



# KINGSLEY CONNECTION

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

## IN THIS ISSUE



KMS Travel Club Reflects on trip to Japan.....6

Naval Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp Launches at KHS.....7



High School Student Reps Join Kingsley Board of Education.....2



Kingsley Athletics Updates.....4



Stag Snapshots..... back cover



KHS Senior Nathan Peters Earns 1480 on SAT.....2



September Food Service Newsletter.....2



Meet Kingsley's Preschool Team.....3



Middle School Journalism Column.....3



## CLASS OF '25 SENIOR SUNRISE

September 3 was the class of 2025's last first day, a precious occasion they marked with early morning donuts at Rodes Field. Photos by Rolling Hills Photography



KINGSLEY SCHOOLS  
402 FENTON STREET  
KINGSLEY, MI 49649

**PRSTD US POSTAGE PAID  
CADILLAC, MI PERMIT #147**

BOX HOLDER  
KINGSLEY MI 49649

## Board of Education Adds Student Representatives



On September 9, KHS students Anna Bauer and Mason Glazier made their debut at the Kingsley Board of Education. This year, they will represent the student body during official meetings and give their input on board items.

"I knew I wanted to do this, because I always love leading people and representing Kingsley," said junior Anna Bauer. "I hope to give a new perspective to the board, one that they probably haven't gotten in a long time, and I hope that the students feel like they're being heard, because that will make the district better."

Senior Mason says he is excited to pitch in his ideas, and this experience may also help him understand more about policy making, public speaking, and public affairs.

"We're going to give our own reports of what's going on, student body stuff, and we'll be able to contribute our input," said Mason. "Hopefully this experience will unlock some insights for me, I potentially want to get into a career in politics."

For Anna, she is most excited to be able to use her voice to improve the schools for everyone.

## Student Spotlight: Senior Nathan Peters

Nathan Peters is shooting for the stars. The aspiring aerospace engineer hopes to work on rockets one day, a dream that's been years in the making.

"Growing up, I loved watching videos about rockets: the complexity of the things that have to be engineered to go into space."

Nathan is currently an engineering academy student, where, lately, he's been disassembling an engine and piecing it all back together using a 3D model.

After graduation, he hopes to attend Michigan Tech to continue his engineering education.

Nathan recently earned a 1480 on his SAT, a feat he says he was able to accomplish with the help of test prep courses and his KHS teachers.



"I would say there are definitely many exemplary teachers; Ms. Olenchek and Mrs. Lewis really help to build an academic culture at this school and are ready to help students push. I really attribute that as helping me a lot as those teachers really did push me, so I want to thank them."

**Congratulations!**

## News from the Cafeteria



*Dining Services staff created this enormous grazing table for an all-staff back-to-school breakfast.*

Thank you to the families that have completed their households educational benefit form.

If you have NOT completed the form yet there is still time. Go to [Kingsley.familyportal.cloud](https://kingsley.familyportal.cloud) and select apply for benefits to complete.

### What's on the Menu?

Check the menu out at <https://kingsley.nutrislice.com/> or download the Nutrislice App on your smart phone.

### Things to Come

#### Elementary School:

November 6: National Nacho Day  
November 25: National Parfait Day  
November 26: National Cake Day

#### Middle (4-8) / High School:

November 6: National Nacho Day  
November 14: National Pickle Day  
November 26: National Cake Day

Kingsley Thanksgiving Lunch Celebration at all schools November 20th

Join us in the celebration of **National School Lunch Week October 14-18 2024**. Each cafeteria will have pirate activities and opportunities to win prizes just for getting school lunch.

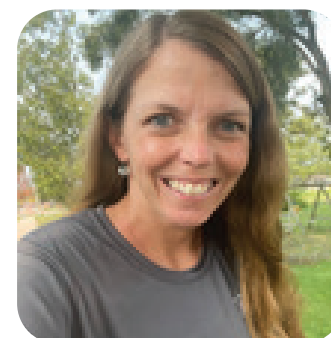
### Who's in the Kitchen?



**Jennifer Luckey**  
Kingsley Elementary



**Nicole Wazny**  
Kingsley Middle



**RuthAnn Harrigan**  
Kingsley High School

# Meet our Preschool Team

Our littlest learners are back to school! Kingsley's preschool offers a creative curriculum focused on literacy and language development for 3-5 year olds and is led by our caring teachers. Applications for next school year open in February.



## Rachel Brand - Top left

"My favorite thing about working with this age group is helping them grow socially and getting them ready for Kindergarten. Also having fun, singing songs, and making their first experience with school a positive one!"

## Melinda Boudot - Top right

"I love seeing the kids come in with their smiling faces and the excitement they have when doing different activities. I enjoy all the different personalities they have."

## Karen Goethals - 2nd row left

"My favorite part of working with this age group is just how much of a positive influence I can have on them. I love seeing them light up when they figure out they can do something, especially without someone else's help. I love the energy, laughter, and happiness that they bring to the classroom."

## Kimberly Hamilton - 2nd row right

"This is my second year working at Kingsley and with preschoolers. I love their curiosity and personalities. They are so fun to be around."

## Samantha King - 3rd row left

"My favorite part of working with this age group is watching them grow as the year goes on. They learn so much and it is very rewarding to watch as they succeed in learning new skills."

## Terri Lidak - 3rd row right

"I LOVE working with this age group! I get the awesome opportunity to be the first experience they have with school, to show them learning is fun, understanding is powerful, and being kind is important. Not to mention the laughs, love, and reward of seeing how these smallest learners grow up to be the pride of Kingsley."

## Melissa Porter - Bottom left

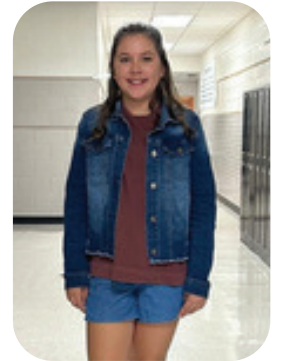
"I love to watch the growth, confidence, and love of school blossom throughout the school year. They are our earliest learners and we want them to LOVE coming to school every day! Also, the hugs are a huge perk too!"

## Charlie Wistrand - Bottom right

"I love seeing the spark of excitement when a child is enjoying what they are learning, and look forward to seeing that spark in each of them this year. The ability to be patient in figuring out a child's needs is my superpower."

# Middle School Journalism Club

## October Interviews



## Sara Trowbridge, 6th Grade Social Studies

**What are your interests and/or hobbies?**  
I love to be outdoors hiking or swimming with my husband and my dogs.

## What do you love about Kingsley?

I love that our town cares so much about our school, they always seem to be working together to make our school better.

## What's one fun fact about you?

I spent three summers in Ireland working to get my masters degree and Mr. Buniewicz and Mrs. Acosta were there as well!

## What is a dream or goal you have?

I would love to have a dog rescue someday.

## What is one thing you want the community to know about you?

I love our school and I love our students and I'm always working my hardest to make them successful.

## Whitney Arlt, 6th Grade Student

## What are your interests and/or hobbies?

I like to play basketball and softball.

## What do you love about Kingsley?

I really like the teachers.

## What's one fun fact about you?

I have two sisters.

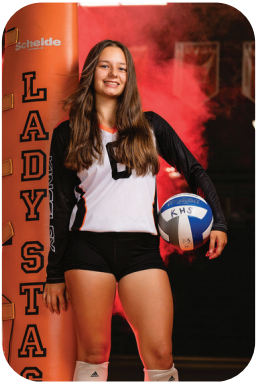
## What is a dream or goal you have?

I really want to be better at writing.

## What is one thing you want the community to know about you?

That I love helping others.

## → Sarah Wooper



Sarah is a junior setter on the varsity volleyball team. The Stags won the Kingsley Invitational; led by her 6 kills, 98 assists, 3 blocks and 17 digs. Sarah also excels in basketball and track while carrying a 4.07 grade point average.

## → Gavin Lewis



Gavin is a junior running back on the varsity football team. He led all rushers with 256 yards on nine carries and three touchdowns in Kingsley's 58-21 win over Grayling. Gavin also excels in basketball and track at Kingsley while

carrying a 3.25 grade point average. He was also voted the Detroit Free Press Prep Player of the Week, receiving 42% of vote. Congrats, Gavin!

## → Ian Mitchell



Ian has had a great start to the soccer season. He leads Kingsley scoring on the season with 7 goals and 6 assists while carrying a 4.095 grade point average.

## → Girl's Rugby



The Traverse City Alliance girls rugby team includes five Kingsley athletes, Grace Merchant, Emily Bott, Addie Chambers, Macy Pierce, and Taylor Smith (not pictured). Way to represent!

# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



## KHS Debuts New Sideline Cheer Team

Give me a K! There is a new squad on the sidelines at Rodes Field, led by elementary teacher and coach Harlie McPherson. The cheer team, a dream in the pipeline for the past two years, has finally been realized, and has been embraced by the community.

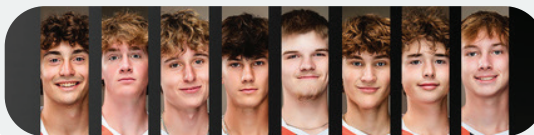
"I love the fact that with the right crowd, we get them fired up to win and fight every week, and let our boys know they're supported by not only the student section but by us too," said coach McPherson.

A Kingsley graduate, Coach McPherson fondly remembers her years as a middle school cheerleader and always wanted to revive the program. For now, the team will cheer during football season but there may be plans to expand to more sports and ages.



## KHS Equestrian Team wins District Championship

Kingsley's Equestrian team took home the District 18 Championship Trophy after an impressive showing in Gaylord on September 14. Kingsley is represented by riders Adam Wilcoxon and Kylie LeVasseur, and coached by Alisa



**Celebrating our Senior Stags.** Top left, Varsity Soccer, left to right: Korbin Bedford, Evan Burch, Elliott Cassell, Jacob Crouse, Brody Hurt, Jackson Klee, Nate Peters, Christian Wilson. Top right, Varsity Volleyball, left to right: Hanna Curtis, Marisa Graham, Ava Heiler, Sarah Johnson, Macy Pierce, Olivia Reamer, Alena Stewart.

Varsity cross country pictures were not available at time of publication. Congratulations to seniors Logan Face, Grant Johnson, and Tyler Kanakis.



# Kingsley Community Board

**Take the Kingsley Meals Survey**

Help us make school lunches and breakfasts even better. Give your input today by scanning the QR code.

**KHS Marching Band Concert**  
October 16 @ 7:00PM  
High School Gym

**Middle School Fall Concert**  
October 23 @7:00PM  
Middle School Gym

**Kingsley Choir**

**Harvest Concert**  
October 22 @ 7:00PM  
High School Gym

**Winter Concert**  
December 16 @7:00PM  
High School Gym



The Kingsley co-ed middle school soccer team had an impressive start to their season, with a record of 3-1-0 on September 18. Credit: Hahna Martinez



The Kingsley Marching Stags perform their halftime set, KTV Live, a nod to MTV, with throwbacks like Toxic by Britney Spears, Thriller, and music from \*NSYNC

**K NOW HIRING Dining Services**

Enjoy the Food Service Industry, but wish you had weekends and holidays off? We are currently looking for on call Workers. Hours are Mon-Fri with major holidays off. *Apply now at [compassgroupcreers.com](http://compassgroupcreers.com)*



## KMS Travel Club Visits Japan: Culture, History, & New Friendships

By Andrew Sias  
 asias@kingsleyschools.org

This past summer, I had the incredible opportunity to travel to Japan with a wonderful group of families from Kingsley, Oregon and Indiana. Our tour, led by the phenomenal Kiki, was a magical experience, filled with breathtaking scenery, rich history, and unforgettable cultural encounters.

We landed in Tokyo on Friday, June 21, and after a delicious bowl of ramen in Chuo-Yaesu, we checked in at the Pearl Hotel Kayabacho. The next morning, we dove right into exploring the city, starting with the iconic Asakusa Kannon Temple and the Meiji Shinto Shrine, both serene spaces amidst the bustling metropolis. A highlight for some was wandering through Harajuku, famous for its unique fashion and eclectic shops. Shibuya Crossing, with its sea of people moving in all directions, left us in awe of the city's energy. Later that evening, we visited Akihabara Electric Town, a haven for tech enthusiasts, before capping off our day with a sumo-style hot pot dinner.

The combination of ancient traditions and ultra-modern experiences in Tokyo made our first days unforgettable. Student Katie Hodges was impressed with how Tokyo “was polite, clean and they took pride in the city and never seemed rushed. Always calm.”

On Sunday, we explored the Chiyoda ward. A visit to a cat café delighted us all, providing a quirky slice of Tokyo life. We also strolled through the vibrant Ameyoko market before reuniting with the other groups for an interactive dinner of okonomiyaki, a Japanese savory pancake.

Our journey continued to the scenic region of Hakone. We visited The Great Buddha of Kamakura and were able to go inside the towering bronze statue.

The tranquil Hachimangu Shrine had water lily-filled ponds with koi fish and other meticulous landscape features. We had time to explore Kamakura, eating wasabi burgers, visiting shops of various artisans and immersing ourselves in the local charm before the bus ride to our evening accommodations.

Arriving at New Hakkeien, we embraced the tradition of changing into yukata, a casual summer kimono, and gathered for a kaiseki dining experience—a multi-course meal that offered a deep dive into Japanese culinary artistry. I loved looking around the room at each person's reaction as they tasted each course, including raw fish!

The next day, we explored Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, ending up in Owakudani, known for its sulphuric volcanic gasses and hot springs. We took in stunning views from the Mount Komagatake cable car and cruising on Lake Ashi. Later that day we visited the historic Odawara Castle and went up to the top story enjoying the panoramic view of the city. The journey to Kyoto aboard the bullet train was an experience unto itself, with its speed and efficiency leaving us in awe.

From the towering bamboo groves of Arashiyama to the elegance of the Golden Pavilion, we were captivated by Kyoto's serene atmosphere. We learned about the production of kimonos at the Nishijin Textile Center. Katie Hodges found it interesting, “that Kimonos are always wrapped left side over the right. The only exception is when dressing the dead for burial. It is considered

incredibly bad luck to get this wrong. You'll look like the walking dead.”

At Nijō Castle, we walked in the footsteps of the Tokugawa shoguns (without shoes of course!), soaking in the historical grandeur.

Our day in Nara allowed us to visit the incredible Todaiji Temple and the Kasuga-taisha Shrine, which is adorned with hundreds of stone and bronze lanterns. The deer at Nara bow as they approach and will allow themselves to be petted.

Once in Osaka, we marveled at the vibrant Dotonbori canal street, where the neon lights, exaggerated sculptural signs and lively street food scene gave us a final taste of Japan's energetic cities.

Friday morning we had a few extra hours so we made a brief visit to the Ikasuri-jinja Shrine in Osaka before we headed to the airport. As we reflected on our time in Japan, we realized that beyond the temples, shrines, and cityscapes, the other memorable part of the trip was the connections we formed—with each other and with the people we met along the way.

KMS Travel Club will be going to Ireland and England in June of 2025. Contact Andrew Sias at [asias@kingsleyschools.org](mailto:asias@kingsleyschools.org) to learn more.

***This tour will be led by EF Tours which is not affiliated or associated with Kingsley Area Schools.***



## KHS Counselors Corner

Meet your new high school counseling team: Lori Heitmeyer and Lori Nolf! Mrs. Nolf transitioned back to the role after serving years as a teacher in the middle school.

Juniors, seniors, and families, mark your calendar for upcoming college and university visits to KHS:

**Kuyper College**  
October 7 @10:00AM

**Spring Arbor University**  
October 10 @1:15 p.m.

**Michigan State University**  
October 7 @2:00PM

See Mrs. Sheelah to sign up for these visits.

**University of Michigan**  
October 9 @8:00AM

Questions? Need resources? Check out the High School counseling page on our website under the high school tab.

**Grand Valley State University**  
October 9 @9:00AM

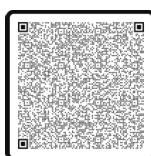
## Naval Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps. Kicks off at KHS

A dream years in the making has finally come to pass, as KHS kicked off the very first semester of the NJROTC. Instructor Gunnery Sergeant Mathew Barr arrived on the first day of school in his uniform, setting the tone for the year ahead. In room 18, his students are required to announce their name and request to 'come aboard' his classroom. In this class, centered on naval science, students will also experience extracurricular activities such as shooting practice, military site visits, ceremonies, and field trips. The curriculum also includes material about personal finance, fitness, mental health, and college prep. Once a week, students put on their exercise fatigues for physical training. During the sunny days of September, they learned self defense and how to navigate an obstacle course.



## UpNorthLive Visits NJROTC

Thank you to Marc Schollett, from 7&4 News WBPN, for coming to class to learn all about our new program! Here is an excerpt from his coverage: *There is a new class at a northern Michigan high school. It's the first of its kind here and it may be a safe bet to say that for dozens of students, this class may be the one where the lessons learned will last a lifetime. "They get to learn a lot of life skills in here, gain confidence in themselves, and that's what really we focus on, is overcoming their fears to make them better leaders," Sgt. Barr said. "So I told them day one, they're going to get comfortable with being uncomfortable." Skills will be developed through coursework here, and honed with a wide range of*



*activities outside the classroom. Sgt. Barr runs a tight ship here, because he knows the positive impact a military lifestyle can have." -Marc Schollett, UpNorthLive. To watch the full story, scan the QR code!*

# STAG SNAPSHOTS

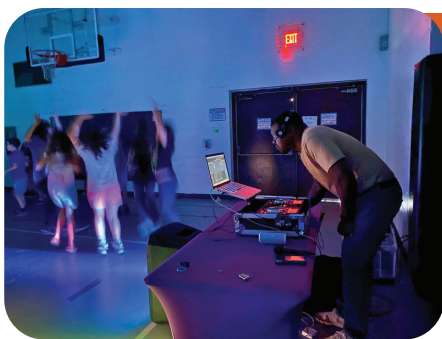
## Thank you, Bus Drivers!

Thank you to our dedicated staff members who get our kids to and from school safely every day. Left to right: Amanda Magnuson, Carol Weaver, Robert Hilliard, Renee Thon, Wendy Brosier, Kyle Wilson, Pam Clark, Jim Ames, Mike Forro, John Crosby, Drew Burmania, Randy Buckmaster, Melissa Osborn, Sonya Youker, Eddie Taylor, Tom Wollam, Todd VanSlembrouck, Brandi Weber. Not pictured: Lance Dubai, Lesli Taylor, and Tony Taylor.



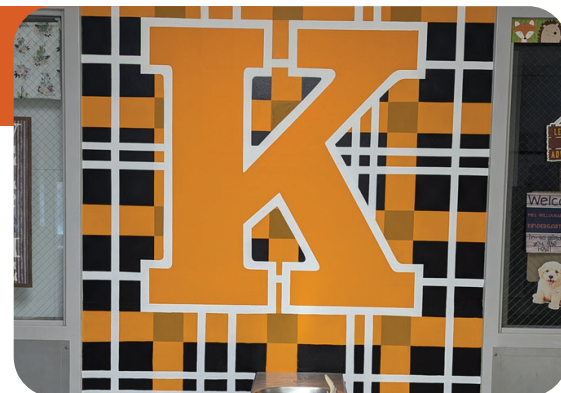
## That's One Cool Principal

Kingsley Elementary fifth graders earned a "Fun Friday party" for demonstrating STAG behavior (Safe, Trustworthy, Act Responsibly, Give Respect). The gym was transformed into a dance hall for the party, with tunes spun by none other than multitalented Assistant Principal Marshall Collins! Rumor has it even the cafeteria staff joined in on the party by dancing to the Macarena.



## Elementary Hallways Get a Makeover

Kingsley Elementary art teacher Hannah Rose is transforming the school hallways with beautiful murals! Check out her latest work. Ms. Rose joined Kingsley Elementary last school year, and her class is already making an impact on the community, with multiple art shows throughout the year plus exhibitions at the Crooked Tree Youth Art Exhibit. Ms. Rose recently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.



## Walk or Bike to School on October 9, 2024

Please join us in walking to school or riding your bike to school on Wednesday, October 9. The daily commute to school is an obvious way to increase the amount of activity for our children, a way to enjoy our beautiful community, and most of all, because it is fun! If you ride the bus, you will be dropped off at the football field to walk down to the Elementary or Middle School. If an adult usually drops you off at school, they can drop you off at the football field and we can all walk together! Walking starts at 8:00AM!



Fun on Campus. Left to right: Elementary Principal Kristin Goethals and student Aizlyn Oakley; Mental health specialist Sarah Morrow and Emily Ruby; aide and crossing guard Alison Bunker helps get children safely to school; KHS science teacher Nancy Olenchek helps students; and KMS principal John Arnold helps students find their classes on the first day of school.



