



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

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

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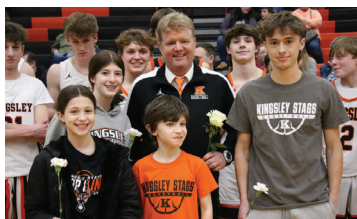
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WHAT A YEAR!



Another incredible year is in the books for Kingsley Area Schools. From academic successes, to athletic triumphs, and new artistic endeavors, Stags continued our community's legacy of Tradition and Excellence. Take a look at some of the highlights of this year:

Top row - Left: Kingsley's varsity football team won the Division 6 State Championship versus Almont at Ford Field. Middle: Ms. Tiffany Smith's Sustainable Science class learned to grow and cook their own food. Right: High schoolers led incoming ninth graders at Freshman Orientation.

Second row - Left: The Kingsley Marching Stags earned fourth place at the Kenowa Hills Marching Band Competition, beating out several larger schools. Right: Elementary Staff members smile on the first day of school.

Third Row - Left: The community rallied around the Johnson family during a charity basketball game in their honor. Middle: KMS Counselor Olivia Bradford poses with students at a quarterly celebration for students with good behavior. Right: KHS' Choral Fusion performs at the elementary for March is Reading month.

Bottom row - Left: Third grade teacher Molly Dunham was named a Michigan Regional Teacher of the Year. Middle left: Joshua T. Rothwell joined KAS as the new superintendent. Middle right: Kingsley resident Sergeant Jason Roelofs joined the district full time as a School Resource Officer. Right: Hannah Rose poses with her "Art on a Cart;" a mobile classroom delivering the elementary's first formal art education class.

Way to go, Stags! Cheers to another great year!

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Athletic Director Mitch Miggenburg Recognized for 10 Years at Kingsley



It has been a standout school year for Kingsley High School athletics. The highlights: a Division 6 football State Championship, a State Champion wrestler, State qualifiers in cross country and wrestling, a girls basketball conference championship and several Stags signing their letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

It was also a big year for our very own athletic director, Mitch Miggenburg, who was recognized by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association for ten years of service to the district. It's a milestone not many other ADs can claim as the career path has a high turnover rate.

"I never thought I'd make it this long," said Mr. Miggenburg with a laugh. "My favorite part is always seeing the success that our programs have on the field, and overall, I just want them to have a good experience."

Half of the KHS student population plays sports. Mr. Miggenburg is responsible for coordinating their schedules, game times, transportation, and other logistics.

"People see me at all the games, but there's just so much more that goes into it, it's a year-round job," said Mr. Miggenburg. "I'm constantly working two seasons ahead, sometimes a year ahead."

His logistical wizardry was especially apparent during the football team's championship-winning season. Mr. Miggenburg worked closely with head coach Tim Wooer to coordinate bussing, hotels, and accommodations for their journey to Ford Field.

"I want our coaches and athletes to be able to focus on the sport rather than all the things around it. When the kids were making their run, I was like, 'I'm at your mercy to do whatever you need me to do.'" said Mr. Miggenburg.

As he rings in his 10-year anniversary at Kingsley High School, Mr. Miggenburg is preparing for next season's transition to the newly-created Northern Shores league. The Northern Shores Conference will include Boyne City, Charlevoix, Elk Rapids, Grayling, Harbor Springs, Kalkaska, Cheboygan, and Kingsley. The new conference was born out of inter-district discussions seeking to create a more competitive balance between schools of similar demographics and sizes.

"We've been super happy with the Northwest conference, but as we've grown, I think it makes a lot more sense to be in a league with schools that are more our size and offer the same programs," said Mr. Miggenburg.

Congratulations, Mitch, on all of your successes!

Thank you, Retirees!



Bruce Graves
Kingsley High School
26 Years Served in
District



Dawn Ostrander
Kingsley Elementary
26 Years Served in
District



Jolie King
Kingsley Middle School
26 Years Served in
District

"This community has meant so much to me...the families that I've taught, and now that I'm teaching their children. There has been so much support. I made a lot of my friendships, my children have all gone here. It's been good. My retirement plans are to boat down the Mississippi River with my husband. Our goal is to be in Mobile, Alabama by Thanksgiving and in Punta Gorda by the end of the year."
-Jolie King

KMS Journalism

Extra, extra! Read all about it! This semester, sixth graders and aspiring journalists Addison Middaugh and Ta'Shaun Pryce have been working on stories focusing on the students and staff of Kingsley Middle School. Every month, they interview one student and one teacher for blurbs that appear in the monthly newsletter. Take a look at their recent features:



STAG SNAPSHOTS

Kindergarten Visits GT Butterfly House

Butterflies, bees, beetles, and bugs! This week, Kingsley Kindergarteners visited the Grand Traverse Butterfly House and Bug Zoo to learn all about insects and invertebrates. They saw the world's largest moth species, a live honey bee hive, dozens of species of insects, and learned facts such as a fourth of all animal species are beetles!



Wilderness Students Sample Manistee River

Mr. Reo Hoffelt's wilderness students recently took a trip to the Manistee River to learn how to properly sample and monitor a river system. Aquatic entomologist and Indiana DNR professional Dylan Brown helped students look for macroinvertebrates like insects, crayfish and snails.



Coast Guard Helicopter Lands at Career Day

Touch down at Rodes Field! Kingsley Career Day 2024 featured a little help from the Traverse City Coast Guard! First grade teacher and former USCG pilot Jason Blyth helped organize the grand finale surprise. Students got to tour the helicopter and learn about the role of the Coast Guard. Thank you, USCG, for your time!



KHS Spanish Reads to 3rd Graders

¿Eres mi mama? Mrs. Rowley and her high school Spanish students translated the popular children's book, Are You My Mother? and read the Español-version to Mrs. Dunham's third graders. High schoolers recently learned nature vocabulary which they used to help translate the story.



Preschool Hosts Art Showcase

"During our Art Study, students learned new vocabulary, math concepts, and read several books about famous artists. They practiced social skills like sharing, asking for what we need, and verbalizing what we are feeling. We learned about art appreciation, expressing ourselves through art, and how to be accepting of others' artwork when it's different than our own." -Mrs. Lidak and Mrs. Porter



STAG SNAPSHOTS



Cooking up Fun for Staff Appreciation Week

For Staff Appreciation Week, grillmaster/Superintendent Josh Rothwell treated teachers to a BBQ lunch. The weeklong festivities included multiple barbecues and even a visit from Gibby's Fries. Thank you to Gibby's, Priority Health, and SET SEG for sponsoring this event!

Freshman go to MiCareerQuest

In May, more than 2,000 freshmen from several local districts went to the Grand Traverse Civic Center for MiCareerQuest. Students got to try out a variety of future careers in 40+ in-demand, high-paying industries, including the medical, automotive, dental, technological, and construction fields.



Students Exhibit, Compete at Art Attack

On Thursday, April 25, the Kingsley Branch Library hosted the high school's annual Art Attack! a juried exhibition and art show, sponsored by the Kingsley Friends of the Library. KHS alum and graphic designer Katie Travis served as judge for the competition and selected winners for each category: painting, clay, non-clay sculpture, and drawing.

Cave Paintings Transform Elementary Walls

Ms. Rose's art classes have been learning about the earliest art forms including prehistoric cave paintings. Her class transformed the hallway into a cavern using "mud pebbles" (solid brown watercolors mixed with water) to make their own drawings.



Career Day 2024: Jobs on Wheels

On Career Day, elementary schoolers explored how professionals use all kinds of rigs - from helicopters to cranes - to do their jobs. A range of industries were represented: law enforcement, emergency personnel, plumbers, electricians, nonprofits, and more. Thank you to the incredible volunteers and professionals for donating your time to make this day a success!



STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Norah Galton: Norah is a junior on the varsity track team and had an outstanding day at the Reed City Invitational, winning the 100-meter hurdles in a time of 16.96 while also winning the 300 meter hurdles with a PR of 49.60. Norah carries a 3.35 cumulative grade point average.



Caleb Bott: Chase is a senior on the varsity boys track team and had an outstanding day at the Ken Bell Invitational at Traverse City Central, finishing third in the shot put with a throw of 48 feet & 7 ¼ inches, and winning the discus with a throw of 157 feet & 1 inch. Chase also excels in football and basketball at Kingsley while carrying a 3.1 cumulative grade point average.



Grace Lewis: Grace is a senior on the varsity girls softball team and is having an outstanding season for the Stags. On the mound, she is 16-2 with 135 strikeouts. At the plate she leads Kingsley with 8 home runs. Grace also excels in volleyball and basketball at Kingsley and will be the 2024 salutatorian at KHS with a 4.02 grade point average.



Kelsey Saxton: Kelsey is a senior on the varsity girls track team and is having an outstanding season for the Stags. Kelsey won the division 3 regional championship in the pole vault with a jump of 10-feet, 9 inches. She is a 3-time regional champion and 4-time state qualifier in the pole vault while carrying a 3.57 grade point average.

Robotics Class Races Dragsters



Mr. Harbold's Robotics I class recently completed their mechanical advantage dragster unit. Students were tasked with building a speedy machine that could run for at least 50 meters. They raced their models and the two top finishers from each class went head to head. The finalists were Ian Mitchell, Logan Face, Tyler Miller & Austin Powell, and Cole Abshire. Logan Face took the win and had the lowest average time (3.51 seconds).

ATHLETIC & MUSIC NEWS



Track and Field: Congratulations to our MHSAA State Qualifiers! Chase Bott-high jump, shot put and discus (Regional Champion); Adalene Chambers-Shot put and Discus; Emily Bott-Discus; Kaylin Mitchell-long jump and 4x1; Grace Taylor-4x1; Brooke Westenbarger-long jump; Norah Galton- 100mh, 300mh(Regional Champion), 4x2 relay; Kelsey Saxton-pole vault(Regional Champion); Braxton Zenner- pole vault; Aizlyn McKinley-4x2 relay; Alivia Dear-4x1 and 4x2 relay; Emilee Robinson-4x1,4x2 relay. Pictured: Norah Galton.



KINGSLEY BAND AND CHOIR NOTES

It's been a busy season for Kingsley's music programs!

Both the middle and high school band programs earned straight 1's (the highest rating!) at State Festival, continuing the program's tradition of excellence.

Top left: Choir director Andy Evans and some of his students went to Grand Rapids to see Wicked the musical. Photo by Wendy Gildenstern Brosier.

Bottom left: Choral Fusion singers and a high school duet perform at the High School's annual Dessert Choir fundraiser concert.

Middle left: Middle school musician Ladon Kaleita holds up a first division medal after competing at Solo & Ensemble. Dozens of other students also earned top ratings.

Top right: The Kingsley Jazz Band performs at the Kalkaska Trout Festival.

Bottom right: Second graders perform at their Spring concert, directed by music teacher Vicky Pack.

Thank you to our Band Boosters and to the whole community for supporting our Band and Choir programs!

One Year Down, Many More to Go: Reflecting on My First Year as Superintendent



By Joshua T. Rothwell, Superintendent

If I had to describe this year in one word, it would be busy. The 2023-2024 school year was full of highlights: our football team won the Division 6 State Championship, third-grade teacher Molly Dunham was named Regional Teacher of the Year, high school test scores improved, we brought on a full-time school resource officer, hundreds of students experienced Challenge Day, and our music and arts programs continued to excel. This year also marked my first year in office as Superintendent.

This opportunity felt like a homecoming for me. I grew up here. I graduated from Kingsley High School. I used to teach at the elementary school. This is the community where I live and raise my two daughters.

Coming into the position, I knew my first job would be to listen. Strengthening Kingsley's tradition of excellence would require buy-in and input from everyone in our community.

After hundreds of meetings big and small—from curriculum committees to board meetings to one-on-one conversations at my monthly "Coffee Chat" office hours—I am confident we're beginning to understand the needs of the stakeholders who make our schools great.

This school year, we've completed several major efforts that will position our district for growth and opportunity in the years to come:

Strategic Plan

This 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.

Facilities Study

This spring, we contracted SiteLogIQ to conduct a comprehensive facilities study. They did a deep dive into all of our buildings, including athletic facilities and the transportation department. Their report revealed that we urgently need roof replacements on all three school buildings and we need to update the HVAC systems in the elementary and middle schools.

The most pressing need, which we already knew about, is the need for space. Currently, we are utilizing every square inch of space, but we have grown as a district and need more room.

This is extremely apparent when you tour the elementary school and see support staff working in repurposed boiler rooms and storage closets. Our goal is not to tear anything down or remove anything, but to figure out how we can maximize our current space and then add space so that we're not so cramped.

All of this costs money. Business manager Nadia Hoover and I are estimating how much each project could cost. I am working with a financial analyst specializing in public school finance to think about possible ballot initiatives that could help finance these needs. As a board, we will put together a list of Top 10 district needs and roll this out to the community.

The biggest takeaway from this facilities study is that we are doing our homework to analyze and assess where we are with our current buildings.

Curriculum Overhaul

Curriculum purchases over the last number of years have been very inconsistent. I think they were simply picking and choosing instead of actually having a true curriculum cycle. Right now, we're focused on aligning our language arts curriculum. Recently, the elementary school finished an ELA curriculum study. The board approved their suggested curriculum, which will be implemented next school year. The high school and middle school are currently finishing up their own research. We are also searching for a full-time Curriculum Director to help us continue to stay on track.

Building Relationships

Our teachers are the heartbeat of this district. In our strategic plan, we set goals to attract and retain staff members. We want to provide a really comfortable work environment for everybody. Behind the scenes, there have been some challenges as far as changing or solidifying some protocols. For me, the work has been easier because of my pre-existing relationships in the community. I am so appreciative of the staff, and I feel there is a calmer demeanor in the district as everyone focuses on what's best for the kids.

Looking Ahead

As I reflect on this first year, I am deeply grateful for the support and dedication of our staff, students, and community members. We have laid a strong foundation and we are ready to start making meaningful change. I am proud to work in a community with a strong family culture, and I will do whatever it takes to empower this wonderful district.

Warmly,
Joshua T. Rothwell



Kingsley Area Schools Welcomes Two Full-Time Mental Health Specialists

Kingsley Area Schools is excited to welcome two full-time mental health specialists to the district. Angela Oyer started in the high school this spring and Sarah Morrow will start her role in the elementary and middle school this fall.



Left: Sarah Morrow. Right: Angela Oyer

Both will support student development via social emotional learning, mental health interventions, walk-in counseling, and working with at-risk students and families to access community resources.

“Mental health has been a focal point statewide especially post-COVID,” said Superintendent Josh Rothwell. “If kids come to school and they’re struggling in certain capacities, they can reach out to one of these mental health professionals for support.”

“I want students to know that their behavior matters. I will be supporting preschool through eighth grade students’ development and help them foster skills to become their personal best,” said Sarah Morrow, who has an extensive background in human behavior and education.

They will also provide intervention services such as anger management and grief counseling to help students cope and heal with issues outside of the classroom.

The district’s investment in dedicated mental health specialists reflects KAS’ commitment to student wellbeing and aligns with the Strategic Plan’s vision to create a “safe, inclusive, learning environment” with a “focus on all students as individuals.”

“As adults, sometimes we don’t realize how many kids are walking around with other things going on in their lives that are affecting how they’re doing in school,” said Angela Oyer, who has a background in social work. “I’ve seen really high levels of anxiety among kids. I think if we can start working with them early on and put interventions in place, it will be beneficial to helping them get through to graduation.”

Sarah Morrow and Angela Oyer will work in tandem with KAS’ other at-risk and academic counselors to offer more support to students.

Welcome, Sarah Morrow and Angela Oyer!

You can email Angela Oyer at aoyer@kingsleyschools.org

KHS’ Amelia Clair Wins State Pin Design Competition



Congratulations to KHS senior Amelia Clair, who recently won the state SkillsUSA pin design competition! Her outstanding design was selected from dozens of entries submitted by design students from across the state. As the state champion, Amelia’s pin will now represent Michigan at the national SkillsUSA competition in Atlanta this June.

SkillsUSA is a renowned workforce development program and competition that serves thousands of career and technical education students across the United States. It provides a platform for students to showcase their skills and gain valuable industry experience.

Amelia has been honing her graphic design skills at the Traverse City North Ed Career Tech Center (CTC) for the past two years. This spring marked her debut in the SkillsUSA competition, making her victory even more remarkable.

“It was a lot of fun. When I was designing this pin, I asked around to friends and family to find out what they think represents Michigan. I’ve lived here my whole life, and I wanted to represent more than just the Great Lakes. The eye of the bear will be an LED light and is also a star, plus, I featured Detroit, the Northern Lights, and more.”

Amelia will attend Northern Michigan University in the fall and plans to minor in graphic design and pursue a major in ironworking.

“I want to be a blacksmith. I want to end up creating custom blades and jewelry. The graphic design part of that will come in because you’re working with clients and working to make something unique,” said Amelia.

Her pin design will be on display at the SkillsUSA National Competition in Atlanta June 24-28. Good luck, Amelia!



Summer Meal Service Locations

FREE for all students 18 and under!

Dates & Times

June 17-20 & 24-27
Kingsley Elementary
 Breakfast 8am-830am & Lunch 1115am-1230pm
High School
 Breakfast 745am-830am Lunch 1130am-1230pm

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
July 8- August 1st
Kingsley Middle School
 Breakfast 8am-830am Lunch noon-1230pm

July 29th-Aug 2nd
Kingsley High School
 Breakfast 9am-930am Lunch noon-1230pm

DETAILS

- Meals are only available during service times
- 1 breakfast & 1 Lunch per child each day
- Children must be present
- Meals must be consumed on site



Meal Service Locations

Kingsley Elementary School
311 Clark Street

Kingsley Middle School
403 Blair St. Kingsley

Kingsley High School
7475 Kingsley Rd. Kingsley






Prom 2024

photos by Pattersnap Photography



