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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, March 11 & 25, 2021
7 p.m.

For more information on KPS board meeting locations and format, please visit our website at kalamazoopublicschools.net/boardmeetings.

March 3

Elementary Literacy Night

March 4

Middle School Literacy Night

March 5

No School — Grades K – 5

March 10

PEEP/Kindergarten Orientation

March 11

Half Day — Grades 9 – 12

March 12

No School

March 25

Half Day — Grades K – 5

March 26

No School

March 29 – April 2

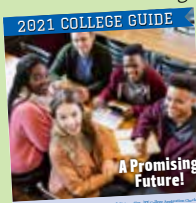
SPRING BREAK

April 5

School Resumes

College Guide 2021

Check out Michigan colleges,



tips for taking the next step, Promise procedures
Pages 7–18

Find Info on May 4 Special Education Millage Renewal *(see page 23)*

Kindergarten, PEEP Orientation Set for March 10, Begin Enrollment Process Online

Kalamazoo Public Schools is excited to welcome kindergarten and pre-kindergarten students on March 10 with virtual orientation sessions at all of our elementary schools.

Virtual orientation sessions will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. March 10 at each elementary school.

The district has launched several new online tools to help parents prepare for registering students.

For families that need to check their school attendance area, the district now has an interactive map that can eas-



ily provide that information. The new interactive map and street directory are on the district website at <https://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/domain/1075>.

Once families know their school of attendance, they will be able to begin the enrollment process online. A new kindergarten enrollment portal will go live in mid-March on the Kalamazoo Public Schools website at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/childcare.

While the enrollment process begins online, families do *(continued on page 3)*

5 KPS Students Win Social Justice Youth Awards

Five Kalamazoo Public Schools student leaders have been honored with 2021 Social Justice Youth Awards for their social activism, involvement in school and community groups, and positive influence on peers and the city of Kalamazoo.

The Kalamazoo City Commission recognized Cecilia Mireless Caballero, Jaleen Johnson, August O'Neil, Sierra Ward, and Keyara Price at its Jan. 19 meet-

ing as part of the city's MLK Day celebration.

The Social Justice Youth Awards are given annually to students who exemplify The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s values through their community service and volunteer activities.

The awards are sponsored by Consumers Energy, Fifth Third Bank, Life EMS, Dr. Betty and Mr. Tony Dennis, Schupan & Sons, and Dr. Lewis Walker, an



educator and community leader known for advocating for racial equity in Kalamazoo.

This year's winners from KPS were:

Cecilia Mireless Caballero, who graduated from Loy Norrix High School last year, was nominated by Loy Norrix economics teacher Sean Bergan, who said, "Cecilia can make other students feel good about themselves and bring up their level of productivity using her leadership skills. It is the sign of an incredible leader" *(continued on page 4)*

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

Find information at <https://kalamazoopublicschools.com/humanresources>

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KPS Grads in Action: Malcolm Jones Puts Himself in the Middle of the Action Helping People

Malcolm Jones had a dramatic “aha” moment when it came to deciding what he wanted to do with his life.

“One day, I was driving to class on the highway, when I saw a semi slide on its side,” Jones said. “I was the first person to call 911 and to see if everyone was OK.”

“I watched the ambulance come and saw that whole dynamic of helping people, and I realized that I had a curiosity for it, and I started to realize I have a passion for being an emergency medical service in general. That made me want to pursue a career as an EMT.”

As a KPS student, Jones attended Northglade Montessori Magnet School and Hillside Middle School before graduating from Kalamazoo Central High School in 2017. He is pursuing an associate’s degree in applied science at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and a bachelor’s

degree in paramedic science through Siena Heights University.

But this career goal isn’t just something he’s thinking about — he’s already doing that work as a part-time EMT basic at Life EMS. He previously worked as a part-time firefighter for Kalamazoo Township. He credits his high school experience with KRESA’s Education For Employment program for jumpstarting his career.

When he was a student at KC, he learned about EFE, which offers students hands-on training in career and technical education. He started the health careers track as a senior. He was already curious about what it might be like to work on an ambulance when he witnessed the accident on his way to school.

He also dual enrolled in EMT



Kalamazoo Central graduate Malcolm Jones

courses at KVCC. It was too ambitious a courseload and ultimately he failed his first national certification test. Jones said that was an important lesson.

“I felt like I had let myself down. That I didn’t work hard enough, I didn’t take time to do

what I really wanted to do,” Jones said. “But, at that moment I realized I was going to come back and do it all over again — and try a lot harder the next time.”

The next year, he passed the exam and began working as a technician in the emergency department at Bronson Methodist Hospital.

He is coming up on his third anniversary as an EMT, and he still loves the work.

“My favorite part of the job is working with so many different types of people. I work with doctors, nurses, the police. You just have so many different interactions,” he said. “Plus, I like not knowing what will happen each day. You might be sitting in a parking lot not doing anything — then the next moment you might be the saving grace for someone’s day.”

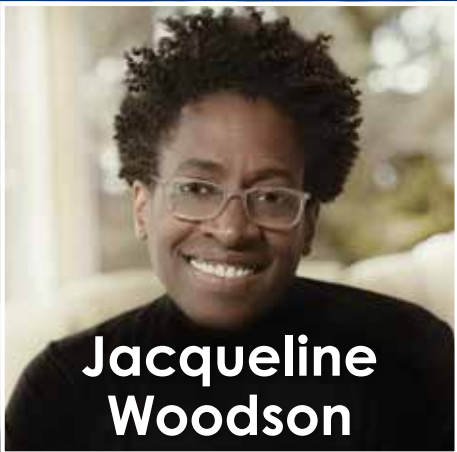
After graduating from KVCC

and Siena Heights, he hopes to become a senior paramedic with Life EMS. His five-year goal: to work as a firefighter-paramedic, His 10-year goal: to become a flight paramedic.

“I think it’s good to have goals but to also know that goals change,” he said. “As I worked as a paramedic, I got an idea of what I liked and what I wanted to do, but I also knew that I had to do it while I was young. I wouldn’t want to do it when I’m 30 or 40. I think that fast pace would be hard on the body. But it’s cool to do as a younger person.”

He encourages students to be willing to explore their options and opportunities until they find something that speaks to them.

“I have a true passion for what I do now,” he said. “When I clock into work, I’m excited for what the day brings. Some people don’t actually like their jobs. You should keep looking until you find what you like to do.”



Jacqueline Woodson

For more information on this Speaker please visit prhspeakers.com.

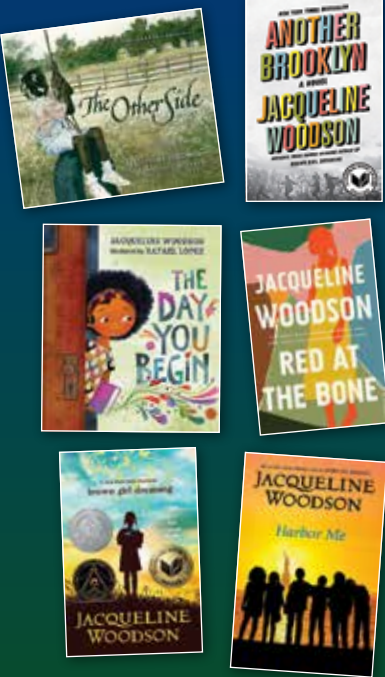
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Online Presentations

Behind the Books
3–4 pm

The Power of Story
7–8 pm

Please register: readingtogether.us



Kalamazoo Public Library
kpl.gov

2021 Reading Together

Kindergarten, PEEP Orientation Set for March 10, Begin Enrollment Process Online (continued from page 1)

need to visit their assigned school to complete the process.

Incoming kindergarteners, students who will be 5 by Sept. 1, can enroll in kindergarten. Parents also may request kindergarten enrollment waivers for children who will be 5 years old no later than Dec. 1.

Students who enroll in KPS as kindergarteners, attend all 12 years of school in KPS, and graduate from KPS, while meeting all residency and enrollment requirements, are eligible for a Kalamazoo Promise scholarship to cover 100 percent of college tuition and fees at most Michigan colleges and universities.

Pre-kindergarten students

who will be 4 by Dec. 1, can sign up for PEEP, the KPS Pre-Kindergarten Early Education Program. There are state eligibility requirements to qualify for PEEP. Parents should note that applications for PEEP are taken at all schools, but the program runs in only 12 schools: Arcadia, Edison, Greenwood, Indian Prairie, Lincoln, Northeastern, Parkwood-Upjohn, Prairie Ridge, Spring Valley, Washington, Winchell, and Woodward.

Parents will need to gather the incoming child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of hearing and vision screening, if available, and two proofs of residency (for exam-

ple, a utility bill, lease agreement, or mortgage agreement). Those items will need to be brought to the schools.

Children who need immunizations can visit Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Immunization Clinic, 311 E. Alcott St. During the COVID-19 pandemic, immunizations are by appointment only. The immunization clinic is open 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Mondays,

with other hours offered on a week-by-week basis while staff is responsible for also working COVID vaccination clinics. For more information, call KCHCS at (269) 373-5203.

KPS's PEEP is part of the state's Great Start Readiness initiative. The program offers half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten classes with highly trained teachers and two support paraprofessionals per classroom in elemen-

tary schools across the district. Meals are provided, and transportation is provided for students who live more than a mile from the school in their attendance district or for students who attend magnet schools that are outside their attendance district.

For more information on kindergarten enrollment, please call Student Services at (269) 337-0161. For information on PEEP, call (269) 337-0095.

Now Enrolling the Class of 2034

Kindergarten and PEEP
virtual orientation
March 10, 2021
9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
for students who will be four or five by
Sept. 1, 2021
info and meeting links:
kalamazoopublicschools.com/kindergarten

Kalamazoo Public Schools

Arcadia Elementary School	932 Boswell Lane	(269) 337-0530
Edison Environmental Science Academy	924 Russell St.	(269) 337-0550
El Sol Elementary School	604 W. Vine St.	(269) 337-0230
Greenwood Elementary School	3501 Moreland Ave.	(269) 337-0560
Indian Prairie Elementary School	3546 Grand Prairie Road	(269) 337-0590
King-Westwood Elementary School	1100 Nichols Road	(269) 337-0610
Lincoln International Studies School	912 N. Burdick St.	(269) 337-0640
Milwood Elementary School	3400 Lovers Lane	(269) 337-0660
Northeastern Elementary School	2433 Gertrude St.	(269) 337-0690
Northglade Montessori Magnet School	1914 Cobb Ave.	(269) 337-0700
Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School	2321 S. Park St.	(269) 337-0720
Prairie Ridge Elementary School	2294 S. Ninth St.	(269) 337-0630
Spring Valley Center for Exploration	3530 Mt. Olivet Road	(269) 337-0750
Washington Writers' Academy	1919 Portage St.	(269) 337-0770
Winchell Elementary School	2316 Winchell Ave.	(269) 337-0780
Woods Lake: A Magnet Center for the Arts	3215 Oakland Drive	(269) 337-0790
Woodward School for Technology and Research	606 Stuart Ave.	(269) 337-0810

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Summer Semester Classes Start: MAY 10

www.kvcc.edu/register

Kalamazoo VALLEY
community college

5 KPS Students Win Social Justice Youth Awards (continued from page 1)



Cecilia Mireles Caballero, Loy Norrix

who is mature and caring.” Caballero’s community service included work with several Loy Norrix groups: PeaceJam, a service organization dedicated to furthering world peace; DECA, an educational program that promotes an understanding of business and economics; and the National Honor Society, which honors academic excellence and student leadership. Her award was sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. Kalamazoo Central senior **Jaleen Johnson** received his award from the Kalamazoo Non-Violent Opponents of War. As a freshman, Johnson saw a presentation on Jeter’s Lead-



Jaleen Johnson, Kalamazoo Central

ers, a leadership and service organization created by Kalamazoo Central graduate and Baseball Hall of Famer Derek Jeter, which inspired him to apply for a competitive position on the team. As a member of Jeter’s Leaders, Johnson has helped facilitate Halloween events and basketball camps at Charlie’s P.L.A.C.E., a Kalamazoo Northside organization for children. Johnson is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Kalamazoo Central football team. He has been a leader with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo and Peace House, a free afterschool and summer program for students in the



August O’Neil, Kalamazoo Central

Eastside neighborhood. Kalamazoo Central Senior **August O’Neil** demonstrates his community commitment by volunteering with organizations that include the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo, Special Olympics, and Jeter’s Leaders. He is both the senior class president at KC and the senior representative for the executive council of Jeter’s Leaders. Last year, he became involved in local social justice protests after the death of George Floyd, and, in the summer of 2020, he participated in a national conference that discussed topics such as racism and gender inequality. His commitment to social justice



Sierra Ward, Loy Norrix

has earned him a reputation as a mentor who works to guide and support others. His award was sponsored by Life EMS. Loy Norrix senior **Sierra Ward**, recipient of the Lodge-Dennis Award from Dr. Betty and Mr. Tony Dennis, is the president of the Merze Tate Explorers, a Gold Award Girl Scout, an athlete, and an active member of the Loy Norrix High School student body. Ward created motivational bookmarks that were inserted in the diploma packets for each graduate at Loy Norrix, Kalamazoo Central, and Phoenix high schools last year. She created the bookmarks to inspire graduating seniors to continue their journey toward success.

Ward held a bottle drive that raised nearly \$800 in four hours. The money was used to fund a scholarship for girls in the United States and Tanzania. She also served as a youth delegate for the Numazu, Japan, sister city com-



Keyara Price, Loy Norrix

mittee, and represented Kalamazoo overseas. Loy Norrix senior **Keyara Price** believes in setting an example as a leader and volunteer for her school and community organizations such as the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes food bank, and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo. She has also participated in the Upward Bound Trio Program at Western Michigan University and the Suicide Squad Dance Team. Price was a leader in the Black Lives Matters protests in Kalamazoo last year and demonstrates her leadership by sharing her opinions and being willing to listen to and respect the opinions of those from other cultures and religions. Her award was presented by Schupan & Sons. Awards were also presented to Gull Lake student **Syann Hollins** and Portage Northern students **Makayla Bolton**, **Jamillah Clark**, and **Maya Daniels**.

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4. As Arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. -Psalms 127: 4

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Contact Us @
arrowsyouthfootball@gmail.com
Harvey Fluellen 269-352-6656
Joda Grimes 773-679-9313
Scott Miles 269-501-3300

2021 Ages 5-13
Flag Football (5-7yrs)
Tackle FB (7-13yrs)
Cheer (5-13yrs)

Early bird registration begins on 2/8/21 until 6/30/2021.

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:

Director of Student Services

Kalamazoo Public Schools
3410 Laird Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Kalamazoo Public Schools
3410 Laird Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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Arcadia Students of the Month get a Special Visitor

The Arcadia Students of the Month for January got hot cocoa and a visit from Arcadia's very own snowwoman (staff member Gretchen Blanton).



Aalaiya Hill



Brea' Snell



Carter Boyer



Samaa Khalil



Ali Intikhab



Rose Ryan



Kameron Shears

2021 spring camps

K-5th grade!

March 30th - April 1st 2021

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KPS Librarians Recommend: Books to Celebrate Women's History Month

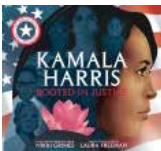
Grades K-3 and up



Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks
by Suzanne Slade;

illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera
Gwendolyn Brooks was the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize, receiving the award for poetry in 1950. In 1958, she was named the poet laureate of Illinois. A bold artist, who from a very young age dared to dream, Brooks will inspire young readers to create poetry from their own lives.

Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice
by Nikki Grimes; illustrated by Laura Freeman



Discover the incredible story of a young daughter of immigrants who would grow up to be the first woman, first Black person, and first South Asian American ever elected vice president of the United States in this moving picture book biography.

Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré



by Anika Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Paolo Escobar
Pura Belpré, the

first Puerto Rican librarian in New York City, came to America in 1921. Finding a new home at the New York Public Library as a bilingual assistant, she shared her popular stories with children of all cultures. Her legacy is celebrated every year with the Pura Belpré Award honoring Latinx youth literature.

Middle Grade

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World
by Sy Montgomery and Temple Grandin

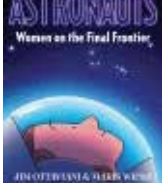


This book examines the life and accomplishments of Temple Grandin, whose childhood diag-

nosis of autism and love of cows led her to revolutionize the livestock industry.

Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier

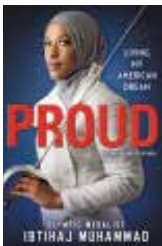
by Jim Ottaviani and Maris Wicks



A graphic novel history of women in space, it explores the struggles that American and Russian women, including Mary Cleave, Valentina Tereshkova, and Sally Ride, faced in their quests to become astronauts.

Proud: Living My American Dream (Young Readers Edition)
by Ibtihaaj Muhammad

An autobiography of the Olympic fencer, Ibtihaaj Muhammad, tells how she became the first American woman to compete in the Olympics wearing a hijab.



Young Adult

Shattering the Glass: The Remarkable History of Women's Basketball



by Pamela Grundy and Susan Shackleford
Drawing on original in-

terviews with players, coaches, administrators, and broadcasters, "Shattering the Glass" presents a moving, gritty view of the game on and off the court. It is an insightful history and an empowering story of the generations of women who have shaped women's basketball.

Dissenter on the Bench: Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Life and Work



by Victoria Ortiz
Case histories from Justice Ginsburg's career are interwoven with an account of RBG's life and her multi-fac-

eted personality. The cases described, many involving young people, demonstrate her passionate concern for gender equality, fairness, and our constitutional rights.

Modern HERstory: Stories of Women and Nonbinary People Rewriting History



by Blair Imani
With an inclusive approach to history, "Modern HERstory" profiles and celebrates 70 women and nonbinary champions of progressive social change. Despite making huge contributions to the liberation movements of the last century, many of these trailblazers have been under-celebrated because they come from backgrounds and communities that are traditionally overlooked – not just women, but people of color, queer people, trans people, disabled people, young people, and people of faith.

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Children who attend a high-quality pre-kindergarten program do better in school and in life.

If your child will turn 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2021, apply now for the 2021-2022 school year.

Call the **KPS PEEP** (Pre-Kindergarten Early Education Program) office at
(269) 337-0095

KPS
Kalamazoo Public Schools
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2021 COLLEGE GUIDE



**A Promising
Future!**

|8| Applying for The Promise **|9|** Participating Colleges & Universities **|12|** College Application Checklist
|14| Advice on Picking a College **|16|** Financial Aid Tips **|17|** Scholarships for KPS Students

Steps to fulfilling The Promise

So, you've narrowed it down to the colleges you want to go to, you're set up to take the SAT or ACT and you may have even visited a few colleges during the summer. So now what?

It's time to utilize The Promise.

The Kalamazoo Promise is a scholarship that covers tuition and mandatory fees at all Michigan public universities and colleges, community colleges, Michigan College Alliance private colleges, and some institutions that provide industry recognized certificates for graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools. (See "Oh, the places you can go" on page 9 for participating institutions).

This scholarship program provides in-state tuition and mandatory fees for up to a bachelor's degree or 130 credits, whichever occurs first. Additionally, the scholarship can be used for all technical or vocational programs offered through approved institutions. This includes an ability to build up degrees, credentials and certificates, also referred to as "stackable credentials." You have 10 years to utilize The Promise from the date of your high school graduation.

How to apply for The Kalamazoo Promise

The Promise has made it easy for KPS students to apply for and get the tuition and fee funds.

• Apply for The Promise in the fall of your senior year

Students apply for The Kalamazoo Promise at the beginning of their senior year. Informational meetings are held for all seniors each fall and attending these meetings will help answer questions you and your family may have about how to utilize The Promise. The Kalamazoo Promise also has Pathway Coaches at each high school who work

in collaboration with the guidance office staff to help students navigate the scholarship process.

• Fill out two forms

There are two forms to fill out for The Kalamazoo Promise and both are available through your school guidance office and the Kalamazoo Promise Pathway Coaches, or online at kalamazoopromise.com/Forms. For the class of 2021, all forms will be completed online.

Form #1: Application for The Kalamazoo Promise Scholarship

The first form to complete in the fall of your senior year is the application for The Kalamazoo Promise Scholarship. This form is used to determine and confirm your percentage of eligibility.

Form #2: The Kalamazoo Scholarship Acceptance Form & Start Survey

The second document needed is The Kalamazoo Scholarship acceptance form, which lets The Promise know what college you will be attending so the scholarship can be applied to your account at that school. Students submit this form once they have been accepted to the college or university that they want to attend and must include the student identification number assigned to them by the college. (When you are accepted, colleges will assign you a student ID number for your college career. This is the College Student Identification Number that should be placed on this form.)

You will have to complete this form only once, unless you attend summer school at a different institution or if you decide to transfer to another college or university that meets The Promise criteria.

For more information, visit www.kalamazoopromise.com. ■

How much of The Promise am I eligible for?

The Kalamazoo Promise covers tuition and mandatory fees based on how many continuous years you attended and lived in the KPS district:

Grades you attended & lived in KPS	How much benefit you'll get
K-12	100%
1-12	95%
2-12	95%
3-12	95%
4-12	90%
5-12	85%
6-12	80%
7-12	75%
8-12	70%
9-12	65%
10-11-12	None

Oh, the places you can go!

Colleges & universities that participate in The Promise

There are more than 60 colleges and universities across Michigan that you can attend as a Kalamazoo Promise Scholar. From the very large to the very small, private and public, community college, technical and vocational, your educational options are expansive and exciting.

These are the participating colleges and universities, the city they are located in, and their websites:

Adrian College (MCA), Adrian, www.adrian.edu

Albion College (MCA), Albion, www.albion.edu

Alma College (MCA), Alma, www.alma.edu

Alpena Community College, Alpena, www.alpenacc.edu

Andrews University (MCA), Berrien Springs, www.andrews.edu

Aquinas College (MCA), Grand Rapids, www.aquinas.edu

Bay College, Escanaba, www.baycollege.edu

Bay Mills Community College, Brimley, www.bmcc.edu

Calvin College (MCA), Grand Rapids, www.calvin.edu (see ad page 16)

Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, www.go.cmich.edu

Delta College, University Center, www.delta.edu

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, www.emich.edu (see ad page 11)

Ferris State University, Big Rapids, www.ferris.edu (see ad page 12)

Glen Oaks Community College, Centreville, www.glenoaks.edu

Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, www.gogebic.edu

Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, www.grcc.edu

Grand Valley State University, Allendale, www.gvsu.edu (see ad page 12)

Great Lakes Maritime Academy, Traverse City, www.nmc.edu/maritime

Henry Ford College, Dearborn, www.hfcc.edu

Hillsdale College (MCA), Hillsdale, www.hillsdale.edu

Hope College (MCA), Holland, www.hope.edu

Jackson College, Jackson, www.jccmi.edu

Kalamazoo College (MCA), Kalamazoo, www.kzoo.edu (see ad page 10)

Kalamazoo Electrical JATC (Apprenticeship), Kalamazoo, www.kalamazoojatc.com

Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo, www.kvcc.edu (see ad pages 13 & 17)

Kellogg Community College, Battle Creek, www.kellogg.edu

Kendall College of Art & Design of Ferris State University, Grand Rapids, www.kcad.edu (see ad page 14)

Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, www.kirtland.edu

Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor, www.lakemichigancollege.edu

Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, www.lssu.edu

Lansing Community College, Lansing, www.lcc.edu

Macomb Community College, Warren, www.macomb.edu

Madonna University (MCA), Livonia, www.madonna.edu

Michigan Career and Technical Institute, Plainwell, www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

What is an MCA School?

The colleges and universities listed with (MCA) next to their names are part of a partnership between The Kalamazoo Promise and the Michigan Colleges Alliance, an alliance of 14 private liberal-arts colleges in Michigan.

Through this partnership, Kalamazoo Promise scholars can attend these liberal arts colleges and enjoy the same tuition and fee benefit they would at Michigan public universities and community colleges. The MCA institutions have agreed to fund the difference in costs between their institutions' tuitions and attending a public university for Kalamazoo Promise scholars.

Michigan State University, East Lansing, www.msu.edu

Michigan Technological University, Houghton, www.mtu.edu

Mid Michigan Community College, Harrison, www.midmich.edu

Monroe County Community College, Monroe, www.monroeccc.edu

Montcalm Community College, Sidney, www.montcalm.edu

Mott Community College, Flint, www.mcc.edu

Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, www.muskegoncc.edu

North Central Michigan College, Petoskey, www.ncmich.edu

Northern Michigan University, Marquette, www.nmu.edu

Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse City, www.nmc.edu

Oakland Community College, Bloomfield Hills, www.oaklandcc.edu

Oakland University, Rochester Hills, www.oakland.edu

Olivet College (MCA), Olivet, www.olivetcollege.edu (see ad page 15)

Saginaw Valley State University, University Center, www.svsu.edu

Schoolcraft College, Livonia, www.schoolcraft.edu

Siena Heights University (MCA), Adrian, www.sienaheights.edu

Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac, www.swmich.edu

Spring Arbor University (MCA), Spring Arbor, www.arbor.edu

St. Clair County Community College, Port Huron, www.sc4.edu

University of Detroit Mercy (MCA), Detroit, www.udmercy.edu

University of Michigan Dearborn, Dearborn, www.umdearborn.edu

University of Michigan Flint, Flint, www.flint.umich.edu

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, www.umich.edu

Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, www.wccnet.edu

Wayne County Community College, Detroit, www.wcccd.edu

Wayne State University, Detroit, www.wayne.edu

West Shore Community College, Scottsville, www.westshore.edu

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, www.wmich.edu (see ad page 18) ■

2021 COLLEGE GUIDE

Meet your Pathway Coach

The Kalamazoo Promise to has Pathway Coaches for each high school who work in collaboration with the guidance office staff to help students navigate The Kalamazoo Promise scholarship process. These coaches, who have weekly schedules at the high schools, can help students in completing all Promise-related paperwork, filing appeals, completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA) and applying for other scholarships. Additionally, these coaches are versed in career pathways and will make presentations to expose students to multiple options on how to use The Promise. Students can set up appointments with their Pathway Coach by email.

The Pathway Coaches assigned to each high school and their email addresses are:



Kalamazoo Central:

Mrs. Amanda Bashore,
abashore@kalamazoopromise.com



Loy Norrix:

Ms. Melissa Nesbitt,
mnesbitt@kalamazoopromise.com



Phoenix and KILP:

Mr. Antonyo Tiges,
atigues@kalamazoopromise.com

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36 / 28
STATES / COUNTRIES
are represented on campus

71%
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Annie Tyler '22

Heyl Scholar, chemistry and religion double major
Kalamazoo Central Class of 2018

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2021 COLLEGE GUIDE

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What to do when: College appl

September–November

- ☐ Narrow down your college options to a list of between five and 10 colleges
- ☐ Create a master list or calendar that includes:
 1. Test dates, fees and registration deadlines
 2. College application due dates
 3. Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
 4. Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
 5. Your high school's application processing deadlines
- ☐ Register to take or re-take the SAT/ACT exams
- ☐ Schedule as many college visits as possible
- ☐ Start planning how you will pay for college costs not covered by The Promise, such as room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses and transportation
- ☐ Research and apply for scholarships
- ☐ Gather and prepare your application materials
- ☐ Begin writing your college essays
- ☐ Apply to at least two of your college choices by Thanksgiving

December–January

- ☐ Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Aid) if you have not done so already.
- ☐ Continue to research and apply for scholarships. Be mindful of deadlines when requesting letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Submit your Kalamazoo Promise Application if you have not done so already.
- ☐ Finish all college applications by the end of December.
- ☐ If you have been waitlisted or not heard back from schools you to which you have applied, send them an updated transcript through Parchment.com with your Trimester 1 grades.

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gvsu.edu/next



Registration checklist

February – March

- ☐ Continue to maintain your grades. Colleges can revoke offers of admission if your grades drop senior year.
- ☐ Continue applying for scholarships. Many Kalamazoo Community Foundation scholarships have March deadlines (see page 17)

April

- ☐ Once you have decided on a college and accepted your admission:
 1. Let your Pathway Coach know (see page 10)
 2. Turn in your Kalamazoo Promise Acceptance letter
- ☐ Keep your grades up!
- ☐ Did you know your attendance is reported on your transcript? Avoid senioritis and attend all of your classes!

May – June

- ☐ Request to have your final transcript sent to your college through Parchment.com.
- ☐ Graduate and celebrate!



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Summer Semester Registration Opens: **MARCH 8**

Summer Semester Classes Start: **MAY 10**

Fall Semester Registration Opens: **MAY 17**

Fall Semester Starts: **SEPTEMBER 8**

www.kvcc.edu/register

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Considering college: Insights on choosing a school

Programs, location, athletics, size. There are just a few of the many factors that go into the colleges students consider and ultimately pick. We asked a few recent KPS graduates now attending college to share their insights and experiences on choosing a school:

Aaron Dickason II, a 2020 Kalamazoo Central graduate, is a freshman studying prelaw at Michigan State University:

What things did you consider when looking for a college to attend?

When looking for a college, I was looking for a school with good education and also a great coaching staff because I run track.

Why did you ultimately pick MSU?

Because Coach Yolanda Johnson is one of the best hurdle coaches in the area. And I will be pushed academically here.

What advice do you have for high school seniors as they consider college?

Do lots of research online because with the pandemic you most likely won't be able to visit schools. Do your research and make sure they have everything you would like in a future school.

Hailey Timmerman, 2017 Loy Norrix graduate, is in her fourth year studying Early Childhood Education at Western Michigan University:

What things did you consider when looking for a college to attend?

I considered three things: the size of the school, the program and the type of student body it had.

I did not want a college that was small and personable; I wanted a large university where it didn't necessarily feel like high school all over again with everyone knowing each other. I toured MSU, but it was just too big for me.



I also considered a school that had a good education program. As a high school senior, I was not totally set on being an education major. Even though I had thoughts of other majors, I still asked every school I toured about their education program. I was impressed by WMU's education program from

its having a children's library where WMU students can go and practice their literacy teaching skills on school-age students to innovative technology to assist students in their internships.

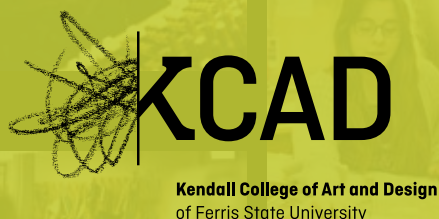
The type of student body of the college was also important. I wanted a school that would represent me and my

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2021 COLLEGE GUIDE

interests, that had a large and fun Black student population. I looked for ways to get involved like what clubs were available at each school.

Why did you ultimately pick WMU?

WMU's size seemed right to me and I was excited about the education program after receiving a tour from a student who was already in the program. And while I thought attending WMU would not give me the feeling of being at college since I was in my hometown, my older sister who was a WMU student assured me that being on campus does not feel like you are at home and she was right. Campus feels like a whole new world and I love it.

Was there anything that you wish you knew then that you know now?

That a college's reputation is something to consider only to an extent. I thought that a school with a reputation for having rigorous courses,

a highly selective admissions process, and prestige just had to be the school for me. I know now that those things don't matter as much as I thought. No matter where I receive my degree from, if I am well prepared and equipped to enter into my professional field, that is what really matters. I am also attending college to have fun, meet new people and try new things. So I should've approached college tours with a more holistic view looking at pricing, academics, campus culture, and more, not just what other people say is 'the best school.'

What advice do you have for high school students as they consider college?

Don't stress yourself out about getting accepted to the "perfect" school. There are so many amazing colleges and universities out there. Be open to trying new things. Although we love our friends from high school, do not be influenced by what they are doing as

you select a school. I found what was right for me instead of choosing a college to be with my friends.

R.J. Lawson, a 2019 graduate of Loy Norrix, is in his second year of the automotive technology program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College:

What things did you consider when looking for a college to attend?

I looked for a college with an automotive technology program because I knew that was what I wanted to do after being in the Education for Employment program. My first option was a four-year college but I saw that the funding for their automotive program got cut. KVCC's program had invested in their program and it showed.

Why did you ultimately pick the college you now attending?

When I visited the program, the first thing that caught my eye was the instructor's 1970 Pontiac Trans-Am

sitting in the shop and I thought that was pretty cool. Then they showed me how the program was hands-on and not just reading textbooks or doing paperwork. I love the hands-on aspect; this semester I am learning to weld.

Is there anything that you wish you knew then that you now know?

Just how much fun I was going to have. Initially I thought "College is like high school, let's go through this and get it over with." But once I was in the program I realized how fun it was. It's awesome.

What advice would you have to give high school students as they consider college?

To know that college is absolutely nothing like high school. Instead of having five classes each day, I have at most one or two, so I can really focus on those classes. ■

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Applying for financial aid: Tips to understand the process

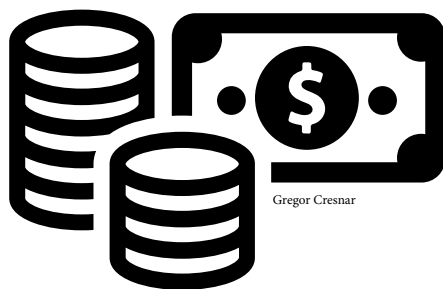
Even with The Promise, there are other costs of going to college and you may still qualify to receive Federal Student Aid to help defray some of those expenses.

Federal student aid comes from the U.S. Department of Education. It can help a student pay for education expenses at a college, career school, or graduate school, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, a computer and dependent care.

There are three main categories of federal student aid:

- **Grant** — Grant money usually doesn't have to be repaid. Most U.S. Department of Education grants are based on a student's financial need.

- **Work-study**—Work-study money is earned by a student through a job on or near campus while attending school and does not have to be repaid.



- **Loan**—Loan money must be repaid with interest. Federal student loans offer low, fixed-interest rates and income-based repayment plans.

For more information on types of aid, visit StudentAid.gov/types.

How to apply for federal student aid

You must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply for federal student aid. College and universities use FAFSA information to determine whether you are eligible to receive

federal grants, loans, or work-study funds. States and schools use FAFSA information to determine whether you qualify for additional aid, including merit scholarships. So be sure to fill out a FAFSA even if you think you won't qualify for federal aid.

Pay attention to deadlines

The FAFSA becomes available on Oct. 1 for the next school year. If you want to be considered for aid from your state or college, you must meet their FAFSA deadlines.

State deadlines: Michigan's FAFSA deadline is March 1, though you should submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1.

College deadlines: College financial aid deadlines may be as early as February. For a college's deadline, check the school's website or contact its financial aid office.

You can complete the FAFSA two ways:

- Apply online (the fastest and easiest way) at fafsa.gov.
- Download a PDF version of the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. Fill out the PDF and mail it to the address on the form. (You also can visit www.edpubs.gov or call 1-800-4-FEDAID to request a print-out of the PDF FAFSA.)

Need help?

You can get free information and help from your school counselor, the financial aid office at the college you plan to attend, or the U.S. Department of Education at fafsa.gov or 1-800-4-FEDAID (1-800-433-3243).

You can also watch videos with step-by-step instructions on how to apply for financial aid at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid (visit the "FAFSA: Apply for Aid" playlist) and at StudentAid.gov/fafsa. ■

A photograph of a college campus. In the foreground, a paved path leads through a green lawn. Several students are walking along the path. In the background, there are large trees and a modern building with large windows. The text 'INVITE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO VISIT CALVIN' is overlaid on the image in a yellow and red banner.

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In a world that is becoming more complex, Calvin equips students to walk boldly into life after college, ready to make a difference in the world.

Calvin is a Christian liberal arts university that joyfully participates in the Kalamazoo Promise.



Seek out scholarships specifically for KPS students

A number of scholarships are available exclusively to Kalamazoo Public Schools students. Here's a list of some of these scholarships:

Kalamazoo Community Foundation Scholarships

The Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KZCF) has more than 60 scholarship funds with a variety of eligibility criteria. Amounts range from \$500 to \$7,500 and are based on merit and/or financial need, with some being renewable.

"Even students who qualify for The Kalamazoo Promise can make use of our scholarships," says Laura Galaviz, KZCF's scholarship manager. "Whether it's one of the KPS-specific scholarships, or one of our general scholarships, we encourage KPS graduating seniors and graduates to check out these opportunities, and we're here to help in that process."

The deadline is March 1 to apply for Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KZCF) scholarships, some of which are specifically designated for Kalamazoo Public School students and/or graduates.

Eight of these scholarships are dedicated to KPS students or graduates, while many others are open to KPS students or graduates:

• **Brady & Patrick Gallagher Memorial Scholarship** is for a Loy Norrix senior with demonstrated ability and interest in creative arts for full-time college enrollment with financial need, and is renewable.

• **Communities In Schools/Kalamazoo Public Education Foundation Scholarship** is for a KPS senior with a minimum 2.75 GPA to major in education in college full-time. Financial need may be considered, and the scholarship is renewable.

• **Duane Roberts Scholarship** is for a KPS senior or graduate who is a minority student with demonstrated commitment to social justice, pursuing a full-time two- or four-year degree or graduate school, with financial need.

• **Mary Ruth Robinson Scholarship** is for a Kalamazoo Central senior or graduate with a minimum 2.5 GPA who is passionate about education and studying full- or part-time, with financial need (scholarship is renewable).

• **Melissa Wroblewski Scholarship** is for a KPS senior pursuing a two- or four-year degree in visual arts full- or part-time.

• **Mildred McConkey Memorial Scholarship** is for a KPS senior showing exceptional writing ability with improvement in English composition for full-time college enrollment.

• **Peter & Inez Schonveld Scholarship** is for a KPS senior or graduate with demonstrated determination and good citizenship studying full- or part-time in a vocational, technical degree-granting educational institution.

Scholarship applications are available online at www.kalfound.org/scholarships. Applicants without computer access may contact KZCF at (269) 381-4416 to arrange a time to fill out the application.

• Heyl Scholarships

Kalamazoo College offers the **F.W. & Elsie L. Heyl Science and Nursing Scholarships** for a KPS senior or graduate or student earning a certificate of completion at Kalamazoo Area Math & Science Center. The Heyl Scholarships are available for students studying the natural sciences, mathematics or computer science at Kalamazoo College and for nursing at Western Michigan University Bronson School of Nursing, and cover tuition, fees, college housing and a book allowance. For information on applying for a Heyl Scholarship, visit www.hey1.kzoo.edu. ■

Don't overlook other sources for scholarships

There are many types of scholarships (which don't all require that you have outstanding grades!) and many different organizations that provide them. Each scholarship provider has its own application and its own rules to decide who can get its scholarship. Your job is to find scholarships for which you think you might qualify and to apply by the deadlines. And remember: There is no "secret" scholarship money out there. You don't need to pay a consultant or join a society just because they say they can help you find scholarships. You can find them yourself and save some money. Here are some places to look:

- the free scholarship search at StudentAid.gov/scholarships
- a high school, Upward Bound, or Talent Search counselor
- your library's reference section
- foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
- ethnicity-based organizations
- your employer or a parent's employer

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Take Stephanie Hampton, a Western alumna who earned Michigan's Middle School English Teacher of the Year award. She instills a love of learning in students like Breyana Wilson, who is now pursuing her own degree in education at Western.

Breyana will benefit from Western faculty, who offer support and nurture curiosity every step of the way. We know **97% of Western grads had an instructor who made them excited about learning.**

Inspired by Stephanie's "rock star" energy, Breyana can't wait to enrich and broaden the lives of her own students one day.

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Western student Breyana Wilson and her "rock star" teacher Stephanie Hampton from Kalamazoo's Maple Street Magnet Middle School celebrate at Breyana's graduation party.

KRESA Transition Services Names New Coordinator

By: Kalamazoo Regional Educational Services Agency

When students with disabilities finish high school, they often need help with independent living skills, employability training, and community resources. Kalamazoo RESA (KRESA)'s Transition Services, in coordination with local school districts, helps students and families connect with those services.

Jordan Blanchard was hired as the transitions coordinator in November. She works with school districts, students and their families, as students prepare for the next steps following high school. She also connects teachers with resources and local agencies, empowering them to serve transitioning students.

"Together we look at their dreams," Blanchard said. "We set high expectations, build relationships and connect them to the



Jordan Blanchard, KRESA's Transition Coordinator

services that will best help them achieve the vision they have."

Blanchard started her educational career as a resource room teacher at Gobles Middle School. After a few years there, she moved on to the Kalamazoo RESA Young Adult Program (YAP), where she was a class-

room teacher for three years. YAP is a transition program that provides a continuum of special education services for students ages 18-26.

"I love working with this age group," Blanchard said. "They have so much pride and excitement about becoming adults. I love seeing them grow into the people they're meant to become."

Blanchard hopes her new role as Kalamazoo RESA's transition coordinator will allow her to build relationships with students and families, while empowering educators in local school districts.

"My goal is to figure out how to best serve students while supporting our local districts," she said.

For more information, visit Kalamazoo RESA Transition Services on the web.

Teachers Use Innovative Grants to Deliver Care Packages to Students

Washington Writers Academy and Woodward School for Technology and Research 2A teachers Todd Patrick and Cheryl Snow used their recent KPS Innovative Grant to provide students with monthly care packages during the second trimester.

Students received school supplies, games to play with their family, activities that connected to their learning, and other sensory rich items to remind them they are loved and cared about. The care packages also allowed families to continue to feel valued as an important member of the school "family" and as a part of their students' educational experience.

In the monthly care packages were:

December:

A personal notebook, school supplies, Pixar Uno game, sweet treats and note of encouragement.

January:

A snowman making kit, sweet treats, special mug, hot chocolate, school supplies, and note of encouragement.

February:

Valentines, cookie kits, hot chocolate, fruit snacks, school supplies and a note of encouragement.



Washington Writers Academy and Woodward School for Technology and Research 2A teachers Cheryl Snow and Todd Patrick used their recent KPS Innovative Grant to provide students with monthly care packages during the second trimester.

2021 HANDS-ON Spring Break

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- > *Beautiful Hands*, by Kathryn Otoshi
- > *The Proudest Blue*, by Ibtihaj Muhammad
- > *I Am Enough*, by Grace Byers
- > *The Big Umbrella*, by June & Juniper Bates

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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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Literacy Night Fun Planned for Elementary, Middle Schools in March

Elementary School Literacy Night Wednesday, March 3

Arcadia Elementary

Theme: Poetry and Pizza
5:30 – 7 p.m.

Join Arcadia staff for a virtual pizza party! Families can pick up pizza-making supplies before Literacy Night to make a school recipe. Families will also receive a poetry book and each grade level will have a poetry activity inspired by Jack Prelutsky's book, "A Pizza the Size of the Sun." Check in to watch staff skits of their favorite poems from the book and to participate in the grade-level raffles.

Edison Environmental Science Academy

Theme: Bedtime Stories
5 – 6:30 p.m.

Edison will host a walk-through celebration of literacy. Families are invited to enter the school grounds through the Jackson Street fence. Teachers will decorate their cars and trunks to celebrate their favorite bedtime stories. Families are asked to practice social distancing

and wear masks that cover their mouths and noses.

El Sol Elementary

Theme: Tastes and Traditions / Sabores y Tradiciones
5 – 6:30 p.m.

Families are submitting recipes for a school cookbook and explaining why their recipes are important to them. A week before literacy night, families can pick up hard copies of the cookbooks and an electronic copy will be available for download. Families will choose a "class recipe" or a recipe of their choice from the cookbook to cook during Literacy Night.

Greenwood Elementary

Theme: From Our Home to Yours, Living Room Literacy Night
4 – 5:30 p.m.

Greenwood staff will share videos of them reading their favorite books from their homes. Families will receive copies of the books, fuzzy socks, hot cocoa mix, and activities and materials related to the books. Families will be able to access all of the videos for an evening

Northeastern Elementary
March 3, 2021
Literacy Night
5:00-6:30 pm

Featuring books by...



of cozy storytelling. One family will receive all of the books read that night.

Indian Prairie Elementary

Theme: Virtual Scavenger Hunt
4:30 – 6 p.m.

Teachers will read books to students and then families will be invited to participate in a literary scavenger hunt – finding items from the books that were read. Copies of books and scavenger hunt sheets will be provided to families ahead of time. The

school will host a virtual Scholastic Book Fair during the week.

King-Westwood Elementary

Theme: Reading Around Town
5 – 6:30 p.m.

Families can drive through the main parking lot and front bus loop to visit four stations for curbside pick up of books and literacy goody bags. Teachers not participating in the drive-through event will "go live" for an all-school read aloud.

Lincoln International Studies School

Theme: Social Emotional Learning
4 – 5:30 p.m.

ECSE, PEEP, K-2: Each class will act out a scene from "The Feelings Book." Teachers will play the YouTube video. As each feeling is stated, students – from the youngest to the oldest – will act out the emotions. Grades 3-5 will gather in a Google Meet, read their book, and play a SEL Kahoot game on empathy, compassion, and mindfulness.

Milwood Elementary

Theme: Exercise Your Brain with The Battle of the Books

4:30 – 6 p.m.

There will be literacy activities each night in March (I Love to Read Month). Each student will receive two grade-level genre books. Parents will receive additional resources to support their students. On Literacy Night, classes will compete to complete their reading as their progress is tracked in a NCAA Final Four-type bracket.

Northeastern Elementary

Theme: Featuring Books by Jacqueline Woodson

5 – 6:30 p.m.

Families will drive through to pick up activities and books and then meet virtually to participate in grade-level activities related to the books of Jacqueline

(continued on page 21)



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Literacy Night Fun Planned for Elementary, Middle Schools in March (continued from page 20)

Woodson. This will culminate a month of study of works by African American authors. Woodson's books are the focus of the Kalamazoo Public Library's 2021 Reading Together program.

Northglade Montessori Magnet School

Theme: Bedtime Stories!!!
4:30 pm – 6 p.m.
Students can relax in their favorite pajamas for games, activities, a read-aloud and more. Google Classroom codes will be provided for this virtual event.

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary

Theme: Family Literacy Parade
4 – 5:30 p.m.
Families can dress as their favorite storybook characters for a literacy parade past the school grounds.

Prairie Ridge Elementary

Theme: Wild About Reading
4:30 – 6 p.m.
When families arrive at the main entrance of the Prairie Ridge "zoo," they will receive a map of the grade-level exhibitions, a "Wild About Reading" goody bag, books and literacy activities. Wildlife experts will be spread out on the school grounds. Families will follow the map and stop at each grade destination, where students can talk with zookeepers while remaining in their vehicles.

Spring Valley Center for Exploration

Theme: Black Heroes
4 – 5:30 p.m.
Families attending this drive-through event will pick up games, activities, and books. Activities will celebrate each hero spotlighted in the book "Black Heroes: 51 Inspiring People from Ancient Africa to Modern-Day U.S.A."

Washington Writers' Academy

Theme: Save the Bees
4 – 5:30 p.m.
Literacy Night will focus on the career of beekeeping. Families will learn about bees, their importance to the world, mankind, and the efforts to save them.



Audrey Balint, left, and Ava Balint pose for a photo at Linden Grove Middle School's Literacy Night in 2020.

Winchell Elementary

Theme: Black Heroes
5 – 6:30 p.m.
Families will virtually celebrate the completion of Winchell's African American History Month All School Read with Kahoot quizzes and interactive literacy games. Students and families can contribute to sharing sessions including wax museum presentations, writing an original book and poetry recitation in teacher-facilitated Google Meets.

Woods Lake Elementary

Theme: The Magic School Bus
5 – 6:30 pm
Activities will include a night of hands-on science experiments, literacy, fun, and laughter.

Woodward School for Technology and Research

Theme: Cooking
4:15 – 5:45 pm
A drive-through event where families can pick up a book and materials for a cooking activity that are grade appropriate.

Middle School Literacy Night Thursday, March 4

Hillside Middle School

Theme: Social Justice
4 – 5:30 p.m.
Students and families will access Google Classrooms to view links, student work, an introductory video and five activities created by the academic teams.

Students will be given a theme word in each meet. At the conclusion of the event, students will be asked to share three theme words to be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Linden Grove Middle School

Theme: The Power of Poetry
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Enjoy original and published works of poetry read by staff and students. There is power in the words we use. Students and staff have submitted videos featuring the use of their poetic words. Parents should use their student's Google account to join the virtual link for the event.

Maple Street Magnet School

All School Read – "Brown Girl Dreaming" by Jacqueline Woodson
March 10 – Special Date for Author Events
3 p.m. – Craft Talk
7 p.m. – Keynote: "The Power of the Story"
In lieu of Literacy Night, Maple Street will have an all-school read of the book "Brown Girl Dreaming" during SEL on Wednesdays from Feb. 3 to March 10, leading up to two virtual, community

events on Wednesday, March 10 with author Jacqueline Woodson.

Milwood Magnet School

Theme: "Literacy is Everywhere"
4 – 5:30 p.m.
Milwood Magnet will hold a drive-through "Literacy is Everywhere" event. Students and families can bring their favorite book, or create a poster, dress as a character or decorate their cars to represent their favorite book. Students will receive a literacy bag, and there will be several stations where students can receive materials to place in their bags. Each station will also provide a question that students can answer to be entered in a drawing for prizes.



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Washington Writers' Academy Students are Present, Virtually

Washington Writers' Academy students received special T-shirts to celebrate perfect or near perfect attendance during the second trimester.



Aiden and Jayden Porzio



TraVontae and Jha'Novia Charleston



Ta'Leah Sanders



Tyrone Lotts



Connor and Bryan Rose



Tyvarion Johnson



Nasir Streeter

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We understand that a warm home is important to the comfort and safety of your family. **Community Homeworks** is here to offer no or low-cost support to income eligible homeowners in the **City of Kalamazoo** to repair or replace furnaces or hot water heaters. Call or email us today to see if you are eligible at **(269) 998-3275 ext 209** or **info@communityhomeworks.org**.



Community Homeworks provides additional critical home repair services for homeowners, such as plumbing, electrical, and other health and safety issues. Visit **CommunityHomeworks.org** for more information.

KALAMAZOO RESA

FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Special Education Millage Renewal

On Tuesday, May 4, voters in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to vote on whether to renew a six-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage to help fund the costs of special education in our local schools.

■ What is being proposed?

This proposal asks whether to renew a six-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage that voters originally approved in 2015. If approved, the funds will be used by Kalamazoo RESA to reimburse public school districts (Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft, and Vicksburg) and local public school academies for their mandated special education costs.

■ Why is a special education millage renewal on the ballot?

Local school districts are mandated by law to provide special education programs and services; however, the federal and state governments do not adequately fund special education, placing the burden on local and intermediate school districts. Without additional millage funds, local school districts are forced to use general education funds to pay for special education programs and services.

■ What is the impact to local districts if this millage is not renewed?

Before this millage was originally passed in 2015, local school districts were paying approximately 36% of their unreimbursed special education costs out of their general education funds. Without this millage in place, local school districts would lose approximately \$12.5 million in special education funding, resulting in fewer dollars to support programs for all students.

■ Is this a new millage?

This is a renewal of the original six-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage that voters approved in May 2015.

This is a request whether to renew this millage for another six years. If approved, taxpayers would continue paying the same millage rate they approved in 2015.

■ How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?

Since the special education millage is a renewal, it would not cause any increase in tax rates. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their home, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays \$112.50/year, which is \$9.38/month.

■ Will there be a reduction in total KRESA millage rates since the bonds approved by voters in 2007 will be paid off in May, 2021?

Yes, the 0.2750 debt millage currently being levied will be removed from KRESA millage rates since the bonds will be paid off in May 2021, resulting in a savings to taxpayers.

■ What will the ballot actually say?

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY (KRESA) SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL: This proposal will allow the intermediate school district (KRESA) to continue to levy special education millage previously approved by the electors and restores millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed

against all property in Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, to provide funds for the education of students with disabilities for a period of 6 years, 2021 to 2026, inclusive, be increased by 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) (1.4925 mills of the above is a renewal of millage that expired with the 2020 tax levy and .0075 mill is a restoration of millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963); the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2021 is approximately \$12,533,825 from local property taxes authorized herein?

■ When may I register to vote?

The last day to register to vote in any manner other than in-person for this election is Monday, April 19, 2021. However, voters may still register in-person through Election Day, May 4, 2021.

■ Do I have to register for each election?

No. Registration is permanent as long as you continue to live in the city or township where you are registered. You may check your registration status at michigan.gov/vote.

■ How can I vote absentee in this election?

It is our understanding that absentee voter applications will NOT be sent to all registered voters for this election as they were in 2020. Only voters who are on the state's permanent absentee voter list will automatically receive an absentee voter application, which will be mailed six to eight

weeks prior to the election. However, Michigan recently passed "no reason" absentee voting, which means that all eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absentee voter ballot without providing a reason. If you are not on the permanent absentee voter list, your request for an absentee voter ballot must be in writing and can be submitted to your city or township clerk. You must request an absentee voter ballot by mailing an application or a pre-printed application form obtained from your local clerk's office. Requests to have an absentee voter ballot mailed to you must be received by your clerk no later than 5:00 pm the Friday before the election. For more information or assistance in obtaining the address

of your city or township clerk, see michigan.gov/vote.

■ When must absentee ballots be returned to the clerk?

Absentee voter ballots must be received by city or township clerks no later than the close of the polls (8:00 p.m.) on Election Day. There are instructions included with the ballot regarding how to submit your ballot. Voters are strongly encouraged to place absentee ballots in the mail no later than April 27, 2021 to ensure on-time delivery. Each city or township hall has either a drop box or mail slot for ballots. Check your jurisdiction's website for open hours for in-person delivery. The status of absentee ballots can be checked at michigan.gov/vote.


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KALAMAZOO RESA
INSPIRING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE CLASSROOM AND THE WORKPLACE THIS SUMMER!

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IF YOU'RE EXPLORING FUTURE OPTIONS...

MyCITY helps you find an answer to:

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be when you **grow up**?"*

For seven weeks of the summer, get paid to explore tons of career options, develop leadership skills, learn how to set goals and hold yourself accountable, and connect with community employers. Open to 14-21-year olds.

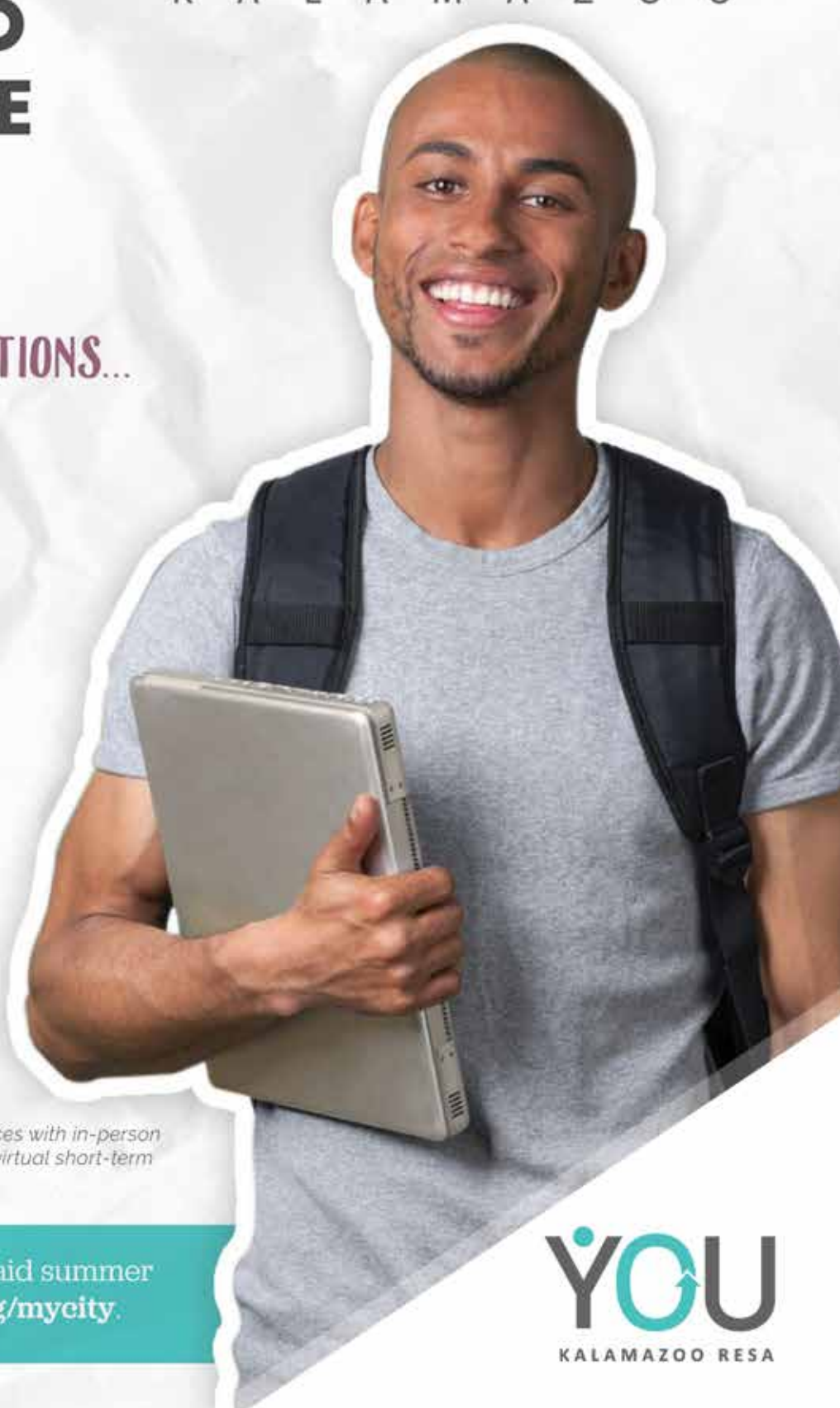
IF YOU'RE READY TO WORK...

and 18-21 years old, start climbing your career ladder with **CareerNOW**, a paid, short-term training program resulting in a credential that will accelerate you through a well-paying, high-demand industry. Possible summer trainings include:

- Phlebotomy
- Culinary Arts
- Welding
- Construction Trades
- Early Childhood Education
- Certified Nurses Aide

**MyCITY 2021 will utilize a hybrid model, pairing virtual experiences with in-person immersions when safe. CareerNOW 2021 will offer in-person or virtual short-term trainings based on safety and availability.*

City of Kalamazoo residents can apply for paid summer programming through April 9 at kresa.org/mycity.



YOU
KALAMAZOO RESA