

Kalamazoo Public Schools



www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

EXCELSIOR

August 2022 · Volume 25, Issue 7

Summer Science Getting a Head Start on High School

(STORY ON PAGE 8)

ART IN THE PARK

El Sol Elementary School Principal Dr. Natalie Wilson enjoys the sidewalk chalk with her daughter, Alexandria Wilson, 2, at the KPS Bronson Park Outdoor Art Show.

PAGE 6



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New School Year Is Opportunity to Celebrate #WeAreKPS

KALAMAZOO Public Schools is a large, diverse, and amazing operation.

With four high schools, four middle schools, 17 elementary schools, and a virtual program, the district serves more than 12,300 students from preschool through 12th grade.

A Message from the Superintendent



Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri

To educate, transport, feed and care for those thousands of children, the district has more than 1,700 caring employees, who teach, drive buses, choose books, keep school offices running smoothly, prepare meals, keep the buildings clean, and help students find the resources they need to thrive, among other things.

KPS's families come from not just from all corners of Kalamazoo — but from all corners of the world — speaking more than 60 languages and bringing the knowledge of their cultures.

This is a district that runs like a small city within the city with responsibilities that include education, transportation, utilities, food service, facilities,

accounting, human resources, emotional safety, physical security and so many more issues. Just in terms of transportation, the district maintains a fleet of 121 buses, with a multi-layered route system that transports students from home to school and back, while also making sure children make it to museums, concert halls, sporting events, and special education programs.

KPS embraces its diversity as a strength. What makes us unique are those differences — the fact that not everyone is the same, has the same needs, or is starting from the same place.

When we're in the midst of all of these differences, trying to juggle the various needs and wants, we sometimes forget one thing: Despite our differences and all of the individual goals and challenges we may face, we are part of one incredible community.

In other words: We Are KPS.

Everyone in KPS is working toward one goal — ensuring that our children are educated and prepared for the future. This is the goal of every person who works for the district. Every bus driver, every secretary, every teacher and principal, every paraprofes-

sional, every nurse, every playground supervisor, every librarian, every bus mechanic. Ultimately, we are here to help the children of this community get the education they need and deserve.

Students likewise, have one job: to take advantage of the vast educational opportunities the district offers.

Every member of the Kalamazoo community also shares in this mission. We all own the responsibility to help create a safe, healthy, and rich environment that supports their ability to learn and to thrive.

There is tremendous power in the synergy behind the concept that We Are KPS, that we are working toward making the world a better place for the children — so they will in turn be able to make the world a better place for those who come after them.

When we say We Are KPS, we acknowledge our responsibilities and the opportunities to share in our children's futures. Join us this year as we celebrate #WeAreKPS and the ways we can — and do — accomplish that mission.

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Visit CommunityHomeworks.org for more information.

This activity is brought to you in partnership with the City of Kalamazoo and support from other grant funding partners.

KPS Welcomes 5 New Elementary Assistant Principals

FIVE Kalamazoo Public Schools elementary schools will be welcoming assistant principals this fall. King-Westwood, Parkwood-Upjohn, Prairie Ridge and Winchell elementary schools and Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts are receiving the new administrators thanks to the federal American Rescue Plan, which includes \$122 billion to help schools deal with the after effects of the Covid pandemic.

Below are short work biographies of each assistant principal. The Excelsior will profile the administrators in the coming months.

Charles Green will be joining Prairie Ridge Elementary school this fall. He will be an assistant principal and work with Principal Joletta Drake. Green has attended Central Michigan University since 2010, earning a bachelor of science degree in psychology and a master of arts in higher education administration. He will complete an educational specialist degree in general educational leadership in 2023.

Green has been a fourth-grade teacher with Saginaw Public Schools. Last summer, he served as the Summer School Camp Lead Administrator responsible for three elementary schools. Green is the co-chair of the School Improvement Team (SIT) at Merrill Park Elementary and has been on the SIT three years. He is also a King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellow at Central Michigan University.

Glenda Jones will be joining the staff at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts as its new assistant principal in the fall. She will work with Principal Linda Mitchell.

Jones has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Illinois State University and a master of arts degree in general administration from Chicago State University. She has most recently served as a special education teacher at Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School.

Before coming to Kalamazoo, she worked in the Chicago area for 24 years: 20 years in Chicago Public Schools as an elementary special education teacher, a general education teacher, principal and director of special education for Camelot Education Alternative Schools; and four years in the Cook County School District 130 in Blue Island, Ill., as a special education administrator and pupil personnel service coordinator.

Tammo Nelson will be the assistant principal at Winchell Elementary School in the fall, working with



Charles Green



Glenda Jones



Tammo Nelson



Sierra Prather



Erika Zavasky

Principal Mike Hughes. Nelson earned a bachelor of science degree from Central Michigan University in elementary education and a master of science degree in principalship from Saginaw Valley State University.

She has worked as a district culture and climate coach for KPS and was a School Improvement Grant (SIG) Math Interventionist at Northeastern Elementary School for three years. Before coming to KPS, she worked in Saginaw Public Schools for 15 years as an elementary teacher, math interventionist, and summer school principal. She has served on the School Improvement Team in all buildings she worked in, and has been on the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and Child Study teams in her schools.

Sierra Prather will serve as the assistant principal at Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary school. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education and a master of arts degree in instructional

leadership from Western Michigan University.

Prather has worked as a Kalamazoo Public Schools teacher for 14 years at Woods Lake Elementary School. She served on the School Improvement Team, was the Grade Level Facilitator,

the Upper Elementary Science Lead teacher, substituted during principal absences and organized the promotion ceremony for fifth-grade students. In addition, she has organized the school basketball and cheer teams and served as a mentor for pre-intern teachers.

Erika Zavasky will be the assistant principal at King-Westwood Elementary School, working with principal Dwight Quinn.

Zavasky earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education and Spanish; and a master's degree in educational leadership at Western Michigan University. Most recently, she served as the culture and climate coach at Hillside Middle School, prior to that she taught for 14 years at Edison Academy, and she started her career in KPS as a paraprofessional.

She has been a mentor teacher, High Impact Leadership team member, Safe and Civil Schools Foundations Team chair and served on the School Improvement Team at Edison.

WHAT'S NEW

@

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo

Kanola Band
AUG 5TH at Haymarket Plaza

Farmers Alley
"Best of Broadway"
AUG 21ST at Bronson Park

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS IN DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO!

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in Bronson Park

Fridays
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Presented by the ACGK as part of the Summertime Live concert series, *Concerts in the Park* and *Music in the Plaza* are happening in August on select weekends in downtown Kalamazoo. All concerts are free to attend, so bring your family and friends. Both venues are part of the downtown Commons Area, so purchase food and drinks from any downtown restaurant and enjoy them while watching the show!

Visit KalamazooArts.org

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com • Excelsior • August 2022 3

SCHOOL NOTEBOOK | News from Across the District

(The School Notebook is a new feature of the Excelsior, which will provide snapshots of activities, changes, and news from KPS schools. This month, the Notebook focuses on summer construction updates.)

HILLSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL: Summer construction included accessible routes to the athletic fields, classroom AV infrastructure improvements, and plumbing-related repairs including new drinking fountains and high-efficiency water heaters.

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL: This summer Central saw the installation of a new marquee and a complete re-surfacing of the running track.

LINCOLN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES SCHOOL: The school's interior signage has been replaced.

LOY NORRIX HIGH SCHOOL: Facilities management replaced the school's chiller.

MAPLE STREET MAGNET SCHOOL: Maple saw several improvements this summer including the replacement of tennis courts, a set of stairs to the football field, interior sig-

nage, drinking fountains and the exterior basketball court.

MILWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Damaged sections of the school's sidewalks and old window coverings were replaced over the summer, and three student restrooms were remodeled.

MILWOOD MAGNET SCHOOL: The school flagpole and baseball backstops were replaced over the summer, and a wall was constructed between the library and Room 924.

NORTHGLADE MONTESSORI MAGNET SCHOOL: Summer construction included the replacement of lighting, clocks, asphalt pavement and concrete near the entrance. Other work included the installation of new interior signage, remodeling of the restrooms near the gym, and new lockers in the A wing.

OAKWOOD CENTER/SEL CENTER: New interior signage was installed over the summer.

PARKWOOD-UPJOHN ELEMENTARY: The asphalt parking lot, damaged exterior wood features, water softeners, drinking fountains, and gym lighting were replaced over the summer.



EDISON ACADEMY Construction Update

Construction of the new state-of-the-art, 70,000-square-foot Edison Academy is well underway at the corner of Lake and Russell streets.

The new building replaces the original Edison school which was built in 1923 on a plot of land that had been the home to the Lake Street School. The old Edison building, which was called Edison Environmental Science Academy, was demolished in 2021.

The \$18 million project is being funded with monies from the \$96.7 million bond that voters approved in 2018. Funds from that bond have also been used to enhance safety at schools and to purchase new school buses.

Edison Academy has temporarily moved to 3333 S. Westnedge Ave. during construction. The new building is expected to open in August 2023.



2022-23 School Year Begins Aug. 29

The 2022-23 school year begins with a half day on Monday, Aug. 29. The rest of that week, Aug. 30-Sept. 2 will consist of full days.

Principals and school secretaries return on Aug. 15. Buildings will be open to the public beginning that day.



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Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri

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NOTICE

Kalamazoo Public Schools welcomes all students and staff of any religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability.

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**

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1220 Howard St.

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent of
Human Resources**

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District Directory at:

www.kalamazoopublicschools.comIntroducing
a New Look for
the *Excelsior*

THE *Excelsior* celebrates 25 years of publication this year. Launched in 1997 as a way to help celebrate the students and staff of Kalamazoo Public Schools, the *Excelsior* shares stories about the district's efforts to meet the educational needs of students and their families and about student work, accomplishments, and success. The *Excelsior* publishes every month except July, and it is delivered to every home in the district. The *Excelsior* recently won two writing awards and a general excellence award from the National School Public Relations Association.

We hope the updated design provides an easier reading experience and that readers enjoy new features like the *School Notebook*, a digest of events, activities and accolades from across the district. Thank you to our partners at *Encore Magazine* and *Brakeman Design* for helping craft and implement the redesign.

Kalamazoo Central Class of
1971 Planning 51st Reunion

KALAMAZOO Central High School Class of 1971 will hold its 51st Class Reunion 7 – 11 p.m, Saturday, Aug. 20, at Indian Run Golf Club, 6359 RS Ave E, Scotts, MI 49088. Appetizers and cash bar will available. Cost is \$45 at the door. To register and to see a full list of weekend activities, visit <http://www.kchs1971.com/>

Classmate Sharon Ferraro, will offer a guided tour of the old Kalamazoo Central High School. Meet Ferraro at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Dutton Street entrance. Park behind the building.

Classmate Eugene Clark, (269) 365-7593, is organizing a golf outing at Indian Run: 18 holes beginning at 2 p.m. Aug. 20. The fee for 18 holes and a cart is \$40. Pay at the course. Call Clark to participate.

On Aug.21, the reunion committee has rented the Kalamazoo Foundation Pavilion at Markin Glen County Park, 5333 N. Westnedge Ave. BYO food and drink; alcohol is permitted. There will be music from 1 – 4 p.m. Guests can stay as late as 8 p.m. There is a \$5 per car county park fee to enter the park.

The 2022 Reunion Committee includes: Eugene Clark, Karin Engstrom Lund, Matt Graff, Diane McPherson Carver, Mike Morris, Keith Mumma, Tala Munther Davidson, Kathy Petersen, Robyn Ray Carter, Ron Robyn, Gale Rhoads, Linda Shirley Derfiny, Doreen Gardner, Tom Smith, Janine Valeko Scott, and Jane Viswat Fette.



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KPS Bronson Park Art Show

THE Kalamazoo Public Schools Art Department hosted the second annual KPS Bronson Park Art Show in May. Student art works were printed on yard signs and displayed throughout the park during the week before Memorial Day.

The Bronson Park show began in 2021 as the art department searched for a new way to host the annual show, which used to be hung in the KPS Administration Building before Covid. Last year's Bronson show was such a success the staff decided to expand it with even more activities.

This year's opening reception featured music, sidewalk chalk drawing, food, free books, and face painting. Students, families and community members were able to stroll through the park and enjoy the art. Students took home copies of their yard signs, which featured their work on the front, and a quote from them or a famous artist on the back.

Those who missed the show can find some of the art on display at the KPS Administration Building, 1220 Howard St. Works will rotate throughout the summer and into the early fall.



Prairie Ridge Elementary School student Journee Hanks displayed a colorful self-portrait at the KPS Bronson Park Outdoor Art Exhibition this spring.



King-Westwood student Olivia Van Streain and her family visit her art work in Bronson Park as part of the KPS art department's outdoor exhibition in the spring.

Photos courtesy of Christopher Deau Photography



Arcadia Elementary student Carl Jenkins proudly displays his pastel and watercolor at the outdoor exhibition.

Wondering what's next?

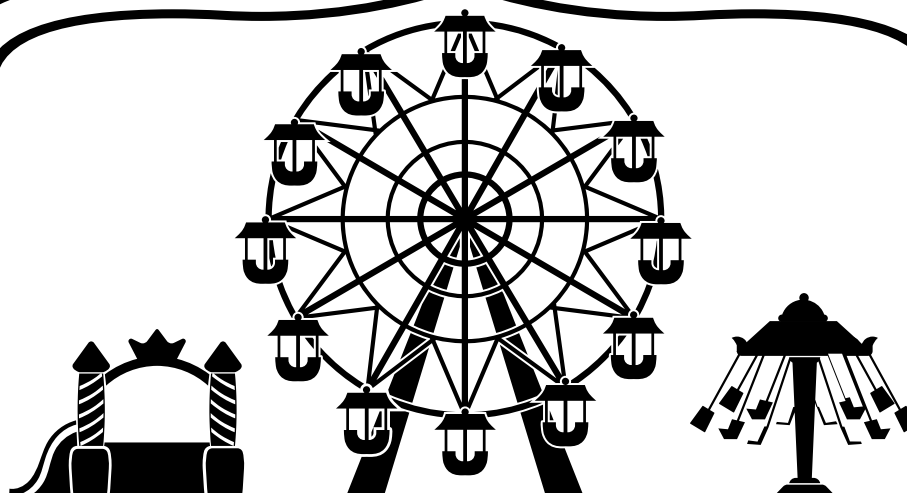
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To learn more, visit KIArts.org/gapyear





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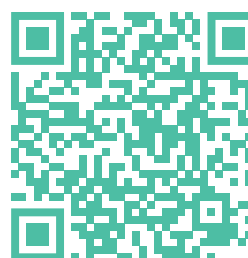
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New Institute Helps Incoming Freshmen Jump-Start Math and Science Learning

STUDENTS signed up for the Kalamazoo Public Schools Math and Science Institute for a number of reasons. They liked technology. They wanted to know more about animals. Their moms made them do it.

But no matter why they enrolled in the new KPS summer science program for rising ninth graders, all agreed that the four-week hands-on learning experience was interesting and worth part of their summer.

"I was very intrigued by the orientation. It was cool," said Joshua Lent, who will be attending Kalamazoo Central in the fall. "I also liked the partnership with the Kalamazoo Nature Center and that I could earn a half credit of science. It seemed like a great opportunity."

Perhaps what Lent didn't expect was that it would be so much fun. He enjoyed the field trip to River Oaks Park in Galesburg, where student and staff took water samples and collected samples of invertebrates. He also liked the tech focus put on drones and using computer-aided design work to create bug catchers.

Kristen Miller the new coordinator of math and science for KPS, said having fun was part of the equation when the program was being designed.

"There are a lot of hands-on activities," Miller said. "We're working on bridging gaps and making that transition from middle school to high school learning. Students worked on note taking and high school study skills — all of which were embedded in the hands-on work."

KMSI was piloted last year as a one-week program for students attending summer school at Hill-



side Middle School. This year it was opened to any incoming freshman, expanded from one week to four weeks, and students were given the opportunity to earn high school credit. The program was held at Linden Grove Middle School.

"We saw a lot of interest from the students who

Kameron Bean and Eugene Muckles Jr., sort samples with Kalamazoo College biology student Katie Rock during a field trip to River Oaks Park Morrow Pond as part of the KPS Math and Science Institute.



Juan Ortiz-Ponce shows off some of the samples he collected in Morrow Pond.

ON THE COVER: Rose Hernandez and Emily Perez Vasquez laugh as instructor Lee Sprague rocks their canoe as he climbs aboard. The trio were heading out on Morrow Pond to collect samples.



Rose Hernandez and Emily Perez Vazquez examine samples through a microscope set up in the pavilion at River Oaks Park.



Landen Young sifts through algae looking for animal life.

Plus, she said, while middle school students have the chance to earn high school credit in subject areas such as math and art, there has not been similar opportunities in science.

This year's program explored issues of water quality, with a focus on the health of the Kalamazoo River.

"We are localizing it so it is meaningful to the students," Miller said. In the first few weeks, students learned about some of the wildlife around the river.

That was a highlight for Heidi Cruz-Ramirez, who said she is interested in research related to animals. She enjoyed the classes where the students interacted with a box turtle and a milk snake and learned what the animals like to eat and what they need to have safe habitats.

"Science is one of my favorite subjects," said Cruz-Ramirez, who will be attending Loy Norrix High School in the fall. "This is a good experience and a good opportunity to get that extra credit in science."

Students used Tinkercad, a free app for 3D design, to modify bug catchers to capture microorganisms in the water, with some of the designs being fabricated with 3D printers. They went to Morrow Pond at River Oaks Park to collect specimens with the bug catchers, both off a dock and from canoes.

Students also experimented with drones and Sphero robots to collect more data about habitats and species around the river. Students analyzed their data and in their final week, shared their findings with the staff and the other students.

"We gave them multiple ways and tools to collect data and to look at the water quality," Miller said. "We really want students to think about, 'What could I do if I continue my interest in science or engineering or mathematics?'"

KPS developed KMSI with cooperation from the Michigan College Alliance, and in particular, Jason Raddatz, director of the Whitehouse Nature Center at Albion College. He helped launch the pilot last year. Other partners included Kalamazoo College, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and The Kalamazoo Promise. KPS science teachers Megan Doorlag from Milwood Magnet School and Ashley Poole from Hillside Middle School have been facilitating the day-to-day classroom learning.

"We just want to figure out how we can expand this program. We'd love to have a waiting list," she said. "We want to offer it to as many students as we can so they have the opportunity to explore these STEM careers."

One thing that might help is having the students promote the program.

Kameron Bean, who will be attending Kalamazoo Central as a freshman, said, "Honestly, my mom made me sign up." But he enjoyed KMSI, especially learning about the animals and their habitats around the river. "I also just wanted to get out of the house and to get ahead in high school. But kids this age should do it. You get to meet a lot of new people and it was fun."

participated last year, and there's just growing interest in the STEM fields," said Miller, who was a longtime teacher at Edison Academy and a lead math teacher for the district before being named to her new position. "We wanted to continue to build off of that excitement for the students."



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Step 2: Introduce them to their account.

An important step in your kids' financial lives is opening a credit union membership and savings account – the earlier the better. Kids start learning money values surprisingly young, so we recommend having your kids' savings accounts in place prior to middle school.

Coach your kids to save first, then spend. Have them deposit 25% or 50% of any money they earn or are gifted towards a longer-term savings goal. Are they asking for a new video game console or electronic device? Encourage them to practice goal setting and saving by making deposits into their savings account, then celebrating when they reach their goal.

Step 3: The checking and debit card.

Once your kid hits high school, it's time to start

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You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school buildings and grounds. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you can be provided notice following any such application. To receive notification, please complete the following information and submit to your child's school.

Should you have any questions or concerns about pest management within your child's school, please feel free to contact Karen Jackson, Executive Supervisor/Facilities Management, at (269) 337-0400. Thank you for helping us with this matter.

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Recipe

from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells

Kirsten Strong, registered dietician

Samuel Dunn, executive chef

Light Side Salad for Hot Summer Days

WHEN the weather is hot, a light and refreshing side dish can be just what you need. This recipe uses several in-season ingredients that you can find at the Kalamazoo Farmers Market. It can be served as is or on top of grilled chicken, fish, pork, or steak. You can even enjoy this recipe as a dip with tortilla chips. The nutrient-dense whole foods in this salad include blueberries, sweet corn, cucumbers, cilantro, jalapeño, and red onion, which are complemented wonderfully by a simple honey-lime dressing for a yummy and healthy Michigan treat!



INGREDIENTS

4 cups fresh sweet corn
(4 large ears sweet corn, cooked or raw, kernels removed)
2 cups fresh blueberries
1 seedless cucumber, diced
1/3 cup red onion, finely chopped

1/3 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 tablespoon honey
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large serving bowl, combine corn, blueberries, cucumber, red onion, cilantro, and jalapeño.
2. To make the dressing, whisk together olive oil, lime juice, honey, cumin, salt, and pepper. Pour dressing over salad and stir until combined.

Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.
3. Feel free to add avocado, crumbled feta cheese, or queso fresco. You can use frozen corn, but fresh is best for this salad and grilled is even better. If you don't like cilantro, basil can be substituted.

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Maple Street Welcomes Arabic Language Teacher This Fall

MAPLE Street Magnet School for the Arts was one of 19 schools selected through a nationwide competition to host a Teachers of Critical Language Program (TCLP) educator.

Moulay Tahar Kettani from Morocco will teach at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts for the academic year beginning this month.

Wessam Abdelaziz, director of the department of Bilingual/ESL/World Languages for Kalamazoo Public Schools, said that Kettani is currently in Washington, D.C., participating in an orientation for his placement in Kalamazoo.

KPS participated in a yearlong application process that drew more than 200 applications from across the United States, Abdelaziz said. The Kalamazoo application team included Abdelaziz, Maple Street Principal Dr. Jeffrey Boggan, mentor teacher Anna Gordana, and paraprofessional and community liaison Ursula Mayr. Gordana will be traveling to Washington to meet Kettani.

Abdelaziz said a major part of the program is to help the teacher get to know Kalamazoo through community events and opportunities for social



gatherings with Kalamazoo residents.

In its application to the TCLP, KPS was interested in connecting with an Arabic-speaking teacher because Arabic is the second most-spoken foreign language in the district after Spanish. The hope is to build an Arabic program starting in middle school and to eventually develop a high-school program.

TCLP is designed to increase the study and acquisition of important world languages in U.S. schools. This program enables primary and secondary schools to strengthen their teaching of critical languages by bringing teachers from across the world to the United States to teach their native Arabic and Chinese language for an academic year. Launched in 2006, TCLP has helped start or expand more than 220 critical language programs in K-12 schools throughout the country.

In addition to receiving a native speaker of Man-

darin or Arabic to teach language classes, students, teachers, and community members have the opportunity to learn about the TCLP exchange teachers' home cultures, expanding their understanding of the world and preparing them for study and work in an interconnected world. Through TCLP, many schools establish lasting bonds with their exchange teachers' home schools.

TCLP is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which builds relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships and mentoring programs. These exchange programs improve foreign relations and strengthen national security.

TCLP is implemented by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS, an international nonprofit organization that prepares individuals and institutions to succeed in an increasingly interconnected world. Since 1974, the organization has responded to the needs of the communities where it works with hundreds of robust, international education programs.

Youth Leadership Affinity Group

The **Kalamazoo Youth Development Network** convenes a group of youth and adults through the Youth Leadership Affinity Group, or **YLAG**, as it is commonly known. The group was created six years ago for adults and now is led by youth, as they are experts in their own lived experiences. We believe that as adults, we must be a resource to help them carry out *their* plan of change. Whether that be the change in their organizations, communities, or schools - they can use this platform to make it happen.

Youth members of YLAG came together and identified Mental Health as the main issue focus, along with three other priority issues that they wish to address. All together, the issues include:



Mental Health



Policing



Transportation



In-School/Community Violence



Join us!



Next Meeting Information:

Date: Monday, September 19, 2022

Time: 6 PM - 7:30 PM

Ages: 13 to 21

Stipend: \$25/youth

Please join us in recruiting youth and young adults to attend. You can reach out to Alexis Caples at alexis@kydnet.org for more information and to register.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY
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Powering the future!

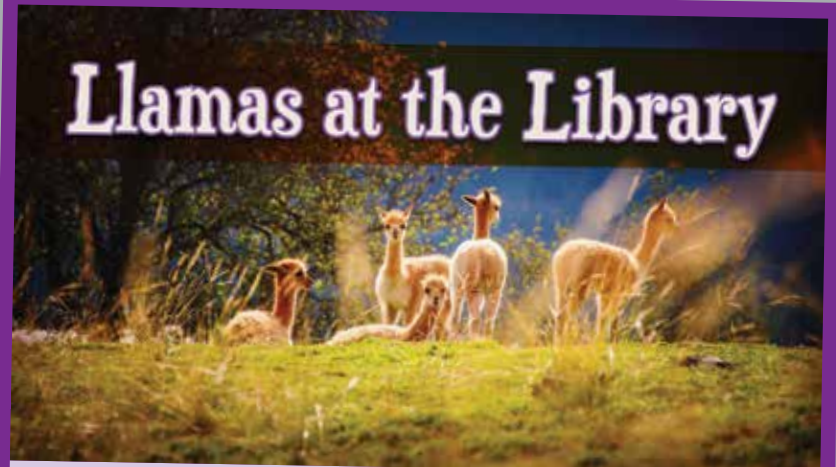
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Visit www.dreambigstartsmall.org or call (269)250-9333.



Thursdays, August 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022
3:30–5:30 pm | Teen | OSH/Community Room
Drop in at OSH for snacks, socializing, and different activities, including games, guests, books, and more!



Saturday, August 6, 2022
2–4 pm | Family | OSH/Outside
Join us for llama fun at Oshtemo Branch Library!
Meet a llama and enjoy a llama craft!

Check out these fun KPL events this summer!



Kalamazoo
Public Library
kpl.gov

KPS Students Earn State Seal of Biliteracy for Language Skills

■ N JUNE, 11 Kalamazoo Public Schools seniors graduated with the Michigan Department of Education's Seal of Biliteracy for demonstrating their proficiency in English and one or more languages.

This is the first year KPS has participated in the program.

The 2022 KPS recipients who received certification in either Spanish or German, were:

- Alejandra Ceballos
- Betsy Mares-Castro
- Mollie McDonald
- Emellie Morales
- Juan Moreno-Aguilar
- Liz Sanchez
- Onishka Serrano Ortiz
- Zaida Acosta
- Justine Barnard
- Rosely Ventura-Amates
- Cristian Huerta
- Alan Olvera



The Seal of Biliteracy program promotes the development of English and world language skills and honors heritage language maintenance. Developing world language skills increases students' marketability in the workplace and makes them a valuable economic resource for the state.

More than 95 percent of the world's consumers and 80 percent of the world's purchasing power are outside the United States. Currently, 1.2 million

Michigan jobs are tied to international trade, according to the state. Students who develop language proficiency in English and other languages help the state remain competitive in the global marketplace.

In addition to career advantages, students who learn more than one language gain numerous cognitive benefits, including improvements in executive functioning, working memory, attention span, flexibility, and creative thinking, according to researchers.

The state launched the Seal of Biliteracy also to recognize the rich cultural and linguistic diversity that exists in the state.

Students who are interested in earning a Seal of Biliteracy can begin preparing in middle school. Juniors should apply with their counselors. Applications are free.

For more information, contact the KPS Department of Bilingual/ESL/World Languages at (269) 337-1579. Or email Itzel Gomez-Avalos at gomez-avalosi@kalamazoopublicschools.net or Wessam Abdelaziz at abdelazizwi@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



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2022-2023 School Calendar

Kalamazoo Public Schools

August 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Bell times	
Elementary schools: 8:44 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.	
Edison, Lincoln & Woodward: 8:04 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.	
Secondary: 7:33 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.	
Linden Grove: 8:08 a.m. - 2:58 p.m.	
Phoenix: 7:28 a.m. - 1:01 p.m.	

A complete calendar can be found at
kalamazoopublicschools.com
or on the KPS App

Aug. 29	First Day K-12; half day
Aug. 30	County programs begin
Sept. 2	K-12 no school; schools open for enrollment
Sept. 5	Labor Day; all buildings closed
Sept. 6	First Day PreK ECSE (see special dates below)
Sept. 12	First day PEEP (see special dates below)
Oct. 7	PK-8 half day; records day
Oct. 12	9-12 half day; a.m. schedule/p.m. conferences
Oct. 13	K-8 half day; a.m. schedule
Oct. 14	K-5 half day; p.m. schedule
Oct. 28	No county programs
Nov. 1	PK-12 no school
Nov. 18 & 21	9-12 half day; 10:40 a.m. dismissal
Nov. 22	PK-12 no school
Nov. 23	PK-12 no school; no county programs
Nov. 24 & 25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 26 - Jan. 6	Winter Break
Jan. 20	6-8 half day; p.m. schedule; no county prgrms
Jan. 25	High school conferences, 4-7 p.m.
Jan. 26	6-8 half day; a.m. schedule
Jan. 26	High school conferences, 5-8 p.m.
March 1	PK-5 Literacy Night
March 2	6-8 Literacy Night
March 8	PEEP/Kindergarten Orientation
March 8	9-12 half day; 10:40 a.m. dismissal
March 9	9-12 half day; 10:40 a.m. dismissal
March 10	PK-12 no school; records day
March 22	K-5 half day; a.m. schedule
March 23	K-5 half day; p.m. schedule
March 24	PK-12 no school; no county programs
March 27 - 31	Spring Break
April 26 & 27	High school conferences
April 28	6-8 half day; a.m. schedule
May 4	6-8 half day; p.m. schedule
May 26	Last day PEEP and graduating seniors
May 29	Memorial Day; all buildings closed
May 31	Loy Norrix graduation
June 1	Kalamazoo Central graduation
June 2	Phoenix graduation
June 2	Last day PreK ECSE
June 6	KILP graduation
June 8	K-11 half day; p.m. schedule
June 9	K-11 last day; half day; a.m. schedule
June 12	Adult Education graduation

No school
Half day (check grade levels)
☐ First and last day of school

2022-23 Trimesters

Trimester 1: Aug. 29 - Nov. 22
Trimester 2: Nov. 28 - March 10
Trimester 3: March 13 - June 9

February 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Special dates: Phoenix High School

Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-7 PM:
Sept. 29, Nov. 17, Jan. 12, March 2,
April 20 and May 18

Full days: Nov. 19, March 8 & 22

Half-days: Oct. 7, Nov. 21, Jan. 20

Mar. 9, April 28 and June 9

No school: Nov. 22 and March 10

Special dates: PEEP

First day: Sept. 12 **Last day:** May 26

No school: Oct. 12, Jan. 13, Feb. 17
and May 19

Special dates: ECSE Preschool

First day: Aug. 29 **Last day:** June 2

No school: Oct. 7, Oct. 12, Oct. 14

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This exhibit was created by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh in partnership with the Heirs of Rube Goldberg.



EXHIBIT

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GENERAL ADMISSION IS FREE

Note: Some areas of the museum may be closed due to exhibit changes, staffing needs, special programs or collections care. We thank you for your patience.

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

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**
Museum 

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