily Ruby, secretary-Mrs. Erin Lefler, Mrs. Olivia Bradford (middle school counselor) will assist with Mrs. Ruby and then transition over the students to middle school)

New Assistant Elementary Principal Marshall Collins will be housed in the 4th and 5th grade hallway for support.

The 5th grade team:

ELA: Mrs. DeWitt and Mrs. Jenkins

Math: Mrs. Alger

Science: Mrs. Bell

Social Studies: Mrs. Roelofs

Choir: Mr. Evans, Band: Mr. Dubay

Art: Ms. Eichler

Physical Education: Mr. Johnson

You will still utilize the elementary office for the following:

-Registration

-Sending notes for pick up changes

-Picking up a sick child

Picking up a child for an appointment

-Changing address or phone number

-If you are picking up a middle school student AND a fourth or a fifth grade student you may do all that at the middle school office

-You may use the middle school pick up and drop off lane

Should you have questions or concerns please let me know. You can find me at kgoethals@kingsleyschools.org or 231-263-5261 ext. 2100.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kristin Goethals

## Welcome Back to Kingsley High School

As we gear up for the 2024-2025 school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate all the amazing achievements from last year! We had a fantastic time cheering for our athletes as they brought home conference, district, regional, and state championships. Our Jazz Prism and concert bands wowed us with their All-State finishes, while our clubs and teams shone bright, snagging regional trophies in Equestrian and Robotics. A huge shoutout to our rugby club for finishing their season as State Champions!

Academically, our AP students did an outstanding job, with everyone passing their tests. Plus, our students not only surpassed state and national averages on the PSAT/SAT but also widened the gap even further—how impressive is that?

Last year, we had some significant changes, like the revamped KHS schedule and the introduction of Math intervention and PSAT/SAT prep during the school day. I couldn't be prouder of how our staff and students rose to the challenge and truly exceeded expectations. Our school community's dedication to excellence is truly inspiring!

We're also continuing our after-school tutoring from Monday to Thursday and maintaining our math intervention and PSAT/SAT prep.

I can't wait to kick off the 2024-2025 school year! A heartfelt thank you to the staff, students, and families who make KHS such a wonderful place to be. Great things are coming our way at KHS!

Principal Rapes & Assistant Principal Wagatha



**willSub** Become a Substitute Teacher for KAS!

*You may be eligible if you have an associates degree. Visit [willsub.com](http://willsub.com) to apply!*

## Welcome Back to Kingsley Middle School!



**By John Arnold**  
Middle School Principal  
[jarnold@kingseyschools.org](mailto:jarnold@kingseyschools.org)

I truly hope you had many positive experiences to fill your memory banks with over this beautiful summer. Mine was busy with watching my girls play softball, boating, and chasing errant tee shots into the woods at various golf courses.

I did find some time, however, to be still, reflect, and appreciate the many fortunate things in my life, including having the honor of being named the next Principal at Kingsley Middle School. I am incredibly excited to continue my journey in Education with this great school community.

The KMS staff is prepping for a fantastic year, and we can't wait to see how students have grown over the past couple of months. Several new students and their families are joining us this year, and we are ready to welcome them with open arms. We have an incredible student body that made great strides last year, improving academically and personally. This year, we will continue to strive to be our best selves and push one another to reach our goals.

Please feel free to contact me or to stop by and chat whenever you have questions or concerns. Open communication and trust play a pivotal role in fostering a positive, productive, and cohesive school environment.

We truly want our students and families to have the best school experience possible.

See you all soon!  
Go Stags!

## Kingsley Area Schools Appoints Full Time Curriculum Director

Award-winning third grade teacher Molly Dunham has been named the new curriculum director for Kingsley Area Schools. In her new role, she will help teachers align the curriculum of K-12 grade to state and national standards.

Mrs. Dunham has already developed a curriculum protocol for Kingsley educators to help document, oversee, improve, and implement the most-effective lesson planning.

"Curriculum has always been a passion of mine," said Mrs. Dunham. "If you don't work on curriculum, the world just passes you by. As we have new staff members come in, it's important that we're all on the same page."

Mrs. Dunham's distinguished background in leadership and curriculum includes helping form the District Curriculum Council and leading the district through several rounds of curriculum alignment, review, and adoption earlier in her career. She also worked with other regional teachers to develop math pacing guides and assessments and was chosen to edit and rewrite third and fourth-grade test questions for the Smarter Balanced Math Assessment, which later became part of the MSTEP state standardized test.

Now, Mrs. Dunham is leveraging that experience to launch a new ELA curriculum that was adopted earlier this year.

"The new program is more rigorous and has a lot more higher-level thinking content," said Mrs. Dunham.

"We want our students to be able to think independently and we want to produce better thinkers."

In addition, she will be reviewing materials across all subjects and leading an annual review cycle with teachers.

"My goal for the end of this year is to have every teacher finish some curriculum alignment work in their subject area. I will be cataloging and documenting that so any teacher can access this information in the future," said Mrs. Dunham.

Supporting teachers in curriculum alignment and student engagement are her top priorities for the year. As the longtime coordinator of the New Teacher Mentor program, Mrs. Dunham will now have more time to dedicate to peer coaching and evaluations in her new role.

"I'm going to provide professional development for teams as needed, and I'm really excited about that," said Mrs. Dunham. "I'll be able to watch any teacher, or new teacher, who wants feedback and give them the very best research on student engagement and provide some activities for them to do in their classroom."

For now, this is a one-year position, but curriculum review cycles will continue annually. Mrs. Dunham is thrilled about this new adventure, but she's also looking forward to returning to her elementary classroom in the future.

"My heart is always with those little students."



## Kindergarteners to Receive Free Oral Health Assessment Sept. 26

Early detection and treatment of dental problems can help children succeed in school. The Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment is a new program provided by the health department. Kingsley Kindergarteners will be sent home with a letter from the dental hygienists detailing their findings from the assessment. Learn more on our [website](#).





**Meet the Administrative Team of Kingsley Area Schools.** Left to right: Nadia Hoover, Director of Finance; Joshua T. Rothwell, Superintendent; Kristin Goethals, Kingsley Elementary Principal; John Arnold, Kingsley Middle School Principal; Marshall Collins, Kingsley Elementary Assistant Principal; Cody Wagatha, Kingsley High School Assistant Principal, Chris Rapes, Kingsley High School Principal.



**New Stag Staff!** Kingsley Area Schools is excited to welcome a few new faces to the team. Pictured above from left to right: Kevin Kobylski, IT director; Dana Becker, fourth grade teacher; Maria Adamczak, high school Spanish and English teacher; Jodi Hubbard, first grade teacher; and Sarah Morrow, mental health specialist. Pictured below: Left - Kaylee Dewitt and Chelsey Jenkins, both fifth grade ELA teachers. Right: Tony Taylor, high school social studies teacher. New Staff Not Pictured: Jason Morrow, PE teacher and Cheryl Wistrand, GSRP preschool teacher. **Welcome to KAS!**



## Strategic Plan Summary

Last fall, with support from the Michigan Association of School Boards, we began a formal Strategic Planning initiative. We hosted several community meetings and used an online survey to gather feedback to help us shape plans for the next three to five years. We synthesized input from several hundred people and identified five key focus areas: Academics & Programs, Learning Environment & Culture, Communications & Community Engagement, Operations & Finance, and Personnel. Now, we're going to put these thoughts and ideas into action for improvement.

### Mission

We commit to creating and maintaining a safe, effective learning environment.

### Vision

Kingsley Area Schools and the community share the responsibility of educating all students to become productive citizens and lifelong learners.

### Belief Statements

Kingsley Area Schools believes the following are essential to accomplish our mission...

- A culture of trust and collaboration
- A safe, orderly and consistent environment
- Providing a viable, aligned and research-based curriculum
- That everyone has the ability to achieve success.

### Focus Areas & Goal Statements

#### Academics & Programs

-KAS will increase engagement and opportunities to enhance student achievement.

#### Learning Environment & Culture

-KAS will be a safe and collaborative learning environment for students and staff.

#### Communications & Community Engagement

-KAS will consistently communicate to engage students, staff, parents and community.

#### Operations & Finance

-KAS will be fiscally responsible in meeting the needs of students and staff through alignment with the Strategic Plan.

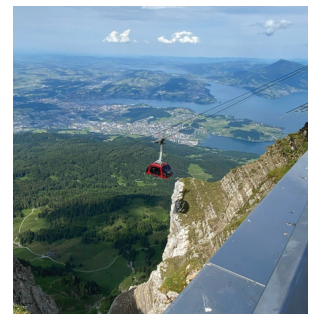
#### Personnel

-KAS will build trust through open communication, mutual respect, and collaboration to provide efficient operations to support success.

### Board of Education

Board of Education: President: Vivien Snyder. Vice President: Kelly Saxton, Treasurer: Max Anderson, Secretary: Tina Schelich, Trustees: Josh Green, Courtney Guy, Ian McKinley

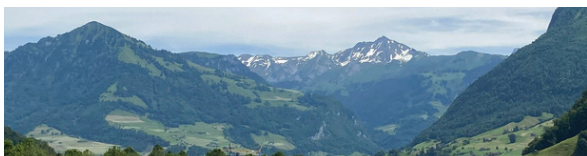
To learn more about the Strategic Plan and to see the full summary, visit our website at [kingsleyschools.org](http://kingsleyschools.org)



## KHS Travel Club Returns from Italy & Switzerland

The high school Travel Club has returned from yet another adventure! In June, the travelers flew out of Traverse City and headed to Switzerland and Italy.

In Zurich and Lucerne they experienced fondue and alpenhorns, cruised the beautiful Lake Luzerne, and ventured high into the Alps - first by incline railway, then on foot through the "Dragon's Caves" and among Alpine wildflowers to the summit. Even more exciting was the amazing return view from the cable car gondolas.



In Lucerne they crossed lovely carved covered bridges decorated with flowers and visited the "Lion of Lucerne," a monument that commemorates the Swiss guardsmen who died in 1792 during the French Revolution.

Shopping expeditions included Swiss chocolate, Swiss Army knives and cuckoo clocks, among other things.

The group, led by myself and Maria Suomi, headed across the Alps to Venice, Italy on the Adriatic Sea. In Venice students enjoyed a gondola ride through the many canals, a visit to the island of Murano for a glass blowing exhibition and one to the island of Burano, famous for its lace-making.

From Venice travelers stopped briefly in Lake Como, famous for its beautiful waters and celebrities' homes before heading on to Tuscany and the beautiful city of Florence. Here everyone viewed art and architecture by some of the world's most famous artists. The botanical gardens, a spectacular perfumery, the Ponte Vecchio (displaying gold and silver jewelry), the church of Santa Croce, the fountain of Neptune and, of course, the golden baptistry doors of the Duomo, or Florence Cathedral, were all on display.

After Florence came the peaceful medieval hills of Umbria and Assisi. Here, in the birthplace of St Francis, were medieval churches and arched roadways and even a quick visit to see the Catholic Church's first millennial saint, Carlo Acutis.



After Assisi came the ever energetic city of Rome: the Colosseum, the Forum, the enormous Vatican Museum and, of course, St Peter's Square. And gelato! Lemon, lime, chocolate, hazelnut, cherry, chestnut, passionfruit and more...the list was long.

Departing Rome, the travelers headed south to Sorrento, famous for its coastal views and citrus. Lemons were beginning to pop up everywhere. After a brief photo stop above the Bay of Naples, the travelers moved on to catch the boat for the isle of Capri.



Capri included a boat tour of its multi-hued blue waters, stone arches and grotto. On its return there was time to shop, drink a refreshing lemonade drink called lemon granita from giant lemons, and soak up some sun and sea on the beach before heading back to Rome.

That evening everyone threw a coin over their left shoulders at the Trevi Fountain in hopes of a return to Rome. The following day meant catching a flight back to the USA and a treasure of memories and souvenirs.

**Are you interested in joining the next trip? Contact Robin Lewis at [rlewis@kingsleyschools.org](mailto:rlewis@kingsleyschools.org)**

*This trip was led by EF Tours which is not associated with Kingsley Area Schools.*



