Kalamazoo Public Schools

# EXCELSIOR

JANUARY 2020 www.kalamazoopublicschools.com VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**Board of Education Meetings**

Thursday, Jan. 9 & 30, 2020
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

Board Advance Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020
6:15 p.m.
Media Center
West Main Professional Development Center
1627 W. Main St.

For more information, call (269) 337-1572

Jan. 24
Half Day
Grades PreK-8

Jan. 29-30
Grades 9-12
High School Conferences

Jan. 30
Half Day
Grades 6-8
Middle School Conferences

**INSIDE**

EFE/EFA/Early Middle College Open House
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# Playworks: Adding Fun to the Serious Learning Taking Place on the Playground

Kalamazoo Public Schools isn't playing around with play.

Five schools in the district are working with Playworks, a national organization that argues that play is essential to learning the socio-emotional skills that children need to succeed in the workplace, classroom, and life. Because they spend so much of their time at school, the school playground becomes an important environment for learning how to enjoy physical activity, to play cooperatively, and to learn creativity and flexibility.



**Woods Lake Elementary students play with a colorful parachute during recess as part of the Playworks program.**

Playworks' website quotes Jack Shonkoff, director of the Harvard Center on the Developing Child as saying, "Play is one of the most important ways in which children learn."

Sheila Dorsey-Smith, KPS assistant superintendent for human resources, helped the program launch in Kalamazoo. As part of her doctoral studies, Dorsey-Smith was given an assignment to help the district in an area outside of her expertise.

***(continued on page 3)***

# Panther Leadership Team Places Responsibility on Fifth Graders

Sometimes, fifth graders get a bad reputation in elementary school. They're ready to be middle schoolers, and not quite as engaged as they could be in their elementary schools.

But, Milwood Elementary School Principal Craig LeSuer believes fifth graders have the ability to be something more.



**Panther Leadership Team members DeAndre Rose, Miya Evans, and Makayla Seelbinder assemble the kindness chain at Milwood Elementary School.**

They can be leaders.

Last year, he implemented the Panther Leadership Team, which he modeled after the middle school WEB program, which stands for Where Everyone Belongs.

"Our fifth graders need to be seen as positives in the school, as leaders," LeSuer said. "I wanted them to have the opportunity to do some work with leadership."

Student Viola Bowers said

***(continued on page 5)***

**Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.**
Find information at http://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/Departments/HumanResources/EmploymentOpportunities

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# Sports: Going for the Win in Life

Some people think that playing high school sports is all about learning how to win, but I think there are many more important lessons to be learned.

In my own high school sports career, I remember signing up for football, because it seemed like football players got the girls. But, I can remember that cold, rainy night, when sitting on the bench with a cast on my leg due to an injury that resulted in knee surgery, I happened to look up into the stands to see other guys — non-football players — who were nicely dressed and talking to those girls that I'd been hoping to impress.

There is a perfect example of a life lesson delivered courtesy of sports.

But outside of my own high school experiences of playing football and wrestling, I've also watched sports as a father and grandfather. There was tremendous pride in watching my sons wrestle and of now seeing my grandson compete on the soccer field and wrestling mat. And, win or lose, I know they had and are having enriching experiences that affect them as much as some of their classroom lessons.



**Gary Start, Interim Superintendent**

An NPR story from 2015 discussed a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health poll, in which 76 percent of adults who have children in high school or middle school said they encourage their children to play sports. Those parents said playing sports wasn't not just an important physical and social activity, but that it could help children build valuable life skills such as leadership and fellowship.

Parents in the poll said they thought sports helped teach their children discipline, dedication, and cooperation.

Michigan State University researcher Andy Driska, who was with the MSU Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, said parents were right in their belief that sports can help their children learn to develop physical confidence and the value of making a commitment to an activity. Students can also develop a sense of hopefulness from learning how to address problems and become creative problem solvers.

The National Federation of State High School Associations, an organization for high school sports and activities, cites its own benefits for extracurricular involvement, including playing high school sports in its study the Case for High School Activities. Among the benefits listed: better educational outcomes for students who are involved in extracurricular activities, enhanced school engagement and a sense of belonging, positive youth development, healthier lifestyle choices, better citizenship, and positive post-high school outcomes.

I highlight sports, because sometimes sports are viewed as lacking the enrichment value of some other extracurriculars, as though running, throwing, fine-tuning foot skills, or working on the perfect jumpshot somehow detract from a student's ability to do well in school.

But, the NFSHSA website cites a study of nearly 140,000 Kansas high school students, examining data from the Kansas High School Athletic Association and the Kansas State Department of Education, revealed that "athletes earned higher grades, graduated at a higher rate, dropped out of school less frequently, and scored higher on state assessments than did non-athletes." Not only did playing sports help improve graduation rates, but it also helped raise grade point averages.

But just as sports are not only about winning, neither are they only about improving test scores and grades. Sports help provide students with a way to connect to their school community and to develop a sense of belonging, according to the NFSHSA website.

KPS Board of Education President Patti Sholler-Barber spoke to this point in the summer, when Kalamazoo Central High School Alumni and former New York Yankees star Derek Jeter announced a $3.2 million gift to renovate the baseball and softball fields at the school.

Sholler-Barber said sports are important not just to the great athletes in our schools — but they can impact any student who is looking for a way to connect and to find an area where they might succeed if the classroom work is challenging. Every student deserves to have an opportunity to claim a special space within their school life. That space may be on stage in choir, building robots in the STEM club, making people laugh through improv, or arguing legal matters in mock trial.

And, for some of our students, that means finding enjoyment, fellowship, drive, focus — and may be success — in the area of sports.

If you haven't had the opportunity to watch our student athletes in action, I encourage you to do so this winter, when students are participating in everything from hockey to basketball, and swimming to competitive cheer and wrestling.

While you're there you might see our students win — you'll definitely see them learn.






## U.S. Census: 10 Questions, 10 Minutes, 10 Years of Impact

Every 10 years, the federal government is required by the Constitution to conduct a headcount — called the census — of everyone living in the United States. The 2020 U.S. Census begins this spring and will be available online for the first time ever, says Ian Magnuson, database associate with the United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region.

Starting in March, people will receive a postcard in the mail with a unique code to use on their computer or smartphone to take the census. It is only 10 questions and should take 10 minutes to complete.

The information provided through the census will be used to help decide the direction of issues such as education, health, and road and infrastructure in the state of Michigan and across the nation for the next 10 years. It also decides how much representation Michigan receives in Congress.

In 2015, 42 percent of the state's budget was money that was driven by census data, and each uncounted person costs the state about $1,800 per year for 10 years.

Ten questions, 10 minutes, and 10 years of impact is an easy and important way you can support your community!

For more information, visit www.census.gov.

# Playworks: Adding Fun to the Serious Learning Taking Place on the Playground *(continued from page 1)*

Student Services had just shared information on suspensions and referrals. The data demonstrated showed that lunch periods and recess were problematic times for student behavior, which was something Dorsey-Smith knew from her own experiences as a former school principal.

"I decided I was going to look at how we did recess in KPS," she said. In researching recess programs, she came across Playworks, which had posted its 400-page manual of games online.

"I was thinking about when I was in elementary school in the 1960s and early 1970s. I was thinking about how we could replicate all of those games."

"Recess serves as a necessary break from the rigors of concentrated, academic challenges in the classroom," according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. "But equally important is the fact that safe and well-supervised recess offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits that may not be fully appreciated when a decision is made to diminish it. Recess is unique from, and a complement to, physical education — not a substitute for it."

Abe Alcoday, regional partnership director for Playworks in Detroit, said Playworks addresses those issues by leveraging play to enhance school climates and help children learn those key socio-emotional skills.

"We're empowering kids to be respectful around each other and to play with each other in a fulfilling way," said Alcoday, who said Playworks started in 1996 and has been in Michigan since 2010.

Dorsey-Smith began introducing the Playworks model to activity helpers four years ago. Later last year, the district received a partial grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to fully implement the program in five elementary schools: Lincoln, Winchell, Woods Lake, Washington, and El Sol. The district supplemented the remaining costs.

Sixty district activity helpers were trained during the summer by Playworks staff members Karen Dunham and Matt Matthews. There are two Playworks coaches who spend one week each month in the schools teaching new games and helping the program run smoothly by providing consultation, professional development, and free resources. Hanna Holshouser works with Lincoln and Winchell, while Jamere Dixon works with El Sol, Washington and Woods Lake.

Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts Principal Dr. Micole Dyson said she's an enthusiastic supporter of the Playworks model.

"It's an opportunity for students to play and have a good time, and it provides them with an opportunity for leadership and to learn problem-solving strategies when there is conflict," said Dyson, whose school also received grant money to have its back parking lot painted with game stations.

"There are several structural things that have helped us to cut down transitions leaving more time for play," she said. "And the children are excited and they make positive choices. That's a life skill that can have a real impact."



**Coach Jamere Dixon swings a jump rope while Woods Lake kindergarteners try to jump over it without touching the rope. Students are, from left, Allyson Rivera Velasquez, Rainier Jacobus, Isaiah Bynum, Julian Vega-Alvarado, Johann Frazier, and William Peckham.**

Activity helper Kierre Stinnette, who is also the freshman football coach at Loy Norrix High School and known to the students as "Coach K," said he enjoys the structure that Playworks provides. Organized games at select locations around the playground have helped reduce the confusion of recess. He also enjoys the layer of respect and cooperation that Playworks adds.

Watching students at Woods Lake scream as they run under a colorful parachute or play freeze tag with Coach K, they seem to be enjoying the serious work that goes into a good playground program.

"So many kids don't play outside anymore because their games are on their phones or their iPads," Dorsey-Smith said. "But for people in my generation, we'd live for those pick-up games playing softball or basketball or four square or freeze tag. It was what we did. It was the highlight of my childhood.

"Young people just want to have fun. They want to smile and laugh. And, for the adults who work with them, this allows the kids in us to come out."



# KPS Completes Dozens of Capital Improvement Projects During 2019

Kalamazoo Public Schools completed dozens of capital improvement projects during the summer of 2019. Most of the projects were funded by the 2018 bond, except for the ongoing transportation facility project, which was funded by the 2013 bond.

Karen Jackson, KPS executive supervisor of facilities management, reviewed the 48 bond projects in a report to the Board of Education in October.

KPS thanks the community for its continued generosity and support of efforts to make the district's facilities safe and efficient for students. Here is a complete list of projects:



A new air conditioning unit is moved to the top of the Community Education Center.



Hillside Middle School has a new secure entrance.




South Westnedge School received a new exterior sign.

**Alternative Learning Program**
Replace corridor flooring

**Community Education Center**
Remove/replace sections of concrete walk
Install interior signage
Replace security camera system
Replace drinking fountains
Install infrastructure for interactive classroom a/v systems
Replace the mechanical system in KAMSC

**El Sol Elementary School**
Provide secure vestibule at main entry
Install exterior sign
Install exterior basketball hoops
*1924 Building:*
Replace exterior doors, frames and hardware
Replace windows and window coverings
Remodel student toilet rooms
Replace ceilings throughout
Replace lighting throughout
*1963 Building:*
Replace retaining wall at Vine and Oak streets
Add interior signage

**Hillside Middle School**
Provide secure vestibule entry into office area

**Lincoln International Studies School**
Provide secure vestibule at office entry

**Loy Norrix High School**
Replace soft surfacing at early childhood playground
Remodel four computer labs in lower K unit

**Milwood Magnet School**
Provide secure vestibule entry into office area

**Northglade Montessori Magnet School**
Add/create secure vestibule (add doors)

**Phoenix High School**
Replace concrete at loading dock
Install digital marquee sign
Install interior signage
Replace casework
Replace HVAC system and add cooling
Upgrade electrical service
Install generator and emergency lighting
Construction of gymnasium with bleachers and locker rooms (includes office, meeting and clinical counseling space)
Construct four-classroom addition
Purchase outdoor seating for cafeteria (pavers on half of courtyard and picnic tables)

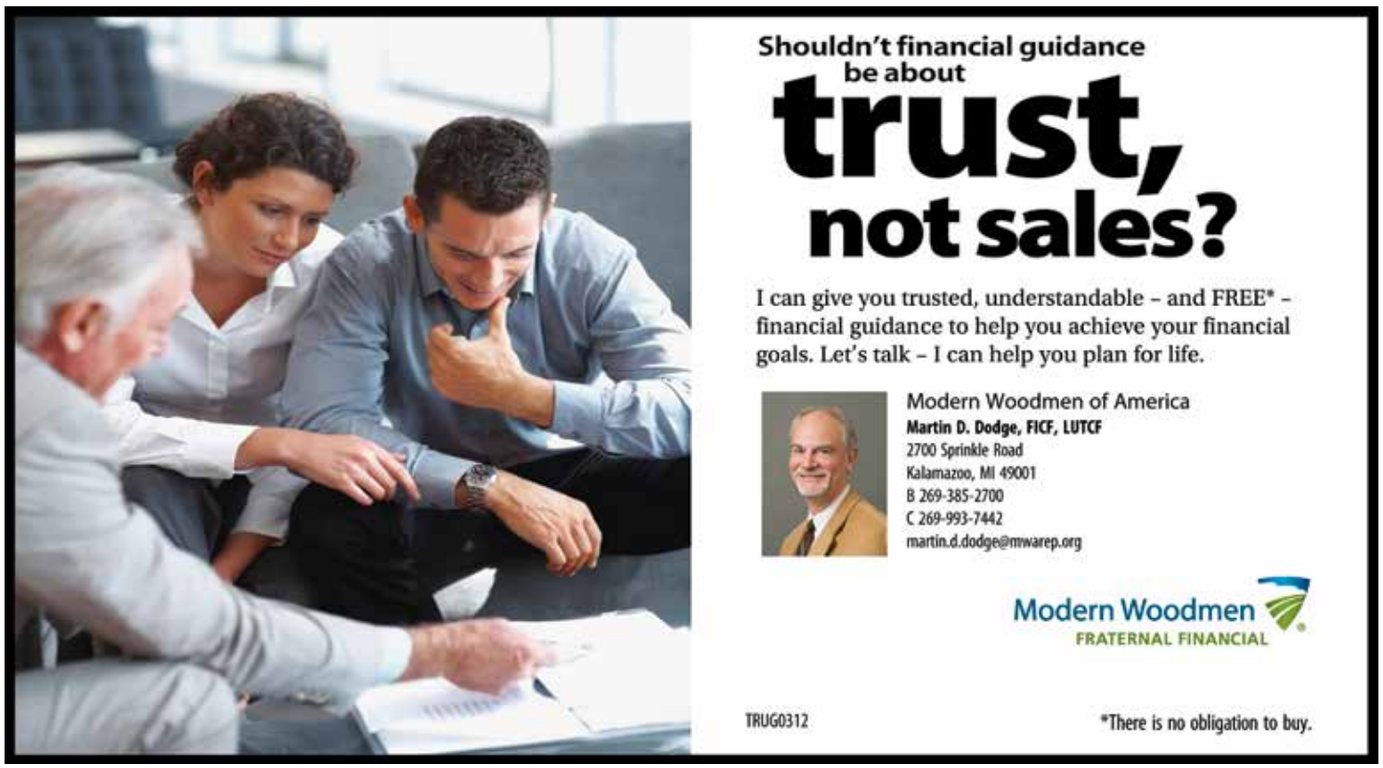
**Prairie Ridge Elementary School**
Install infrastructure for interactive classroom a/v systems
Provide secure vestibule into office entry

**South Westnedge School**
Install digital marquee sign
Replace ceiling in 2-story area
Remove/replace glass in corridors
Replace clock system
Install infrastructure for interactive classroom a/v systems
Install ceiling fans in classrooms
Install security cameras

**Spring Valley Center for Exploration**
Install digital marquee sign
Install interior signage
Provide secure vestibule at main entry
Install ceiling fans in classrooms where feasible

**Transportation facility**
Construct new facility on Ravine Road property

**Woods Lake Elementary**
Provide secure vestibule at main entry



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## NOTICE

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

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

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

**Director of Student Services**
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
**(269) 337-0161**

All other inquiries should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources**
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
**(269) 337-0177**

District Directory at :
**www.kalamazoopublicschools.com**

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# Panther Leadership Team Places Responsibility on Fifth Graders *(continued from page 1)*

LeSuer asks fourth-grade teachers to nominate students for the program. The students attend a training in the summer before their fifth-grade year, which also gives them an opportunity to help teachers set up classrooms for the coming school year.

During the school year, the PLT members have duties such as escorting younger children to their classrooms in the morning, said Grace Lovely. Other jobs include helping during indoor recess and making sure school dismissal time runs smoothly.

This year, PLT members also helped organize the school's Kindness Day activities, which included handing out slips to recognize acts of kindness among the younger students and helping the classrooms make a paper chain listing ways to demonstrate kindness.

"I was glad to do it, because I was ready for more responsibility," said Tejashreya Dantu. "It's a lot of fun. I like helping out in the class that I'm assigned to."

The PLT members are easy to identify by their neon green swag, which includes rubber bracelets, T-shirts, and hoodies, which they earn by handling their tasks around the school, as well as by attending weekly meetings and completing assignments from LeSuer. The green shirts come with an added bonus — anyone wearing one can be in the hallways without a pass.

But they know that being in the hallways without a pass and wearing that lime green shirt carries extra responsibilities.

"We have to be role models for the little kids," said Dezire Hamilton.



Taleah Lassiter, Dezire Hamilton, DeAndre Rose, Miya Evans, Makayla Seelbinder, Principal Craig LeSuer, Grace Lovely, and Caleb White work on Milwood Elementary School's kindness paper chain.



The Milwood Elementary School Panther Leadership Team: bottom row, from left, Caleb White, Makayla Seelbinder, Tejashreya Dantu, Josephine Deike, Alanna Brainerd, and Viola Bowers. Middle row, from left, Kyle Ashbaugh, Autumn Howard, Dezire Hamilton, Elyse Albertson, and Grace Lovely. Back row, from left, DeAndre Rose, Oliver Rozankovich, Elijah Van Houten, Principal Craig LeSuer, Hunter Horn, Brontë Nardi-Palmer, Taleah Lassiter, and Lucille Gilbert. Team members not pictured: Zander Bowerman and Miya Evars.



# Roasted Chicken with Sweet Potatoes, Apples and Brussels Sprouts

Healthy New Year Kalamazoo! To kick off the New Year, try this delicious, healthy meal. Remember to seek balance in your life with a healthy diet, exercise, rest and time with your friends and family. Best regards, Chef Shaun



**Shaun Robinson is the district chef for Chartwells at KPS Food Service.**

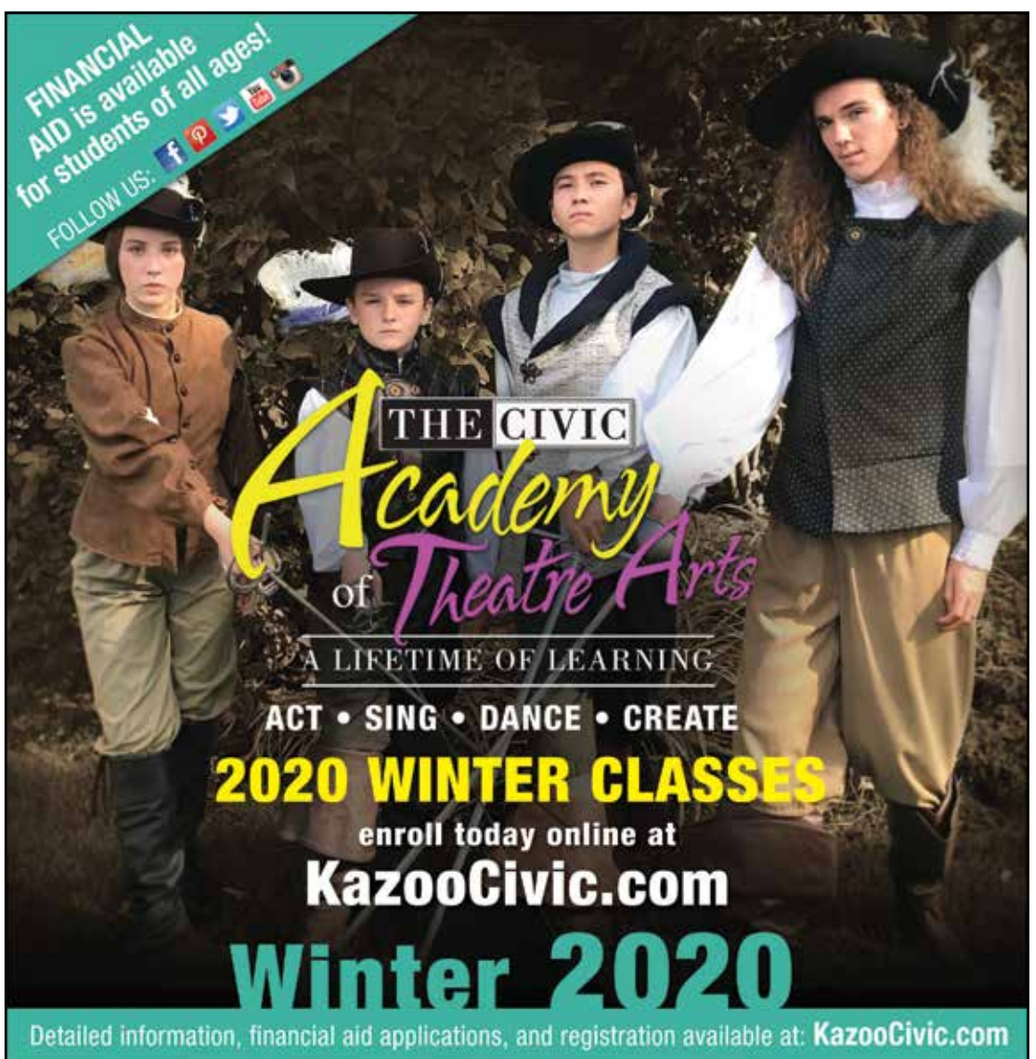
**Ingredients**

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts, trimmed of excess fat and lightly pounded to a relatively even thickness
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary, divided
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
½ teaspoon black pepper, divided
4 cups (about 1 pound) Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved (quartered if very large)
1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into ½-inch cubes
1 medium red onion, cut into ¾-inch pieces
1 medium Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored, and cut into 1-inch pieces

**Instructions**

1. Preheat the oven to 425˚F.
2. Place the chicken breasts in a large ziptop bag. Drizzle with 1½ tablespoons olive oil, then add garlic, 1 tablespoon rosemary, cinnamon, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Close the bag tightly, then shake and rub the bag to coat the chicken in the oil and spices. Set aside while you chop the vegetables and apples, or refrigerate for up to one day.
3. Place the Brussels sprouts, sweet potato, onion, and apple on a large, rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with the remaining 1½ tablespoons olive oil, then sprinkle with remaining ½ teaspoon kosher salt and ¼ teaspoon black pepper. Toss to evenly coat, then spread into an even layer.
4. Remove the chicken from the marinade and place on top of the apple and vegetables. Place in the oven and roast until the chicken is cooked through and the internal temperature reaches 165˚F, about 18 to 22 minutes, or until done. Once the chicken is cooked through, remove to a plate to rest and cover with foil to keep warm.
5. Toss the apple and vegetables on the pan, then return the pan to the oven and continue baking until caramelized and tender, about 10 to 15 additional minutes. Sprinkle with the remaining 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary. Serve warm with the rested chicken.

**Serves 4**


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# Artists' Corner

Art teacher Kellen Deau has shared images created by Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central high school students as part of the "Art as Advocacy" project. Students used their voices and artistic passions to address social justice issues through their artmaking. Each of these artworks has been entered into Western Michigan University Social Justice Art Competition.




"The Nature of Feminism" created by Emily Edlefson, 12th grade, Loy Norrix High School.




"Vines of Growth" created by Alyssa Jenner, 12th grade, Kalamazoo Central High School.



"Get Over It" created by Kerri Maikoski, 12th grade, Kalamazoo Central High School.


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## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

**Join us as we recognize, celebrate and honor the contributions and achievements of African Americans.**

### CONVERSATION WITH MEE MOUA

**JANUARY 22** | 11 AM - 1 PM | TTC RM 4240
**Inspiring remarks related to organizational change and transformation.**

### "BEYOND THE DREAM III: A DEEPER LOOK AT THE PERSPECTIVE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR"

**FEBRUARY 4** | 10 AM - 1 PM | TTC RM 4240
**Listen, reflect and share your thoughts, feelings and opinions on Dr. King's philosophies and ideas. Light lunch served.**

### KALAMAZOO VALLEY EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY LOCAL BLACK ARTISTS

**FEBRUARY 7** | 5 - 8 PM
ARCADIA COMMONS CAMPUS
CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA
**Exhibit of works by local artists, musical performances and readings by black authors and community leaders. This exhibit is in collaboration with BACC, local NAACP Branch, KIA and Kalamazoo Valley.**

### KALAMAZOO AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT PANEL DISCUSSION

**FEBRUARY 12** | 11 AM - 1 PM
ARCADIA COMMONS CAMPUS AWH RM 128
**Area safety representative address violence and enforcement in Kalamazoo followed by Q & A.**

### MOVIE & CONVERSATION — "RECONSTRUCTION: AMERICA AFTER THE CIVIL WAR"

**FEBRUARY 26** | 11 AM - 1 PM
ARCADIA COMMONS CAMPUS AWH RM 128
**Henry Louis Gates Jr. narrates this documentary about the African-American experience and the reconstruction era and its aftermath.**

**All activities are free and open to the public.**

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# EFE, EFA, Early/Middle College Open House Set for Feb. 5

High school students looking for unique ways to enhance their school experience are invited to the annual Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency Open House for Education for the Arts, Education for Employment, and the Early/Middle College program from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the Air Zoo, 6151 Portage Road.

Students and their families can learn about the programs and the career exploration opportunities they present.



**Middle school and high school students and their families are invited to attend the KRESA open house for EFE, EFA, and Early/Middle College on Feb. 5.**

Education for the Arts (EFA) offers arts-intensive courses in theater, music, and dance, as well as the visual, media and literary arts. Learn more at kresa.org/efa.

Education for Employment/Career and Technical Education (EFE/CTE) offers career and technical education courses to prepare today's students for tomorrow's careers. EFE has opportunities for hands-on learning in law enforcement, education, culinary arts, and other areas. Learn more at kresa.org/efe.

Early/Middle College (EMC) students can earn an associates degree while dual-enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley Community College with just one extra year of high school. Learn more at kresa.org/emc.

The event is open to middle school and high school students and their families. In the event of a snow day, the open house will be rescheduled for 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6. Students interested in learning how to become future ready can visit kresa.org/futureready.

The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency provides a continuum of educational services and support to students, families, school districts, and communities. To learn more about Kalamazoo RESA follow KRESA on Facebook at facebook.com/kalresa or visit kresa.org.

# Changes Announced for Youth Mobility Fund Program

In August, the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Public Schools and Metro launched the Metro Youth Mobility Bus Pass through the generous support of the Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence.

The pilot project provides students at the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program, and Kalamazoo Central, Loy Norrix, and Phoenix high schools with a special bus pass that allows free public bus transportation to students using the pass along with their student IDs. The program has had a positive impact on students and families, providing students with more than 70,000 bus rides since August.

The program has undergone several modifications to encourage positive student behavior and interactions within the transportation system and to help maximize general public ridership during peak travel times.

First, since Sunday, Nov. 24, current Youth Mobility bus passes have been deactivated. Free bus service is still provided, but to participate, students need to:

- Sign and return an opt-in form to their high school office, starting Nov. 19.
- Once the form has been returned, the students receive a tamper-proof bus pass sticker to place on their school ID. This allows them to continue to ride Metro buses as part of the pilot project.

In January 2020, students with the temporary bus stickers will be issued a new Youth Mobility Bus Pass, valid through Sept. 1. The new pass will have the student ID on one side and the bus pass on the other side. Students may continue to opt-in to the Youth Mobility Bus program — and to receive a bus pass — through June 1.

Second, to address capacity issues during peak ridership times, Metro is not accepting the Youth Mobility Bus Pass or the temporary sticker pass from 2 – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, through Feb. 3. Full service returns Feb. 4.

Parents and guardians are asked to review the rules of conduct for Metro buses and the Kalamazoo Transportation Center with their students prior to signing the opt-in form. The rules of conduct will help ensure students know how to be responsible public transportation users and help create a safe and positive riding environment for the entire community. Failure to abide by the Rules of Conduct for Metro and the Kalamazoo Transportation Center could result in loss of Youth Mobility Bus Pass privileges and/or banning from the Kalamazoo Transportation Center or Metro public transportation.

For further information regarding the opt-in process and form, please contact your student's high school. For specific information on bus routes, bus schedules, rules of conduct for Metro, or learning how to ride the bus, please call (269) 337-8222.







The ***Excelsior*** is mailed to every home in the Kalamazoo Public Schools district each month, except July. In addition to being delivered to homes, the *Excelsior* can be found on the KPS website at https://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/ExploreKPS/Excelsior.aspx. There you can view the publication online or download printable PDFs.

Extra copies of the *Excelsior* can also be found at 16 sites around the community:

- Kalamazoo Public Schools Administration Building, 1220 Howard St.
- YMCA Maple Street, 1001 W. Maple St.
- Midtown Fresh, 1693 S Westnedge Ave.
- Salvation Army, 1700 S. Burdick St
- Kalamazoo Public Library, Central branch, 315 S. Rose St.
- KPL, Washington Square branch, 1244 Portage St.
- KPL, Powell branch (in the Douglass Community Association), 1000 W. Paterson St.
- KPL, Eastwood branch, 1112 Gayle Ave.
- KPL, Oshtemo branch, 7265 W. Main St.
- This Is a Bookstore/Bookbug, 3019 Oakland Drive
- Western Michigan University, Sangren Hall
- Park Street Market, 512 N. Park St.
- Galilee Baptist Church, 1216 N. Westnedge Ave.
- Mt. Zion Baptist, 120 Roberson St.
- Ecumenical Senior Center, 702 N. Burdick St.
- Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, 5235 Portage Road

If you have story suggestions for or questions about the *Excelsior*, please contact Linda Mah at mahls@kalamazoopublicschools or (269) 337-0066.

# KPS Superintendent Search Moves to Interview Phase

The Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education posted the job for the next KPS superintendent in November. The job posting closes on Jan. 2.

The board will receive applicant materials on Jan. 10. Trustees will meet with the Michigan Association of School Boards Executive Search team at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 16, at the West Main Professional Development Center, 1627 W. Main St., to prepare for video interviews by selecting questions for the interviews, approving rubrics for questions, and selecting candidates for video interviews.

Interviewee names are expected to be made public on Jan. 20.

On Jan. 28, board members will hold video "interviews" in which they will view recorded responses to the board questions. The board will then select candidates for face-to-face interviews and develop in-person interview questions. The meeting will be held in the KPS Administration Building Curriculum Lab, 1220 Howard St. Time to be determined.

KPS Superintendent Search

Face-to-face interviews with semi-finalists will be Feb. 4 and 5 in the KPS Administration Building Curriculum Lab. Time to be determined.

Two finalists will visit the district and participate in second in-person interviews on Feb. 18 and 19. Interviews are scheduled to be in the KPS Administration Building Curriculum Lab. Time to be determined.

The board plans to announce a selection on Feb. 19 or 25.

All meetings are open to the public, but days and times are subject to change. Please check the website www.kalamazoopublicschools.com and Facebook for updates.

Former KPS superintendent Dr. Michael Rice was named the Michigan State Superintendent of Education in May. Deputy Superintendent Gary Start is serving as the Interim Superintendent. In August, the Board of Education selected the MASB Executive Search Services to help with its search for a new superintendent.

***REALIZE***

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WITH

Kalamazoo Public Schools

## *Lift Up Through Literacy Program*

**We Need You...Parents, Grandparents, & Caregivers!**

*The Lift Up Through Literacy Program offers fun hands-on literacy opportunities for family members once a week for 1 ½ hours.*

*We provide free books, a meal, child care, door prizes, field trips and an end-of-session incentive. Join us and learn more!!!*

***A light dinner will be served at evening sessions. For more information please call (269) 337-0833***

## Winter 2020
## January 21 – March 12, 2020

| | Boys & Girls Club on Lake Street | New Life Fellowship C.O.G.I.C. | Stones/ Christian Life Center | Threads Church | Interfaith Homes | Skyridge Church | First United Baptist Church | Fresh Fire AME Church | Mount Zion Baptist Church | Northeastern Elementary |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FAMILY LITERACY Ages K – Adult | Tuesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Tuesday 5:300–7:00 P.M. | Tuesday 6:00–7:30 P.M. | Tuesday 5:30–7:00 P.M.. | Wednesday 5:00–6:30 P.M. | Wednesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Thursday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Thursday 5:00–6:30 P.M. | Thursday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Thursday 5:30–7:00 P.M. |
| PARENTS OF NEWBORNS Up to 36 Months | Tuesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Tuesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Tuesday 6:00–7:30 P.M. | Tuesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Please join another NB site | Wednesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Please join another NB site | Please join another NB site | Thursday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Thursday 5:30–7:00 P.M. |
| PARENTS OF PRE–SCHOOLERS Ages 3 – 5 | Tuesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Tuesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Tuesday 6:00–7:30 P.M. | Tuesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Please join another PS site | Wednesday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Please join another PS site | Please join another PS site. | Thursday 5:30–7:00 P.M. | Thursday 5:30–7:00 P.M |

| Community Site | Address | Phone Number |
|---|---|---|
| Boys & Girls Club | 915 Lake St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001 | (269) 349-4485 |
| Stones/Christian Life Center | 1225 W. Paterson, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 | (269) 343-7023 |
| First United Baptist Church | 821 S. Burdick St,. Kalamazoo, MI 49001 | (269) 381-3996 |
| Fresh Fire AME Church | 2508 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 | (269) 381-8050 |
| Interfaith Homes | 1037 Interfaith Blvd., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 | (269) 382-5771 |
| Mount Zion Baptist Church | 120 Roberson St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 | (269) 388-3111 |
| New Life Fellowship C.O.G.I.C. | 1912 Birch Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49004 | (269) 381-1913 |
| Northeastern Elementary | 2433 Gertrude St., Kalamazoo, MI 49048 | (269) 337-0690 |
| Skyridge Church | 394 S. Drake Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 | (269) 375-3939 |
| Threads Church | 2031 East Cork St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001 | (269) 349-8181 |

# Kalamazoo Public Schools Annual Notifications

Under federal law, parents have the right to request information on the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers and the qualifications of any paraprofessionals who provide services to their children. Parents may request and receive information about: (a) whether the teacher is state-certified, (b) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or another provisional status, and (c) the baccalaureate major of the teacher and any other graduate degree or certification. Parents may request information on the level of achievement of their child in each of the state academic assessments.

If a student attending a school that receives any Title I, Part A funds is assigned to, or taught, for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified, the school must provide timely notice to the student's parents. Any inquiries should be directed to:

Human Resources
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0182

Title VI protects people from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Kalamazoo Public Schools operates in a non-discriminatory manner including, but not limited to, admissions, academic programs, student treatment and services, counseling and guidance, discipline, classroom assignment, grading, vocational education, recreation, physical education, and athletics. Any complaints or concerns regarding Title VI should be reported to:

Nkenge Bergan, Director of Student Services
BerganNA@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

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Section 504 is a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It applies to all persons with disabilities regardless of age. It is an anti-discrimination, civil rights statute that requires the needs of students with disabilities to be met as adequately as the needs of the non-disabled are met. Section 504 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Students are not to be excluded solely by reason of their disability or be subject to discrimination. All students with an Individual Educational Plan are protected under Section 504. Section 504's definition of disability is a broad definition that also protects students who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include physical, mental, self-care, learning, reading, communicating, and thinking. Any complaints or concerns regarding Section 504 should be reported to:

Barry Smith, Coordinator of Student Services
SmithBJ@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

* * *

Title II provides grants to school districts to increase student achievement through teacher and administrator training. Kalamazoo Public Schools provides high quality training to assist teachers and administrators in many different areas to improve achievement for all students. Any complaints or concerns regarding Title II should be reported to:

Cindy Green, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning Services
GreenC@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-1680

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

• Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. The school must honor your request to review your child's education records within forty-five (45) days of receiving the request. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will arrange for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

• Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record that they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of his or her right to a formal hearing regarding the request for amendment. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

• Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

- School officials with legitimate educational interest; contractors, consultants, or volunteers to whom the district has outsourced institutional services or functions. For example, the district shares data with educational institutions that have a vested interest in helping district students, such as Communities In Schools;
- The Kalamazoo Promise;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;

***(continued on page 11)***




# Kalamazoo Public Schools Annual Notifications *(continued from page 10)*

– Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;

– Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;

– Accrediting organizations;

– To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;

– Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies;

– State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law; and

– Information the district has designated as "directory information."

**Disclosure of Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS), with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, KPS may disclose appropriate designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow KPS to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following: a playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; or sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which includes student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized school activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance and previous school(s) attended, is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. The district may disclose personally identifiable information from education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student to other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the district has determined to have legitimate educational interests, such as Communities In Schools and The Kalamazoo Promise. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the district has outsourced institutional services or functions. In addition, two federal laws require us to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories — names, addresses and telephone listings — unless parents have advised KPS that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want KPS to disclose information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district by writing to:

Administrative Systems and Technology Services
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0146
or by faxing to (269) 337-0195
on or before Friday, February, 28, 2020

**Nondiscrimination, Title IX, Section 504, Title VI, and Title II Contact Information**

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, or disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs, or services. In addition, Kalamazoo Public Schools will not tolerate any retaliation against individuals who submit complaints and/or who participate in investigations relating to such complaints.

Further, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), students, employees, and candidates for admission to any educational program and/or employment and all other persons are protected against all forms of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, including based on gender identity or stereotypical notions of gender identity.

The following person is designated as the Title IX coordinator with respect to any Title IX complaint of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation involving staff members or third parties:

Sheila Dorsey-Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
DorseySR@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0182

The following person is designated as the Title IX coordinator with respect to any complaint from students regarding discrimination, harassment, retaliation and/or bullying from another student(s):

Nkenge Bergan, Director of Student Services
BerganNA@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

In addition, building-level administrators are responsible for monitoring adherence to the district's nondiscrimination policy and for incorporating the district's policy statement in all printed promotional materials and newsletters. Students should report concerns or complaints about discrimination, harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying by another student or students first to a teacher, and then if not satisfied, to the principal or assistant principal. Any concerns or complaints of discrimination, harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying not satisfied at the building level may be reported to an administrator in the Student Services Department. Concerns and/or complaints should be in writing, with the date, details of the concerns, and signature of the person making the complaint.

Any complaints and concerns of discrimination, harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying that involve adults and/or staff members should be reported to the building principal. If the inquiry is not satisfied at this level, or if the building principal is the subject of the complaint, then the concern may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. All concerns should be in writing, with the date, details of the concern, and signature of the person making the complaint.

Complaints of any violation of the district's nondiscrimination policy will be promptly investigated and appropriate actions taken based on the results of the investigation. Individuals who report violations of the district's nondiscrimination policy will be granted confidentiality to the extent reasonably practicable. Any questions or assistance required regarding the district's nondiscrimination policy, bullying policy, or Title IX protections should be addressed to the office of Student Services (269) 337-0161 for students and Human Resources (269) 337-0182 for staff.

The district has modified its guidelines and a grievance procedure for complaints filed under Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex in any district educational program, service, or activity. The district's new Title IX Statement and Grievance Procedures are being updated on the KPS website at: www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/ExploreKPS/AnnualNotifications.aspx and will be included in the district's student code of conduct.

KSS ENTERPRISES
PACKAGING & CLEANING SOLUTIONS

20% OFF IN-STORE PURCHASE

With sincere appreciation, we thank you for choosing KSS Enterprises for your cleaning supplies needs. As a thank you, bring in this coupon to enjoy 20% off your next showroom purchase!

Commercial & residential customers welcome
One coupon per customer. Max discount $50. Valid through 2/28/2020.

5053 Sports Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49009 | www.kssenterprises.com | 269.349.6637




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Lincoln International Studies School
912 N. Burdick
269.345.9845
Maple
1001 W. Maple St.
269.345.9622
Portage
2900 Centre Ave.
269.324.9622
kzooymca.org


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