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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, March 12 & 26, 2020
7 p.m.

Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

Board Advance Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 2020
6:15 p.m.

West Main Professional
Development Center
1627 W. Main St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

Literacy Night

Pre-K – Grade 5: March 4
Grades 6 – 8: March 5

Kindergarten / PEEP

Orientation

March 11

Elementary Conferences

March 23 – 27

No School

Pre-K – Grade 5: March 6
Grades Pre-K – 12: March 13

Half Days

Grades 9 – 12: March 11 – 12
Grades K – 5: March 26 – 27

College Guide 2020

Check out Michigan colleges,
tips for taking for the next step,

2020 COLLEGE GUIDE



Promise
procedures
Pages 7-18

On Your Marks, Get Set, Go! Families Can Register for Kindergarten, PEEP on March 11

Kalamazoo Public Schools is excited to welcome the Class of 2031 to register for kindergarten on March 11.

Kindergarten and PEEP, the Pre-Kindergarten Early Education Program, will both hold registration that day from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m. in all elementary schools.

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

Pre-kindergarten students who will be 4 by Dec. 1, can sign up for PEEP, the KPS Pre-Kin-



Kindergarten teacher Kelsea Putman works on the district's new math program, Eureka Math, with her students at Milwood Elementary School.

dergarten Early Education Program. There are state eligibility requirements to qualify for PEEP. Parents should note that applications for PEEP will be taken at all schools, but the program runs in

only 12 schools: Arcadia, Edison, Greenwood, Indian Prairie, Lincoln, Northeastern, Parkwood-Upjohn, Prairie Ridge, Spring Valley, Washington, Winchell, and Woodward.

During registration, children may tour buildings, meet teachers, visit classrooms, and learn about the programs that Kalamazoo Public Schools offers. Students who graduate from KPS are eligible for the Kalamazoo Promise scholarship, which covers college tuition and fees at most Michigan colleges and universities.

Parents should bring the incoming child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of hearing and vision screening, if available, and two proofs of residency (for example, a utility bill, lease agreement, or mortgage agreement).

(continued on page 3)

KPS Students Honored with Kalamazoo City's 2020 Social Justice Awards

Seven Kalamazoo Public Schools students were named recipients of the 2020 Social Justice Awards by the Kalamazoo City Commission. The Social Justice Awards are presented to students who are committed to and demonstrate achievement in racial justice, community service, volunteerism, and leadership.

Each award is sponsored by a local organization or business, with the Dr. Lewis Walker Award being sponsored by the City of

(continued on page 20)



Dr. Lewis Walker, second from left, poses with the 2020 Social Justice Award winners, from left, Adonia Alexopoulos, Princess-J'maria Mboup, Aaron C. Dickason, Chanel Wilson, Dereah McCoy, Kearney Miller, and Chloe Carlson.

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

Find information at <http://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/Departments/HumanResources/ EmploymentOpportunities>

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Social Justice Lessons Come from Real Life Experiences

Back in 1967, when the riots broke out in Detroit, my father, who was a Methodist minister decided that he had to do something to help the Civil Rights movement.

So he requested a transfer to a community that was working to address racial inequities — and that’s how our family ended up in Kalamazoo.

He ministered to a church on the Eastside of Kalamazoo. I won’t pretend that it was an easy challenge for him or our family, but it was an important one. He ended up leaving the ministry eventually to join the Michigan Commission for Civil Rights, as a minister and in his work with the state, he formed many important relationships with Civil Rights leaders in Kalamazoo.

These were men such as Dr. Charles Warfield and Moses Walker. Dr. Warfield, who died in 2016, was born and raised in Kalamazoo, taught in Kalamazoo Public Schools early in his career

and became an associate professor of education at Western Michigan University. He helped KPS facilitate the transfer of students and staff when the district was placed under a desegregation order and he served on the KPS Board of Education, among his many accomplishments.

Moses Walker, like Dr. Warfield, was born and raised in Kalamazoo, and his life was marked by service to the community. He passed away in January. In addition to serving as the director of the Douglass Community Association, Walker held many positions with Borgess Medical Center. In addition to serving on numerous boards, he was instrumental in the founding of the Family Health Center, which for



Gary Start, Interim Superintendent

decades has been a key medical resource for underserved populations in Kalamazoo.

Both were men who I learned to respect early in my life not just for their work lives but for the way they lived their lives with constant attention to the need for social justice in Kalamazoo and their dedication to helping all members of their community thrive by providing access to some of the most basic human needs such as health and education.

It is with extreme pride that I encourage you to read about the seven remarkable young people from Kalamazoo Public Schools, who were honored with the 2020 Social Justice Awards by the Kalamazoo City Commission in January on the birthday of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The awards were originally created to honor WMU professor Dr. Lewis Walker, for whom the Walker Institute for the Study of

Race and Ethnic Relations was named. The awards recognize students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in racial justice, community service, volunteerism, and leadership.

Our schools provide students with numerous opportunities to serve their schools and the community. Adonia Alexopoulos, Chloe Carlson, Aaron C. Dickason, Princess-J’maria Jean Monique Mboup, Derea McCoy, Kearney Miller, and Chanel Wilson represent the hundreds of other students dedicated to improving their community.

In December, we saw Kalamazoo Central students organize the hugely successful K.C. Feeds Kzoo food drive, in which students raised thousands of dollars and thousands of pounds of food to support Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. At Loy Norrix, PeaceJam students participate in everything from making

valentines for nursing homes to holding clothing drives and organizing conferences with Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Our students serve their communities in myriad ways. We have students serving as mental health and peer mediation advisors. You can find middle school students doing yard work for the neighbors around their school. You’ll see book drives for babies, organized by students who are not much older than those infants in need.

It is comforting to see our students in action, to know that as a district we can provide them opportunities to learn about reading, mathematics, science and art, but that we can also provide them with opportunities to learn how their service makes the world a better place.

Social justice is not just something they study around the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but it is something they can practice every day.

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If you’re ready to take the next step toward your future self, apply for MyCITY at kresa.org/mycity. Applications will be accepted until April 8.


K A L A M A Z O O
YOU | 269-775-1660 | 422 E. South St. in Kalamazoo

On Your Marks, Get Set, Go! (continued from page 1)

Children who need immunizations can visit Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Immunization Clinic, 311 E. Alcott St. Children are seen on a walk-in basis. The immunization clinic is open 8 a.m.-3:30 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.), and 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Thursday (closed from 1 to 2 p.m.). The third Tuesday of the month, the clinic is open from 1 to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call KCHCS at (269) 373-5203.

PEEP is part of the state's Great Start Readiness initiative. It offers half-day or full-day pre-kindergarten classes with

highly trained teachers and paraprofessionals in each class. Meals are provided. Transportation may be available.

School attendance areas can easily be checked online at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/ExploreKPS/DistrictMap-sandBoundaryGuide.aspx. Go to the district street guide located at the bottom of the page. Or call the communications office at (269) 337-1572 and staff can check the street guide for families.

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

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

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This position provides delivery of Communities In Schools After School Program, funded through Michigan Department of Education (21st Century Community Learning Centers).

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

March 2020

EXCELSIOR

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KAMSC's Cheryl Hach Named 2020 MI High School Science Teacher of the Year

Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center teacher Cheryl Hach has been named the Michigan Science Teachers Association 2020 High School Science Teacher of the Year.

The award will be presented at the 2020 MSTA conference on March 6 in Lansing.

The MSTA cited Hach for “modeling and using best practices, inspiring students, demonstrating innovative teaching strategies, being an excellent role model for students and other teachers, demonstrating leadership and exhibiting a passion for science and teaching.”

For Kalamazoo Central junior Felix Owinga, the best thing about Hach is her willingness to take any and all questions.

“We have a lot of material we have to learn in class,” Owinga said about his biomed class with Hach. “But whenever I ask her questions, even ‘just out of curiosity questions,’ I just love that she indulges me.”

What would happen if all of the muscles in an area contracted at once? They’d probably tear off the bone.

Why are sprinters’ legs thick and marathon runners’ legs so



Cheryl Hach

thin? It’s the difference between isometric and isotonic muscle contractions.

Isn’t it weird how pulling the tendons in a chicken foot are like pulling marionette strings? Yes.

“I admire her hard work,” Owinga said. “I know she teaches a lot of classes. She’s also one of just a few teachers who offers classes before or after the regular KAMSC day. I think it’s cool that she does that too.”

What Hach finds cool is not the honor, although that is “lovely.”

It’s the students she’s encountered in her 30-year teaching career — 29 years at KAMSC.



KAMSC students, from left, Emily Bosak, Emma Stickley, Felix Owinga, and Michael Bale and KAMSC teacher Cheryl Hach examine the mechanics of a chicken foot during a biomed class. Bosak and Stickley attend Loy Norrix. Owinga and Bale are Kalamazoo Central students.

“The kids are really interesting,” she said with a smile. “And, they’re interested in the things I’m interested in. We can engage each other all the time. I can say, ‘Did you see this in the news?’ and then we can engage in all of the big ideas.”

Big ideas are key to Hach. She knows that students need to know the facts of biology, organic chemistry, anatomy, biochemistry and AP environmental science — which are among some of the classes that she’s taught — but what she’s really interested in is helping students find ways to draw connections between all

of the facts that they learn.

“We’re awash in data. There is so much information thrown at us all the time,” Hach said. “We need to be able to think analytically about data, to think about what we hear and to put it through a filter so it makes sense to us. The more we know, the more we can put facts into context.”

Without context it’s too easy to be drawn into “rabbit holes,” endless meaningless discussions, she said.

“I want students to be good thinkers to pay attention to what they hear or read and say that doesn’t make sense or that does

make sense,” she said. “I want us to be literate. It’s so important to us being good global citizens.”

That data analysis is the focus of one of her favorite parts of her job, her credit/no-credit enrichment classes held before and after the regular class day, that Owinga referenced.

“In these courses we read books and discuss the ideas that are the focus and the implications for these ideas and our understanding of the world in light of our changing understanding,” she said in her statement of her teaching philosophy for the MSTA award. “The students who take these classes are really the thinkers.... students that hunger to put big ideas into context.”

Hach has her bachelor’s degrees in biology and chemistry and earned her master’s degree in biological sciences from Michigan State University. She worked as a medical technologist and for Pfizer before starting her teaching career.

Her honors include being inducted into the Science Innovation Hall of Fame at the Air Zoo in 2019, being named a Kalamazoo County Excellence in Education Significant Educator multiple years, and the receiving MSTA Distinguished Service Award in 2016. Her professional memberships include MSTA, serving as a board member from 2012 to 2015; the National Association of Biology Teachers; the National Science Teachers Association; and the National Board Certification (Adolescent and Young Adult Science).

Hach said in her philosophy statement, “I measure success when students are engaged in the world. My students are a bright, motivated bunch! They have chosen to be at a rigorous math and science center. They will learn regardless of who is their teacher. My challenge is to keep them busy — thinking, making connections, pondering how to solve the significant problems that will occupy the rest of their lives.”



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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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Artists' Corner

Prairie Ridge Elementary School art teacher Doug Duncan shared pottery pieces that his students created for the school's annual Empty Bowls event, which raises funds for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes. Third-through fifth-grade students learned how to form clay, make a lip and feet, and glaze their bowls. Fifth graders made effigy bowls — bowls that look like animals. The high-fired, glazed works were sold at the benefit, with the proceeds benefiting the local food bank.



Najarae Pauls, fourth grade.



Ridha Kareem, fifth grade.



Jordan Tijerina, fourth grade.



Irene He, fourth grade.



Jackson Welch, third grade.

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS APRIL 1

EVER ASKED YOURSELF "ARE WE ALONE?"

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Parkwood-Upjohn Drum Choir To Perform at K-College

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School’s popular Drum Choir is making another appearance in the community. The choir, which is an extracurricular group that practices before school and during recess, has been invited to perform in the Kalamazoo College International Percussion Concert, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10 at Kalamazoo College’s Dalton Theater in the Light Fine Arts Building. For more information, call the college at (269) 337-7070.



The Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School Drum Choir has been invited to perform in Kalamazoo College’s International Percussion Concert on March 10.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Vote “YES” March 10!

Consider these important points:

Support a Metro bus system that helps keep people in productive jobs and prepares them for productive jobs. Two-thirds of riders use the services for work or school.

Support a Metro bus system that strengthens our local and regional economy. High-tech employers say public transportation system is “very important” for business location and re-location.

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Citizens for Community Transportation

Chef Shaun • KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Mini Meatloaves with Chipotle Honey BBQ Sauce

Hello, Kalamazoo! Spring is almost upon us, please take time to enjoy this hearty entree, while dreaming of the fresh spring air to come. As always, enjoy with friends and family. Best regards, Chef Shaun

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

Ingredients

For Chipotle-Honey BBQ Sauce:

- 6 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce (about 1/2 a can)
- 1 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder

For Meatloaves:

- 1 pound ground turkey, 85/15
- 1 pound ground beef, 80/20
- 1 cup onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup sweet peppers, diced
- 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1 teaspoon black pepper, or to taste
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 3 eggs

Instructions

1. Make the BBQ sauce by combining all of the sauce ingredients until smooth. Add water if too thick.
2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
3. Mix all meatloaf ingredients in a large bowl. Divide meat mixture evenly in eight mini-meatloaf pans. No need to grease or line the pans.
4. Baste loaves with 3/4 of the sauce. Reserve remaining sauce for garnish at the end.
5. Bake mini loaves for 25 to 30 minutes, until nicely browned and pulling away from the sides of the pans.
6. Let sit 5 minutes before serving with remaining barbecue sauce.

Servings: 8 small loaves

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EXCELSIOR

March 2020

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

FUTURE READY!



|8| Applying for The Promise |9| Participating Colleges & Universities |12| Taking the Next Step
|16| Financial Aid Tips |17| Scholarships for KPS Students

2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

Steps to fulfilling The Promise

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

It's time to utilize The Promise.

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

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

How to apply for The Kalamazoo Promise:

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

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

Students apply for The Kalamazoo Promise at the beginning of their senior year. Informational meetings are held for all seniors each fall and attending

these meetings will help answer questions you and your family may have about how to utilize The Promise. The Kalamazoo Promise also has Pathway Coaches at each high school who work in collaboration with the guidance office staff to help students navigate the scholarship process.

• Fill out two forms

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

Form #1: Application for The Kalamazoo Promise Scholarship

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

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

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

How much of the Promise am I eligible for?

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

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

career. This is the College Student Identification Number that should be placed on this form.)

You will have to complete this form only once, unless you attend summer school at a different institution or if you decide to transfer to another college

or university that meets The Promise criteria.

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

2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

Oh, the places you can go!

Colleges & universities that participate in The Promise

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

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

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

Albion College (MCA), Albion, www.albion.edu (see ad, page 15)

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

Alpena Community College, Alpena, www.alpenacc.edu

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

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

Bay College, Escanaba, www.baycollege.edu

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

Calvin College (MCA), Grand Rapids, www.calvin.edu (see ad, page 13)

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



Delta College, University Center, www.delta.edu

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, www.emich.edu

Ferris State University, Big Rapids, www.ferris.edu

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

Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, www.gogebic.edu

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

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

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

Henry Ford College, Dearborn, www.hfcc.edu

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

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

Jackson College, Jackson, www.jccmi.edu

Kalamazoo College (MCA), Kalamazoo, www.kzoo.edu (see ad, page 14)

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

Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo, www.kvcc.edu (see ad, page 12)

Kellogg Community College, Battle Creek, www.kellogg.edu (see ad, page 17)

Kendall College of Art & Design of Ferris State University, Grand Rapids, www.kcad.edu

Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, www.kirtland.edu

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

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

Lansing Community College, Lansing, www.lcc.edu

Macomb Community College, Warren, www.macomb.edu

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

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

Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights, www.realapprenticeship.com

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

(continued on page 11)

2020 COLLEGE GUIDE



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*“Eastern recognized
my academic
achievements in high
school and offered
a scholarship that
would work with the
Kalamazoo Promise.”*

—**ADIA BROWN**, '20
EMU Psychology Major,
Kalamazoo Central
High School grad



2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

Participating Schools

(continued from page 9)

Michigan Technological University,
Houghton, www.mtu.edu

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

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

Montcalm Community College, Sidney,
www.montcalm.edu

Mott Community College, Flint,
www.mcc.edu

Muskegon Community College,
Muskegon, www.muskegoncc.edu

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

Northern Michigan University,
Marquette, www.nmu.edu

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

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

Oakland University, Rochester Hills,
www.oakland.edu

Olivet College (MCA), Olivet,
www.olivetcollege.edu

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

Schoolcraft College, Livonia,
www.schoolcraft.edu

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

Southwestern Michigan College,
Dowagiac, www.swmich.edu

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

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

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

What is an MCA School?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wayne State University, Detroit,
www.wayne.edu

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

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

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- psychology
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Loy Norrix High School and Kalamazoo Central High School graduates are eligible for a four-year scholarship and grant worth up to **100%** of tuition through the Kalamazoo Promise and Olivet College.



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PROMISE**

Olivet College is proud to be a Kalamazoo Promise eligible college.

2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

Get ready: Tips for taking the next step

Getting ready for your next step in your college or career is more than just paperwork. The Kalamazoo Promise Pathway Coaches offer these tips to keep in mind as you consider your future:

Social media follows you forever.

Even if you've deleted a post or deactivated an account. People take screenshots of activities you post, and you could face backlash when applying for a job, a college program or a scholarship. Be mindful. If you would not show it in a job interview, then do not post it. Trolling and negative online behavior will also get in the way of your professional and personal life. Drugs, alcohol, vulgar behavior, and unkind words will put you at a disadvantage, even if it is considered a joke when you post on any platform.

Get to know yourself. You can start exploring while in high school.

What problems in the world do you want to solve? What are your strengths? What are you passionate about? What time of day are you more productive? Pick a major or field of study that is enjoyable and fits your personality. Do not try to please others in what you chose to study; your happiness and fulfillment is the most important consideration.

Consider all your options.

You don't have to decide right now what path you will follow exactly, it is important to explore and think about

(continued on page 14)



LAKER EFFECT

Impact

When you become a Laker, you look outward, focusing on others instead of yourself. With professors' caring guidance, you learn how to make a meaningful, lasting difference. Then, as you go forward into the world, you're ready to tackle challenges and make meaningful contributions. Like Michigan itself, your positive impact will be far reaching. That's the Laker Effect.

gvsu.edu



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community college

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2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

Meet your Pathway Coach

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

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

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



Kalamazoo Central:

Mrs. Amanda Bashore,
abashore@kalamazoopromise.com



Loy Norrix:

Ms. Melissa Nesbitt,
mnesbitt@kalamazoopromise.com



Phoenix and KILP:

Mr. Antonio Tigua,
atigua@kalamazoopromise.com

INVITE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TO
VISIT CALVIN



In a world that is becoming more complex, Calvin equips students to think deeply, act justly and live wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

Calvin University joyfully participates in the Kalamazoo Promise.



2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

Get ready: Tips for taking the next step (continued from page 12)

what paths you might want to take. Participate in field trips, camps and programs to explore your interests and expand your knowledge. Talk to people you know about their careers and ask to be introduced to people and grow your network. Know what you DON'T like. This is just as important when making personal, career, and pathway decisions.

Maximize your financial aid. Ask questions & advocate for yourself.

The application and financial aid process can be confusing and it can be overwhelming once you get to college. If you don't understand something, ask questions. If an answer doesn't make sense, ask for clarification or find a different person to ask. Seek out resources, both in high school and in college. Call a college's admissions

office, talk to your Pathway Coach or high school counselor. When you're a senior, fill out the FAFSA (in October of your senior year), check if you're TIP eligible, and apply to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation scholarships. Apply to local scholarships. Make sure you are looking at your financial aid award letters from each college to which you've been accepted.

Find your way and your community within your new network and don't be afraid as you transition.

A large part of the struggle in college comes from wanting to come home every weekend because you want to be around old friends and family. Being in college, it is important to get involved, which includes staying on or near campus, joining an organization, finding study buddies and friends on campus to make you comfortable and to help you thrive.

Manage your time wisely.

Start with a planner and write down your class times, study time, organization meetings, work time, sporting events, etc. Any and everything that is happening in your world should be documented in your planner, which will provide you a constant reminder of what's coming up and the space and time that it will take to get there.

Ask for help. School can be very stressful, and you can easily become overwhelmed if you try and resolve everything alone.

Use your resources and ask for help. A lot of us fear rejection or are culturally independent, but you won't know how good a helping hand feels until someone is lifting you up — and don't forget to pay it forward! Also, there is no such thing as a dumb question. Your question could also provide the the answer for someone else.

Stackable Credentials.

Look for ways to create your own pathway and find guides in your college career center, ask people who have a job and career you find interesting. It is important to not always just look at the big picture, but how you can start with a certificate, then an associate's, then a bachelor's degree using these as stepping stones while getting experience in the workforce. Some careers require multiple certificates, which can broaden your educational resume without completing a bachelor's in just one subject. ■

70% of K graduates studied abroad.

“Next year, I will be studying in an entirely new country. The *K-Plan*'s focus on study abroad offers the opportunity to learn and grow in Kalamazoo and around the world.”

Ava Keller

Kalamazoo College Class of 2022
Loy Norrix Class of 2018

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kzoo.edu/admission



2020 COLLEGE GUIDE



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in graduate
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Michigan small
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\$3,000 housing and
meals scholarship.**

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who may qualify. Learn more at
albion.edu/kzoopromise.



11:1
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RATIO

17 AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE



Albion College



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STUDY:
120 PROGRAMS
32 COUNTRIES
5 CONTINENTS



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Kalamazoo

2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

Thinking about Financial Aid? Tips to get started

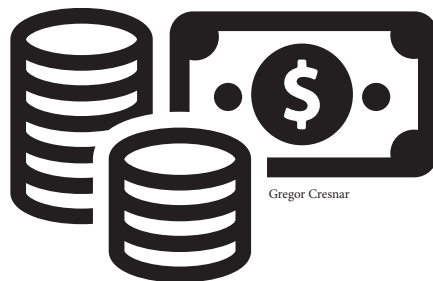
Even with The Promise, there are other costs of going to college and you may still qualify to receive Federal Student Aid to help defray some of those expenses.

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

There are three main categories of federal student aid:

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

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



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

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

How to apply for federal student aid

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

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

Pay attention to deadlines

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

State deadlines: Michigan's FAFSA 2020-21 deadline is March 1, though you should submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1.

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

You can complete the FAFSA two ways:

- Apply online (the fastest and easiest way) at fafsa.gov.

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

Need help?

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

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



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This program offers you free, hands-on occupational training resulting in industry-recognized certifications and a paycheck!

Available training programs: Construction Trades, Certified Nurse Aid (CNA), Welding, Early Childhood Education, Culinary Arts, Phlebotomy and many more!

Learn more and apply for either program at kresa.org/mycity through April 8. YOU | 269-775-1660 | 422 E. South St. in Kalamazoo

2020 COLLEGE GUIDE

Seek out Scholarships for KPS Students

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

Kalamazoo Community Foundation Scholarships

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heyl Scholarships

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

Don't overlook other sources for scholarships

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

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



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2020 COLLEGE GUIDE



AN UNEXPECTED YEAR-LONG DETOUR FUELED BY COMPASSION INSPIRED HIM TO RESHAPE HIS FUTURE

A Kalamazoo Promise Scholar, Sydney Fernandez came to WMU with a plan to study Arabic and seek a career as a diplomat. But after a year of studying abroad and volunteering at various refugee camps across Europe, he charted a new course. Sydney worked with his advisor to create a degree tailored to his specific experience, skills and interests. Today, as founder and director of WMU Global Leaders, a humanitarian services organization, he's building a new generation of leaders driven by compassion.



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wmich.edu

Woodward School for Technology and Research Honored for Improving Achievement

Woodward School for Technology and Research was honored in January for improving its student achievement.

Lisa Francisco, who is a partnership agreement liaison from the Michigan Department of Education, presented Woodward Principal Frank Rocco with a certificate for being nominated for the 2019 National ESEA Distinguished School Program. The MDE nominated Woodward for the award. Although, Woodward did not win among the state nominees, Kalamazoo Public Schools and the Woodward staff and administration are proud of the improvements the school has made in recent years.

“We are proud of the recognition,” said Woodward Principal Frank Rocco. “The teachers, students, and families deserve this recognition for all of their hard work. We appreciate the support from the Kalamazoo community as well as our KPS community. We know we’re not where we need to be yet, but it’s

nice to know that the things you put in place are showing signs of progress.”

The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) — formerly the National Title I Association — has recognized superior, federally funded school programs through the National ESEA Distinguished Schools program since 1996. NAESPA helps education professionals provide disadvantaged children with high-quality education.

“These schools demonstrate a wide array of strengths, including team approaches to teaching and learning, focused professional development opportunities for staff, individualized programs for student success and strong partnerships between the school, parents, and the community,” according to the NAESPA website.

Woodward was nominated for exhibiting exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years.

The school also saw positive school outcomes with the implementation of a “balanced” calendar project with shorter summer breaks. This has helped reduce the “summer slide” effect on student achievement. The modified summer calendar has also allowed the school flexibility to evaluate and reprioritize teacher professional development in areas such as trauma training, restorative practices, and Culturally Responsive Teaching training.

“The implementation of these strategies, as well as the hard work of the staff and students at Woodward, has resulted in substantial academic growth over the course of the last few years as well as removal from the state’s priority school list. The school community is extremely proud of the hard work accomplished at Woodward and we are honored to be nominated by the State of Michigan Department of Education as a Title I Distinguished School,” the district said in its application.

New Volleyball Program Targets Middle School Players

Kalist Volleyball, a new year-round competitive volleyball program, will target underserved middle-school students with a program that teaches technical skills as well as healthy lifestyle choices, nutrition, general fitness, motivation and inspirational practices.

Kalist is registering now for its spring session, running March 29–May 24, from noon to 2 p.m. Sundays in the Loy Norrix High School gym. The cost is \$175. For more information or to register, visit www.kalivolleyball.com or <https://kalamazoo.revtrak.net/>. Scholarships are available. For scholarship



Kalist Volleyball offers coaching for middle school players.

information, contact Tara Ford at taralynne1@live.com.

“We hope equipping middle school student athletes with these life skills will keep them engaged in school, striving for academic excellence and provide them with an opportunity to be a part of something that brings

them joy, builds character, and gives them a sense of purpose outside of the classroom,” said Ford, a KPS parent who is the director of the program. “We want to teach these young athletes the fundamentals of how to be successful in whatever career path they choose.”

FESTIVAL SEASON



15TH ANNUAL FRETBOARD FESTIVAL

MARCH 6 | 5 – 8 p.m.

MARCH 7 | 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Kicking off Friday night with a free concert by Cabildo.

Saturday features instrument designers, workshops, and performances by musicians celebrating luthier traditions.

Festival admission and all performances and workshops are FREE.

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday + Holidays 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum

269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370

kalamazoomuseum.org

Handicapped accessible. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled with a minimum of two weeks’ notice. Assisted listening devices are available in the Stryker Theater and planetarium.



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



KPS Students Honored with Kalamazoo City's 2020 Social Justice Awards (continued from page 1)

Kalamazoo to honor the Western Michigan University professor's legacy as a trailblazer for racial equity in Kalamazoo.

The awards were presented on Jan. 21 as part of the city's annual community celebration of the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Adonia Alexopoulos, Loy Norrix High School, was recognized with the Fifth Third Bank Social Justice Youth Award.

Adonia has made a commitment to volunteering in our community. She easily performs triple the 15 hours of community service that is required of National Honor Society members. She volunteers with recycling and blood drives at Loy Norrix, but also dedicates her time to causes such as the SPCA, the Edison Literacy Project, clothing and food drives, UNICEF, and helping children in the hospital. She has leadership roles with Loy Norrix PeaceJam and Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, where she volunteered to teach a robotics class to younger scouts. Adonia provides girls with a personal example of

success in areas they may never have thought possible. Adonia mentors students of all races, ethnicities, abilities, and refugee statuses, and works to help refugees find a place of acceptance in our community. She is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Chloe Carlson, Kalamazoo Central High School, was recognized with the Kalamazoo Non-violent Opponents of War Social Justice Youth Award.

Chloe is a leader on climate and social justice issues and a leading member of the Kalamazoo Central Climate Advocates Club. She was a featured speaker at the 2019 Day of Climate Action in Downtown Kalamazoo and a panelist at the PeaceJam Youth Leadership Conference. Chloe's work has been instrumental in developing a partnership between Kalamazoo Public Schools, Consumers Energy, and the U.S. Green Building Council to turn KPS into a "Green District." Chloe views climate change as a social justice issue, as poorer members of the community will not have the means

to adapt to the new challenges it will bring. Her efforts have led her to be featured on National Public Radio and earned her a spot on a climate leadership committee among representatives from colleges, universities, the Sierra Club, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Extinction Rebellion.

Chloe is also an accomplished athlete and was elected National Honor Society president her senior year. She has been a leader of Link Crew for two years, which supports younger students as they transition to high school.

Aaron C. Dickason Jr., Kalamazoo Central High School, was recognized with the Lodge-Dennis Social Justice Youth Award.

Aaron is committed to serving others. He has given back through his service with the Gospel Mission, Kalamazoo YMCA, Kalamazoo Black Arts Festival, CAPS leaders, Goodwill, and the American Heart Foundation. He has participated in heart and breast cancer walks, the Flint water drive, and peer mentor-

ing and tutoring. Through his volunteer work, he embraces the diversity of everyone around him and acknowledges the importance of valuing differences. Aaron influences his peers as a leader, who wants to help those around him become the best they can be. He always makes sure everyone is treated fairly.

Princess-J'maria Mboup, Loy Norrix High School, was recognized with the Dr. Lewis Walker Social Justice Youth Award.

Princess-J'maria is a great example of putting Dr. Martin Luther King's vision into action. As a member of the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, Princess-J'maria organized, created, and led the Multicultural Student Organization. It was created to encourage minority students to show pride in their culture and to give the general student body an avenue to discuss intercultural and interracial issues through understanding, respect, acceptance, and appreciation.

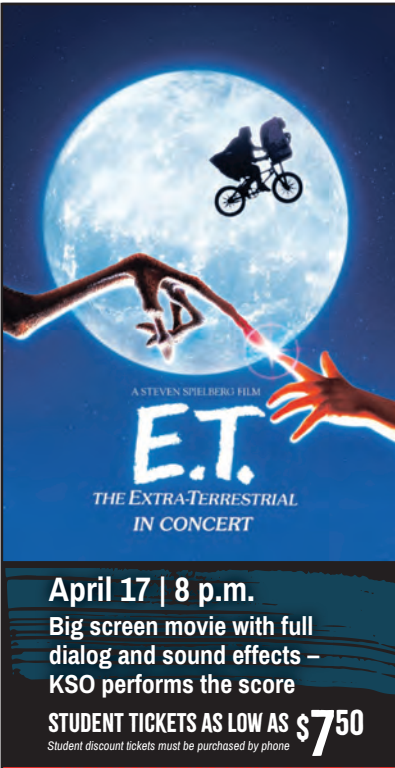
Princess-J'maria has participated in many activities such as the MyLead program, the Blue Lake International Tour Scholarship Program for Diversity, and the recruitment of middle school students to KAMSC. She has facilitated discussions in her school

about diversity and inclusion and is an advocate for change within her peer group. She said, "We all become better human beings, as well as more educated and wiser, when we experience different cultures."

Derea McCoy, Kalamazoo Central High School, was recognized with the Life EMS Social Justice Youth Award.

Derea is a compassionate young leader with a strong desire to help others in the medical field. Particularly interested in assisting those with physical and mental disabilities, she has participated in the Western Michigan University pipeline program as well the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk and Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma foundation. Derea has a passion for health awareness and works continuously to encourage all people to live healthier and more sustainable lives. Derea celebrates diversity and equality within our community, believing that all people deserve equal rights regardless of lifestyle choices. Derea says, "It doesn't matter what color people are or what their orientation is, they have a heart, so I am going to love and respect them like I want to be."

Derea fills time through (continued on page 21)



LENTEN SEASON EVENT
With the WMU Chorus and Kalamazoo Children's Chorus
BACH: ST. MATTHEW PASSION
April 3 | 7:30 p.m.

Featuring guest vocalists, we retell the epic tale of the passion of Christ in dramatic fashion



KALAMAZOO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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SOUNDS OF KALAMAZOO
June 20 | 8 p.m.

Celebrate Kalamazoo's rich musical talent as KSO welcomes world-class local favorite artists to the stage.

Featuring Red Sea Pedestrians, and Nashon Holloway

TICKETS KalamazooSymphony.com | 269.349.7759

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**



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For a better us.

Scholarships Available kzooyymca.org

KPS Students Honored with Kalamazoo City's 2020 Social Justice Awards

(continued from page 20)

her involvement in programs such as the American Red Cross Stocking Drive, Girls on the Run, March of Dimes Bread Lift, MLK Day of Service, homeless shelter food distribution, Kalamazoo Black Arts Festival, Salvation Army, Toys for Tots and the Boys and Girls Club of America.

Kearney Miller, Kalamazoo Central High School, was recognized with the Consumers Energy Social Justice Youth Award.

Kearney's commitment to our community is evident in her leadership addressing important societal issues. She is working to address the urgent problem of climate change and is a leader of the Kalamazoo Central Climate Advocates Club at KCHS. She is one of two of this year's award recipients to have been a featured speaker at the 2019 Day of Climate Action in Downtown Kalamazoo, a panelist at the PeaceJam Youth Leadership Conference, and a presenter at the Drawdown MI Climate Conference in Grand Rapids. Kearney has been instrumental in developing a partnership between Kalamazoo Public Schools, Consumers Energy, and the U.S. Green Building Council to turn KPS into a "Green District." Her work around climate change is viewed through the

lens of social justice. Kearney also serves as a Link Crew mentor; is a member of the KCHS Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America; and volunteers for community events including Safe Halloween, the tree lighting ceremony, the candy cane hunt, and the egg hunt.

Chanel Wilson, Loy Norrix High School, was recognized with the Schupan & Sons Social Justice Youth Award.

Chanel heads the financial department of DECA at Loy Norrix and won at the state championship for leadership and teamwork. She is an executive board member at Loy Norrix and a youth leader at her church. Chanel embraces diversity by challenging stereotypes and creating spaces for minority youth to engage in activities that historically have few people of color. Chanel engages in conferences and training to increase her understanding and appreciation of different cultural backgrounds so she can be a better advocate for those around her. Chanel is the only teenager of color on the steering committee for the Women's March 2020, a march whose mission is to "eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities."

LN Travel Club Opens World to Students

The Loy Norrix Travel Club will be exploring Sweden, Norway, and Denmark this summer. The tour is still enrolling travelers for the 10-day trip, which is open to students ages 14-21, teachers, and other adults interested in learning about culture, art, cuisine and history. Students can earn up to three free college credits. The club is organized by art teacher Cindy Van Lieu.

Van Lieu keeps a sign in

her art room that says, "Travel — the only thing you buy that makes you richer." That has been her inspiration for the travel club, which was founded in 2006, and has journeyed to locations such as Paris, London, Florence, China, Japan and Peru. Over spring break, the club will be visiting Paris.

Those interested in traveling with the club or sponsoring a student traveler can contact Van Lieu at vanlieuca@kalamazoopublicschools.net.

WINTER FUN AT THE KIA

Where art is for everyone



ART HOP

Friday, March 6, 5-8 pm, free

HANDS ON NIGHT IN THE ART SCHOOL

Art-making fun with "make and take" projects throughout the school, for nominal materials fees. Kids welcome if accompanied by adults. Free drawing projects.

ART DETECTIVES

Saturday, March 14, 10:30 am-12 pm

Free for kids 4-8 with an adult

INTERACTIVE GALLERY

A 'please touch' space for all ages with activity stations, art books, and more

Children through age 12 are always free!

ADMISSION: \$5 / Students \$2

HOURS: Open Tuesday - Sunday. Entrances and free parking lots on South and Lovell streets

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March 13-15, 2020

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

Fri. 3.13 • 9am-9pm – **Veterans & Seniors Day**
\$2 off for Seniors 65+ • Veterans FREE with Military ID!

Sat. 3.14 • 9am-9pm – **Family Day**
Free Face Painting & Make-and-Take Projects for Kids!

Sun. 3.15 • 11am-5pm

Enjoy a **Craft Beer!** • Explore **Everything** for Your Home Garden **Workshops & Seminars** • Free Activities **for Kids**

Tickets are \$10 at the Door • Kids 12 and under are **FREE**
Tickets are also available at area Harding's locations for \$8 and online at www.kalamazoohomeexpo.com

HOME & GARDEN EXPO

Don't Miss It!

KPS Grads in Action: Edward Callahan Returning to Kalamazoo for Concert

Kalamazoo Central graduate Edward Callahan (2006) is returning to Kalamazoo to perform a free classical piano concert at 5 p.m. April 4 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 120 Roberson St. The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's Kids In Tune will also perform. Callahan lives in New York City where he is a private music teacher and is the music director, pianist, and organist for several churches. Callahan attended Kalamazoo Public Schools. His musical influences in school included teachers Rivets Drummer and Daniel Stout. He played drums in marching, pep, and concert bands throughout middle school and high school for both men.

“They really, really believed in me,” Callahan said. “I was just so excited to have those teachers. I would eat lunch in the band room. I was one of those kids.”

Outside of school, however, his life revolved around piano. From the time he was 5, he knew he wanted to be a concert pianist. He took lessons with pianist Billie Netterwald, who taught him not only piano basics, but “about improvising and how music can change your emotions. She taught me how to connect with the piano. If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t have gotten into college.”

After graduating from KC, he enrolled in Western Michigan University, but a chance encounter with one of his musical heroes, conductor and composer Damian Sneed resulted in Callahan leaving WMU. For several years, he worked on Broadway and toured Italy with Sneed, before being recruited to attend Nyack College, a Christian college in New York.

Callahan earned a bachelor’s degree in piano performance in 2018. Last year, he released his first album, “Minor Keys,” which features works by Chopin and Schubert.

“I fell in love with these composers in college,” Callahan said. “I learned so much about expression by playing their music.” He hopes young people will come to the concert. When he was growing up, African American role models in the classical realm were few and far between. He didn’t realize there were other young black musicians with the same aspirations until he competed in the NAACP’s ACT-SO competition and traveled to the national finals. “I was finally able to see all of these other kids from all over the country playing Beethoven and Mozart,” he said. “It inspired me to keep going.” The concert is being presented by the Kalamazoo Public Library with support from Mt. Zion, Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, The Kalamazoo Promise, NAACP ACT-SO, Crescendo Academy of Music, the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival Education Department, the Helen Fox Gospel Music Center, and Kalamazoo Public Schools. The concert is being underwritten by WMUK.



Edward Callahan’s debut album is called “Minor Keys.” He will be performing selections from the album on April 4 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.



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Ashley Daneman - Individual Member
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 *My membership with the Arts Council has connected me to so many incredible people and resources of all kinds. Grant funding toward my creative projects, as well as grant panel feedback to sharpen my ideas, has been essential to my work, both individually and as an artist.*  *Photo credit: Grant Beachy*

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High School State Testing

This spring, juniors will once again be taking the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), which includes a college entrance exam (SAT), a career-readiness exam (WorkKeys), and Michigan science and social studies tests (M-STEP). On Tuesday, April 14, juniors will take the SAT plus essay. This is followed by the WorkKeys examination on Wednesday, April 15 and the M-STEP Science and Social Studies tests on Thursday, April 16. The SAT and WorkKeys tests are taken in the traditional paper-pencil format. The M-STEP Science and Social Studies tests are administered online.

Additionally, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) expects that students in grades 9 and 10 will take the PSAT test on Tuesday, April 14. Students in grade 12 are expected to attend in-

structional field trips on Tuesday, April 14. Testing students should report to school at the regular time on each testing date. Non-testing students should report as indicated in the chart below. All students will be released at the regular time.

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

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

Date	Assessments	Additional Information
Tuesday, April 14, 2020	SAT testing for grade 11 students (Grade 12 students who did not test previously are required to test.) PSAT testing for grade 9 and grade 10 students	Instructional field trips for grade 12 students — sign up in Counseling Office, students report at regular time
Wednesday, April 15, 2020	WorkKeys testing for grade 11 students (Grade 12 students who did not test previously are required to test.)	Instructional day: 12:00–2:20 p.m. non-testing students (grades 9, 10, & 12) report by 11:55 a.m. (No lunch served for non-testing students)
Thursday, April 16, 2020	M-STEP testing for grade 11 students (Grade 12 students who did not test previously are required to test.)	Instructional day: 11 a.m.–2:20 p.m. non-testing students (grades 9, 10, & 12) report by 10:55 a.m. (No lunch served for non-testing students)

Elementary State Testing

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

It is important that students are prepared to take the state assessments. If possible, please avoid removing students from school on the primary

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

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

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

Grade Levels	Tests/Subjects	Primary Testing Window	Make-Up Testing Window
5	ELA, math, science, & social studies	April 14–30, 2020	May 1–8, 2020
3 & 4	ELA & math	April 28–May 7, 2020	May 8–22, 2020

Middle School State Testing

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

For the second year now, students in grade 8 will take the PSAT 8 test in place of the M-STEP ELA and Math tests. This test is similar to the PSAT and SAT tests that students take in high school and will provide

schools and families with information regarding student progress towards college and career readiness. Because this is a timed and highly structured test, it is very important that all grade 8 students are in attendance for testing on Tuesday, April 14.

The table below lists the specific subjects tested and testing windows for each grade level. More detailed testing schedules will be shared by each building.

Date	Assessments	Additional Information
Tuesday, April 14, 2020	PSAT testing for grade 8 students (No testing and late arrival for students in grades 6 and 7)	Grade 8 students attend all day. Late start for students in grades 6 and 7 (refer to buildings for arrival times)
Wednesday, April 15, 2020	M-STEP science and social studies testing for grade 8 students (Make-up testing through May 8)	All students attend all day
April 28 – May 8, 2020	M-STEP ELA and math testing for grade 6 and 7 students (Make-up testing through May 22)	All students attend all day

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

The M-STEP and PSAT tests are curriculum-based exams, and the best preparation for students is to attend school regularly and

complete classwork and homework to the best of their abilities. Although teachers will spend some time familiarizing students with the item types and format of the test, we believe teaching our curriculum is the primary method to ensure student success.

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

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

The *Excelsior* is mailed to every home in the Kalamazoo Public Schools district each month, except July. It also can be found on the KPS website at <https://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/ExploreKPS/Excelsior.aspx>. There you can download printable PDFs and find sites where extra hard copies of the *Excelsior* can also be found around the community. If you have story suggestions for the *Excelsior*, contact Linda Mah at mahls@kalamazoopublicschools.net or (269) 337-0066.



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