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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, April 7 & 21, 2022

7 p.m.

Administration Building

1220 Howard St.

Visit [kalamazoopublicschools.com/boardmeetings](https://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/boardmeetings) for more information

High School Conferences

April 27 & 28

Grades 6–8 Half Day

April 29

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SUMMER CAMP 2022

Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program Provides Positive Path Toward Graduation

For six years, the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP) has been working with students who need to focus on credit retrieval, but program administrator Kimberly Kirshman said many in Kalamazoo Public Schools still don't know how it helps students "find a positive path toward graduation."

KILP launched in the fall of 2016 with 60 students. The program now has 97 students in its hybrid format that focuses on getting students through Grad-



Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program student Imani Tolbert works with teacher Matthew Gorton in a classroom at the Oakwood Center.

Point classes to retrieve credits required for graduation. The program can help students either get caught up on credits so they can return to their home high schools or can help them complete credits quickly so they can graduate in a timely manner. KILP requires only 19 credits for graduation versus the traditional 26.

While students work independently at home most of the time, they are required to attend two-and-a-half-hour

(continued on page 19)

KPS Online Learning Programs Will Unite as KPS Virtual for Coming School Year

Kalamazoo Public Schools' virtual programs for kindergarten through 12th grade will unite under one title next year: KPS Virtual.

With the new combined name for the Kalamazoo Virtual Learning Program (KVLP) and the KRESA Focused Learning Experience (KFLEx) comes a new curriculum designed by KPS staff that is more fully aligned with the district's in-person classes to help students move seamlessly between the two programs.

Enrollment for KPS Virtual is taking place through the Letter of Intent process. KPS Virtual



Taariq Thomas puts in some focused study time at the KPS virtual location in the Oakwood Center.



Virtual science teacher JoEllen Pollack demonstrates a chemical reaction for students.

is open to any student, but those outside of Kalamazoo would need to obtain a release from their home district before enrolling in KPS.

"Canned curricula have a place, but we needed to be able to build on them," said Kimberly Kirshman, the administrator of KPS virtual programs. "The biggest plus to this change is that we are able to offer synchronous sessions for all of our students. We offer actual instruction and

(continued on page 4)

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Take Time for Summer Fun — and Learning

Summer is on the way. Time to rest, relax, and ... learn.

Wait, you may be saying, learn? Aren't we coming to the end of the school year? Isn't it time to take a break from learning?

Yes, we are coming to the end of the school year, but summer is no time to stop learning. Instead, it's a time to explore, create and find energizing new ways to define learning for your families.

Playing a new sport? Yes, that's learning.

Trying a new creative endeavor like painting or sewing or cooking or building a birdhouse? Yes, that's learning.

Reading a book by a new author? Writing a story inspired by that book? Drawing a picture to retell the story? Yes, it's all learning.

Taking a walk in a forest and starting a rock collection

or listening for different bird songs? Learning.

Going to summer camp and meeting new people? Learning.

Summer is a great time to take a nap in the backyard, binge watch the series you started in November, and play a few video games. But almost three months is a long time to just veg out. We need to rest and rejuvenate, but there's nothing saying that trying a stimulating new activity can't be energizing, inspiring and fun.

Without the opportunity to stay engaged this summer, children are at risk of suffering summer slide — that educational phenomena where students



Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri,
Superintendent,
Kalamazoo Public
Schools

back slide on some of the academic gains they make during the school year. For some children, summer slide has a serious impact, adding up to years of learning loss by the end of their high school years.

The good news is that there are many ways within the community to help keep children engaged and learning through the summer. And although summer is a few months away, planning for summer certainly starts now.

As you can see in the summer camp guide in this edition of the Excelsior, there are many camp experiences in the community. Many of these offer scholarships and often the applications are simple one-page forms, such as at the Kalamazoo Civic and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

But even if a paid camp is not within your budget, there are

many other fun ways to extend learning this summer.

The best and easiest way to do that is through reading. Kalamazoo Public Schools thinks it's so important, the district mails books to second-through fifth-grade students each summer. Students (and adults!) can also sign up for the Kalamazoo Public Library's Summer Reading program, which is a fun way to keep the pages turning. Participants can earn prizes for reading and attending programs throughout the summer.

There are two science programs you should know about. This year, KPS rising freshmen can apply for the district's new Kalamazoo Math and Science Institute. Participating students can explore robotics, drones and 3-D printing, all while earning a half credit toward their high school graduation requirements.

First through fifth graders who are interested in STEM, should check out the Eastside Arts and Science Learning summer program. This free project provides students with high quality, hands-on experiences and field trips in math, science and art.

But summer learning is not just about camps and classes, it's about taking the time to explore together and to find the natural learning and joy that comes from having a little extra time to spend together.

So I hope you can enjoy a few free outdoor concerts together and talk about the music; hike a new trail and point out plants and animals you see along the way; try a new recipe and imagine the culture that inspired your meal.

I hope you have an amazing summer together.

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Visit CommunityHomeworks.org for more information.

Incoming Freshmen Can Apply for New Kalamazoo Math and Science Institute

Rising freshmen with an interest in STEM are encouraged to apply for the new Kalamazoo Math and Science Institute (KMSI), which will provide students with the opportunity to explore robotics, drones and 3D printing while earning a half credit in high school science.

KMSI is a partnership between Kalamazoo Public Schools and the Michigan Colleges Alliance (MCA), which is an organization that connects students to Michigan's private higher education institutions and promotes college affordability and access to Michigan families.

The Kalamazoo Math and Science Institute will provide rising ninth-grade students with an opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts during a four-week summer program and to increase their interest and awareness of career

opportunities in STEM fields. Students work alongside mentors from MCA during the program, experiencing hands-on lessons and learning about their experiences pursuing STEM degrees in college.

In the summer of 2021, a week-long pilot of the program was conducted. Students had the opportunity to work with Spheros — programmable robots — and to learn more about collecting, recording, and analyzing data. A majority of the participants in last summer's program said the program helped increase their interest in STEM fields.

The 2022 KMSI participants will have the opportunity to earn half of a high school science credit. The program will enroll up to 40 students, with an emphasis on registering KPS students who have demonstrated an interest in STEM fields and are looking to get a head start

on their high school experience. The KMSI will be taught by KPS teachers and MCA mentors.

For more information about registering, contact Kristen Miller, the KPS interim coordinator of mathematics and science, at millerkm@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



Saphira England, an Albion College volunteer, LaTravion Younger, Javeon Lewis, and Ja'Shawn Fuller work with a drone during the 2021 Summer Readiness program at Hillside Middle School.

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Investing in our Community's Future

On May 3, 2022, the Kalamazoo community will have the opportunity to vote on a bond proposal. If voters approve this bond proposal, there is expected to be **NO increase in the tax rate.**

This bond would provide \$197.1 million to fund capital improvements in our 24 schools. The Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) May 2022 bond proposal was developed to invest in our community's future. The bond funds will enable KPS to invest in safety and security; invest in buildings, classrooms, and mechanical upgrades; and invest in technology.

Election day: May 3, 2022

Polls are open: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registered voters may cast a ballot at the polling location established by their city/township.

Absentee voting: ballots will be available by March 19, 2022. For more information on voting: michigan.gov/vote.

To learn more, visit the district website at kalamazoopublicschools.com/Bond2022 for an overview of the proposal, building specific details, and frequently asked questions and answers.

@KalamazooPublicSchools @KPSschools

Questions? Call (269) 337-1572 or email bond@kalamazoopublicschools.net.

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The May 2022 bond proposal will invest in the highest priority projects and spotlight three key areas:



INVEST IN TECHNOLOGY

Replace, upgrade, and enhance district technology.

- Maintain and increase student access to Chromebooks both in and out of school
- Upgrade classroom and large space audiovisual systems in schools to support increased student engagement
- Refresh building computer labs and/or media centers to meet new innovative usage demands
- Replace and upgrade technology infrastructure to support additional staff and student devices
- Update phones and printers to more efficient and modern systems



INVEST IN SAFETY AND SECURITY

Upgrade safety and security measures in our school buildings.

- Creation of secure double-door entrances to the schools that do not have them
- Upgrade camera systems
- Replace aging school buses, as needed, to keep our fleet modern and safe



INVEST IN OUR SCHOOLS

Provide safe, healthy learning environments.

- Improve air quality
- Install cooling, replace boilers as needed
- Replace outdated portable classrooms with permanent classrooms
- Replace older infrastructure including roofing, paving, and playground equipment
- Install energy-efficient LED lighting and solar panels
- Improve and replace fine arts equipment and athletic facilities
- New El Sol Elementary School



Get Faster Tech Support

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help@kalamazoopublicschools.net



KPS Tech Services will automatically log a help ticket for you. Detail the issue (hardware, software, connectivity, etc.) and include your contact info.



KPS Virtual *(continued from page 1)*

in-person support. We're the only virtual program that offers that."

Currently, KPS has over 300 students participating in virtual learning, with slightly more secondary students than elementary students. Students meet in virtual classrooms where teachers can instruct them through major concepts. Outside of the online classrooms students work through self-paced learning.

Since moving the program to the new space in the Oakwood Center, the KPS virtual learning programs have been able to offer students a place for in-person support. Students can come to the building and work in an empty classroom or in the library. Students also have access to teachers when they are not teaching remotely. There is a twice weekly, in-person learning lab for elementary students. Kirshman praised the teachers in the remote learning program for going above and beyond with outreach efforts to ensure students feel connected to teachers and to each other.

KPS virtual programs provide flexibility to meet the needs of students.

"We enjoy the flexibility this program has offered us — we both work full-time, and therefore it's tough to do all of the work during the 'school day,' especially with a kindergartener who can't read any of the assignments herself. Daily meetings with the teach-

ers are very much appreciated, as our teachers have been able to help drill some of the concepts," one family said in its evaluation of the program.

Senior Robert Wheeler said virtual school has allowed him the time to have a full-time job since he was a sophomore, which "allowed me to gain experience in my career field prior to college." He plans to attend WMU in the fall to study business.

Freshman Madison Lange says the virtual option has worked well with her Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center schedule. "The program is really great for flexibility, especially during the first portion of the year when you're trying to get used to time management. I personally plan to stick with the program next year."

The staff also tries to ensure students remain engaged with their home schools. For example, elementary students have worked with the after-school robotics program and secondary students participate in sports and extra-curricular activities with students from their home schools.

Kirshman said moving into the Oakwood Center, which is also home to Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program and the district's new Social Emotional Learning Center has resulted in great synergy. The SEL staff has created a welcoming environment in the building. The virtual staff has appreciated being able to tap the expertise of the SEL staff to address the social emotional needs of the virtual students.

Working in the space has helped the virtual program's eight secondary, five elementary and one special education teachers too. Teachers are paired by content areas so they can more easily collaborate with each other. Another plus has been that the teachers in the virtual program have been able to offer support and expertise to the KILP staff.

"We're hoping for even more cross-fertilization next year," she said.

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The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs or services.

Inquiries by students and/or their parents/guardians should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Student Services
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177
District Directory at :
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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Maple Street, Linden Grove Win Honors in Mathcounts Competition

Teams from Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts and Linden Grove Middle School recently competed in the annual Mathcounts competition.

The national middle school math competition features creative and challenging problems that cover a wide range of math concepts. In the chapter level competition, students race to solve problems in three categories:

- The Sprint round — Completing 30 problems in 40 minutes with no calculators
- The Target round — Students have six minutes for sets of two questions, repeated four times. Calculators are allowed.
- The Team round — The team's Top 4 players



Maple Street Magnet School's 2022 Mathcounts team members are: front row, from left, David Ogunremi, Julien Chapman, Michael Bogard, and Jean-Pierre van der Westhuizen; back row, from left, Emma Sinclair, Frankie Goldstein, Thomas Shockey, Robert Strong-Morse, and coach Adam Strong-Morse.

answer 10 questions, working together with calculators.

Maple Street placed first in the Team round and won the chapter competition, while Linden Grove placed third in the Team round.

The four Maple Street members of the Team round will advance to the state level. They are: Thomas Shockey, Frankie Goldstein, Robert Strong-Morse, and Julien Chapman.

"I participated myself, when I was in the eighth grade and I loved it," said Linden Grove math teacher Grace Wiesner, who

coached the team with fellow math teacher Sally Wright and Dr. Patrick Bennett, who is an assistant professor of mathematics at Western Michigan University.

The Maple Street team was coached by parent Adam Strong-Morse.

Members of both teams have met weekly since the beginning of the school year to sharpen their math skills. The Top 4 scoring students from each chapter advanced to the state competition and the Top 5 scoring students in the chapter competition received a trophy.



Linden Grove Mathcounts 2022 team: back row, from left, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Alex Hanson, Austin Hale, Andrew Wright, Jayden Moore, Miranda Fiore, Elizabeth Bippely, Mya Gaddie, Jared Kwei, and math teacher Grace Weisner. Middle row: math teacher Sally Wright, Dayton Le, Henry Applegate, Akshay Verma, Xuan Yue Li, Elyn Rhodes, Jayla Joyner, and Nia Coleman. Front row: Dax Robinson.

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all Spring!

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- Science of Sound with KSO NEW
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- Discovery Speaker Series

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Tuesday, April 5, 2022
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TEEN & CHILDREN'S events happening at KPL this April!
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These events are subject to change, please visit kpl.gov/events for more information.

SUMMER CAMP 2022

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SUMMER CAMP 2022

Staying Healthy & Safe at Camp

This year, for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic began, going to summer camp may feel like a more normal experience. Camps, however, are still planning to take precautions to limit the spread of the virus. Some camps have chosen to lower their capacity, continue to practice physical distance policies, requiring proof of vaccination and/or administer Covid antigen testing of campers.

According to the American Pediatrics Association (AAP), camps with proper safety steps in place can greatly limit the spread of Covid-19 infections. These steps include wearing masks, physical distancing, smaller group sizes and cleaning and disinfecting as part of the daily routine.

Whether you are considering a day or an overnight program for your child's camp experience, these are some questions the AAP recommends parents ask camp organizers:

How will the camp staff help children follow coronavirus safety rules?

Camps should have age-appropriate ways to help children practice hand hygiene, stay a safe distance from others, and wear face masks whenever possible and practical. This can be a challenge, especially for younger campers, who will need a lot of reminders.

Will most activities be indoors or outside?

Having activities outdoors with more fresh air and room to spread out can lower the risk of spreading Covid-19. Being outside allows children to connect with nature, which can boost their physical and mental health after a long, stressful year. However, even outside, precautions need to be taken to avoid sharing germs. Camps should limit shared equipment for games and activities and clean the equipment often.

What happens if someone at the camp gets sick?

Camps should have plans for what to do if a camper or staff member has symptoms of Covid-19, or any other illness based on local or state public health guidelines and policies about how to respond and report suspected Covid-19 cases. Many camp organizers will



administer rapid antigen tests to determine if a camper has Covid-19.

What kind of support is available for campers with special health care needs?

Some children with special health care needs or disabilities may need special accommodations so they can enjoy camp while being protected against Covid-19. If your child has special health care needs, talk with camp directors and your pediatrician to identify specific accommodations your child may need. Existing plans, such as Individual Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Plans can be helpful to assist the camp in making accommodations.

What is the camper drop-off/pickup policy?

Drop-off and pickup might look different this year than it has in years past. To limit exposure, your camp may implement a new policy regarding how many people can be at camper drop-off/pickup or will stagger times for drop-off and pickup.



SUMMER CAMP 2022

How will campers move throughout the day at camp?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), organizing campers into smaller groups with dedicated staff will help minimize Covid-19 risk. Staggered arrival and drop-off times may also help limit contact between groups.

How will snacks and meals work?

Eating in group dining halls or cafeterias can be risky for Covid-19 infections. Camps should stagger meal times to minimize the number of campers in one place and provide outdoor eating spaces. If possible, it may be safest for campers bring their own meals and eat in separate areas or with their smaller group. Ideally, children should bring their own water bottles rather than drinking from water fountains.

What extra steps are being taken at overnight camps?

When looking at overnight camps, ask if children will bunk with their daytime groups and how sleeping areas will be arranged. Lining up mats or beds so that campers and staff sleep head-to-toe and at least 6 feet apart can help limit risk.

Should my child be tested for Covid-19 before or during camp?

Most camps will have requirements regarding proof of a negative Covid-19 test prior to the start of camp. Ask the camp organizer for their specific policies regarding testing and proof of vaccination requirements

What is the refund policy if my child become sick and can't attend camp?

Ask about your camp's policy regarding rolling the enrollment to next summer. Or, if your household is in a position to do so, considering reaching out to your camp to let them know that you'd like your enrollment dollars to be a donation instead.



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SUMMER CAMP 2022

So Many Types of Camp, So Little Summer

When looking at camp for your children, there are many options



Traditional/General — Traditional/general camps offer a little bit of everything like team sports, swimming, boating, fishing, archery, performing arts, arts and crafts, music, dance, hiking, wilderness adventure, and rock climbing. Some of these camps can be resident camps, where the campers stay overnight for a week or for several. Others are day camps, which can last from 2–3 hours a day or all day.

Traditional/general camps also have different types of programming. Programs can be structured, where the schedule is pre-arranged; semi-elective, where the camper has some choice in activities; or elective, where the camper decides his or her entire schedule.



Wilderness Adventure — Wilderness adventure camps are usually overnight camps and can last anywhere from a couple of days to a month or longer. They are usually in a forest or a mountainous area. Campers sleep in tents and sleeping bags. Some of the activities are backpacking, hiking, camping, rock climbing, white water rafting, survival skills training, canoe trips, and mountain biking.



Academic — Academic camps focus on specific area of study designed to either improve grades or explore special topics, like the sciences. Some examples of what academic camps offer are: ESL, STEM, SAT Prep, foreign languages, tutoring, study skills, biology, computer gaming, general science, rocketry, robotics, and physics. While the schedule is usually structured and can be rigorous, many of these camps also have fun activities to give kids time to rest and play.



Community Service — Community service camps offer programs for kids to be involved in helping local communities. Some camps offer enrichment credits toward graduation. It is normally labor intensive and includes things like building houses, installing water systems, farming, engineering, animal care, and nature preservation.

SUMMER CAMP 2022



Arts — Arts camps can specialize in dance, music, performing arts, comedy, creative arts, technical theater, painting, and visual arts. Many are held in theaters, on college campuses, and at dance companies. The programs are normally exclusive to the art. Some camps are for children who already have experience and there may be auditions required.



Religious — Religious camps are predominantly Christian, Jewish, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, and Presbyterian. Some religious camps can be traditional/general camps, where they offer the same activities as a traditional camp but with a focus on a specific religion. Other religious camps can be week-long day camps often called Vacation Bible School.

GILMORE PIANO CAMP

DAY & OVERNIGHT CAMP JUNE 26–JULY 1, 2022, AT SHERMAN LAKE YMCA



DAILY LESSONS



CAMP ACTIVITIES



NEW FRIENDS

SUMMER CAMP 2022



Sports Specialty — Sports specialty camps usually focus on one sport. There is extensive instruction and campers spend most of their time playing or learning about the sport. Some examples of sports specialties are football, soccer, baseball, basketball, volleyball, golf, and tennis.



Special Needs — Special needs is a broad term that is used to separate traditional and specialty camps from those that cater to kids with specific needs. A special need includes, but is not limited to, cancer, autism, physical disability, burn victims, grief/loss, and LGBTQ. Similar to traditional camps, these camps offer activities such as horseback riding, swimming, climbing, team sports, and arts and crafts. The camp may also offer education for kids and their families specific to the need. There may be group therapy sessions or one-on-one counseling. If the camp specializes in serving children who have a disease or physical disabilities, there are most likely nurses or doctors on site as well as medical facilities. Some camps have an approval process. This may mean filling out an application, providing medical documents, or speaking directly to their admissions personnel.

— Information provided by the
National Camps Association

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SUMMER CAMP 2022

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SUMMER CAMP 2022

Benefits of Camp Can Be Lifelong

After a year of Covid-19 restrictions, summer camp offers kids the chance to learn a variety of different skills that may have been missing from their day-to-day experiences. According to the American Camp Association, summer camp experiences help students develop social skills and self-respect, build character and learn about caring and being a good citizen. In addition, attending a camp can have these benefits.



1. Socializing and Friendship Building

Whether it's a day camp or overnight camp, summer camp provides a great opportunity for kids to socialize and meet new people, especially other kids who share the same interests. A summer camp program provides a safe environment for children to develop social skills and decision-making skills. Kids develop important life skills through socializing — such as sharing, setting boundaries, and problem-solving — and learn how to develop strong, healthy relationships by interacting with their peers.

2. Less Screen Time and More Exercise

Our kids have had A LOT of screen time this past year and are more sedentary than ever. Sedentary lifestyles increase the risk of health issues including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and obesity. A summer camp is a great solution to get kids moving again. Many programs take place outdoors and include physical activities such as hiking, archery, horseback riding, swimming, rock climbing, dance and team sports.



3. Personal Growth and Exploration

Summer camps are an opportunity for kids to explore their interests and learn new things. For example, local science-focused camps can teach kids about chemistry, robotics or aeronautics, while other camps focus on such things as the arts, cooking and nature. While they are having fun and exploring new interests, kids are also being educated and challenged. Studies have shown that 70 percent of parents report that their child gained self-confidence while at camp.



SUMMER CAMP 2022



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June 20 –
August 5, 2022

One- and two-week STEM experience for
preK – high school students regardless of race,
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**2022 safety plan will include reduced class sizes
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Please check our website after April 1 for safety
guidelines and full registration information.
Register early – spaces are limited.

Kalamazoo Area Mathematics
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kamsconline.com • 269.337.0004

4. Positive Role Models

Through their camp counselors and directors, children will have opportunities to interact with positive adult role models. Many camp counselors are younger adults who work or volunteer over their summer breaks from school and whom kids see as “cool” and more relatable than their parents. Because these young adults often share their personal experiences as well as interests with campers, they can provide your child a glimpse into what their future could be like.

5. Becoming More Independent

Going to camp gives kids an opportunity to become more independent. Whether for a day, week, or entire summer, separation from parents and caregivers allows children to learn to rely on themselves and other trusted adults and peers. Separation from parents allows children ability to think independently, which builds self-esteem.

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or call 269.343.2211

359 S Kalamazoo Mall, 3rd Floor

**public
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network**

media>u

SUMMER CAMP 2022

Low-Cost, No-cost Alternatives for Summer Fun

Looking for a little more fun this summer for your family and children? Here's a list of places to go to find out about no-cost and low-cost alternatives:

KYDNet Summer Program Finder

A great place to start your search for summer programs is through KYDNet (Kalamazoo Youth Development Network). KYDNet is working to ensure that Kalamazoo County youth have access to high quality in person and virtual programs and the organization's program finder is a great online tool to see youth-oriented programs and activities are available in Kalamazoo County this summer. Find it online at www.kydnet.org.

Camp Kzoo

The City of Kalamazoo's Parks and Recreation department offer a variety of programs for Kalamazoo's youth. Plans for this summer's activities will be available on its website at www.kzoooparks.org/ programs.

Financial assistance is available from Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation to help ensure that these programs are available to, and affordable by, everyone. For more information, visit the Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation website at www.friendsofrec.org.

Do-Dah Parade

The Do-Dah Parade, the event that kicks off the summer season in downtown Kalamazoo, is set for June 4 with a theme of "Where is the Zoo?." This parade, now in its 35th year, encourages parade participants to create a laughable and satire-filled parade to reinvigorate the meaning of "Do-Dah" (a parody based on a spoof or a satire).

Get more information at www.dodahkzoo.com.

Outdoor concerts

Another great outdoor activity is offered by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo's Summertime Live concert series. Free concerts are held throughout the community including in Portage, Parchment, Oshtemo Township, and of course, downtown Kalamazoo. The schedule was still being finalized at press time, but to find out who is playing where and when visit www.kalamazooarts.org.



Take a Rewarding Hike

The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is challenging kids to Hike Our Preserves (HOP) this summer. Registration is \$7 per person and includes a free hiking stick (if you want one), a medallion for each HOP preserve you visit, and a free prize from Jr. Rangerland Educational Publishing for the first 50 hikers to visit all 10 preserves. Preserves feature many different types of landscape from wetlands and forests to fens and beaches. For more information visit www.swmlc.org/hop or call (269) 324-1600.

Join a Reading Program

Many of the area libraries offer robust reading programs for kids, often with benchmarks and prizes. And all that's needed to participate is a library card (which most KPS students got in first grade!). While libraries are open again, you may not have to visit the facilities in person to participate. Check with your local library branch about their online or curbside service options.

SUMMER CAMP 2022

New Genesis Success Academy

SUMMER CAMP 2022



JULY 5-AUGUST 12

Arts • Dance • Games • Academic Enrichment
Sports • Activities • Creative Writing
Computer Coding and much more!

8:30 am – 4 pm • Monday thru Friday • \$65/week
Serving students exiting grades K-5
Breakfast/lunch/snack provided
DHS Accepted

**\$50 family registration fee before June 10
to reserve your space**

**Call (269) 343-7023
or Visit www.newgenesisinc.org**



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SUMMER CAMP 2022



Branch Gymnastics

Located in Kalamazoo and in Battle Creek!

Branch has Action Packed Camp Offerings for PreSchoolers & School Age Children!

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Pre-Registration Required. Visit www.BranchGymnastics.com

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Apply online at

friendsofrec.org



KALAMAZOO
Friends of
Recreation

RECREATION PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is available to all City of Kalamazoo youth for participation in Kzoo Parks and Southwest Michigan Miracle League recreation programs.

GOLF
4
YOUTH

Friday, June 17 | Milham Park Golf Club

Invest in Kalamazoo youth today by participating in the Golf 4 Youth charity outing. Learn more and register at friendsofrec.org/golf4youth-2



SUMMER FUN!

Fun Activities • Field Trips • Life Skills

Kzoo Parks offers fun summer day camps for youth Kindergarten to 8th Grade. There are FREE and affordable options, and financial assistance is available for city residents. Campers will explore activities like arts and crafts, sports and games, and field trips focused on learning and horizon building. Registration opens **Monday, April 4.**



Join the fun at kzoo-parks.org or call us at 311 (337-8000) to learn more.

Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program Provides Positive Path Toward Graduation

(continued from page 1)

in-person sessions three times a week with teacher Matthew Gorton and full-time tutor Morgan Kenbeek, who can help them with any content they might be struggling with and to take tests and quizzes. The program is housed in the Oakwood Center.

“Mr. Gorton and Mr. Kenbeek are great,” Kirshman said. “They work really well with every kind of student.”

The student population is based on referrals from Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high schools. Some students are identified by counselors, but parents and students who are interested in the program can also self-refer by contacting their counselor to see if KILP might be appropriate for their learning situation.

Students and families will also find other supports available through KILP. Kirshman said staff will connect students with resources through the district’s homeless liaison and mental health services from Integrated Services Kalamazoo, when necessary. The staff has also helped students connect with classes through the county Education For the Arts and Career & Technical Education courses.

“But honestly most of our students aren’t interested in extracurriculars; they just want to be done,” she said. “We want to make sure students have what they need to continue their educations.”

The program provides students with maximum flexibility if they are dealing with family or health issues, and it promotes a sense of independence.

“Some kids think they are going to hate it,” Kirshman said. “I tell them give it a week. We’ll get you through. This is a place where they can come in and feel like they’re almost in a college environment. No one is bothering them about tardies or detention. They don’t ask for permission to go to the restroom.

“We treat them like adults and we find that they act like adults. We’re able to do things that you can’t do in a large environment. We try to meet them where they are.”

Kirshman said one of the best parts of her day is wandering down to check in with the KILP students.

“I interact with these students who traditionally have not been doing well and to get to experience them having success is amazing.”

Northglade Holds Annual Black History Wax Museum



Older Northglade Montessori Magnet students portray historical figures in the school's wax museum, while younger students listen to the presentations, such as Barry Gray's on historian and professor John Henry Clarke.



Penelope Michalski chose to honor Doris Miller, a sailor who earned the Navy Cross for rescuing shipmates during the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Hailey Baker portrayed writer Amiri Baraka for students Penelope Pratt, center, and Ava Blesing.



Milo Chow shares facts about mathematician and naturalist Benjamin Banneker with other students.

High School State Testing

This spring, juniors will once again be taking the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which includes a college entrance exam (SAT), a career-readiness exam (WorkKeys), and Michigan Science and Social Studies tests (M-STEP). On Wednesday, April 13, juniors will take the SAT plus essay. This is followed by the WorkKeys examination on Thursday, April 14 and the M-STEP Science and Social Studies tests on April 19 and 20. The SAT and WorkKeys tests are taken in the traditional paper-pencil format. The M-STEP Science and Social Studies tests are administered online.

Additionally, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) expects that students in grade 10 will take the PSAT on Wednesday,

April 13 and students in grade 9 will take the PSAT on Thursday, April 14.

Testing students should report to school at the regular time on each testing date. Non-testing students will have virtual learning experiences on these days.

Students are encouraged to utilize Khan Academy online resources to prepare for these assessments. Khan Academy offers free practice tests and individualized learning activities to prepare students for the SAT and PSAT tests. Additional information on testing can be found on the MDE website. The addresses for these websites are provided below.

www.khanacademy.org
www.michigan.gov/mme

Date	Assessments	Additional Information
Wednesday, April 13, 2022	SAT testing for grade 11 students PSAT testing for grade 10 students	Remote learning for non-testing students. Schedule forthcoming.
Thursday, April 14, 2022	WorkKeys testing for grade 11 students PSAT testing for grade 10 students	Remote learning for non-testing students. Schedule forthcoming.
Tuesday & Wednesday, April 19-20, 2022	M-STEP testing for grade 11 students	Regular school day for all students.

Make-up SAT Testing, Tuesday, April 26, 2022; make-up M-STEP testing through May 6, 2022.

Kids Run
FREE!
Mayors' Riverfront Park,
Friday April 22, 6:00 PM
PNC BANK

Join us by registering for the PNC Kids 1K at zeiglerkalamazoomarathon.com. Entry is FREE and each entrant will receive a T-shirt and medal.

Middle School State Testing

This spring, students in grades 6 through 8 will take part in the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). The M-STEP is an online test and is required by the Michigan Department of Education.

Students in grade 8 will take the PSAT 8 test in place of the M-STEP ELA and math tests. This test is similar to the PSAT and SAT tests that students take in high school and will provide schools and families with information regarding student progress towards college and career readiness. Because this is a timed and highly structured test, it is very important that all grade 8 students are in attendance for testing on Wednesday, April 13.

The table below lists the specific subjects tested and testing windows for each grade level. More detailed testing schedules will be shared by each building. Testing will typically occur in the morning with an altered class schedule in the afternoon. Students are

expected to be present all day each day.

It is important that students are prepared to take the state assessments. If possible, please avoid removing students from school on the primary testing days. It is also critical that students get plenty of sleep before testing, arrive at school on time, and eat a healthy breakfast.

The M-STEP and PSAT tests are curriculum-based exams, and the best preparation for students is to attend school regularly and complete classwork and homework to the best of their abilities. Although teachers will spend some time familiarizing students with the item types and format of the test, KPS believes teaching our curriculum is the primary method to ensure student success.

For additional information on the M-STEP or PSAT tests, visit the following:

www.michigan.gov/mstep
www.michigan.gov/psat

Date	Assessments
Wednesday, April 13, 2022	PSAT testing for grade 8 students M-STEP ELA testing for grade 6 and grade 7 students
Thursday, April 14, 2022	M-STEP science and social studies testing for grade 8 students M-STEP math for testing for grade 6 and 7 students

Make-up PSAT testing through April 19, make-up M-STEP testing through May 6, 2022.

Chef Samuel • KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF &
 Kirsten Strong • KPS FOOD SERVICE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mock Cookie Dough Overnight Oats

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but sometimes it's also the easiest meal to skip. With this recipe, you can prep breakfast for the work week on Sunday night. These overnight oats are incredibly nutrient dense with protein, fresh fruit, whole grains, chia seeds, and yummy dark chocolate. Dark chocolate is rich in iron, copper, magnesium, and manganese. It also is one of the best sources of cancer-fighting antioxidants. Additionally, it can improve oxygen flow to the brain, making it beneficial for brain function. Chia seeds are a good source of Omega-3 fatty acids and fiber. Both of these nutrients help decrease the risk of heart disease. Let's not forget to mention that this combo tastes more like a dessert than a healthy breakfast. **Serves 5**

Ingredients:

5 Tbsp peanut butter (or any nut butter)
 3 Tbsp brown sugar
 5 tsp dark chocolate chips
 1 1/4 cup vanilla Greek yogurt
 2 1/2 cups old fashioned (not quick cooking) oats
 1 1/4 tsp cinnamon
 2 tsp chia seeds (optional)



Kirsten Strong, registered dietitian,
Samuel Dunn, executive chef, KPS Food Service, Chartwells

2 1/2 cups milk (or milk substitute)

1 1/2 cups fresh fruit

Combine the peanut butter, brown sugar, and chocolate chips together in a mixing bowl by hand or with a mixer. Divide the mixture evenly between five mason jars or any small container with a lid. Press the mixture into the bottom of each container. Add 1/4 cup of yogurt on top of the peanut butter layer. In a mixing bowl, mix oats, cinnamon, and chia seeds. Add the milk and stir until oats are evenly soaked. Divide the oat mixture evenly into the containers. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Top oats with a 1/2 cup of fresh fruit when you're ready to eat.



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Artists' Corner

Students in Gayle James' seventh-grade art class at Maple Street Magnet for the Arts recently created oil pastel portraits. The students began by reviewing the rules of facial proportion. They then delved into the topic of color theory and chose one of six color schemes (primary, secondary, warm, cool, complementary, or monochromatic) to work with. Oil pastel can be a difficult medium to use, but these young artists took on the challenge and did an awesome job.



Marte'vion Ballard



Caroline Shakner



Kanley Covault



Jordyn Ivy



Lia The

Elementary State Testing

This spring, students in grades 3 through 5 will take part in the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). The M-STEP is an online test and is required by the Michigan Department of Education. The table below lists the specific subjects tested and testing windows for each grade level. More detailed testing schedules will be shared by each building. Please note that although the test is untimed, most students will spend no more than two hours testing on each day. When not testing, students will continue to receive instruction from their classroom teachers.

It is important that students are prepared to take the state assessments. If possible, please

avoid removing students from school on the primary testing days. It is also critical that students get plenty of sleep before testing, arrive at school on time, and eat a healthy breakfast.

The M-STEP is a curriculum-based exam, and the best preparation for students is to attend school regularly and complete classwork and homework to the best of their abilities. Although teachers will spend some time familiarizing students with the item types and format of the test, KPS believes teaching our curriculum is the primary method to ensure student success.

For additional information on the M-STEP, including practice problems and resources, visit: www.michigan.gov/mstep

Date	Assessments
Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12-13, 2022	M-STEP ELA testing for students in grades 3-5
Thursday, April 14, 2022	M-STEP social studies testing for students in grade 5 only
Tuesday and Wednesday, April 19-20, 2022	M-STEP math testing for students in grades 3-5
Thursday, April 21, 2022	M-STEP science testing for students in grade 5 only
Make-up testing through May 6, 2022.	

APRIL IS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MONTH

"The faculty at Kalamazoo Valley helped lay the foundation for me to be successful."

Tarisai M. | ALUMNUS

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE!

Together with the nearly 1,000 other community colleges across the country, Kalamazoo Valley Community College will celebrate Community College Month during April. Learn about the economic, academic and equity advantages of attending a community college and to celebrate the graduates of Kalamazoo Valley!

For a full list of activities, visit www.kvcc.edu/ccmonth.

Woods Lake Dance Students 'Escape to the Ballet'

The Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts fourth- and fifth-grade dance companies traveled to Grand Rapids on Feb. 7 to participate in the Grand Rapids Ballet's "Escape to the Ballet" field trip experience.

Students visited the Meijer Royce Center for Dance to learn about the professional world of ballet.

The students participated in a ballet class with Grand Rapids Ballet School Director Attila Mosolygo, who had the students stretching, learning introductory technique, and working on big jumps at the end of class.

The students visited the costume shop where the costume shop manager, Ron Altman, gave them a tour of the sewing machines, cutting tables, laundry facility, and storage area. Altman showed them costumes from the ballet's upcoming performances so students could see the design details and hear what it takes to create, fit, and take care of costumes.

In the Peter Martin Wege



Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts dancers take a class with Grand Rapids Ballet School Director Attila Mosolygo.

Theatre, students were greeted by Artistic Director James Sofranko, who provided an introduction to Act 1 of the company's upcoming production of "Cinderella," which was choreographed by renowned choreographer Ben Stevenson, O.B.E.

Students watched the professional dancers rehearse and they met several dancers after the run-through. Guest service manager Errol Shewman encouraged students to ask questions during each part of the experience. Shewman spent time with the students before the

rehearsal began and answered questions about what it takes to be part of a dance company and what it takes to put on a professional production.

"This is an important field trip for my students and I try to schedule this trip each school year," said Woods Lake dance teacher Debra Norton. "Woods Lake students rehearse and work toward their own performances at school and they can see the professionals going through the same process — except the professionals spend all day taking class and rehears-



Woods Lake Elementary dance students visited the Grand Rapids Ballet's "Escape to the Ballet" field trip experience in the Meijer Royce Center for Dance in Grand Rapids.

ing. This is eye-opening for the Woods Lake dancers. They also learn about other jobs that bring a performance together.

"Grand Rapids Ballet School administrator SarahJean Bos told Norton that the Woods Lake students "always have the best questions, are enthusiastic, and

are well-mannered."

The Woods Lake Dance Program is supported by Kalamazoo Public Schools, Education for the Arts, Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs, the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation, and the Dorothy U. Dalton Foundation.

WHAT'S
NEW



Arts Council
of Greater
Kalamazoo



ART
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Celebrate
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FRI APR 01 5-8PM

There is no better subject for an artist to paint than the beautiful landscapes of Mother Earth. It seems her beauty is limitless. However, her beauty will not last unless we take steps now to protect her. Come celebrate Earth Day at April's Art Hop in downtown Kalamazoo.



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ALL-NEW
THEME IN
2022!
Spots are
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SUMMER
EXPLORERS
SCHOOL AGE SUMMER CAMP
(Ages 6-10 years old)

Dive into an under water world this summer. Learn about our lakes, streams, rivers and oceans. Meet fish, whales, learn water safety and explore all things water related! Your adventure awaits!

Water Works

www.gildenwoods.com

Loy Norrix DECA Students Hold Career Expo, Ready for State Contest

Loy Norrix High School students had the opportunity to meet with about a dozen professionals from the Kalamazoo community at the “I Have a Dream” Career Expo Day organized by 10th grade students Aliah Ward and Nateya Thomas.

The two students created the event as part of their DECA hospitality project. DECA is a career and technical education competition in which students explore career education through a variety of hands-on experiences.

Ward and Thomas used the career expo to develop experience in event planning. The sophomores contacted community speakers, arranged a pizza lunch, organized raffles and created the advertising to market their event.

The event not only exposed other students to career opportunities in Kalamazoo, but was a chance to celebrate black excellence on MLK Day, Thomas and Ward said.

The expo will form the basis of the presentation and report they will create for the state DECA competition.



Loy Norrix students Caleb Jackson, Clarence McCants and Ari Johnson speak with Ralph Jones, owner of RJ's Printing at the DECA I Have a Dream Career Expo.

Loy Norrix business teacher and DECA advisor Atiba Ward took the Norrix team to the regional DECA competition in January, where the group won 42 medals in five cluster areas: business management and administration, hospitality and tourism, marketing, entrepreneurship, and finance. Within those themes, there are 38 different categories of competition, which can include individual and team

events and requirements such as role playing, tests, written presentations and oral projects.

This year's team members who competed in districts were: Caleb Jackson, Chanel Wilson, Javon Harris, Arturo Pinto, Sequoya Morning, Nateya Thomas, Anna Miedema, Trevor Watts, Aliah Ward, Wendy Miedema, Gavin Gardner, Jackson Bergan, Naedia Abbott, Amady Mboup, Max Belin, Ari Johnson, Jaquan



Loy Norrix DECA 2021-2022: Caleb Jackson, Chanel Wilson, Javon Harris, Arturo Pinto, Sequoya Morning, Nateya Thomas, Anna Miedema, Trevor Watts, Aliah Ward, Wendy Miedema, Gavin Gardner, Jackson Bergan, Nadia Abbott, Amady Mboup, Max Berlin, Ari Johnson, Ja'Quan Jennings. Not pictured: Tamisha Smith and Meilie Diaz Ocampo.

Jennings, Tamisha Smith and Meilie Diaz Ocampo.

The students were scheduled to compete March 10 at the state event. Winners from that event will compete in the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta in April. The event is expected to draw more than 20,000 students. Arturo Pinto, who won the DECA regional competition in sports management automatically qualified for nationals.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum KV



UPCOMING EVENT APRIL 5 - 9 | FREE

CENTRAL AMERICAN & MEXICAN FOODWAYS IN MICHIGAN

This event is meant to inspire and empower the greater Kalamazoo community to honor its agricultural history and heritage cuisines, celebrate good food, and work together to build a just and healthy future for all.

April 5 – Virtual Keynote: Chef Claudia Albertina Ruiz Sántiz

April 6 – Livestream Movie: "The Kitchenistas," followed by a cooking demo

April 7 – Virtual Presentation: Indigenous People and Biodiversity, followed by a cooking demo

April 8 – Virtual Panel Discussion: The Importance of Corn for Mexican and Central American Communities in Kalamazoo

April 9 – Outdoor Foodways Celebration at the Food Innovation Center of Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Register for live virtual sessions and see the complete schedule at kalamazoofoodways.org.

NOW OPEN AGES 0 - 5 | FREE

CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE

Connect with young learners through stories, play and imagination in a space just for them. Register at the front desk. First come, first served.



EXHIBIT UNTIL MAY 1 | FREE

TOYS II: THE INSIDE STORY

Learn how toys work and their history! Enjoy 20 play/learn stations and displays that illustrate the simple mechanisms commonly found in toys.

This exhibition was developed by the Montshire Museum of Science and TEAMS Collaborative, with funding from the National Science Foundation.

UPCOMING EVENT FREE

THE GILMORE PIANO FESTIVAL FILM SERIES

THE GILMORE

Kids' shows Saturdays, April 30 and May 7, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Seating is limited. Visit kalamazoomuseum.org to register and to see the full list of shows.

UPCOMING SHOWS APRIL 9 - 30 | FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | \$3

PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE

Perfect Little Planet | 11 a.m. | Grades K and up | 35 minutes

Discover our solar system through a different set of eyes – an alien family from another star system seeking the perfect vacation spot.

Big Astronomy: People, Places & Discoveries

2:30 p.m. | Grades 3 and up | 35 minutes

Learn about the people who operate major astronomical telescopes high in the mountaintops of Chile and their quest to reveal the secrets of the universe.

PUBLIC HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday | 10 - 11:30 a.m. & 1:30 - 3 p.m.

GENERAL ADMISSION IS FREE



Masks are required for all visitors over two years old regardless of vaccination status. Where possible, social distancing protocols will be 3 feet.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.

Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum KV

230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo
kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7900