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IMPORTANT DATES

Given the evolving nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, all dates and times are tentative. Check the KPS website and Facebook for the latest calendar information.

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, April 16 & 30, 2020
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

Board Advance Meeting
Tuesday, April 28, 2020
6:15 p.m.
1627 W. Main St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

April 24
Half Day
Grades 6-8

April 29 and 30
High School Conferences
Grades 9-12

April 30
Half Day
Middle School Conferences
Grades 6-8

Summer Camp Guide 2020

Pages 7-18

Number of Graduates Continues to Rise, Graduation Rates Show Effects of Long-Term Work

The Class of 2019 represented the largest graduating class in The Promise era for Kalamazoo Public Schools.

In a report to the KPS Board of Education in February, Cindy Green, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning services, and Johnny Edwards, director of secondary education, shared the latest graduation data from the Center for Education Performance Indicators.

The school district had 715 high school graduates in 2019, Green said, noting that increasing graduation rates is one of the board’s stated goals. The Class of 2005, which was the last class before the announcement of The Promise, saw 454 students.

“This is great news,” Green said. “We celebrate our students
(continued on page 3)



Kaylana Jones walks in the 2019 Kalamazoo Central graduation ceremony at Wings Event Center.

KPS Responds to COVID-19 Outbreak

On March 12, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered the closure of all K-12 school buildings to students through April 5 because of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Kalamazoo Public Schools will maintain its previously scheduled Spring Break from April 6 to 10, with students scheduled to return April 13.

KPS has instituted a number of programs and procedures to continue serving students and families.

● KPS has created an online Learning Hub, which has resources to help students remain engaged in learning during the extended closure. It has grade-appropriate materials and is intended to help
(continued on page 3)

Regional Enhancement Millage Renewal Facts

On Tuesday, May 5, 2020, in this election. This includes all voters in Kalamazoo Public Schools and all other districts in the county: Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Parchment, Portage, Schoolcraft, and Vicksburg.

With the passage of Proposal 1803, an unregistered elector (or a registered elector who has moved) has the following options:



1. Register to vote in person at a Secretary of State’s branch office, a designated voter registration agency, the voter’s county, city, or township clerk’s office or by mail no later than the 15th day prior to the election.
2. Register to vote during the 14 days prior to the election, including on Election Day,
(continued on page 5)

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

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

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You Count in the 2020 Census

I am an accountant.
I like numbers.
But, I understand that some people don't like numbers. Maybe it was having to drill your multiplication tables over and over that turned you off. Perhaps, you could never figure out why you had to solve for "X" in the first place. Maybe it drives you nuts to have to look for the one mistake in the column that is throwing off the entire total.

Still numbers are useful, and the federal government is embarking on some of the most useful tallying it does every 10 years – the U.S. Census.

By now you should have received your invitation to participate in the 2020 Census, in which the government will attempt to count every person living in the United States. You have three ways to respond: online, by mail or by phone.

The U.S. Census is so important, the founding fathers

mandated in the U.S. Constitution it be held regularly. It is more than a simple count. When those numbers are assembled, they help determine congressional representation for each state as well as federal funding for states and communities.

At stake is more than \$675 billion that goes toward schools, hospitals, fire departments, roads and other essential services. In terms of education, the census data help districts figure out where new schools are needed and where billions of dollars in state and federal funds will go to help pay for teachers, textbooks, technology and other expenses.

The Census provides the data that are used to determine how billions of dollars will be spent



Gary Start, Interim Superintendent

to help students and schools, including almost \$16 billion for Title I grants that help educational institutions serve more than 24 million students in low-income families and communities, more than \$12 billion for special education grants, along with funding for essential needs such as the national school lunch program, Head Start, and grants to support improving teacher quality.

It is essential that everyone participate in the Census to help provide an accurate picture of the needs of the community. The Census is easy to complete and should take no more than 10 minutes. Your responses are kept confidential – and the U.S. Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information and is authorized to use it only for statistical purposes.

The Census and its employees will not ask for your Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of political

parties, or for financial information such as credit card numbers. A person's citizenship will not be questioned on the 2020 Census.

People can expect to be asked:

- How many people are living or staying at your home on April 1, 2020. This will help count the country's population, and ensure that we count people only once.
- Whether your home is owned or rented. This will help produce statistics about homeownership and renters, which serves as economic indicator and helps in administering housing programs.
- About the sex of each person in the household. This helps generate statistics about males and females, which can help enforce regulations and policies against discrimination.
- About the age of each person in the household. These data support programs that serve age-specific groups, including children and seniors.
- About the race of each person in the household. This pro-

duces statistics which help federal agencies monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act.

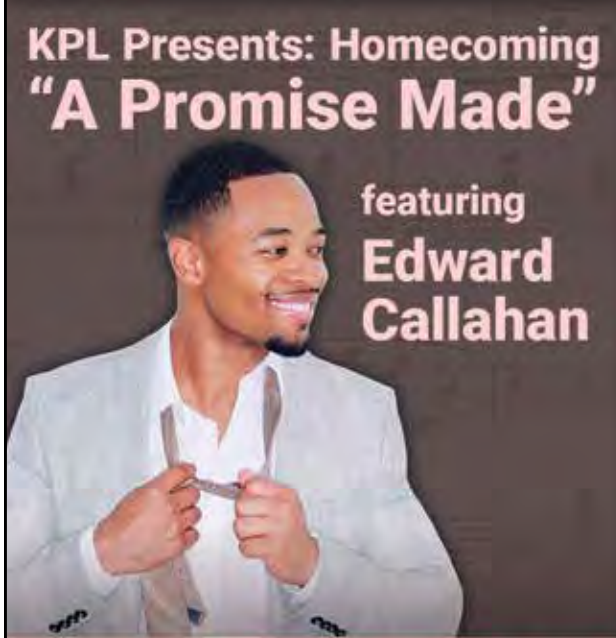
- About whether a person in the household is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. These responses help create statistics about this ethnic group and helps ensure compliance with anti-discrimination provisions.
- About the relationship of each person in the household to one central person. Relationship data are used to fund programs that support families, especially those households that qualify for assistance.

Whether or not you like numbers, I hope you can see how the numbers collected by the U.S. Census Bureau will help Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Public Schools. By participating in the Census, you help to ensure that you and your family are fairly and accurately represented and supported. Please take time to complete the U.S. Census, because you count.

Explore

KPL Presents: Homecoming
"A Promise Made"

featuring
Edward Callahan

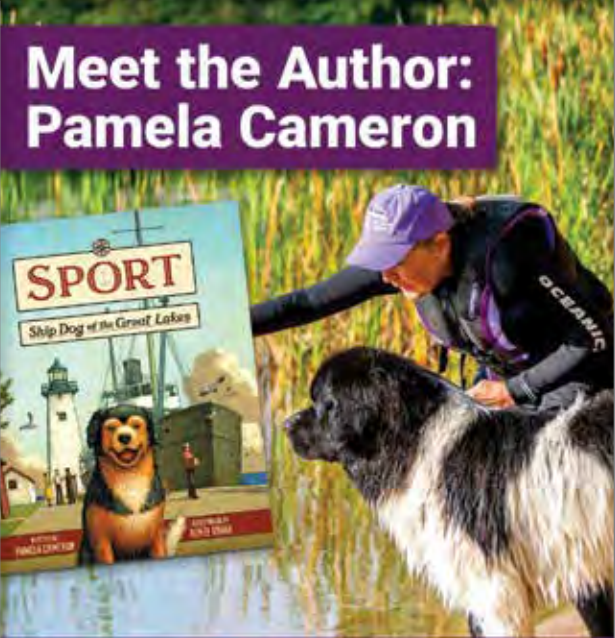


Saturday, April 4 | 5–7 pm
All Ages | Mt. Zion Baptist Church
120 Roberson St. | Kalamazoo

CEN • EAS • OSH • POW • WSQ

Discover

Meet the Author:
Pamela Cameron



Monday, April 6
3–4 pm | OSH | FAMILY

Kalamazoo Public Library
kpl.gov

Engage

BABY GRANDS

Featuring
Bryard Huggins



Saturday, April 18
2–3 pm | POW | Birth-to-6

CEN • EAS • OSH • POW • WSQ

KPS Responds to COVID-19 *(continued from page 1)*

students continue practicing skills learned in various content areas. It is not “homework” and will not be graded. The resources will be continually updated, so check the site often.

Link: <https://sites.google.com/kalamazoopublicschools.net/kpslearninghub/home>

To reach Teaching and Learning Services with questions about the Learning Hub call (269) 337-1680.

● Food is being distributed at 20 schools and four community sites through at least April 3. Food will be distributed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week in a “grab and go” format.

Meals are free to all children 18 years of age and younger and to persons up to age 26, who are enrolled in state-recognized educational programs for the mentally or physically disabled. No application or proof of income is required. Children do not need to be present for parents to pick up meals.

Food Distribution Sites / Times:

◆ 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — All KPS school buildings except

Greenwood, Indian Prairie and Winchell elementary schools, the Alternative Learning Program/ALP, and South Westnedge School.

◆ 11:30 a.m.-Noon — Interfaith, 1037 Interfaith Blvd.

◆ 11:30 a.m.-Noon — Eastside Neighborhood Association, 1301 E. Main St.

◆ 12:30-1 p.m. — Fox Ridge Apartments, 1320 Fox Ridge Dr.

◆ 12:30-1 p.m. New Village Park, 2500 St. Albans Way.

For more information, contact Chartwells/KPS Food Service: (269) 337-0458.

Other essential information:

● All KPS school buildings are closed (except for custodians). All programming and building rentals have been suspended. The KPS Administration Building, Community Education Center, and West Main Professional Development Center remain open — as of publication time.

● Kalamazoo Public Schools will pay hourly, 10-month employees during this period. Twelve-month employees will continue to work during the closure.

Number of Graduates Continues to Rise *(continued from page 1)*

for a job well done. Students are focused on their goals. There are plans for post-secondary education. Parents and guardians have more knowledge about working with students.

“Staff continue to work hard with research-based practices, learning more about how to make a positive difference and to care deeply about the students served.”

Green also praised the community for its continued support of the work being done in KPS and acknowledged the continued collaboration with The Kalamazoo Promise staff and administrators, who provide information, ideas and coaches to the district.

Edwards delved into the graduation rates and the three-year rolling averages. The four-year graduation rate for 2019 was 73.4 percent, which was the second highest four-year graduation rate under the 11 years of the most recent federal formula for calculating graduation rates.

Edwards also shared the three-year rolling average. Rolling averages are good for watching trends among gradu-

ation rates because they are more statistically stable, while year-to-year comparisons have greater fluctuations, he said.

When looking at the rolling three-year graduation rate for students who graduate in four years, the rate was 73.9 percent for last year. That is the eighth year of increases in that rate for the district.

Green also shared graduation rates for students who take five years to complete high school.

“It’s important that we recognize that children have different learning styles and need different time frames” to complete their work, she said. “It is far better to graduate students from high school in four to five years than to wait for some time when it gets harder for people to consider coming back.”

The graduation rate for the five-year cohort was 80.7 percent. That was the highest graduation rate for that group of students in 11 years, since the implementation of the new federal guidelines.

The slow, steady increases are positive signs for the dis-

trict, Green said.

“Many of the efforts in the system are becoming embedded and are making a difference for our students,” Green said. “It represents the significant work that continues in our district.”

Edwards said, “Raising graduates starts at birth. In order to get a graduate through the KPS system they have to come up through what we consider a stronger elementary program and middle school program. While these district rates are credited to the high schools, we understand it’s the work that happens below at the younger levels that helps develop our graduates.”

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Maple Street Coin Challenge Equals \$2,375 Donation for Loaves & Fishes

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts' second annual coin drive to benefit Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, the local food bank, was a great success. In December, students organized into six teams for the friendly competition, in which they were encouraged to donate their loose change over a three-week period.

The Maple Street PTSO offered a pizza party for the team who raised the most money. For any other teams raising at least

\$500, donut holes from a favorite local donut shop were provided.

Team Endeavour of sixth graders pulled out the win, raising more than \$700. Teams Resolve and Synergy each raised more than \$500. The community was the real winner as Maple Street contributed \$2,375 to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, which provides groceries to an average of 700 people a day. One of the KLF pantries is located at Maple Street.



Mandakini Brophy, development and communications coordinator for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, left, thanks Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts student representatives for the donation of \$2,375 from the annual Falcon Coin Challenge. Presenting the check to Brophy are, from second from left, Jackson Lam and David Jones of sixth-grade team Endeavor and Jayde Hayworth and Daisy Brady from the seventh-grade team Resolve.

Milwood Magnet School Snags CIS Middle School STEAM Fair Championship

From problem solving and spatial reasoning to drone flying, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Math, Science and Technology students demonstrated mastery of key math and science skills at the CIS Middle School STEAM Fair.

The fair, which was organized by the Kalamazoo Public Schools math department

and coordinated in conjunction with Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo, was held at Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts in January.

The winning Milwood team members were: Ja'Various Coleman, Khamyra George, Gabrielle Mays-VanLoo, Osdy Orta, Isai Santiago-Cruz, Kieara Virgil, Kamarionna Walker,

Te'Airra Walker, and Victoria Williams.

Teams from Milwood Magnet, Maple Street, and Linden Grove and Hillside middle schools participated in the two-part competition, which included sixth, seventh, and eighth graders.

In the Math-A-Lon, students demonstrated problem solving skills, spatial reasoning, and solved problems involving rates, ratios and percentages. The teams then tackled the engineering challenge in which they flew drones and had to land them on specific targets. The students then modified the drones to carry a payload to another location.



The Milwood Magnet School STEAM Fair team members pose with their trophies, from left, Osdy Orta, Ja'Various Coleman, Gabrielle Mays-VanLoo, Te'Airra Walker, Kamarionna Walker, Kieara Virgil, Khamyra George; front row: Victoria Williams; back row: Milwood Magnet Principal Mark Tobolski. Not pictured: Isai Santiago Acosta.

CAREER CONNECTION

HANDS-ON COLLEGE AND CAREER EXPLORATION

MAY 12 | 4-7 PM

Kalamazoo Valley Faculty
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Representatives

Kalamazoo Promise &
KalamazooRESA
Demos & Presentations

Student Success Services

Free and open to the public. Refreshments served.
Special Appearance by Genesis
Location:
Douglass Community Association
1000 W. Paterson St. | Kalamazoo

ESL Summer Literacy Kick-off Set for April 22 at Woods Lake

The Kalamazoo Public Schools ESL Program will hold its Kick-off to Summer Literacy event from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m April 22 at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet Center for the Arts.

Students will celebrate the themes of literacy and culture through singing, dancing, recitation of poetry and prose, and skits.

Families are invited to come share the talents of the students and to enjoy a meal as they learn about summer literacy programs.



Jean Bosco Tuyizere carried the flag of Rwanda during the celebration at the 2017 international students summer literacy kick-off celebration.

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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Regional Enhancement Millage Renewal Facts *(continued from page 1)*

by applying in person at your township clerk's office.

Any registered voter is eligible to obtain an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be requested from the city or township clerk where you reside.

In-person voting will be on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Find out where to vote: Michigan Voter Information Center at <https://mvi.sos.state.mi.us/>. Or contact the clerk's office in the city or township where you live:

- City of Kalamazoo (269) 337-8793
- Kalamazoo Twp. (269) 381-8080

- Oshtemo Twp. (269) 216-5224

- Texas Twp. (269) 375-1591

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is this a new millage or a millage increase?

A. Neither. This is a renewal. Taxpayers will be paying the same millage rate for this millage that they have paid for the past three years.

Q. What would be the impact to Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) if this millage question is defeated?

A. Kalamazoo Public Schools receives \$4.6 million annually from this millage. These funds are budgeted in the district's op-

erating budget. If these funds are eliminated, budget cuts would be inevitable.

Q. How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?

A. Since it is a renewal, it would not cause an increase in tax rates. Defeat of this proposal would result in a decrease in taxes of \$75 annually for the typical homeowner (for a home with a state equalized value of \$100,000).

Q. This is a millage assessed across all Kalamazoo County school districts in the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency (KRESA). Does KRESA keep the money?

A. The tax revenues are distributed by KRESA to the school districts and charter schools in the county, including KPS, on a per student basis. Each school district and charter school receives the same amount per student.

Q. How has the school funding situation changed since 2017?

A. Local school districts and charter schools are heavily reliant upon the State of Michigan for funding. In many respects, the state's funding of these entities has not improved since 2017. In fact, when considering inflation, our buying power is less.

LNHS Class of 1980 Planning 40th Reunion

The Loy Norrix High School Class of 1980 is planning a 40th class reunion at the Grille Room at The Moors Golf Club from 6 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, June 20. Members of the Class of 1980 are encouraged to visit the reunion Facebook page "Loy Norrix Class of 80 - 40 Years!" for ongoing

updates on the reunion plans and to make reservations for the reunion. Organizers are looking for classmates. Class members also are asked to spread the news about the reunion on social media and through other contacts. Questions can be directed to: loynorrix1980@gmail.com.



Bridget Flynn and Dana DeLuca, Class of 1980, Loy Norrix.



Steve Crawford and Kathy Klok, Loy Norrix Class of 1980.



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Students Honor African American Achievements During Black History Month Celebrations

Song, dance, recitation and decoration were among the ways that Kalamazoo Public Schools students celebrated Black History Month throughout February. Many buildings held special events for family members to come visit and see what students learned during the annual celebration of African American achievement and to acknowledge the role blacks have had on America's history.

Black History Month grew out of Negro History Week, which was championed by historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans.

Pictured are events from Lincoln International Studies School, Northeastern Elementary School, Northglade Montessori Magnet School, Washington Writers' Academy, and Woods Lake Elementary: A Center for the Arts.



The Obama cutline is: Northglade fourth grader Cali Woods was Michelle Obama in the school's wax museum.



The Washington Writers' Academy Heritage Dancers prepare to dance to "For Every Mountain" during the school's Black History Month celebration.



The Woods Lake Elementary tap dancers performed to "Old Town Road" during the school's Black History Month celebration.



Woods Lake Elementary students have an annual tradition of performing the poem "I Am the Black Child" during Black History Month.



The Northeastern Respect Academy Drill Team performed for the audience at the Black History Month celebration.



Northeastern Elementary School celebrated Black History Month today by honoring four community leaders: former KPS Assistant Superintendent Pat Coles-Chalmers; community advocate, judo expert, and KPS behavioral specialist Charles Parker; author and former KPS teacher Gail Rumph; and Pastor Jesse Herron of New Life Fellowship, who coordinates mentoring programs for KPS.



Kerri Grabic's second graders pose in front of their classroom door, which won the Lincoln International Studies School Black History Month door-decorating contest. The door told the story of Henry Box Brown, a slave who shipped himself to freedom. The students studied creative problem solving and created writing projects in small paper boxes as part of the project.



Lariya Morris, fifth grade, portrayed gymnast Gabby Douglas in the Northglade Montessori Black History Wax Museum.

SUMMER CAMP 2020

INSIDE:

5 Camp Facts..... 8

Types of Camps.....10

Picking a Camp.....14

Low-Cost Fun.....16



SUMMER CAMP 2020

Five camp facts

1. Camp is older than dirt. Started in 1861, the camp experience turned an impressive 150 years young in 2011. Getting kids out in nature or off on new adventures isn't a new idea, but one that has obviously been popular with kids and their parents since the good ol' days.

2. There is a camp for every budget. Whether you are considering day camps or overnight camps, there is a camp for every budget. Camps often offer special pricing or financial assistance, and some camp experiences qualify for tax credits or for payment with pre-tax dollars. Check out the ads for camps featured in this section, as many indicate that they have scholarships available. Another resource for information about finding camp scholarships can be found at the American Camp Association (ACA) website at www.acacamps.org/campers-families/planning-camp/preparing-camp/affording-camp.



3. It's a great way to try new things. Camp is a place to try new activities and hobbies. According to ACA research, 74 percent of campers reported that they tried new activities at camp that they were afraid to do at first. Those activities often leave lasting impressions. In the same survey, 63 percent of parents reported that their child continued new activities from camp after returning home. The beauty of many camps available in our area is that these experiences can last one or two weeks, so if it is not the child's idea of fun, then they aren't stuck doing it for a month at a time.



4. Brains stay engaged. Education reform and concern over summer learning loss have pushed academic achievement into the spotlight for summer camps. Research shows that participation in intentional programs, like camp, during summer months helps lessen summer learning loss. Because of the "hands-on" nature of camp, children who struggle in traditional education settings may find they do better at camp.

SUMMER CAMP 2020

5. You'll meet more than just new friends. Research shows that attending camp gives kids opportunities to practice being around and appreciating people with attitudes, values, and abilities different from their



own. It helps expand kids' worldview and teaches them important things about diversity, empathy and understanding. At the same time, camp is also a great way for children to meet and work with others who like the same things they do, whether it's rocketry or anime or archery. Kids can also develop relationships with trusted adults other than their parents and learn a useful skill: being able to negotiate on their own with an adult for what they need.

GET IN THE SWING WITH GOLF!

Kalamazoo Junior Golf Association provides affordable, quality golf experiences for kids of all ages

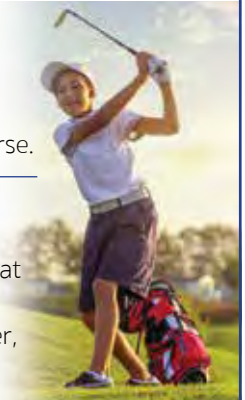


LEARN TO GOLF

Instructional session meets Tuesday mornings June 16-July 28 at Red Arrow Golf Course.

PLAY GOLF!

Play in some of our 32 events at 20 different area golf courses. Age groups include 12 & Under, 13-15 and 16-18.



Register online or get more info at www.kalamazoojunorgolf.org
(269) 447-1484



WHERE LEARNING IS WILDLY FUN

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publicmedianet.org

359 S Kalamazoo Mall, 3rd Floor
269.343.2211

Different types of camps to consider

There is no reason for summer boredom when there are so many different types of camps to choose from! The different types of camps to consider in choosing one that is right for your child include:



Traditional/General – Traditional/general camps offer a little bit of everything like team sports, swimming, boating, fishing, archery, performing arts, arts and crafts, music, dance, hiking, wilderness adventure, and rock climbing. Some of these camps can be resident camps, where the campers stay overnight for a week or for several. Others are day camps, which can last from 2-3 hours a day or all day.

Traditional/general camps also have different types of programming. Programs can be *structured*, where the schedule is prearranged; *semi-elective*, where the camper has some choice in activities; or *elective*, where the camper decides his or her entire schedule.



Arts – Arts camps can specialize in dance, music, performing arts, comedy, creative arts, technical theater, painting, and visual arts. Many are held in theaters, on college campuses, and at dance companies. The programs are normally exclusive to the art. Some camps are for children who already have experience and there may be auditions required.



Academic – Academic camps focus on specific areas of study designed to either improve grades or explore special topics, like the sciences. Some examples of what academic camps offer are: ESL, STEM, SAT Prep, foreign languages, tutoring, study skills, biology, computer gaming, general science, rocketry, robotics, and physics. The schedule is usually structured and can be rigorous. Many camps also have fun activities to give kids time to rest and play.



Sports Specialty – Sports specialty camps usually focus on one sport. There is extensive instruction and campers spend most of their time playing or learning about the sport. Some examples of sports specialties are football, soccer, baseball, basketball, volleyball, golf, and tennis.

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SUMMER 2020!

SUMMER CAMP 2020

Religious – Religious camps are predominantly Christian, Jewish, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, and Presbyterian. Some religious camps can be traditional/general camps, where they offer the same activities as a traditional camp with a focus on a specific religion. Other religious camps can be week-long day camps often called Vacation Bible School.



Community Service – Community service camps offer programs for kids to be involved in helping local communities. Some camps offer enrichment credits toward graduation. It is normally labor intensive and includes things like building houses, installing water systems, farming, engineering, animal care, and nature preservation.



Wilderness Adventure – Wilderness adventure camps are overnight and can last anywhere from a couple of days to a month or longer. They are usually in a forest or a mountainous area. Campers sleep in tents and sleeping bags. Some of the activities are backpacking, hiking, camping, rock climbing, white water rafting, survival skills training, canoe trips, and mountain biking.



Special Needs – Special needs is a broad term that is used to separate traditional and specialty camps from those that cater to kids with specific needs. A special need includes, but is not limited to, cancer, autism, physical disability, burn victims, grief/loss, and LGBTQ. Similar to traditional camps, these camps offer activities such as horseback riding, swimming, climbing, team sports, and arts and crafts. The camp may also offer education for kids and their families specific to the need. There may be group therapy sessions or one-on-one counseling. If the camp specializes in serving children who have a disease or physical disabilities, there are most likely nurses or doctors on site as well as medical facilities. Some camps have an approval process. This may mean filling out an application, providing medical documents, or speaking directly to their admissions personnel.

– Information provided by the National Camps Association



Spring Break & Summer Camps

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Branch has Action Packed Spring Break & Summer Vacation Offerings for PreSchoolers & School Age Children!

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• Specialty Skill Clinics

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Pre-Registration Required. Visit www.BranchGymnastics.com

Branch of Battle Creek
393 Helmer Rd North
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Branch of Kalamazoo
6712 Financial Parkway
(269) 544 - 3000

Summer Enrollment Begins in April




www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Summer Camp Guide 2020

EXCELSIOR

11

SUMMER CAMP 2020

AIR ZOO
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summer?

2020

**SUMMER
DAY CAMPS**

PRE-K - 12TH GRADE

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Brochures & Registration at

GirlScoutCamp.org

You don't have to be a Girl Scout
to sign up!

Kalamazoo
Nature Center
CAMP

**2020 Summer Camp
for Age 4 - Grade 12**

Register today!

NatureCenter.org/Camp
(269) 381-1574



SUMMER CAMP 2020

**Make it memorable.
Go to summer camp at**

WVAMU

wmich.edu/admissions/camps
Register today!

THE CIVIC Academy of Theatre Arts
A LIFETIME OF LEARNING
ACT • SING • DANCE • CREATE

2020 Summer Classes
enroll today online at KazooCivic.com

FINANCIAL AID is available for students of all ages!
FOLLOW US:    

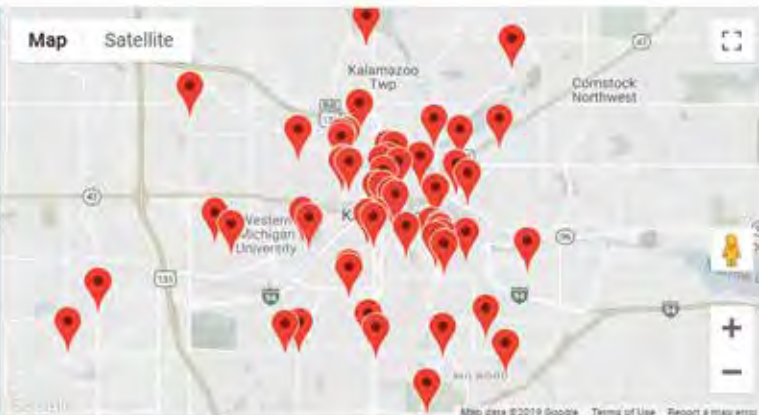
Learning doesn't end when school gets out in June. We want youth to continue having fun and learning this summer. Use our Program Finder and summer planners to connect to organizations across Kalamazoo County.

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAM FINDER

There are 63 programs in the Kalamazoo area. We're here to help you find a program that meets your needs.

Neighborhood
Age
Meals
Keywords

Map Satellite



Map data ©2019 Google Terms of Use Report a map error

www.kydnet.org/program-finder

KID network
Kalamazoo Youth Development

Find info on content, meals, and cost (many programs are free).

SUMMER CAMP 2020

Kids Summer

Improv Camps

 **CRAWLSPACE**
THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

AGE 4-6
JUNE 22-26
9AM-NOON

AGE 7-10
JULY 6-10
9AM-NOON

AGE 11-13
JULY 13-17
9AM-NOON

AGE 14-17
JULY 13-17
1PM-4PM

REGISTER:
crawlspacetheatre.com/summercamp

Picking a camp: Start early and ask questions

Soon that last school bell will ring and kids will be ready for summer. For parents and caregivers, however, the thought of summer's arrival can be stressful as they try to figure out the best ways to keep their kids active and engaged during the summer break.

One of the best ways to keep your kids from going stir-crazy (and making you crazy) is to sign them up for various camps throughout the summer. But with so many options and types of camps from residential to day camps, science to arts, academic to adventure, choosing the best camp for your child means starting early and asking the right questions.

1. Start now. Camps fill up quickly. April is the peak time for parents to sign their kids up for summer camps, so don't put off too long making your decisions. Also, some camps require health appraisal forms or deposits to secure a spot, so you need to plan ahead to ensure that you have taken the steps needed to reserve your child's spot in a camp.

2. Decide on the type of camp. Do you want your child's camp experience to be to learn new skills, develop self-confidence, increase their athletic ability or provide adventurous, age-appropriate activities?



As you narrow down the types of camps, be sure to include your child when finalizing the selection. Some children, just like adults, appreciate being made aware of or involved in the decisions that affect them.

CAMP • ADVENTURE CENTRE • FARM



PRETTY LAKE

1916

Adventures await at Pretty Lake

Free camp for children!

Ages 8-15

Hiring paid summer staff



Apply online at www.prettylakecamp.org

Applications are due by May 25, 2020.

269-375-1950 • summer@prettlakecamp.org



SUMMER CAMP 2020



3. Get recommendations. Ask other parents and caregivers for recommendations of summer camps that match your child's interests. You can often learn about the physical environment and the camp's daily operations, including things like noise level, type of

food served, and staff diversity, that could affect the quality of your child's camp experiences. It doesn't hurt to ask former campers about their experiences as well, and to share what you learn with your child.

4. Make a budget and stick to it. Summer camps can be expensive, so decide early how much you will set aside for your child's camp experiences. Make sure to find out if the camps you'd like them to attend offer scholarships or other financial aid, because many do. Don't let a camp's price tag keep you from considering it for your child; you might be surprised at what financial help is available.

5. Do your homework. As you narrow down different camps for your kids, make a list of any concerns and questions you may have for each camp. Camps' websites are a great place to learn about rules, procedures and special considerations for campers, including what to bring and what to leave at home. If you still have questions after reviewing the information, reach out to the camps. Camp directors will gladly talk to you and tell you how they can address your concerns. They have heard and been asked it all, so don't feel like any question is a "silly question."



SUMMER ART CAMPS+CLASSES

A summer full of 5-day camps begins June 15

- Half-day camps for ages 4-K
- Full- and half-day camps for grades 1-5
- Specialty camps for ages 11-16 in Mixed Media, and for ages 12-17 in Filmmaking

Summer Art Classes

8-week Saturday youth classes begin June 15
Adult classes begin the week of June 9
Scholarships for summer available: apply by May 5

SPRING BREAK CAMP: April 6-10 for grades 1-6
Spring art classes begin Saturday, April 18
6-week term means lowest tuition of the year
Spring scholarships for youth available: apply by March 17

Register online at kiarts.org, or by phone at 269/349-7774

KALAMAZOO INSTITUTE OF ARTS
314 S. Park St. / free parking

Van Buren Youth Camp

12370 45th Street, Bloomington, MI 49026

www.vbyc.org

269-521-3855



- Leadership opportunities for grades 6-12
- Traditional summer camp activities like:
Arts & Crafts, Nature, Folk Dancing,
Archery, Canoeing, Kayaking, Low Ropes
- One week, two week, and partial week sessions
- Scholarships available through the online application

see vbyc.org for dates and more details!



Co-ed, residential summer program for ages 6-18

GROWING LEADERS SINCE 1950



SUMMER CAMP 2020

No-cost, low-cost summer options



Looking for a little more fun this summer for your family and your children? Here's a list of no-cost and low-cost alternatives:

#OwnYourSummer

A great place to start your search for summer programs is through KYDNet (Kalamazoo Youth Development Network). KYDNet's #Own Your Summer program guide is a comprehensive list of youth-oriented programs in Kalamazoo County. You can find it online at www.kydnet.org/summer.

Super Rec

The City of Kalamazoo's Parks and Recreation department offers plenty of free fun through its Super Rec program. This free program for kids 7-12 years old is offered Monday through Friday from June 15–Aug. 14 at five sites around Kalamazoo. The program includes fun activities including weekly field trips to places like Kik pool, Continental Lanes and Rollerworld.

This is a drop-in program and spots go to the first 40 kids signed in each day. There is no registration to hold a spot, but you can sign up online each night after 6 p.m. to secure a spot for the next day.

The five Super Rec sites and their hours of operation are:

- Douglass Community Association, 1000 W. Paterson St., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- El Concilio Kalamazoo, 930 Lake St., 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- New Village Park, 2400 St. Albans Way, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Rockwell Park, 1106 Trimble Ave., 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Public Safety Station 5, corner of North Street and Douglas Avenue. City vans will pick up campers at 8:30 a.m. at the Oakwood Neighborhood Association, 3320 Laird Ave., and transport them to Station 5. Campers will be returned to Oakwood at 4 p.m.

For more information, visit www.kzooparks.org or call (269) 337-8191.

SUMMER CAMP 2020

June Jubilee

June Jubilee, held the first weekend in June (June 5-6 this year) is the official kick-off to summer in Kalamazoo. This weekend features many different events including the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Fair, Art on the Mall, concert in the park, the Kalamazoo Do-Dah Parade and the launch of Kalamazoo Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge. Plan to spend several hours downtown to take it all in.

Outdoor Movies

Bring a blanket and some chairs and catch a movie outdoors. Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation's Summer Cinema program hosts a slate of movie showings at parks throughout the city. Portage Parks and Recreation does the same at Celery Flats on select Friday nights.

The schedules for this summer are:

Kalamazoo

As of press time, Kalamazoo's movie schedule and locations had not been confirmed, but the dates of the shows will be:

- June 12 and 26
- July 10 and 24
- August 7 and 21.

All movies run from 6-10 p.m.

Visit www.kzoooparks.org or call (269) 337-8191 to get a complete schedule.

Portage

All movies will be shown at Celery Flats, 7328 Garden Lane.

- June 12, 9-11 p.m., *Frozen II*
- July 10, 9-11 p.m., *Jumanji: The Next Level*
- July 1, 7-11 p.m., *Detective Pikachu*
- August 7, 7-11 p.m., Public Safety Movie Night featuring *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*
- August 21, 9-11 p.m., *Onward*

For more information on the Portage movies in the park visit portagemi.gov/207/Parks-Recreation or call (269) 329-4522.

Hands-on Happenings

Not only does the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 N. Rose St., have free admission, it also offers weekly Hands-On Happenings activities during the summer focused around its summer exhibits.

In addition, the museum will hold a special June-teenth Celebration of Freedom from 1-4 p.m. June 20.



The museum is open 9 a.m.-5p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information visit www.kalamazoomuseum.org or call (269) 373-7990.

Hike Our Preserves (HOP)

The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is challenging kids to Hike Our Preserves (HOP) this summer. Registration is \$7 per person and includes a free hiking stick (if you want one), a medallion for each HOP preserve you visit, and a free prize from Jr. Rangerland for the first 50 hikers to visit all 10 preserves! For more information visit www.swmlc.org/hop/ or call (269) 324-1600.

Learn About Fishing

Not only can you learn about fish and feed them at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery at 34270 County Road 652 in Mattawan, but there are also trails to hike on the grounds. The visitor's center features information on a variety of fish species, their life cycles and habitats and how to protect and conserve Michigan's lakes, rivers and streams. Each summer, the hatchery hosts a free Hook, Line and Sinker Class, which teaches kids the basics of fishing. For more information, call (269) 668-2876 or visit www.michigan.gov/dnr.



Camp Kzoo

Nine weeks of field trips, activities, & fun!

Who	Youth, 5 years old & completed full day kindergarten - 12 years old
When	June 15 - Aug. 14 (no camp July 3) Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm
Where	Mayors' Riverfront Park & Youth Development Center
Cost	City resident: \$130-\$140 Non-resident: \$150-\$160

Scholarships are available for City residents through Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation.



Learn more at
www.kzoooparks.org

DESIGN STREET

Art Classes for All Ages "Curious & Serious"

Summer Art Camps for All Ages,
Teen /Adult Classes in Drawing,
Painting, Glass Mosaic, & More!

Non-Profit Art Education Studio
Downtown Plainwell
DesignStreetPlainwell.com

SUMMER CAMP 2020

Take in a Concert

Grab a blanket, chairs and a picnic and enjoy the numerous free family-friendly outdoor summer concerts in the area:

- **Concerts in the Park**, a program of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, offers concerts in various parks around the Kalamazoo area. To see a schedule, visit www.kalamazooarts.org/concerts-in-the-park or call (269) 342-5059.

- **Kindleberger Park Summer Concerts** offer shows at 6:30 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.parchment.org/kindleberger-park/ for a schedule.

- **Portage Parks and Recreation** has concerts at the Overlander Bandshell, 7800 Shaver Road, on Thursday evenings in the summer. You can see the concert lineup at www.portagemi.gov/207/Parks-Recreation.



Join a Reading Program

Kalamazoo Public Library's summer reading program always has a fun theme and rewards for the number of books read. To find out this year's theme and when and how to register, visit www.kpl.gov.

New Genesis Success Academy

SUMMER CAMP 2020



JUNE 22 – AUGUST 11

Arts • Dance • Games • Academic Enrichment
Sports • Activities • Creative Writing
Computer Coding and much more!

9 am – 4 pm • Monday thru Friday

Serving children entering 1st–7th grade
Early & late care available • Breakfast & Lunch provided

\$50 registration fee – Camp cost varies

Early-bird payment plans • DHS payments accepted
Limited partial scholarships available

**Call (269) 343-7023
or Visit www.newgenesiscamp.org**

Public Media Network 2020 Summer Camps

www.publicmedianet.org/youth-media-camps

Ages 8-14 - Scholarships Available

- June 15-19
- June 22-26
- July 13-17
- July 20-24
- July 27-31
- Aug 3-7
- Aug 10-14
- Aug 17-24

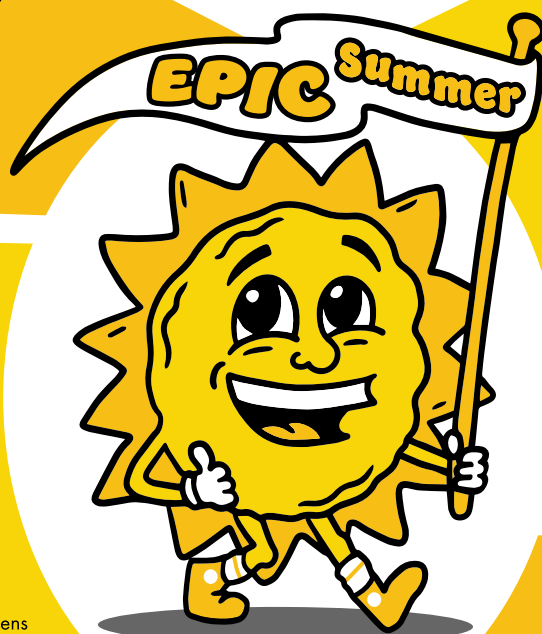
Wellspring/Cori Terry and Dancers – Summer at Wellspring 2020

www.wellspringdanceacademy.squarespace.com/summer-camps

Ages 3-17 - Scholarships Available

- **Epic Broadway! Musical Theater Camp**
- June 22-26 | 9am - 4pm
- Ages 13-17
- **Dancing out of this World: Creativity Camp**
- July 6-10 | 9am - 12pm
- Ages 7-11
- **Modern Dance Youth Intensive**
- July 13-17 | 9am - 12pm
- Ages 12+
- **True Colors: Creativity Camp**
- July 27-31 | 9am - 12pm
- Ages 3-6

March 16th
Registration Opens
June 1st
Scholarship Deadline



**Featuring
Summer Programs
from a variety of arts disciplines
for ages 3 and up!**

359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Downtown Kalamazoo

Crescendo Academy of Music 2020 Summer

www.crescendoacademy.com/instruction/summer-programs

Ages 0 - Adult - Scholarships Available

- **Epic Broadway! Musical Theater Camp**
- June 22-26 | 9am - 4pm
- Ages 13-17
- **Music Together Classes**
- June 22 - July 31 | Weekly Class Meetings; Times Vary
- Ages 0-5
- **Community Voices**
- June 25 - August 13 | Thursdays: 3pm - 4pm
- Teens - Adults with intellectual disabilities
- **Masterclasses, Workshops, Special Classes**
- Dates TBA

The Gilmore Piano Camps at Sherman Lake YMCA

www.thegilmore.org/education/piano-camp/

Ages 7-16 - Scholarships Available

- **Overnight Camp**
- June 21-26
- Ages 8-16
- **Day Piano camp**
- June 21-26
- Ages 7-12

Milwood Student Takes Karate Medals in Italian Tournament

Two years ago, at the Milwood Elementary Family Fitness Fun Night, McKayla Morgan's friend got free passes to try Valor Martial Arts.

So McKayla went with her friend to try it.

At this year's Family Fitness Fun Night, McKayla was honored at the school for just returning from a trip to Italy, where she earned medals at the World Karate Martial Arts Organization World Cup, which drew athletes of all ages from around the world. She traveled there with a Valor team that also included Linden Grove student Jaidyn Intgroen, who has been practicing martial arts for three years. McKayla earned a second-place medal in kumite (or sparring) and a third-place medal in kata

(which is like a self-defense routine).

"I got second place in sparring but I got kicked in the face by my friend during the match," McKayla said. "It was fun — well not the kicked in the face part."

But that confidence wasn't necessarily there on her first lesson. When she walked into Valor, she says she was "really scared" to go to the mat and to meet the sensi, Nick Intgroen.

"But it was pretty fun," she said. "We started with high blocks and low blocks and next we were doing kicks. When I went for the second time, I really started liking it."

Mom April Morgan, who is a teacher at Milwood, said McK-



McKayla Morgan Was Inspired to Try the Sport at School's Family Fitness Night

McKayla Morgan demonstrates her kata for judges in Italy.

ayla tried lots of different sports before from gymnastics to dance, but karate seemed to click in a way those other sports failed to. "It certainly wasn't what I was expecting," Morgan said.

McKayla's first belt in shoto-kan karate came pretty easily.

She's now up to a half green belt — between green and blue. Next comes blue, purple, first and second brown and then black.

"I love how our sensi pushes us to our limits and never gives up on us," she said. "I'm going to keep doing this until I can't. I'm

determined to get my black belt."

McKayla said she prefers the katas to sparring. The katas are a series of practiced movements that help the athletes build muscle memory and to move smoothly through the motions needed when they are sparring.

The fifth grader said she likes karate because it makes her feel more capable, whether it's facing aggressive opponents or older students in sparring. The tournament in Italy made her more confident in more than just her physical skills.

"I figured out that no matter what tournament I'm doing, I can always make friends even if we don't speak the same language," McKayla said. "And I can always fight against them and do my best."

MI VOICE COUNTS

Count your family in the 2020 Census

Census data brings funding back to Michigan for:

- Medicare + Medicaid
- SNAP
- Roads, Bridges, and Highways
- Head Start + Special Education
- Housing Vouchers
- Children's Healthcare (CHIP)
- Foster Care
- Community Health Programs
- And more!



The Census will not ask for your:

- Social Security number
- Citizenship Status
- Banking Information
- Voting Record
- Education/school history
- Income

The Census will not share info with:

- Any law enforcement agency
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Landlords
- Banks

m-n-a
Michigan Non-Profit Association

More info at:
changethestory.org/census-2020/

United Way
United Way of the
Butte Creek and
Kalamazoo Region
(269) 333-3333

Take the Census Online

my2020census.gov/

Computers and Assistance Available at:

- Disability Network Southwest Michigan
- El Concilio
- Eastside Neighborhood Association
- Edison Neighborhood Association
- Kalamazoo Public Library (Any Branch)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Ministry with Community
- Mothers of Hope
- Northside Association for Community Development
- Ecumenical Senior Center
- Portage Public Library
- Waldo Library (WMU)
- YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo
- Young Kings and Queens, Inc.
- Vine Neighborhood Association

Artists' Corner

Kalamazoo Central High School art teacher Julie LaBudda shared works by three talented KC artists this month: senior Stephanie Streeter, sophomore Anaiya Wilson, and senior Clara Smith.



Clara Smith explores visual nostalgia with a collage that includes a camera around the girl's neck, which represents her father's camera that was used to take photos during her childhood.



Stephanie Streeter's piece focuses on mental illness and how society is blind to the fact that it's a physical ailment that affects many.



Anaiya Wilson often mixes black backgrounds with splashes of color to represent her inner beauty shining in the darkness of her mental health. The uplifting colors of the planet is an expression of self love.

Chef Shaun • KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Crunchy Rainbow Thai Peanut Chicken Wraps

Hello, Kalamazoo! The fresh spring air calls for some light but spicy fare. Please try this delicious wrap. You can experiment with different proteins and even some veggies from local farms. Shredded kale would be a great green option to add crunch. Serve with a soup for a delicious, complete meal. Please enjoy with family and friends! Best regards, Chef Shaun



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

Ingredients

For the dressing:

- 1/4 cup creamy natural peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons gluten-free soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon ginger, freshly grated
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 2-3 tablespoons warm water to thin dressing
- Optional: few dashes of red pepper flakes OR a few dashes of hot sauce

For the wraps:

- 2 jalapeno tortillas, large burrito size
- 2 large carrots, shredded
- 1 red bell pepper, julienned
- 3/4 cup red cabbage, shredded
- 2 cups baby spinach
- 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
- 1/4 cup green onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons roasted peanuts, chopped
- 1 pound grilled or baked chicken breast, sliced or diced

Instructions

1. Make dressing. In a small bowl, mix peanut butter, soy sauce, rice wine vinegar, ginger, honey and warm water until well combined and the consistency of a dressing. Add red pepper flakes or a little hot sauce for desired heat. Set aside.
2. Make wraps. Evenly divide carrots, red bell pepper, red cabbage, spinach, cilantro, green onion, peanuts and chicken breast between two large tortillas.
3. Drizzle 1/2 of your dressing on each wrap before rolling them up. Carefully tuck in the sides of each wrap as you roll ingredients inside. Secure wraps with a toothpick before cutting in half. Serve with extra peanut sauce/dressing.
4. Wrap in plastic wrap if you are serving later. Keeps well in the fridge for 3 to 4 days.

Servings: 4

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.

Partners in Housing Transition Presents

Spring Sing

Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 7pm

St Luke's Episcopal Church
247 West Lovell

Proceeds Donated to Purchase Beds for Formerly Homeless Families

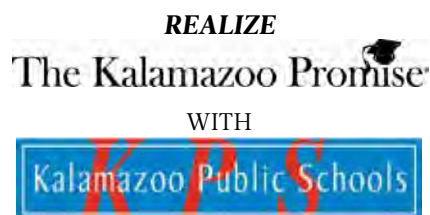
Loy Norrix Master Singers

Loy Norrix Advanced Mixed Chorus

St. Luke's Adult Choir

Kalamazoo SoundBuilders

Admission at the Door
\$10 Adult • \$5 Student
Donate a New Bath Towel for \$5 Discount



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 1/2 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

Spring 2020: April 14 – June 4, 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 5:30–7:00 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 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.

Community Site	Address	Phone Number
Boys & Girls Club	915 Lake St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001	(269) 349-4485
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
Stones/Christian Life Center	1225 W. Paterson, Kalamazoo, MI 49007	(269) 343-7023
Threads Church	2031 E. Cork St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001	(269) 327-0445

Kalamazoo Central Wins \$10,000 in the Lexus Eco Challenge

A team of 12 students from Kalamazoo Central High School, the Kalamazoo Central Climate Advocates, is one of eight teams in the nation to win \$10,000 in the Lexus Eco Challenge.

The Lexus Eco Challenge, designed by Lexus and Scholastic in support of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda, is a nationwide education program and contest about the environment. It encourages middle and high school students to develop and implement environmental programs that positively impact their communities.

The KC Climate Advocates competed in the contest's Air and Climate category. Support-

ed by their advisor, teacher Josh Gottlieb, the students focused on efforts to make Kalamazoo Public Schools a "greener" district.

The students formed a partnership between Kalamazoo Public Schools, the U.S. Green Building Council, and Consumers Energy. The first step will be to have Consumers Energy "benchmark" the buildings in the district to identify opportunities for improvement. "After the students receive the data about the KPS high schools, the U.S. Green Building Council will bring in experts to mentor our students as they formulate proposed recommendations," Gottlieb said.

Kalamazoo Central Princi-

pal Valerie Boggan said, "I am very proud of our students. They accepted the challenge by taking a stand and proving that a small group can bring big changes. They have already raised aware-

ness in our school and educated others in our community about climate issues."

The winning teams from the first-round of challenge are now invited to participate in the Final

Challenge for a chance to win one of two grand prizes of \$30,000 in grants and scholarships. Eight first-place prizes of \$15,000 in grants and scholarships will also be awarded.



Kalamazoo Central Climate Advocates won \$10,000 in the Lexus Eco Challenge. Pictured, from left, advisor Josh Gottlieb, Nora Schwartz, Owen Hoover, Natalie Gross, Chloe Carlson, Margaret Lekan, Kendal Vandam, Kevin Wesel, Miles Lekan, Kearney Miller, and Kalamazoo Central Principal Valerie Boggan.



In schools to help kids stay in school.

Are you a positive role model for our youth and passionate about student success?

Join our team as a Youth Development Coach!

Together, we can surround kids with the support they need to keep moving forward.
Visit: ciskalamazoo.org/careers

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

KPS Grads in Action: EnRico Montalvo Takes His Learning Abroad

EnRico Montalvo graduated from Loy Norrix High School in 2011. This fall he will complete a graduate degree in sport and exercise physiology at the University of Roehampton in London, after which he hopes to stay in Europe and to break into elite performance coaching.

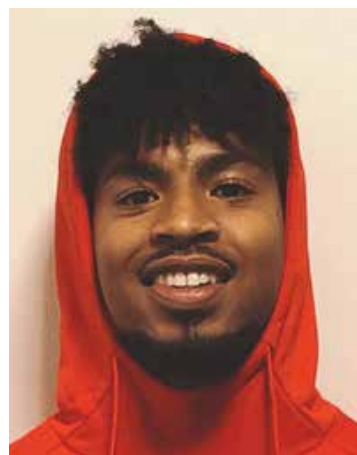
Tell us a little about your background.

I grew up in the Milwood neighborhood. I attended Greenwood Elementary School preschool, Milwood Elementary, Milwood Middle School, and Loy Norrix High School. I think

growing up in these environments helped to develop my ability to connect with people from different socioeconomic backgrounds other than my own.

Tell us about any teachers or school-related activities that had a special impact on you.

A couple of teachers that positively influenced my interest in Spanish were Mina French and Christina Holmes at Loy Norrix. The energy that they brought to the class made learning fun. In terms of soccer, Matt McCullough was passionate about the sport, and I think that



EnRico Montalvo

passion resonated with me. I enjoyed the challenge of constantly trying to improve. I met two of my best friends through that program. I was also able to make friends with kids from Germany, Haiti and Ecuador. I was amazed at how people from other places shared the interest in the game.

Did you use The Promise to attend Western Michigan University?

I attended KPS from kindergarten, so I was able to use 100 percent of The Kalamazoo Promise. I majored in exercise science and Spanish.

Talk about your study abroad experience.

I hadn't considered study abroad until an advisory meeting with Dr. Robert Felkel toward the end of my academic career at WMU. The experience really helped to shape my outlook on life.

I received the Benjamin A. Gilman international scholarship for my study in South America. From a language acquisition perspective, cultural immersion is the best way to learn. It takes the learning out of the classroom and into everyday life. Study abroad develops your ability to problem solve, adapt to new surroundings, and work with different populations.

Talk about your decision to pursue a graduate degree in England.



Montalvo works with a student as a performance coach.

I was not entirely sure what sort of program I wanted to enter but I knew I wanted to obtain a master's. I didn't even consider studying in the U.K. until I went to a graduate school fair at WMU. A program called Across the Pond had a booth and they told me that the tuition costs are often cheaper and GRE scores aren't required for admission. I am currently studying for a degree in sport and exercise physiology at the University of Roehampton in London. I chose this university because they have an official partnership with Crystal Palace Football Club, a team that plays in the top tier of professional soccer in the U.K.

Share more details about your work with Crystal Palace.

I never envisioned myself commuting to a Premier League stadium/training ground for work. I currently work as a health and well-being intern in the charity department called the Palace for Life Foundation. The foundation has a program called Healthy Eagles which allows me to deliver health workshops to kids and families in south London. It's rewarding to have a positive impact on people's health. Off the clock, I volunteer as a performance coach for one of the development programs for 18/19 year-olds from the United States.

What advice do you have for younger students in terms of find-

ing a passion and then finding a way to make a career out of it?

I would say identify what you are good at and look into something related to what you enjoy. For example, you may enjoy music, but you might not be very musically talented. Look into careers that are involved with music production or management. The point is that you want to find a career path that speaks to your passion. You want work to feel like a hobby instead of work. If you're having trouble figuring out what path you want to take, try volunteering in that field. Most professionals are open to having students shadow, because they were once curious students too. It's a great way to get hands-on experience. You may decide to continue in that direction. It also allows you to say, "You know what, I didn't really enjoy that. I'm going to try something else."

Anything else you'd like to add?

I'd like to tell students that it's OK to not know what you want to do yet. I think high school students feel pressured to have all the answers. That can be overwhelming for teenagers. Don't be afraid to fail. Try to aim as high as you can even if you are anxious about an undesired outcome. Anyone who has ever been successful has probably failed a few times. The most important part is to never stop trying.



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Journeys is a free program where grieving children & teens Laugh, cry, share, remember, sing, belong, and heal.



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KPS Secondary Art Show Reception Slated for April 17

Middle school and high school artists will show off their best work from the past year at the KPS Secondary Art Show on April 17.

The opening reception for the exhibition will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at the KPS Administration Building, 1220 Howard St. The show will remain up and open to the public during business hours through May 19.

The annual exhibition features 2D and 3D works by sixth-through 12th-grade students from across the district. Guests

can see examples of collage, photographs, drawings, paintings, sculpture and other media at the show, which usually features several hundred works.

In addition to providing insight into the art principles the students study throughout the

year, the show gives the students an opportunity to learn about the process of exhibiting and sharing their works with the public.

The reception is free and open to the public and includes refreshments and entertainment.



Kalamazoo Central senior Mariah Underwood uses the grid process to enlarge and paint a portrait of her late papa.



CREATE. CONNECT. ACCESS.

Become a member today!



Student memberships now available, learn more at:
KalamazooArts.org/membership



Welcome to our new educational institution member,
Kalamazoo Public Schools!

SPRING BREAK

APRIL 6 – 10 | 1 – 4 p.m.

NO MISSING PIECES

Crafts and activities each day taken from a different picture book explore what it looks like to be included.



APRIL 6
The Invisible Boy



APRIL 7
Beautiful Hands



APRIL 8
The Proudest Blue



APRIL 9
I Am Enough



APRIL 10
The Big Umbrella

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

 Accessible environment. 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

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**
Museum
269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370
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UPCOMING DATES

APRIL 14, 2020	9:30 AM -12:30 PM
APRIL 23, 2020	5:30-8:30 PM
MAY 5, 2020	9:30 AM-12:30 PM
MAY 21, 2020	5:30-12:30 PM

Bethany Christian Services
6687 Seeco Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009