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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Tuesday, Aug. 17 &
Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021
7 p.m.

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

Lists of Graduates

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Excellence in Education
Winners

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Photographer Shares
His View of the World

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Morasha Wiggins Heads
to UNC – Chapel Hill

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KAMSC Graduates

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EFE/EFA Outstanding
Students

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First Day of School
August 30

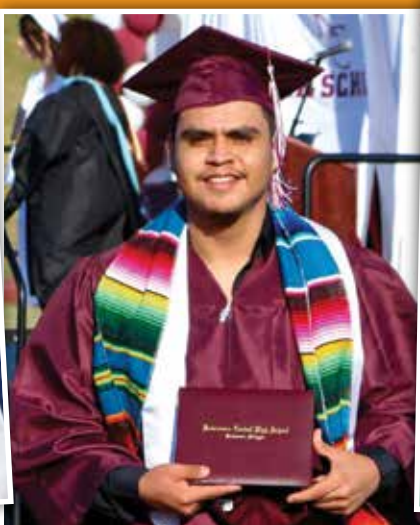
Labor Day / No School
September 6

Congratulations to the Class of 2021

Special graduation edition: See inside for the names of graduates and selected student stories.



Loy Norrix Principal Chris Aguinaga presents a diploma to Annie Mansfield.



Jesus Alvarez-Gonzalez shows off his diploma at the Kalamazoo Central graduation.



Steven Anderson Jr. offers a thumbs up as Phoenix Principal Mark Hill gives him his diploma.



Rahnyi Kelley and August O'Neil share a hug at the Kalamazoo Central High School graduation.



Administrator for Online Learning Kimberly Kirshman awards a diploma to Justin Battle.



Lashley Pinto-Orozco welcomes guests to the 2021 Loy Norrix graduation.

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Excellence in Education Honors 12 KPS Graduates

This year 12 Kalamazoo Public Schools seniors were selected for Excellence in Education, a program which recognizes the top-achieving high school seniors in Kalamazoo County high schools. This year, 43 seniors were selected for the honor, which comes with a \$1,200 scholarship.

A collaborative effort among all Kalamazoo County

public and non-public schools, local foundations, educational groups and the business community, Excellence in Education was designed in 1986 to focus community attention on the academic and professional excellence of graduating high school seniors and educators within Kalamazoo area schools.

The Excellence in Education program is supported by a permanent endowment established at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. Funding for the endowment was raised through the leadership of the Monroe-Brown Foundation, with strong support from local foundations, businesses, organizations and individuals.

Anna Buck
Loy Norrix/KAMSC
Parents: Rob and Jackie Buck
College: Undecided
Major: Mathematics and Biochemistry
Significant Educator: Modhi Alshehri

Jane Heystek
Loy Norrix/KAMSC/Education for the Arts
Parents: Ryanne and Jason Heystek
College: Univ. of Michigan
Major: Biochemistry
Significant Educator: Mark Cardwell

Freya Kailing
Kalamazoo Central/KAMSC
Parents: Binney Girdler and Timothy Kailing
College: Undecided
Major: Undecided
Significant Educator: Rex Hafer

Ava Loncharte
Loy Norrix/KAMSC
Parents: Beau and Julie Loncharte
College: Kalamazoo College
Major: Anthropology and Biology
Significant Educator: Colleen Chapoton

August O'Neil
Kalamazoo Central/KVCC
Parents: Theresa Coty O'Neil and John O'Neil
College: Undecided
Major: Business and Psychology
Significant Educator: Harold Swift

Joshua Schaefer
Loy Norrix
Parents: Jon Schaefer and Holly Schaefer
College: Univ. of Michigan
Major: Business
Significant Educator: Sveri May

Elijah Duguid
Kalamazoo Central
Parents: Jessica and Matthew Duguid
College: Undecided
Major: Political Econ/Economic Development
Significant Educator: Eric Soulier

Keegan Hughes
Loy Norrix
Parents: Megan Reynolds and Sarah Hill
College: Kalamazoo College
Major: Pre-Med
Significant Educator: Brad Schmidt

Xavier Langsdale
Kalamazoo Central/KAMSC
Parents: Lisa Langsdale and Greg Langsdale
College: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Major: Computer Science
Significant Educator: Modhi Alshehri

Kearney Miller
Kalamazoo Central
Parents: Geanice and Jerald Miller
College: Albion College
Major: Integrated Marketing Communications
Significant Educator: Dylan Patterson

Matthew Salinas
Kalamazoo Central/KAMSC
Parents: Carlos and Jayme Salinas
College: University of Michigan
Major: Earth Science
Significant Educator: Shannon Houtrouw

Kinsey Skjold
Loy Norrix/Education for the Arts
Parents: Brian Skjold and Brandy Pleasants
College: Undecided
Major: Undecided
Significant Educator: Matthew Porco



BOOKWORMS



Saturday, August 7
3-3:40 pm | Grades 3-5
KPL Online Event
Register at: kpl.gov

READING RACE BOOK GROUP



Tuesday, August 24
6:30-8 pm | Grades 6-12
KPL Online Event
Register at: kpl.gov



Explore, discover and engage ONLINE at KPL this summer!

For details, please visit: kpl.gov or call (269) 553-7800.



Kalamazoo Public Library
kpl.gov

Tyrell Shaff: Insight Into Life Through the Lens of a Camera

For four years, Tyrell Shaff helped the Kalamazoo Central High School family see how he sees the world.

He was a fixture at sporting events, dances and concerts, spending hours taking pictures of the world around him.

“It lets me show the world what I see. I’m half blind. So, I capture things in my unique perspective,” Shaff said. “I use my right eye mostly to take photos. I love how that fascinates people.”

Shaff, 20, graduated from Kalamazoo Central in June. He is currently working on an internship at Bronson Methodist Hospital as part of a gap year, but he hopes to attend college next school year.

He was born in Belize, where he suffered a detached left retina as an infant. He lived in Belize until being adopted at age 12 by Dana and James Shaff.

“It was a struggle when I was little and lived in Belize,” he said. “They had these big books with magnifiers. No one knew how to help me until I came here where we have all of these resources.”

He initially enrolled in Kalamazoo Public Schools before switching districts for middle school, and eventually returning to KPS. Early in his education, he was placed in special education before staff realized, “I am more capable than they realized — other than my visual impairment. They put me in harder classes and I excelled.”

Kalamazoo Central has become a second home, where he can always count on a hug from Principal Valerie Boggan and a handshake from Assistant Principal Ajamian Gardner. “The teachers cheer me on. This district is a family and they’re always there for you. We’re a forever family.”

And as with any family, there’s always that one family member who chronicles family life with their trusty camera. That has been Shaff for the past

“KPS will always be in my heart. It’s where my career started and my memories were made.”

four years. His road to photography began with his uncle giving him his first camera and some photography books.

When he was a freshman, he lobbied Boggan to become the official student photographer for the school and she gave him her blessing. During busy sports seasons, he estimates he’d spend 20 hours a week shooting events at the school. On a football game day, for example, he might shoot the pep rally, then attend the game to take photos, and then spend several hours editing after he got home.

In addition to support from his uncle Kenn Livingston, a professional photographer in



Tyrell Shaff used photography to become an integral part of Kalamazoo Central.

Kalamazoo, Shaff worked closely with KC photography teacher Matthew Douglas. Community photographer Herbert Scott also gave him good advice on the sidelines of games.

Although he photographs

everything from portraits to pep rallies to dance and choral concerts, his favorite subject is sports. He acknowledges that his passion for sports presents challenges with his impairment, but he’s trained himself

through auditory cues and timing to capture the action on the field, the court, and the track.

“I can tell in my head when a person is going to take a step — and another step,” he said. “When they’re in motion I can estimate where they’re going and what they’re going to do next. Sometimes it can be a good estimate — sometimes it can be a bad estimate. I have to go over what I do in each game because it’s really time sensitive.”

“Sports fascinate me, because you capture those moments that if you blink an eye — the person is already over there.”

Shaff said that he especially loves to capture the highlights of people’s days or their games — the happy moments.

One of his favorite photos shows his friend August O’Neill just after a baseball game.

“He was so happy after that win. He was like, ‘Hey, capture me!’” Shaff said. “He actually likes that one. He comments on my photos every single time. It motivates me to be more successful in what I do.”

Photography also gave Shaff a way to become a part of the school community.

“If you have a camera and go out and shoot, everybody knows you. You capture that memory they won’t forget about.”

He is also capturing memories that he’ll never forget — even after the day comes that he won’t be able to look at his old photos.

“The doctor says that one day I will probably lose my sight. I felt sad when I heard that. I don’t know when that day will be, but I hope that I live life to the fullest until then.

“You read stories about people with no legs at all who become swimmers. Those kinds of stories fascinate me. I think you want to live the best life possible. When I do go completely blind or whatever, I want to say I enjoyed my life while it lasted.”

Photos by Tyrell Shaff



Kalamazoo Central girls basketball



Kalamazoo Central choir



Kalamazoo Central cheer



Kalamazoo Central baseball

Jacob Bowser: Ready to Take Off on a New Path

Jacob Bowser says it sounds a little cliché but it's true: When you're flying and you look down on Earth, it makes your problems seem small.

"I like the clarity it provides, just being high up and being able to think about everything."

Bowser, 18, is well prepared to take to the skies and launch his aviation studies at Western Michigan University in the fall. For the past two years he's been studying aviation technology through Kalamazoo RESA's Education for Employment.

Bowser learned about EFE, which is now called Career &

Technical Education, through a high school counselor at the end of his freshman year. Aviation technology wasn't open to sophomores, so he enrolled in robotics and electronics, which was housed at Kalamazoo Central.

"I remember going in feeling like I had to have some background knowledge to prepare for aviation," he said. "They taught me everything and really helped me along the process. We did all sorts of things in that class. We built submarines and simple circuits. At one point, we built remote control cars. It's a pretty fun class and as far as classes go it was free-ranging. The instructor I had let you think for yourself."

By his sophomore year, he was ready to make the jump to the aviation program.

"There are all different aspects of aviation that you can study from repairing them to managing them to flying them, but for a long time I knew I wanted to fly airplanes," Bowser said.

The aviation technology class is housed at the Air Zoo in a classroom that overlooks the museum's restoration area and



Jacob Bowser has a head start on his career as a pilot.

its background noise of rivet guns and sanders. Students study subjects such as weather patterns, physics, aircraft, charting courses, setting weight limits, and runway markings. There were hands-on lessons as well, such as rivet projects and making tool boxes.

"I've already completed ground school for my private pilot's license," Bowser said. "That course really, really helped me. I wouldn't have been able to do it

without it."

Bowser, the son of Julie and William Bowser, graduated from Loy Norrix High School in June. While at Norrix, he threw shot-put and discus for the track team for four years. He played football for three years, before giving it up in his senior year to take flight lessons.

When he begins his studies at WMU, he will already have four credit hours based on on-

"Mrs. Anne Lewis is my aunt but she's also a great English teacher. She taught me some valuable writing skills. And, I want to thank all of the EFE instructors, especially aviation instructor Al Holloway. I remember everything he taught me."

line classes and classes he took through Kellogg Community College. Those classes and the KRESA instruction that helped him complete ground school have been invaluable.

"I think EFE is right for all manner of people — not just those into STEM," he said. "The teachers are there to help you, actually help you. They're not going to throw you in the water and expect you to know how to swim. They'll actually teach you."



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

Director of Student Services

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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Kashyah Nabors: Juggling School Work and Motherhood at Phoenix

Kashyah Nabors could have given up on getting her high school diploma but she didn't for two very good reasons: her son, Malik, 3, and daughter, Ka'lani, 1.

Nabors, 20, was pregnant with Malik when she enrolled in Phoenix High School. She'd dropped out of school to work but wanted to go back. She'd heard that Phoenix staff was good at supporting students.

That became especially important after she became pregnant with her daughter and considered dropping out permanently.

"I was working and I didn't have time for anything else," she said. "It's hard being a student and a mom. I was trying to do my work while both of them were up. I had to wait for them to go to sleep before I could do my homework."

Nabors, who is the daughter of Kawanna Nabors, attended Edison Environmental Science Academy, Washington Writers' Academy, Milwood Magnet School, and Loy Norrix before enrolling in Phoenix.



Kashyah Nabors poses with her motivating forces: daughter Ka'lani and son Malik.

"It was important to me to stay in school because I want to go into medicine, and I can't do that without a high school diploma," Nabors said.

Phoenix staff could be counted on to make sure she

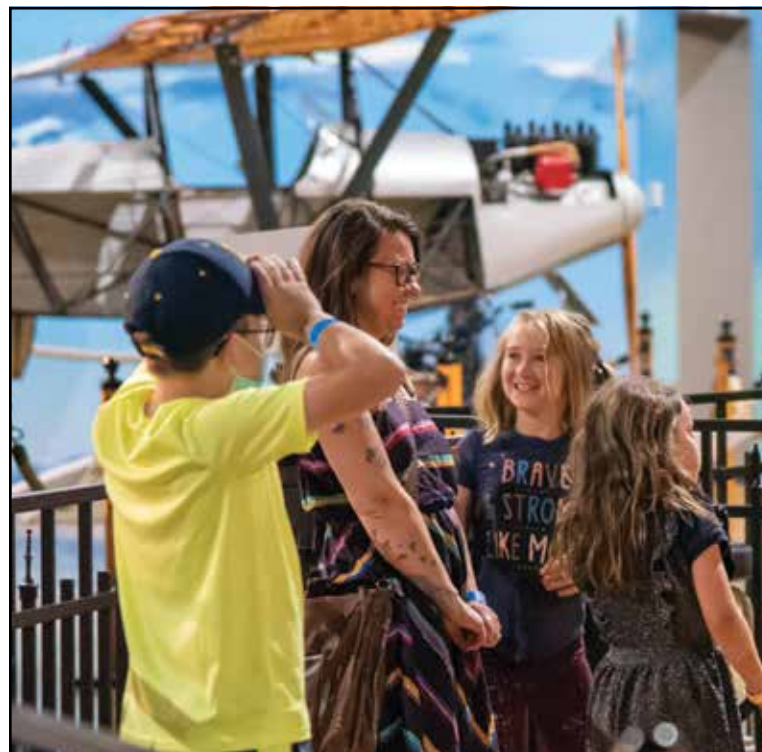
understood the work, and they rallied around her when she was struggling, especially science teacher Ann Huntington, who would let students come in and work during the lunch hour; Spanish teacher Scott Hun-

"It was important to me to stay in school because I want to go into medicine, and I can't do that without a high school diploma."

singer, who was always willing to take a phone call to answer questions; attendance interventionist Art Norman; and school secretary Sue Valler.

"Miss Valler, honestly, when I felt like I couldn't do it, I would email her and express how I felt and she'd help me out." Nabors said Valler helped her with Google Meets and guided her to the right Grad-point classes.

Valler said that Nabors deserves a bright future. "Kashyah persevered and overcame a lot of obstacles to graduate and receive her diploma. She's very kind, sweet, and hard-working."



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Morasha Wiggins: From Kalamazoo Central Giant to North Carolina Tar Heel

Maybe it's just the difference between great athletes and the rest of us, but Morasha Wiggins says that she finds big basketball games help her relieve stress.

That's right. Having to make that free throw, shooting when the timer is running out, fending off other players — not a problem.

"Playing basketball is just a good way for me to get away from the world for a little bit," said Wiggins, 18.

It's not that she's not thinking about her game or that she is not playing it well. She's playing it exceedingly well. So well, that she was recruited by basketball powerhouse University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she hopes to study architecture or sports medicine. So well, that she was a finalist for Miss Basketball this spring. So well that she was the Division 1 Co-Player of The Year and made the All State Basketball First Team this spring.

Wiggins, who is the daughter of Roshonda and Harold Wiggins Sr., moved to Kalamazoo in the seventh grade, when her mother took a job as a counselor at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts.

She can't remember when she started playing, but with older brothers it seems like basketball has always been a part of her life and she grew up loving the sport. It helped her transition into KPS as a middle schooler.

"The people here were really generous, plus I played basketball and I ended up fitting in really well," she said. "I remember my first middle school game. There was a little crowd and there was a crazy energy in the building. I went to Lakeshore before, which was a really small school. We didn't see much of that in middle school."

After Maple, she moved on to Kalamazoo Central where she also played volleyball, was on the Link Crew service team, served on the Student Advisory Council, and was a member of the National Honor Society. She also played



Morasha Wiggins will play basketball for University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in the fall.

"I'm sad to see high school end especially because we didn't get a normal year, but I'm excited for a new chapter. Playing at UNC is anybody's dream."

travel basketball with Michigan Crossover.

"The best part of high school was meeting new people, just that whole high school experience," Wiggins said. "The worst part was the COVID year and not being able to experience my senior year."

Her teachers and coaches were key to making high school a positive experience. Kalamazoo Central has some "amazing teachers," and among her favorites were: Shannon Wintz, honors English; Dr. Chartanay Bonner, honors chemistry; Samir Sandu, world history; Josh Gottlieb, physics; and Julie Marcikic, biology.

Her high school coaches included Jason Plunkett, Nelly

Smith, Aaron Sauter and one particularly special coach — her brother Harold Wiggins Jr.

"My brother really pushed me to be a better player. I'm so grateful that he came," she said. "His expectations for me were a lot higher than for anyone else. Even when I was doing good, he wanted me to do better."

She thanked her teammates and her parents for being at every game and seeing her through a torn ACL during her junior year.

"They've been supportive all four years. They've been a blessing."

Wiggins said she "plays a little bit of everything": point guard, shooting guard, forward. She anticipates UNC using her as a shooting guard or wing. But, she doesn't think it's necessarily that versatility that makes her a good basketball player.

"I'd probably say my work ethic. I work really, really hard to get where I am. It makes me a good basketball player overall. I would also say my mindset sets me apart. I'm really, really calm when I'm playing basketball. I have a really level head, which separates me from a lot of players."

SUMMER 2021 MICHIGAN mythical mysteries

Strap on your wings, and get ready for a mystical adventure into the world of mythical creatures! Explore through stories, songs, and art! Many of these legends have their roots in Michigan folklore, some have traveled from around the world, and others through time. All have been inspired by this summer's traveling exhibit *Giants, Dragons & Unicorns, The World of Mythic Creatures*. Below are just some of the things to discover:

DRAGONS

Dragons big and small, those that fly and those that swim, fire breathing, flower smelling, dragons from around the world, Medieval and pet dragons have always captured our imaginations!

MERMAIDS

To swim in the ocean or the Great Lakes, mermaids are the object of dreams for people of all ages.

UNICORNS

The elusive unicorn conjures up visions of rainbows, magic, and lots of sprinkles and glitter!

GIANTS OF ALL SIZES

Stories of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox are considered classic Michigan Folklore. But what about Native legends of the little people, the bones and fossils of creatures often mistaken for dinosaurs or monsters, and manmade mermaids that are found in museum collections including our own? Some of these not so large creatures have some pretty BIG stories!

FISH TALES

Michigan, surrounded by the five Great Lakes, is bound to have giant creature sized fish stories! Discover oddities of the Lakes from prehistoric sturgeon to our own version of the Loch Ness Monster.

kalamazoomuseum.org/education

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

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**
Museum 

Loy Norrix High School 2021 Graduates

Abbott, Dejuan Alexander
Abbott, Virginia Louann
Adams, Eliana Marie
Al Hariri, Wedad
 Mohammed Khir
Al Jaouni, Salsabeel
 Ahmad
Alhasan, Hasan Emad
Allen, Treyten Micheal
Alonzo, Isabel
Amy, Gabriel Lucas
Anderson, Shatonia
 La'quise
Andrews, Lydia Grace
Anglin, Ava Elaine
Apolo, Ava Rose
Armendariz Gallardo,
 Jessica
Arnold, Keyasia Lashon
Augustine, Abigail Marie
Ballesteros, Jaylene
Bangura, Josratu Jusuf
Barnes-Chatman,
 Damon Nikolas
Barr, Kayleigh Mae
Begum, Mehnaz
Bistrek, Tolan James
Bledsoe, Aaliyah Marie
Bloodworth, Mekhi Andre
Bowser, Jacob Edward
Briggs, Kohler Gregory
Buck, Anna Grace
Buckley, Adrienne
 Elizabeth
Bynum, Joseph Patrick
Bzizi, Taha
Cameron, Keegan Scott
Campbell, Gavin Xavier
Cannon, Joshua Edwin
Carriger, Eric Cornell
Claveria, Zuriel Jovany
Cole, Jaquay Lee
Cole, Joseph Aaron
Cook, Taylor Anne
Cosgrove, Michael
 Bradley
Crawford, Maya Reed
Davis, Erik Dennis Patrick
Davis, Sidney Lee
Decker, Sophie Paulette
Demello, Daniel Michael
Dilley, Khyra Layne
Dubois, Jalyn Rachelle
Dunham, Matthew Ryan
Dunigan, Devante' Scott
Edlefson, Owen Josiah
Fergusson, Jack Robert
 Bruce
Fierke, Nathaniel James

Figueroa, Lucas Hardy
Flanagan, Sean Michael
Flores, Annika Noelle
Flynn, Zoe Brenna
Ford, Isabella Louise
Freed, Jaden Cristofer
Fries, Nicholas Alexander
Garcia, Abril
Garcia, Angelique Jocelyn
Garcia, Ashley Marcela
Gayney, Samuel Patrick
Gbogi, Gideon Tolulope
Glendening, Liam Patrick
Gomez, Marcos Manuel
Gonzalez, Matthew
Gonzalez, Shakiyla Mae
Grayson, Brian Lamont
Gross, Elaina Leigh
Gruber, Jonathan Henry
Gruber, Sarah Lillian
Haase, Ellie Adel
Hagan, Danyelle Natasha
Handley, Brady Joshua
Hanfland, Mackenzie
 Elaine
Hart, Joy Journey
Hartwell, Christian
 Armon
He, Hannah Li
Henderson, Ontanisha
 Mekiya
Hentkowski, Hannah
 Marie
Herberg, Talia
 Provvidenza
Hernandez-Martinez,
 Venancio Levi
Heystek, Jane Christine
Hitchcock, Earl Austin
Hohm, Garrick Joseph
Holley, Jordan Russell
Holt, Harmony Kalen
Hooper-Edwards, Shani
 Tamyra
Houslander, Laya Jean
Hughes, Keegan Andrew
Hughes, Nolan Conway
Hutton, Sofia Marie
Hybels, Megan Grace
Hyer, Colton David
Isacksen, Daniel Louis
Ivy, Kody Ishiah
Jackson, Amari Wesley
 Jordan
Jackson, Ja'Mari Drakkar
Johnson, Damarion
 Javon
Johnson, Janecia
 Pearlene



Loy Norrix Principal Chris Aguinaga presents a diploma to Evan Pollens-Voigt.

Johnson, Jeremiah
 Richard
Jones, Lennetta Lynn
Kabombo, Elie Badiayi
Keltsch, Ashley Marie
Ketchum, Sydney Nicole
Kimbrough, Kamryn
 LeJewelle
Klemchuk, Kody
 Matthew
Konjoh, Abraham
 Fohnkwewo
Konjoh, Bartina
 Mangweshere
Konjoh, Lucyma
 Ngwepekempezune
Koss, Dylan Randall
Kutzko, Katherine Helen
Lago, Jordyn Cathryn
Lanker, Haley Ann
Lee, Michael Krieg
Leonard, Elijah
Lepley, Ellie Ann
Ligman, Claudia Athene
Loc, Ava Nhi
Loncharte, Ava Rose
Lopez Chavez, Mayte
 Geraldine
Lucking, Joseph Shively
Macias, Jaime David
MacInnis, Lillian Marie
Mahoney, Hannah Marie

Mansfield, Annemarie
 Arlene
Marcinkowski, Ivry Ann
Marcinkowski, Mark Alan
Martin, Brian Keith
Martin, Jade Saramarie
Martinez, Brian Aurelio
Mason, Sean Michael
Mboup, Princess-J' maria
 Jean-Monique
McCoy, Daijanah
 Monique
McMahon, Shadiah
 La'Relle Ahliese
McNair, Madison LeeAnn
McPherson, Dajanique
 Yeneisha-Ann
Mejia Hernandez, Elder
 Amilcar
Mendoza, Brandon Isaac
Mendoza Landaverde,
 Javier
Middleton, Aren Breed
Mielke, Maya Suzanne
Miller, Aidan Rylee
Miller, Grant William
Miller, Kaleb Aaron
Mills, Davareion Lamont
Mireles Caballero, Luis
Mitchell, Karah Olivia
Moore, Janiayah Sherrel
Moore, Maya Yasmeen
Morabito, Danni Christine

Morales, Kevin
Morales-Amates, Carlos
 Jesus
Morales-Serna, Oscar
Morgan, Amber Rose
Morris, Anna Christine
Mosher, Abigail Rose
Mosher, Caitlyn Ann
Mosqueda Montoya,
 Yasmin
Moubray, Amaya
 Alexandera
Nachtigal, Addison Josiah
Naylor, Zoe Ana
Nelson, Raili Rose
Neve-Jones, Kai
Newman, Spencer James
Nordmoe, Malin Yishan
Nshimiyimana, Faustin
Nuyen, Kyle Christopher
Olinger, Natalie Isis
Ortiz, Adan
Ott, Connor Eric
Ott, McKenzie Amber
Ott, Tegan Riley
Padilla, Ivan Alexander
Parsons, Seth Gabriel
Patterson, Makyla Arriel
Pawloski, Joseph John
Perry, Quincy Marcel
Pinto-Orozco, Lashley
 Paola
Pittman, Gavin Lennox

Pixler, Tobias Cole
Poindexter, Jade Cerell
Pollack, Che Alexander
Pollens-Voigt, Evan
 Daniel
Poole, Isabella Eileen
Posthumus, Krista Leigh
Preston, Melissa Diane
Price, Keyara Marie
Price, Michael LaRoyce
Primer, Daniel Leon
Pueblo, Vanessa Caprice
Quinn-Cabrera, Yancy
 Patrick
Rafferty, Tieran Joseph
Randazzo, Sarah Jeanne
Remelius, Parker John
Reyes, Erik David
Ricardo-Ramirez, Uriel
Richards, Breyon Simone
Richardson, Shelby
 Nikole Selene
Ringo, Navea Jaina-Aaneece
Roberts, Jada Monique
Rodriguez, Heriberto
Rostick, D'Angelo
 Sirshawn Erlich
Rubin, Eliana Sadye
Russell, Amarianna
 Tajane' Marie
Sackett, Makenzie Ann
Salamun, Greta Rose
Sandoval, Giesselle
Sankey, Anna Lina
Santos, Diana Esmeralda
Santos, Sofia Alena
Santos-Pye, Lucas
 Lennon
Schaefer, Joshua Walter
Scheel, Carter Allen
Selvidge, Thomas
 Caswell-Phoenix
Shaffer, Samantha
 Kathryn
Sheehan, Madelyn
 Nichole
Sierra-Torres, Benjamin
Sierra-Torres, Rebeca
 Esperanza
Sims, Tajanay Jaquarilea
Skjold, Kinsey Rey
Smith, Andrew James
Smith, Ayden Paul
Smith, Darius Dewayne
Smith, Eric Matthew
Snell, Trenton Michael
Solitro, Adrien Ellery
Somerville, Clarissa Jane

Stephenson, Jerome
 DeVonte'
Sternberg, Isaac
 Matthew
Stickley, Lily Teresa
Stone, Alexandria Allena
Strand, Avery Jacqueline
Stratton, Lei Anna Denise
Strickland, Johnathan
 Arnell
Tanner, Gage Eli
Thompson, Elijah River
Thrash, Solomon Tyrelle
Tipton, Logan Farrell
Townsell, Derrick Jamar
Turner, Janiece Nevaeh
Tyler, Eve Elizabeth
Valdez-Martinez, Rodrigo
VanderPol, Samantha
 Rose
Vasquez, Ximena
Vazquez, Yahir
Wallace, Chloe Lin
Wallis, Lucinda Eleanor
Waltemyer, Matthew
 Richard
Ward, Christina Mary
Ward, Sierra Michelle
Warren, Silas Paul
Watkins, Rubion James
Wayman, Jakub Kenneth
Wesselhoff, Emerson
 Grace
Westcott, Peyton
 McKayla
White, Cierra Elaine
White, Jaylin Isaiah
White, Jonathan Isaiah
White, Mikayla Michele
 Shante
White, Nathaniel Aaron
White-Anderson, Kaylon
 Ivory
Wilkerson, Jernnila
 Joyceann
Williams, Carson Ann
Williams, Travion Antonio
Wilson, David James
Wireman, Kaitlyn Irene
Wohllaib, Kara Marie
Wolfe, Laurel Elizabeth
Wood, Daniel John
Wooden, Nicholas Robert
 Helmut
Xayphannha, Jozelynn
 Elaine
Yarber, Cassidy Jean
Yuill, David Asher Samuel
Zajac, Alexandra Marie

Kalamazoo Central High School 2021 Graduates

Acosta–Maxson, Isaac Mark	Brown, Morgan Alyse Louise
Adams, Aliyah Hanaan	Brown, Shamara Rae
Adams, Mackenzie Lee	Bull, Amya Danae
Alfaraj, Mohammed	Burden, JaBryia Kadayjia Maria
Allen, Alixandrea Danae	Burnham, Maxwell Lincoln
Allen, Claire Elizabeth	Butler Ritchie, Lillie May
Alphonse, Jeanine Ihimbazwe	Cajero, Anthony
Alvarez, Jimena Renee	Carlie, Turner Malik
Alvarez Gonzalez, Jesus Esteban	Carruthers, Krysta Marie
Andrews, Jonathan Charles	Cegers, Juanaya Star
Annis, Ryan Christopher	Cichy, Mitchell Thomas
Arbogast, Zachary William	Clark, Maceon Ezra
Austin, Davion Samejay	Coats, Steven Michael
Bade, August Wingate	Coleman, Ferris Darnell
Baker, Abigail Violet	Collins, Sarah Gabrielle
Baker, Dellaunna Anne	Comer, Chrisselle Magaly–Adoree
Baker, Jaylen Benjimen–Marquice	Conner, Keylin
Banks, Anique Briel	Cook, William Michael
Barnes, Kalea Serii	Cooper, Kawyie Keeona
Barron–Murillo, Eddson Francisco	Corla, Immanuel Solomon
Bates, John Paul	Couvillion, Kavia Layosha
Beamon, Marcus Jay	Crawford, Gerald Jerome
Bean, Jaylen Montrell	Crocker, Josephine Erin
Beebe, Jonah Edward	Crosby, Ashanti Shanika Yvette
Bell, Jacqueline Diane	Curtis, Kimion Corey Lynn
Benamon, Michaela Shavon	Danzy, Makailah Janise
Berkley, Micaela Ann	Darden, DeShaun Lamar
Berlin, Riley Nicole	DeBat, Lauren Elizabeth
Berry, Latrell Deontae William	DeBat, Rachel Nichole
Berry, Ny’Asia Joyce Ann	Degrote, Korryn Genevive
Bibbs, Chyna Marie	Dickens, Collin Neil
Bishop, Maicee Rayne	Dorantes, Hector Junior
Blackwell, Azariah Chanta–Faith	Dugger, Donald Creg
Blanchard, Jaden Ramall	Duguid, Elijah Gabriel
Blank, Parker Macade	Echols, Staacy Eugene
Blue, Telia Chante’	Eddington, Delaney Chase
Bodian, Khadija Amari	Eisner, Aaliyha Jolie Paige
Boehm, Amaya Corinna–Lee	Ethridge, Imani
Booth, DeKarieon Jailee	Evans, McKayla Idella
Brashers, Qwadri Maliq	Felmeden, Kaitlynn Elisabeth
Breed, Jenna Marie	Fernandez, Vanesa
Brill, Breven Thomas	Jacqueline
Brooks, Alexandra Rylee	Ferrell, Alexis Caitlyn
Brooks, Moshe’ Renard	Finjap, Samantha
Broomfield, T–Shombe Cordell	Chuantu
Brown, Aerimya Yvette	Flores, Haley Ann
Brown, Janessa Rose	Ford, Willie Marshawn
Brown, Mercy Gabrielle	Fosness–Bartee, Kambell Michelle
	Foster, Armoni Kaleah
	Frazier, George Haywood



Kalamazoo Central Principal Valerie Boggan listens to Dwayne Powell's commencement speech.

Freeland, Gabriel Robert	Horn, Jaelyn Noelle	Lindsey, Zavion Dishon
Fulkerson, Evan Jacob	Horne Al–Gharib, Asma Amatullah	Little, Lauren Daeon
Gaines, A–Laeyah Tabetha	Hughes, Carly Jean	Lloyd, Zackary David
Gakodi, Liam Hewitt	Hussein, Maua	Lovelady, Theodore Jamaal
Galasso, Leonardo Sebastian	Jackson, Kaniya Caniece	Macharia, David Jonathan
Garrett, Sania Rashanti Lynn	Jackson, Olivia Nettie–Grace	March, Natalia Jolea
Geer, Eliza Kathryn	Jacobs, Jasmine Kay	Mares Castro, Lesly Guadalupe
Gill, Samaria Shonta Nicole	James, Tanell Denise	Martini–Zeller, Gracen Taylor
Gillelyen, Lanyasia Ann	Jennings, Ashlin Elizabeth	Matthews, Quinniah Renee
Gillish, Deric Scott	Johnson, Jaleen Jaheim	McCants, Courtney Kiara
Glover, Honesty Eshia Bean	Johnson, Kameriah Rashay	McCollum, Alexis Paige
Goerge, Aiden Frances	Johnson, Tamera Sheriece	McCouch, Kathleen Elizabeth
Gonzalez Hernandez, Victor	Johnson–Streeter, Daylen D'mani	McFerrin, Danyaille Lushay
Griffin, Rider Leslie Samuel	Kailing, Freya Jane	McKissack, Elijah Atiba–Khari
Grooten, Elizabeth Dalyn	Kassas, Mustafa Jamal	McNairy, Shantasia Ann
Guzman, Samantha	Kelley, Rahnyi Kimora	McNees, Parker Seth
Haddad, Owen Nicholas	Kernell, Michael Charles	McRae, Marlon Shareef
Hall, Camren Johentison–Rudolph	King, Jenna Elisabeth	Melchor, Daniela
Hall, Devantay Lamont	Kirk, Jennifer Olivia	Messenger, Cecilia Renee
Halloran, Colin Michael	Klein, William Walker	Metcalfe, Jayla Samone
Hamilton, Dareus	Kozlowski, Aaron James	Meyer, Benjamin Vincent
Harris, La’Cres Benard	Kuepfer, Luke Andrew	Mileski, Samantha June
Harris, Xzavier Daewone	Kuiper, Annalise Noelle	Miller, Kearney Shea Wegienka
Harrison, Brianna Nicole	Lampros, Emily Megan	Morales, Jacqueline Selena
Haus, Nava Aliza	Langsdale, Xavier Alan	Murray, Sidney Ryann
Hemingway, Cole Egan	Latshaw, David Dennis	Nichols, Konye A’mari
Henley, Evelyn Claire	Lawler, Shemaiah Renee	Nichols, Marquavyon Anterion
Holmes, Max Steven	Ledezma, Olivia Tylar	Nizzardini, Stefanie Ann
Holtman, Aria Raine	Ledezma, Thomas	Nyirambyeyi, Jeannette
Hoover, Owen Douglas	Lekan, Margaret Grace	
	Lekan, Miles Joseph	
	Lewis, Javier Jackson	
	Lewis, Shawntay Louise	

Nyiramutuzo, Nyiramugisha	Smith, Arieonna LaQeesha
O’Neil, August Marlen	Smith, Jalen Lamont
Olmstead, Andrew Michael	Smith, Niegel Malek
Owina, Felix Joey Omondi	Smith, Phillip Ny’acies Aijah
Paivarinta, Anthony Gilbert	Snell, Amaya Allean
Palmore, Kennadie Ann	Snyder, Savannah Kathleen
Pardee, Ian Alexander	Soens, Blake Joshua
Parker–Murray, Brianna	Sohi, Harsimran Kaur
Parnell, Jeremiah Lee	Solis, Mortin Daniel
Patterson, Aaron Lee	Soule, Jacob Frederick
Pesta, Jack Gabriel	Stephens, Dequaryona Amerie
Pineda, Lucas Christopher	Stovall–Nowling, Jayson Duane
Plunkett, Zaria Inez Lillian	Stratton, Heavens Nicole
Pollard, Elaine Elizabeth	Street, Emoni La’Nee
Post, Makayla Ann	Streeter, Ja’nya Renea
Powell, Dwayne Marquise	Stroud, Isabelle Margaret
Pratt, Sebastian Mekhi	Swann, Jayda Symone
Price, Jairahel Zoriah	Takyi, Tiobea Afua
Pryor, Adrienne Celeste	Thomas, Aleigha Mo’ray
Rahnavardan, Omeed John	Thomas, Trayshawna Antonette
Ramber–Jach, Jordan Shea	Thompson, Elena Simone
Randolph, Tianna Lynae	Thompson, La Tayjah Geneva
Reidy, Madeline Patrice	Thurman, Arionna Chaslin
Richardson, Brooklyn Nicole	Thurman, Kaylah Shania
Richman, Rachel Rose	Tidd, Weston Joseph
Ring, Austin James Deanda	Tillman, Aidan Arthur
Robinson, Jamerica Devonjahnea	Toutant, Garrett Henry
Robinson, Tristan Kent	Unger–Branson, Gabrielle Teresa
Rolland, A’Jon Jon’Tee	Vallier, Nicklas Mathew
Rothwell, Dustin	Vanravenswaay, Michael Daniel
Russell, Jaslyn D’nea	Vasquez, Sean Casey
Salinas, Matthew Patrick	Venus, Benjamin Michael
Salvaggio, Nicholas Anthony	Vincent, Laila Kelis
Sanusi, Riannat Olawunmi	Walker, Joshua Anthony
Scholten, Andrew Bergen	Walker, Savannah Danielle
Schuiteboer, Izik Lee	Weller, Julia Elise
Schwachter, Simon Lawrence	Weston, Lacey Renee
Scott, Amirah Brion	Wiggins, Morasha Kamea
Shaff, Tyrell Carr	Williams, Richard Bryson Landon
Sigsbee, Tristan Liegh–Ann	Williams, Traeh Damar
Silva, Angelo	Williams, Trent Gregory
Skinner, Christopher Michael	Willson, Calvin John
Smith, Abigail Louise	Yuag, Yumi Pocopio
	Zaczek, Mitchell Rheese Tyler
	Zamora, Humberto Antonio
	Zarate, Marisol Eriann

Phoenix High School 2021 Graduates

Anderson, Emmanuel David
 Anderson, Steven Lavel
 Antkowiak, Ethan Daniel
 Atchison, Brooklynn Marie
 Beville, Marvin Jermayne
 Blake, Amarrae Jabre
 Burnett, Jaquesha Erica
 Casey, Devin Thomas
 Clark, Ty'ana L
 Dawati, Eric Daniel
 Diallo, Faiza Hando
 Dunlap, Shawnqae Deontae
 Edwards, Jaelin Marie
 Espinoza, Destiny Marisela
 Ezell, Tayshon Christopher
 Flores, Christian Michael
 Gerard, Raeann Lyn Marie
 Gillam, Troy Deniro
 Gunter, Nathan William
 Hassler, Jaydon
 Haywood, Tyshawn Christian
 Hernandez, Israel
 Hovey, Makenna Ann
 Hovey, Regan Margaret
 Johnson, Alexia Monique



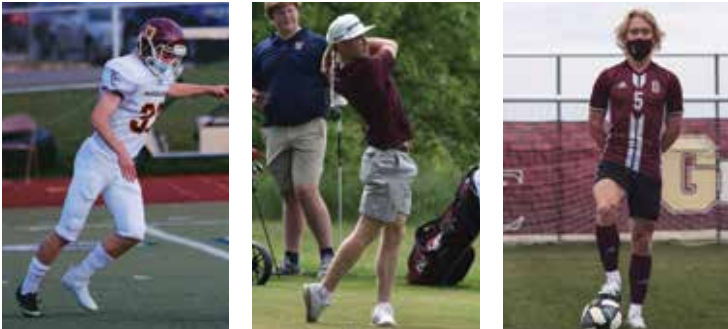
Regan Hovey receives her diploma from Phoenix Principal Mark Hill.

Johnson, Tajanay Lorraine
 Jones, Megan Marie
 Lee, Rayonna Michelle
 Lee–Yeargin, Zaria Naomi
 Luckett, Sierra Marrisona
 Mabon, Martavion Amier
 Martin, Rylan Glenn
 Mathews, Jada Raijene
 May, Christopher Michael
 McClenton–Russell, Jada Chrishalla
 McDonald, Jazmine
 Aryanna Marie
 McGrew, Skyy Justice

Moon, Adayjah Shavyonne
 Myles, De'quaveon Anthony
 Nabors, Kashyah
 O'Day, Kelley Nicole
 O'Day, Kellis Marie
 Panos, George
 Plair, Orlando
 Pritchett, Keynijah Monet
 Prude, Karreon Ja'mal
 Rodgers, Ciarra Bri–Anna
 Ruffin, Derek Lamar
 Salazar, Melanie
 Schiffino, Tamia Javon

Smith, Dayvion Javaughn
 Spencer, Dushawn Omar
 Stevenson, Dominic Owen
 Stevenson, Gabrielle Joyce
 Steward, JaMiiyen Tramier
 Sulaiman, Abdulsamad Olajide K
 Swans, N'ykole Marie
 Thomas, Kaylah Latice
 Ubl, Adyson Mae
 Walker, Aaliyah Lee
 Walker, Imari Chantel
 Warden, Rae'sean Devlon
 Welbaum, Dominic Aaron
 White, Reign Nevaeh
 Whitfield, Keyth Lamont
 Willard, Nia Christine
 Willhite, Seantiana Rose Irene
 Williams, Trey Gavin
 Williams–Evans, Garian
 Dyshaun
 Witherspoon, Jeremiah
 Darvey
 Woodard, Christian
 Shaniece
 Woodruff, Oriana Aaliyah–Shayntae'

Breven Brill: The Reluctant New Kid Who Went on to Earn 15 Varsity Letters



Breven Brill pictured in three of his five varsity sports.

Breven Brill started his life at Kalamazoo Central High School as a reluctant transfer student. He ended his KC career as an elite athlete — with a school record of 15 varsity letters. It was a change inspired by friends and teachers. Brill, 18, grew up in a military family who moved from California to Oregon to Virginia to Japan to North Carolina. When his parents divorced, his mother Michelle Brill’s family urged her to return to Michigan to take advantage of The Kalamazoo Promise. She moved with Breven and his younger siblings Kiana and Bode to Kalamazoo. It was not an easy move for Breven Brill. “We lived in North Carolina prior to coming to Kalamazoo. That was for five years. That was the longest I’d ever lived in one spot,” he said. “I felt like I had created a community and I felt like I was going to settle into.” He was determined to go back to North Carolina. “I would only talk about home — North Carolina — with people I was meeting. I only played soccer that year. I didn’t reach out to anyone.” But at the end of the year soccer teammate Ryan Halloran pulled him aside. “He said he thought I was wasting my potential,” Brill said. “He wasn’t trying to be a jerk, he just saw a lot more in me than what I was putting out.” The next school year — Brill played five sports to make up for lost time. In addition to being a soccer forward, he became a kicker for football. He joined the swim team competing in the butterfly — and was voted captain for the following year. In the spring, he picked up lacrosse and golf, both of which he had never played before. By the end of the year, he’d been voted captain of the lacrosse team. “Sports is kind of a release for me. I feel it’s a rewarding thing,” he said. “I’ve always believed in training to the fullest. I feel like that applies to anything. When I get to the games, I don’t really think. I feel like I’m going on autopilot and I let all of that work takeover, which is a lot of fun. “Also, everything I’ve learned from sports has transferred really well to real world team building and leadership skills.” Brill was also a member of the National Honor Society and worked at the Kalamazoo Country Club. In the fall, Brill will be attending Kalamazoo College, where he has committed to playing soccer. The irony of his disliking Kalamazoo when he moved here — and now committing to another four years in the city — is not lost on him. “Really, I was rejecting this place at first, but now I love it. I feel like on K’s campus I’ll be thrown into the atmosphere and really get to see that thriving Kalamazoo culture. I’m so grateful for all of the opportunities that I got. Everything that my teachers and friends pushed me to do that I didn’t think I was going to be doing. It felt like I made this place a home for myself. I couldn’t be happier with that.”

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KPS 2021 KAMSC Graduates

Congratulations to these Kalamazoo Public Schools students on their graduation from the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center:

Kalamazoo Central High School

Ellie Grooten, Kalamazoo College
Owen Haddad, Bates College
Freya Kailing, Oberlin College
Xavier Langsdale, University of Michigan
Lesly Mares Castro, Kalamazoo College

Stefanie Nizzardini, Kalamazoo College
Felix Owinga, Michigan State Univ.
Matthew Salinas, University of Michigan
Simon Schwachter, University of Michigan

Loy Norrix High School

Ava Apolo, Kalamazoo College
Kohler Briggs, University of Michigan
Anna Buck, Kalamazoo College
Jane Heystek, University of Michigan
Daniel Isacksen, Kalamazoo College

Ashley Keltsch, Hope College
Ava Loncharte, Kalamazoo College
Princess-J’Maria Mboup, University of Michigan
Addison Nachtigal, Western Michigan University
Raili Nelson, University of Michigan
Malin Nordmoe, Kalamazoo College
Evan Pollens-Voigt, Kalamazoo College
Madelyn Sheehan, Michigan State University
Emerson Wesselhoff, Kalamazoo College



Students mingle during the 2021 KAMSC senior lunch; Raili Nelson, center. (Photo courtesy of Mark Bugnaski)

ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER KALAMAZOO PRESENTS

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

August Schedule

FREE CONCERTS IN BRONSON PARK 4 PM, SUNDAYS!

- AUG 15** Farmers Alley Theatre Summer Concert Series
- AUG 22** Shayna Steele
- AUG 29** Sam Cooke & Discover Open Doors

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SHOPPING • STROLLING • RELAXING ALL AROUND TOWN
DINING • SNACKING • SIPPING
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LIVE | **SUNDAYS from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

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- Aug. 1** - **BRONK BROS.** - "A Rockin' Hillbilly Extravaganza"
- Aug. 8** - **TYPO** - Rock • Country • Pop • Urban cover favorites
- Aug. 15** - **KARI LYNCH** - Country • Americana • Pop • Rock
- Aug. 22** - **ZION LION** - Reggae
- Aug. 29** - **THE UNKNOWN'S** - Classic Rock cover music

In case of questionable weather, a decision will be posted on Facebook by 4 p.m. Sunday.

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Kalamazoo RESA Programs Name 14 Students Outstanding Seniors

The Kalamazoo RESA Outstanding Senior Awards honor outstanding students in Career & Technical Education, Education For the Arts, and Early/Middle College in Kalamazoo County.

Career & Technical Education, formerly known as Education for Employment (EFE), equips students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in well-paying, high-demand careers.

Education for the Arts strives to enhance arts education for all students in Kalamazoo County, making dance, music, theater, literary, media and visual arts an essential part of a comprehensive education. Early/Middle College is an innovative program which gives students the opportunity to earn an associate degree or

certificate with an additional year of high school. Instructors nominate students for the honor and a scholarship committee selects the scholarship winners based on each student's academic achievements, community involvement, extracurricular activities and goals for the future. This year 50 donors provided \$58,500 in scholarships for 62 students.

This year's Kalamazoo Public Schools winners were:

Aliyah Adams

Kalamazoo Central High School
Parents: Heather and Kevin Adams
Career: Health Science
Next Steps: Kalamazoo College
Program: CTE Professional Health Science
Instructor: Kathleen Nyberg
Scholarship: \$500 | Kalamazoo RESA Foundation; Bronson Methodist Hospital and Kalamazoo RESA Gayl F. Werme

Morgan Brown

Kalamazoo Central High School
Parent: Amber Walker
Career: International Business and Dance
Next Steps: Howard Univ.
Program: EFA Dance
Instructor: Francesca Pileci
Scholarship: \$500 | Kalamazoo RESA Education for the Arts Outstanding Senior

Ashley Garcia

Loy Norrix High School
Parents: Cristina Nonato Cruz and Jose Garcia
Career: Undecided
Next Steps: Western Michigan Univ.
Program: CTE Business Administration Management & Operations
Instructor: Atiba Ward
Scholarship: \$500 | Kalamazoo RESA Foundation; Kalamazoo Rotary – DQ Hunter Memorial

Aiden Goerge

Kalamazoo Central High School
Parents: Rebecca and Brian Goerge
Career: Social Work
Next Steps: Grand Valley State Univ.
Program: EFA Dance
Instructor: Francesca Pileci
Scholarship: \$500 | Kalamazoo RESA Education for the Arts Outstanding Senior

Owen Hoover

Kalamazoo Central High School
Parents: Lisa and Douglas Hoover

Career: Aerospace Engineering
Next Steps: Undecided
Program: CTE Electronics & Robotics
Instructor: Kenneth Briggs
Scholarship: \$1,500 | Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Damarion Johnson

Loy Norrix High School
Parent: Stacey Johnson
Career: Fashion Design and Dance
Next Steps: Western Michigan Univ.
Program: EFA Dance
Instructor: Heather Mitchell
Scholarship: \$500 | Kalamazoo RESA Foundation; Irving S. Gilmore Foundation in memory of Gayle Werme

Ava Loc

Loy Norrix High School
Parents: Colleen and Cau Loc
Career: Biology
Next Steps: Michigan State Univ.
Program: CTE Veterinary Science
Instructor: Dr. Noreen Heikes
Scholarship: \$1,500 | Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Darian Moubray

Loy Norrix High School
Parents: Jennifer Moubray and Matthew Jakubowski
Career: Biomedical Engineering
Next Steps: Michigan State Univ.
Program: CTE Conservation Biology
Instructor: Fahimeh Baziari
Scholarship: \$1,000 | Burdick-Thorne Foundation

Connor Ott

Loy Norrix High School
Parents: Angel and Eric Ott
Career: Culinary Arts
Next Steps: Grand Rapids Com. College
Program: CTE Culinary Arts
Instructor: Kharen Shelton
Scholarship: \$1,000 | Sue Lignell

McKenzie Ott

Loy Norrix High School
Parents: Angel and Eric Ott
Career: Environmental Studies and Sustainability
Next Steps: Grand Valley State Univ.
Program: CTE Conservation Biology
Instructor: Fahimeh Baziari
Scholarship: \$1,500 | Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Felix Owinga

Kalamazoo Central High School
Parents: Rose and Bonfas Owinga
Career: Neuroscience

Next Steps: Michigan State Univ.
Program: CTE Marketing & Entrepreneurship
Instructor: Robert Roy
Scholarship: \$1,500 | Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel

Sebastian Pratt

Kalamazoo Central High School
Parents: Alyson Defir and Leland Pratt
Career: Barbering
Next Steps: Directly into the workforce.
Program: CTE Barbering
Instructor: Jackie Rush
Scholarship: \$500 | World of Work

Trenton Snell

Loy Norrix High School
Parents: Tana Burns and Chad Snell
Career: Sociology
Next Steps: Western Michigan Univ.
Program: CTE Law Enforcement
Instructor: Brian Brusach
Scholarship: \$1,000 | Sue Lignell

Sierra Ward

Loy Norrix High School
Parents: Cherise and Atiba Ward
Career: Public Health
Next Steps: Western Michigan Univ.
Program: CTE Emergency Medical Technology
Instructor: Moriya Hurst
Scholarship: \$1,500 | Kalamazoo Area Retired School Personnel



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Kalamazoo College Awards Heyl Scholarships to Six KPS Students

Six Kalamazoo Public Schools students seeking to major in STEM-related fields have earned Heyl Scholarships to attend Kalamazoo College in the 2021-22 academic year. Two other awards were made to students in other Kalamazoo County school districts.

The Heyl Scholarship Fund, marking its 50th anniversary, was established in 1971 through the will of Dr. Frederick Heyl and Mrs. Elsie Heyl.

Frederick Heyl was the first director of research at The Upjohn Company, and he taught at Kalamazoo College. The scholarships are renewable for four years and cover tuition, fees, college housing and a book allowance.

This year’s KPS recipients of the scholarships, their high schools and their chosen majors or professional goals are:

Ava Apolo, Loy Norrix High School and Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KA-MSC), biology.

Anna Buck, Loy Norrix High School and KAMSC, mathematics.

Elizabeth “Ellie” Grooten, Kalamazoo Central and KAMSC, biology.

Maggie Lekan, Kalamazoo Central, biology or chemistry.

Emerson Wesselhoff, Loy Norrix and KAMSC, biology with an environmental science concentration.

Laurel Wolfe, Loy Norrix, biology.

Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program 2021 Graduates

Alcaraz, Nathaniel Anthony
Arnold, Alicia Denise
Autrey, Rebekah Beth
Battle, Justin Xavier
Brown, Angel Starr
Clarke, Matthew James O. D.
Cook, Jenna Marie
Coy, Alazha Lachar
Doonan, Taylor Elyse
Eason, Jaryia Lynette

Heyart, Jacob Anthony
Jackson, Credell Raiimohn
Mailloux, Annaliese Marie
Moll-Maystead, Jeremiah Jacob
Moore, Jasmine Erlene-Marie
Morris, Adreanna Damarra
Nunez-Villa, Gabriela
Patterson, Isaiah Calvin
Putman, Kyliane Elizabeth

Student Athletes Declare Intentions to Play College Sports

Congratulations to the following Kalamazoo Public Schools 2021 graduates, who have committed to continuing their sports careers at the collegiate level.

Kalamazoo Central High School

Jaden Blanchard, Eastern Michigan University, football
Breven Brill, Kalamazoo College, soccer
Kavia Couvillion, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, volleyball
Leonardo Galasso, Central Michigan University, wrestling
Camren Hall, Union County College (New Jersey), football
Colin Halloran, Kalamazoo College, soccer
Cole Hemingway, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, baseball

Jaelyn Horn, Kalamazoo College, basketball
Jaleen Johnson, Union County College, football
Kearney Miller, Albion College, softball
Stefanie Nizzardini, Kalamazoo College, softball
Laila Vincent, Kalamazoo College, basketball
Josh Walker, Kalamazoo College, swimming
Morasha Wiggins, University of North Carolina, basketball
Marisol Zarate, Glen Oaks Community College, softball

Loy Norrix High School

Garrick Hohm, Kalamazoo College, cross country
Keegan Hughes, Kalamazoo College, cross country
Elle Kabombo, Olivet College, soccer
Ellie Lepley, Kalamazoo College, swimming and diving
Ava Loncharte, Kalamazoo College, lacrosse
Annie Mansfield, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, softball

Sean Mason, Glen Oaks Community College, baseball
Sophia Santos, Kalamazoo College, swimming and diving
Carter Scheel, Calvin University, soccer
Samantha VanderPol, Kalamazoo College, swimming and diving
Nathaniel White, Aquinas College, track and field
Laurel Wolfe, Kalamazoo College, swimming and diving
Daniel Wood, Olivet College, basketball

Kalamazoo Adult Education 2021 Graduates

Burnett, Andrew Darnell
Burney, Ayanna Renee'
Carter, Cameron Anthony
Cobbs, Mekiel Leshawn Anthony
Ford, Ti'von Sincere
Gatewood, Benjamin Michael

Gutierrez, Trinidad
Herring, Terrance Ezekiel
Higginbotham, Bianca Ahmiracle
Humphery, Ricky
Morgan, Omarion Rashawn
Newton, Nolan Thomas

Poole, Breezee Servion
Ramos, Elias Daniel
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Martavion Mabon: Doing the Hard Work to Get to the Next Level

The way Martavion Mabon figures it, working 40 hours a week actually made him a better student.

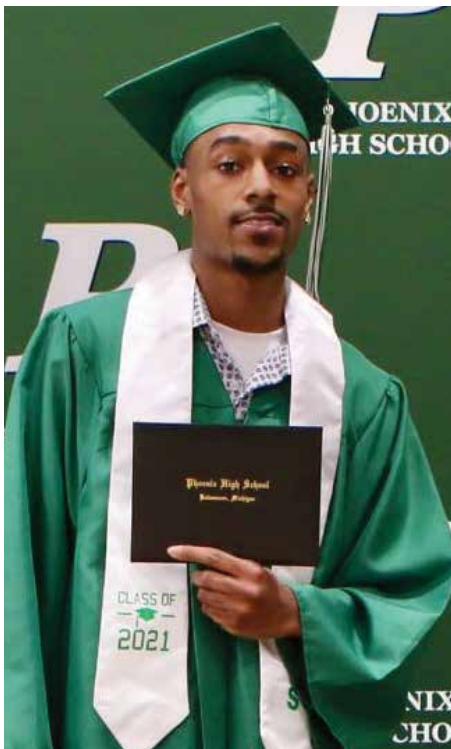
It's hard to say when his day "started" during the 2020-21 school year, but Mabon, who works third shift for auto parts manufacturer MANN + HUMMEL, would get out of work at 7 a.m., take a 30-minute nap, get up to attend classes, go to sleep at 3 p.m. and get to work by 10 p.m.

"Yeah, I didn't get as much sleep as I should have," he said with a laugh.

He won't lie, the first few weeks were difficult.

"I was kind of behind in school. My teachers would reach out to me and call my phone. I told them I was working the night shift, but they didn't know I was working 40 hours. It was killing me the first two weeks," Mabon said. "Then, eventually I had to map out a schedule. I had to figure out how I was going to do this. I think working actually helped me.

"I ended up getting used to it. It wasn't too challenging." He pauses. "Well, sometimes I get a little drowsy. Sleep is the first thing I think about."



Martavion Mabon, Phoenix High School, 2021

Mabon has been good at figuring out how to make his education work for him. Mabon attended Washington Writ-

"I realized that I actually needed my high school diploma and that school wasn't for games. I started looking at the big picture after I messed up, and it just pushed me to get it done."

ers' Academy and Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology before going to Loy Norrix High School and then Phoenix High School.

His freshman year at Loy Norrix did not go well. He hung out with the wrong crowd, skipped class, and had a hard time focusing because of the group of friends he had. By his junior year, he was behind and didn't know how he'd catch up. That's when a counselor suggested Phoenix High School, which he knew about from an aunt's experience there.

"They're very helpful there," Mabon

said. "The teachers knew how to work with me. The teachers broke down the information for me in the right way, so I knew exactly what I was doing. I had a lot of motivation. When I got to Phoenix, I realized in a snap how much school is supposed to mean to me. I had to get back on track. I graduated a year later."

Among the staff who were especially helpful were teacher Scott Hunsinger and principal Mark Hill. Staff didn't know that he was working 40 hours a week this school year, but when they did see him struggle, they were there to encourage him to get his work done and to touch base with teachers or counselors when he needed extra help.

"The staff at Phoenix actually reach out to the students," he said. "I went there at a time when I was giving up because I was stuck on my work and I didn't know how to ask for help. They told me I could not bail out on them. They made sure I graduated."

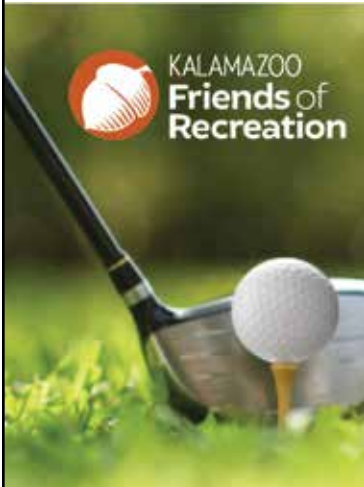
Mabon, who is the son of Valarie Mabon and Larry Calhoun, is still working at MANN + HUMMEL but he'd like to learn a trade in the future.



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Sierra Ward: Busy Has Always Been a Way of Life

“My parents always pushed me to stay busy to stay out of trouble. I just had so much energy as a child, staying busy was a way to channel that into something positive,” Sierra Ward says.

So, as a student at Loy Norrix High School, Ward:

- Participated in Girl Scouts through high school.

- Took an Education for Employment class, which led to dual enrollment at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

- Was president of the Merze Tate Explorers Travel Club, which encourages female students to travel. She studied abroad in Europe and earned college credit and represented Kalamazoo in Japan as part of the Numazu Sister City program.

- Played volleyball for four years, and dabbled in basketball, softball and track.

- Was president of DECA, a career and technical education program that focuses on marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

- Was president of Interact, the high school arm of Rotary International.

- Attended church at Bible Baptist Church, where she volunteered.

Some of the positives that came out of all of that activity: Gold and Silver Awards — the highest accolades in the Girl Scout program, the Outstanding Senior Award from EFE, certification as a basic EMT, and the Social Justice Youth Award from City of Kalamazoo.

“I like trying new things. My motto is you never know until you try something,” Ward said.

Ward, 18, is the daughter of Kalamazoo Public Schools teachers Cherise Ward (Arcadia Elementary) and Atiba Ward (Loy Norrix High School). Her younger sister Aliah is a rising freshman at Loy Norrix. She plans to enroll in Western Michigan University to study public health, with a minor in holistic health and chemistry.



Sierra Ward

One of her longest-running activities has been the Girl Scouts, which she started in as a first grader at Prairie Ridge Elementary. Her mother has served as her troop leader.

While many people see Girl Scouts as an activity for younger children, the program has many stages that “offer different avenues as you grow through the program,” Ward said.

Among the highlights of her high school career was receiving the Gold Award, which is the highest accolade available to a Girl Scout. The award requires girls to complete a service project with a minimum of 80 hours of work. The girls must research an issue and choose an associated project that is both sustainable and puts the Girl Scout principles into practice, while inspiring others.

“I’d like to thank my parents who are both teachers and who have been teaching me since day one.”

Ward created a series of inspirational bookmarks, which she distributed to KPS graduating seniors in 2020, nursing homes and hospitals.

“I had a lot of family who were sick and passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this project was kind of in their honor,” Ward told WMU for a story on incoming freshmen. “I had a lot of friends graduating last year who didn’t get a traditional graduation, and then senior citizens weren’t allowed to have visitors in nursing homes

and hospitals because of COVID-19. So, I made the bookmarks to try to lift everyone’s spirits.”

In the fall, she plans to be a leader for a Girl Scout Daisy troop. “I’d like to help other girls, especially girls of color, know they can receive those high honors.”

Another carryover she’ll take from high school to college is her EMT training, which began with the Education for Employment (now called Career & Technical Education) EMT course, and continued with her dual enrollment at KVCC. Through the program she received certification for basic life support, CPR, and disaster assistance. She is studying for her national EMT certification and hopes to work as an EMT while in college.

Ward’s suggestion for all high school students: take advantage of every opportunity. She

remembers walking through the hall of Loy Norrix one day when she came across an event for the Interact Club. “They had pizza — and I was just so hungry,” she laughs. She stopped for the pizza — but ended up becoming the social chair, and then the president of the service group.

“I feel like a lot of people do activities for the cords at graduation,” she said. “But, I feel like you can’t replace the experience of being a part of those groups. My mom tells me high school is your least stressful time — it’s an opportunity you want to take advantage of.”



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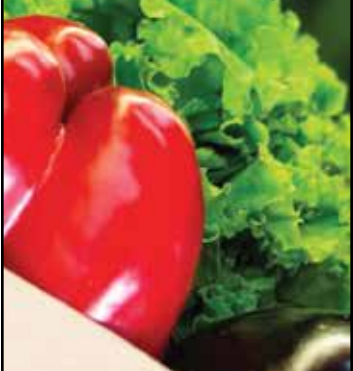
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