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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

TUESDAY, Sept. 8 & 22, 2020

(Note: Different day of the week)
7 p.m.

Meetings will be held virtually and can be found on <https://www.publicmedianet.org/program/kalamazoo-public-schools>

For more information, call
(269) 337-0100

First Day of School

Aug. 31
Half Day

First Full Day of School

Sept. 1

Labor Day Weekend

Sept. 4-7
No School

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Remember the Basics: Culture Coaches Offer Tips for Start of the New Year

Heather Misner knows that online learning is difficult for students and parents.

"It was a struggle in my home this spring — and my children live with two educators," she said. "I was setting Alexa to remind the kids to brush their teeth. I tried to create a schedule and that lasted about a week, and I had to realize I wouldn't be able to structure every minute of every day."

Misner and Shannon Parlato, who are both moms with school-aged children, are two of the culture climate coaches working with teachers and parents to try to help them manage

the online learning environment for the 2020-21 school year, which begins Aug. 31.

They wish they had easy answers to all of the challenges facing families, but there aren't any. There are so many unknowns for parents and teachers alike, they said. But, there are some suggestions that they can offer to help parents and students have a successful launch to the school year.

First, maintain open communication with your students, who may have questions about the pandemic and how it is affecting the school year.

"If they're really young, just stick with the facts, that



Heather Misner



Shannon Parlato

yes there is COVID and this is what we're going to do to stay safe," Parlato said. "You're safe at home."

Parents have different perspectives on the pandemic, but remaining positive in front of your children and how you communicate with them is going

to impact how they feel, Misner said. She reiterated that it's important to let children know that their safety is the primary concern and "that everyone wants them back in school as soon as it is safe."

As parents approach the new school year, it's important to start with some basic strategies that are important for the beginning of any school year: establish some routines and structures, such as reasonable bedtime routines; talking about appropriate behavior and classroom expectations; setting school schedules — that includes

(continued on page 15)

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Special graduation edition: See inside for more photos, lists of graduates, and selected student stories.



Jaylah Lewis, Loy Norrix



Janessa Brown, Kalamazoo Central



Ja'Quari Hughes, Phoenix



Matthew Bau, Kalamazoo Central

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First Day of School Is a Time to Celebrate — Even in Challenging Times

The start of school is usually filled with so many traditions and rituals: ice-cream socials, orientation, open houses, meet and greets, first day of school pictures in new clothes and shoes with cute lunch boxes, backpacks and pencil cases, and so much more. For older students, it's a time to come together and talk about summer adventures, budding romances, and new discoveries.

The start of school marks an important milestone in the lives of all students — it's the start of a new year, new relationships, new learning, new insights into self-discovery. The start of school is something educators look forward to as well — tidying up their rooms, putting up new borders and background paper on bulletin boards, posting new classroom rules and the names of new students by the organizer cubbies, displaying new books, and sharing a



Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri, Superintendent, Kalamazoo Public Schools

renewed sense of wanting to do things even better than last year.

Unfortunately, this year, COVID-19 has really put a cramp in everyone's style. With KPS starting the school year with remote and virtual learning, the first day and beginning of school traditions are taking a hit. That is just heartbreaking to see, be-

“...with remote and virtual learning, the first day and beginning of school traditions are taking a hit.”

cause these little gestures and rituals mean so much to so many people. I know how much they meant to me as a student and then as a teacher and principal.

Let's band together and not let COVID-19 take away all the fun and joy of the start of school. Parents/guardians, let's still take those first day of school pictures, let's still swing

by grandma and grandpa's to show off that new outfit (even if through the window), let's still get that cute pencil case and those colorful folders. The more we normalize and celebrate the start of school, the easier and more exciting it'll be for our students to get back in the groove of learning.

Rituals matter: a set and

“The more we normalize and celebrate the start of school, the easier and more exciting it'll be for our students to get back in the groove of learning.”

reasonable bedtime, a set wake-up time, getting ready for school (albeit attending virtually), designated play time, lunch time, story-time. Tidying up the study area every evening in order to return to an inviting space the next morning. Every step taken towards creating structure, routine, and ritual will help our learners get the most out of learning.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful start of the new school year. It'll be unlike any other school year you've ever experienced in the past, and hopefully unlike anything you'll ever have to experience in the future. It will be different, but it doesn't have to be any less full of fun, adventure, new knowledge, new relationships, and a new you.

Happy New School Year 2020-2021!!

All the best,
Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri



Looking for Homework Help?

KPL offers many educational resources for teachers, students of all ages, and their caregivers that can be accessed from home.

Please visit
kpl.gov/homeworkhelp
to learn more.



Kalamazoo Public Library
kpl.gov

Aaron Dickason II: Running a Race on a Path Toward Excellence

Chubby but athletic.

That's how Aaron Dickason II describes himself as a youngster. It's hard to envision that now when looking at the lean, muscular track star taking another hurdle with a determined look on his face.

He's taking that drive and determination to Michigan State University this fall, where the hurdler and sprinter has earned an athletic scholarship for track and field. He plans to major in computer science.

He started running in sixth grade, inspired by his father Aaron Dickason Sr., who ran track for what is now University of Detroit, Mercy.

"I definitely wanted to continue the legacy. My dad ran in college, and he was always telling me stories about how he ran track," Aaron said. "I was chubby but athletic and decided to go out and run with the track team. I made it to the Junior Olympics.

"The AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) meets were definitely super exciting. It was all of the top kids in the state. It was just really competitive. I wasn't doing hurdles in sixth grade, but I ran the 100 and all of the kids were taller than me, but I still made the Top 8 in the Junior Olympics."

He excelled in track throughout middle school, especially when he began running hurdles, but when it came time to make the transition to high school, sports and socializing took a toll on his grades.

"There were just a lot more kids and a lot more distractions," he said. "I had to flip a switch. My mom and dad, Keshia and Aaron Dickason motivated me, but it had to really come down to me being motivated. I wasn't about the low grades. The summer after my freshman year, I thought about my future and where I wanted to be. The low grades weren't going to cut it."

Dickason, who also played basketball for four years at KC and is a member of the Grand Rapids Fire Track Club, built a reputation as much more than an athlete. At Central, he impressed the administration with his maturity and social involvement.

He was a member of the National Honor Society, captain of the track and field team, and served on the executive boards for both Jack and Jill of America and the Alpha Esquires of Alpha Phi Alpha



Aaron Dickason, Kalamazoo Central, 2020



Fraternity, Inc. He was the 2020 winner of the Dr. Charles C. Warfield Youth Social Justice Award from the City of Kalamazoo.

"Aaron Dickason is an outstanding young man who personifies the word 'impact'," said Assistant Principal Ajami-an Gardner. "Aaron is a leader in every area of his life; inside and outside of the classroom and on the athletic field."

Name: Aaron Dickason II

Age: 18

Parents: Keshia and Aaron Dickason Sr.

Schools attended: King-Westwood, Winchell, and Prairie Ridge elementary schools; Linden Grove Middle School, and Kalamazoo Central High School

Favorite teacher: Mrs. Vande Guchte. She's relatable and you can always talk to her about anything.

Most influential person: My father, Aaron Dickason. He is a hardworking man. I definitely look up to him and I definitely want to do the same job as him. He's a good father, a good husband, and a church-going man. I've looked up to him since I was a baby.

Advice for high schoolers: I'd advise freshmen to stay focused and to keep your circle close. Focus on what you want to be in the future.

Miranda Goodison: Focused Student, 17, Flying High at Aviation School

Miranda Goodison has wanted to be a pilot since she was 11, and as she graduates from Loy Norrix at age 17, she's already well on her way to reaching the sky.

Goodison has interned at the Air Zoo and dual enrolled at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She's already taken ground school to learn the basics of flight, career resource management to learn how cockpits run, and aviation safety. When she officially starts at WMU in the fall, she'll already be a second semester freshman.

Goodison has been a Girl Scout for 13 years. When she was 11 she attended a day camp that included a field trip to the WMU Aviation School in Battle Creek.

"We were on the tarmac and oh my goodness. I got the spark in my heart," Miranda said. "They gave me an application. When my mom picked me up from camp, I showed her this huge poster of an airplane and I said, 'I'm going to be a pilot.' She said she saw something different in me when I talked about aviation and becoming a commercial pilot."

Goodison attended private school and a charter before coming to Loy Norrix as a freshman. She said it was her mom who thought it would be good for her to experience a public school, which would help her as she thought about what kind of college experience she wanted.

It wasn't an easy transition. The size was intimidating — suddenly she was in a class that was as big as her entire school had been. But, she said, she came to enjoy the diversity of people at Norrix and the wide variety of extracurricular activities, which have both helped her become a more well-rounded person.

In addition to being in Girl Scouts she has been a volunteer at the Air Zoo, in the marching band as a color guard, participated in Jeter's Leaders, sang choir, swam as a freshman, tried Peace Jam and forensics.

"I really just wanted to dip my hand in as many pots as I could. I wanted to be a jack of all trades," she said.

What really excites her however is the future. Her voice rings with excitement when she ponders a career as a pilot. She loves the idea of traveling and breaking barriers.

"I want to see as many places and sites as I can — not to mention that my



Miranda Goodison, Loy Norrix, 2020

office is going to be in the sky," she said. "I can't think of anything cooler or more inspiring. And I am going to be a woman in my career field, where only 6 percent of commercial pilots are women. I'm excited to think about upping that number.

"I cannot see myself doing anything else."

Name: Miranda Goodison

Age: 17

Parent: Cindy Goodison

Schools: Loy Norrix High School

Favorite high school memory: There are so many. I have to say the football games with the marching band. Even though Norrix was not the greatest at football, it was really nice to be surrounded by everybody, the Loy Norrix family and students and peers. I was in color guard and having people clap for you after every single show was amazing.

Best teacher: Becky Parsons, guidance counselor. I could always stop in and say "Hi" to her and she was more than happy to see me. She was the person I could go to good, bad, or otherwise. She was a huge supporter of dual enrollment, AP classes, extracurriculars. She was one of the first people telling me that I needed to slow down on my schedule and kept my life a little more realistic.

Most influential person: My mom. She's a single parent. She's the only person here at home that I can bounce ideas off of and tell stories from high school and my life. She's the best advice giver in the entire world.

Daniel Higgins: Making Memories on the Baseball Diamond and in the Student Section

Daniel Higgins made his mark at Loy Norrix High School in two roles: one as the top pitcher used to earning accolades for the varsity baseball team and the second as the leader of the student section responsible for cheering on athletes in other sports.

He began playing Little League baseball when he was 5, and by the time he was 10 he'd moved on to travel ball. He was a pitcher for LN baseball for all four years of high school.

"I like that when I pitch, I can control most of the game," Daniel said. "You control the tempo and the pace. You have a big part in whether the team wins or loses, and if I throw well, I have control over whether the other team scores. I love the individual nature of my job. Everyone plays his own game, but, at the same time, the whole team is working to try to make runs."

As much as he loves baseball, in his senior year, at a friend's urging, he took a swing at another sport: tennis.



Daniel Higgins, Loy Norrix, 2020

"It was actually fun," he said. "For the first time, I was playing a sport where I didn't feel any pressure. It wasn't a job. It was more fun."

He doesn't anticipate playing either sport — except maybe for fun — at Michigan State University, where he plans to major in pre-law with a goal

of eventually becoming a sports agent.

This year he took on a new role as the student section leader. A friend, who had been the section leader last year, passed on the torch. He ran the Twitter account and started an Instagram for the student section to help decide themes for pep rallies and games.

At the games, he said, his role was to pump up the Knights' spirit by leading cheers but also to set a good example for student behavior. In many ways, the student section leader role was a natural fit for him.

"Honestly, probably one of my favorite memories was from my freshman year and the very first pep assembly," Daniel said "In middle school, I didn't really enjoy them. But at Norrix it was cool to have the whole school there, with the band playing, and players throwing alley oops and learning the fight song. I thought this was really cool."

It is a common piece of advice to tell high school students

to get involved, but there's truth to that adage, Daniel said.

"You have to make the most of your high school experience by working hard," he said. "You'll get out of it what you put in. If you don't go to games, or connect to the student body and the faculty, if you sleep through classes, you're not going to have a good experience."

Name: Daniel Higgins
Age: 18
Parents: Shohreh Majin and Matthew Higgins
Schools attended: Winchell Elementary School, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Loy Norrix High School
Most influential person: I feel like it's both of my parents. My dad is pretty big on my athletics. He makes sure I work to get better at my sport. My mom is always there to remind me that academics come first. I can't workout or throw a baseball until I have my homework done.

Heyl Scholarships Awarded to Two KPS Grads

Two students from Kalamazoo Public Schools have been awarded the Kalamazoo College Heyl Scholarship, which provides a full ride to students pursuing STEM-related majors.

The KPS award winners are Lukas Bolton and Bijou Hoehle, both of Kalamazoo Central High School.

Since 1971, the Heyl Scholarship Fund has been available to remarkable graduates of Kalamazoo-area math and science students. It was established through the will of Dr. Frederick Heyl and Mrs. Elise Heyl. Frederick Heyl was the first director of research at the Upjohn Company and also taught at Kalamazoo College. The scholarship covers tuition, fees, college housing, and a book allowance.



Bijou Hoehle



Lukas Bolton

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Tianna L. Harrison

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Jason E. Morris

- Ensure quality education for all students with an emphasis on career & technical training
- Foster safe & secure schools where students needs are seen, heard and met
- Create pathways to success for black and brown young men through strong social-emotional supports

Patti Sholler-Barber

- Increase social-emotional support for ALL students using our community partners and experts to help
- Continue to push for fully funded public education. KPS families, students and staff deserve nothing less.
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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
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District Directory at :

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Diamond Dorsey: Extracurriculars Make Four Years Fly By

You don't have to have to get involved in high school, but if you don't get involved you will probably have a very long, boring four years.

Diamond Dorsey, who graduated with honors, played basketball for four years at Loy Norrix and was part of Link Crew, the service organization that helps freshmen make the

transition to high school life. She also held a part-time job for the last two years.

She loved being a part of the basketball team as a small forward, encouraging her teammates — and scoring. One of her favorite high school memories was scoring 15 points against rivals Kalamazoo Central in her junior year.

Diamond takes pride in the

fact that teachers identified her as a trusted leader who could be counted on to present Loy Norrix in its best light as a member of Link Crew.

"As a part of Link Crew, I always went above and beyond to

help freshmen," she said. "And, I was always nominated to give freshmen and families tours to explain what Loy Norrix was."

In the fall, she plans to attend Alabama State University to study criminal justice.



Diamond Dorsey, Loy Norrix, 2020

Name: Diamond Dorsey

Age: 18

Parents: Ashley Arnold & Shawndrell Dorsey

Schools attended: Woodward School for Technology and Research, Milwood Magnet School: A Center for Science, Technology and Research, Loy Norrix High School

Advice about teachers: I really enjoyed the teachers. If I needed help, I got the help I needed. I'd stay after school some days and teachers would work with me.

Advice about friends: It's important to have a good group of friends. I advise people to have two or three good friends. A whole, large group is not easy. Some people will try to lead you in the wrong direction, so you won't be focused.

Best high school memory: The pep rallies and the basketball games.

Most influential person: My mom — because she always just pushes me to do better, encourages me when I need it.

Best teacher: Business teacher Mr. Atiba Ward. I like how I could talk to him about anything, like friendship breakups or things at home.

And a special thanks: To the Loy Norrix security guards. They're my favorites. I connected with all of them. Every time I was in the hallways they would speak to me. They are proud of me and they made my day every morning.

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-K.S.

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Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Congratulations on earning your high school diplomas. You've finished your studies during a time of exceptional turmoil and upheaval in our world and our nation, and you've done so with a determination and tenacity that will serve you well for the rest of your lives.

You and your classmates will always be bound together from the shared experience of dealing with a global health crisis during your senior year. No one prepared you for a school year that would end this way—without the usual pomp or circumstance, without prom or the graduation parties that usually mark this time of year and no senior trips. We couldn't prepare you because none of us—your parents, teachers, mentors or pretty much any other adult—have gone through what you are experiencing now. But you have handled it, you have continued to march forward in your academics and in your personal growth. In so doing you've demonstrated to us and the rest of the world what true accomplishment looks like. Given the tenacity, ingenuity and

creativity you have already demonstrated we can't wait to see how you take on your future.

The educator and orator Booker T. Washington said, "Success is to be measured, not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome." I can think of few graduating classes that have overcome obstacles anywhere near the magnitude of those that you have faced, and I can think of none still who give me hope for the future and how they will use their challenges to fuel their accomplishments.

Edward Montgomery
President

Western Michigan University

Hillel, a great Jewish sage, taught: "If I am not for myself, who is for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

In these times of struggle

and celebration, remember that you have the power and opportunity to do great things both for yourself and for your community. The time is always ripe for personal growth and always right for great change.

Congratulations to the 2020 graduates! You did it!

Rabbi Simone Schicker
Temple B'nai Isreal

I am proud to be among the many Kalamazoo-area leaders to send along sincere congratulations on your graduation from Kalamazoo Public Schools!

We have watched as you overcame obstacle after obstacle on your pathway to completing your high school education. From a polar vortex to a pandemic, no matter the challenge, you have been able to rise above and achieve your goal of earning a high school diploma.

As you look to the future, for

those who have already made the great decision to continue your education at Kalamazoo Valley, thank you! For those who are still deciding what to do this fall, I invite you to join us.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes for a lifetime of success!

L. Marshall Washington, PhD
President, Kalamazoo Valley Community College

I know I speak on behalf of all parents, teachers, and the rest of the Kalamazoo community when I say how proud of you we are in this moment. Culminating your high school years and starting a new chapter of life is already challenging without the unfortunate cancelled events, distance from loved ones, and anxiety over the future to come. Despite this, your hard work, dedication, and perseverance has led to this achievement.

Your class is graduating into a world that is vast and uncertain, but also exciting and filled with possibilities. An unprecedented global pandemic and demonstrations against injustice illustrate some of the issues that shake the globe and what we will all need to grapple with in the years to come. You will have a say in how humanity moves forward and, no matter what obstacles or adversity are in place today, there is always the opportunity to make a better tomorrow.

Sean McCann
State Senator, 20th District

Congratulations, Class of 2020! You are amazing young men and women who have been on a unique journey. Your path has been like no other! Use the lessons that have brought you to your next chapter and BE THE DIFFERENCE! You have all of the necessary tools.

Karianne Thomas
Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Chief

On behalf of Kalamazoo College, I want to congratulate you on reaching this important milestone in your life! We never could have imagined that 2020 would bring such historic and extraordinary challenges. I'm sure that you, like the seniors on our campus, are saddened by the traditions that you missed and the memories that you were unable to make in the weeks leading up to graduation. While this school year did not end as you had once imagined, it does not diminish your achievements and the contributions you've made to your

(continued on page 7)



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Congratulations to the Class of 2020! (continued from page 6)

schools and to your community. We are proud of your accomplishments.

Kalamazoo College has a motto, “Lux Esto,” which is Latin for “Be Light.” As you enter the next chapter of your life, whether that includes college, the military or entering the workforce, be a light for the world. From eliminating systemic racism to addressing climate change to finding paths to solve global pandemics, our society needs you. Take advantage of the opportunities your education has provided you and use your talents, your energy and your passion to create a brighter future. I am confident you will do amazing things.

Saludos and lux esto,
Jorge G. Gonzalez
President
Kalamazoo College

Through hard work and dedication, you were able to achieve academic success, even when faced with a challenge of global proportions.

COVID-19 disrupted some of the most important social and academic events of your high school career, but you proved that ex-

traordinary times do indeed create extraordinary people.

Class of 2020, you are a remarkable group. You have been an inspiration showing the rest of us that despite life’s challenges, we must find ways to move forward and overcome.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes for a successful future.

Brandt Iden
State Representative
Michigan’s 61st District

Dear Graduates of Kalamazoo Public Schools:

I greet you in the strong name of our Lord Jesus the Christ, on behalf of the officers, members, and staff of the Galilee Baptist Church of Kalamazoo. We congratulate you on this milestone moment in your lives as you graduate from high school! Through many challenges, obstacles, and setbacks, you made it! You did it! We are so excited for your future! I know that it has not been easy, these last few months. My heart truly goes out to those of you that have had to make major adjustments as you neared the conclusion of your high school



career! However, maybe you should look at it like this: life is not always going to be fair, nor will everything go as planned. But we should hold on to our trust and belief that “all things work together for the good!”

I encourage you to enjoy these weeks of celebration because you deserve it! Indeed, it is a two-fold celebration. First, it is a celebration of the “**conclusion**” of one chapter in your young lives. Be thankful that you made it through and that you were not another negative statistic. Second, it is a celebration of the “**commencement**” of a new chapter. Commencement is not only the ceremony in which degrees or diplomas are awarded, but commencement is properly defined as “a beginning or a start.”

So I am excited about your future because I truly believe that what is to come is going to be far better than what has ever been!

Once again congratulations and best wishes and blessings into the future!

Sincerely,
Dr. Michael T. Scott, Sr.,
M.Div., DMin.
Galilee Baptist Church



Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program 2020 Graduates

Aldrich, Jared Michael
Allen, Kiara Iri
Branson, Jarule Raheem
Cunningham, Aaron O'keefe
Darden, Indiah Manassa-Monee'
Gaddie, Karrington Kwanita
Kay
Gironda, Cameron Erin
Giovanni
Grabowski, Jenna Claire

Johnson, Tyler Gary
Madison, Lamar Dillon
McDonald, Brendan Max
McKinley, Devon Jawarra
Pearson, Alexis Jade
Sanchez, Rodolfo Edward
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Class of 2020



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Loy Norrix High School 2020 Graduates

Adams–Miller, August Hunter	Carpenter, Makayla Annmarie
Ademodi, Jahzara Irie	Carver, Christopher James
Ahmad, Rezan Ahmad	Chapman, Caila Marie
Al–Daeen, Amaya Lynn	Chheu, Kim More
Alexander, Rashawn Tyquay	Chupp, Anthony Jimenez
Alexander, Tyquan D'shawn	Clark, Evan Brian
Alexopoulos, Adonia Penelope	Clark, Jeremy Joseph
Alexopoulos, Ourania Georgia	Clay, Rianna Sinai
Anderson, Elijah William	Clay, Skylar Rainyce
Antisdel, Alexis Kayann	Cole, Miranda Elizabeth Day
Arevalo, Jaqueline	Cooks, Jordan Denzel
Armour, Rowan	Cooks, Joshua Danzel
Avery, Mariah Victoria	Cooper, Bryce John
Baker, Myles Andrew	Courtney, Alexandria Magnificent
Balden, Izayah Jerome	Cowling, Jamie Marie
Bannon, Joseph Conrad	Crocker, Reed Patrick
Bassett, Marcia Fen	Dantes, Lydia Marie
Basurto, Stephanie Salas	DeRango, James
Battle, Ebony Erica	DeRyke, Allen James
Bean, Shamond Latrell	DeYoung, Katerina Anne Ruth
Bell, Jyla Renee	Dimick, Bradley Thomas
Bernhard, Ava Kathleen	Dominianni, Riley Eileen
Bird, Viola True	Dorstewitz, Lily Grace
Bistrek, Camille Katherine	Dotson, Rondea Dontrice
Black, Wyon Terrell	Dougherty, Andrew Wesley
Blakes, Jaden Phillip	Dumas, Melissa Ann
Bogan–Bagley, Korbin Riley	Dunton, Audreanna Louise
Bogle, Chanse Mychael	Eason, Stacey Charise
Bosak, Emily Li	Edlelson, Emily Ruth
Bowden, Mariona Tiera	Edwards–Neeley, Asa Mona
Bowen, Keziah Renee	Edwards, Callie Rae
Boykins, OnTaya Marie	Elfring, Sara Eileen
Boykins, Trinity Noel	Ellis, Quincy Alan
Bravo, Humberto	England, Mikayla Mae
Brayboy, Yamilia Zandora	Erni, Tyler Steven–Lee
Brent, Finn Shasa	Fair, Jayda Rickelle'
Brogan, Katherine Renee	Falls, Deondre Louis
Brown, Brendan Alexander	Farman, Jayden Julius E
Brown, Kaleb Daniel	Flores–Nunez, Jonathan
Brown, Nakia Susan	Flores, Jared Anthony
Brozovich, David Kevin	Fraga–Vasquez, Esperanza
Brugh, Katherine Elizabeth	Frayner, Jonna Frank
Bugnaski, Eva Meryl	Frelin, Ciarrh Elizabeth
Bugnaski, Zoe Ayla	Garcia, Katie Odalis
Byrd, Maxwell Jefferson	Geyer, Richard Cass
Cameron, Yasmine Marie	Gilbert, Katherine Elizabeth
Canda, Ishia Chi'Anti	Gilligan, Bailey Kay
Kenchele	Givhan, Krashawn
Carnell, Colin Aric Brian	Jaiquerius



James DeRango poses with parents Dr. Stephanie Somers and Kelly DeRango after the Loy Norrix graduation.

Goggans, Maya Faith	Kiewiet, Alice Kimiko	Meyers, Jozef Olson
Golliher, Aaron James	Kiino–Terburg, Jackson James	Miles, Doncorleone Donquail
Gonzalez, Wendy	Kilduff, Callie Mae	Miller, Carter Ray
Goodison, Miranda Elena	Kipp, Cassandra Marie	Miller, Emma Claire
Goodwin–Kelly, Nathan Edward	Kistler Ellis, Antonia Lyell	Miller, Jordan Ana–Marie
Gould–McElhone, Jeanie Frances	Klute, Ella Katherine	Mireles Caballero, Cecilia
Grabemeyer, Maggie Ann	Kreutz, Kayla AnnMarie	Mitchell, Joseph Martin
Graham, Lily Talmadge	Krzeminski, Raina Elizabeth	Modugno, Michael Francis
Gray, Katherine Elizabeth	Lara–Sanchez, Michael Javier	Moghrabi, Lina
Greene, Cameron James	Ledbetter–Newton, Ella Frances	Moore, Brooklyn Rose
Grinwis, Westin Leigh	Lewinski, Braden Nikolas	Moore, Mariyah Shawnceia
Gross, Devon Sophia	Lewis, Chyahir Nivek Cyon	Morales, Yesinia
Gutierrez, Luis Alberto	Lewis, Jaylah Norae	Moser, Braydon Matthew
Hall, Aniyah	Lewis, Neziah Marie	Muhire, Mugiraneza
Harper, Acacia Ferris	Leyva, Jose Angel	Myers, David Zane
Harris, Wyatt Shelby	Link, Ezekiel Taylor	Nath, Sneha
Hawthorne, William Nathan	Lo, Elizabeth Isabella	Neeley, Logan Caine
Hazen, Grant Tyler	Lockett, Andre DeSean	Nelson, Matthew Tyler
Hebben–Bagge, Salvador Terrence	Lockett, Ravynn Alexis	Nonato, Joanna
Henagan, Rayce Ivan	Loken, Carly Elisabeth	Nordmark, KayAnne Michelle
Henry, Lucas Matthew	Lonsbury, William Glenn	Noschang de Oliveira, Ana Clara
Hernandez, Noelia Alexis	Love, Tavon Torrie	Odenwald, McKenzie Marie
Hertel, Tessa Louise	Low, Michael Jermaine	Offerman, Alexander David
Hierro Reynoso, Genesis Claudine	Luckett, Gary Jahem	Okpechukwu, Chiemelamma Stella
Higgins, Daniel Bakhtyar	Luther, Tanner Elias	Olson, Drake Zander
High, Clayton Henry	Mabon, Derrell Anthony	Olson, Steven William
Hilgart–Griff, Emma Neale	Maldonado, Eduardo Marko, Malachi	Ortiz, Alicia Ines
Hughes, Alaysha Samone	Demetrius	Parwoth, Henry Edward
Hunt, Yazmin Shirese	Martin, Michaela Nichelle	Peterman, Corey Allen
Ide, Mikayla Rose	Martinez, Giselle Vega	Pirochta, Alec James
Jackson, Akkadian David Maurice	May, Mia Ruth	Ponce Hernandez, Erick
Jacquez, Marissa Estella	McGaughy, Alexander Louis	Posthumus, Rachel Anekah
Johnson, Naviha Shinta	Mejia Guerra, Alan Erik	Potter, Marvin Frederick
Jones, Ajanai Shaunte	Mejia Sanchez, Marta Izabel	Puca, Antoinette Clare
Jones, Amerian Neshae	Mejia, Jorge Enrique	
Kellum, Kayla Monique		

Pullam, Kaylee Arianna Mae	Spink, Sawyer Birch Cross
Reaves, Vernon Libra II Fredrick	Stamm, Austin Robert
Reid, Jasmine Soleil	Stegall, Felice–Marie
Reynolds, Eli Lishman	Stickley, Emma Lorraine
Ridenour, Joseph Allen	Stoner, Logan Mackenzie
Roberts, Kimberly Maureen	Taylor–Mitchell, Javonta LaFrance
Robertson, Alaya Shauntel	Teeter, Lauren Renee
Robertson, Rasheed Amir	Thomas, Kevlon Elisha
Robinson, Breonia	Thommes, Montana Blue
Robinson, Jayvon Xavier	Tilley, Kamaria Katrice
Robinson, Juwan Rashaad	Torres–Lopez, Jose Gabriel
Rodas, Dennis Miguel	Torres, Jordan Josue
Rostick, Sincere De'Naerio	Trujillo Hernandez, Xochitl Citlalli
Rubin, Oliver Adlai	Underwood, Mahiah Ellena
Salazar, Fernando Arley	Van Duine, Michael Owen
Sampley, Kelly Lynn Marie	Vanhorne, Jacob Thomas
Sanchez–Adunas, Alan Jose	Vargas Chumacero, Jose Ignacio
Sanchez–Elias, Javier	Vargas, Judisa Esperanza
Sanchez, Florentino	Vestal, Matthew Riley Jitsuo
Sandoval, Cain	Villanueva Blanco, Carlos Abraham
Sandt, Hunter Wayne	Vivanco, Sophia Claire
Sanford, Adarian Micheal–Demar	Vroman, Gabriel Joseph Armand
Sanford, Benjamin Titus	Waldo, Gracie Lee
Santos, Carlos Miguel	Walker, Kenneth Murray
Scheele, Emma Brower	Wallace, Amiria Diane
Schnell, Ella Maria	Warmelink, Jack Allen
Schnurr, Brandon Scott	Weaver, Jorelle Zahir
Scisco, Isaiah Martelle	Wedge, Amari Daviana
Seady, Syndi Elizabeth	Weeden, Alexis Ann
Segovia–Perez, Vivian	Welsh, Chaise Maxwell
Semelbauer, Ethan Joseph	White, Kayonna Jean
Shanahan, Zoe Lizabeth	Williams, Inve Arie
Skidmore Kuttner, Willa Catherine	Williams, Jasmen Ray
Smiter, Demetrius Tywon	Williams, Romario Ronaldo Rivario
Smith, Anthony Charles	Williams, Tru'mechia Donae
Smith, Christian Javan Latonne	Wilson, Breyana Iris Kornak
Smith, Darryl LaRance	Wilson, Cade Burleigh
Smith, Kamayia Kay	Woody, Naquayvion Davonne
Smith, Taylor Nicole	Wright, Destiny Rose Marie
Snapp, Lydia Johnston	Yarbrough, Amya Danielle
Snow, Avery Jean	Younis, Ibraheem Nader
Snow, Tucker Donald	Zamel, Zelal Abdel Aleem
Soto, Citlali	
Spencer, Devin Alexander	

Talia Newell: Finding Her Voice with a Supportive Phoenix Staff

Talia Newell wanted small-er — but that didn’t mean she wanted less.

At Phoenix High School she found the smaller class size that she needed along with a supportive staff that felt like a family and enriched her high school experience.

Newell tried Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix before following a friend’s lead and enrolling at Phoenix.

Newell is now a 2020 Phoenix graduate and plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College in the fall.

Newell enrolled herself and was a little worried about stepping into a totally new environment, but, “the people were nice. I had nothing to worry about. Once I got into school, I didn’t have to worry about drama. The people were friendly — students and staff.”

She enjoyed the smaller classes — her largest class was computer science with 25 people. Most classes were under 20 students, she said.

Because she was working, she did find it difficult to participate in the school’s extracurricular activities, such as basketball, cheerleading, and the social justice book bowl.

But, principal Mark Hill made sure to find a way to include her. He invited her to serve as a Student Ambassador, which provides input on how the school operates and participates in the



Talia Newell, Phoenix, 2020

superintendent’s Student Advisory Council.

Students apply to be an ambassador, which includes filling out an application with personal goals and suggested improvements for the school.

“They pick who they think would be good, who can step up and have an outspoken voice for what they believe in,” Newell said.

“We talked about college and how to keep people in school,” she said. “We talked about George Floyd and Black Lives Matter, the community and things that affect our classmates.”

The focus was not just on feelings, but on problem solving and coming up with actions that the students could take to better the situation, she said. The school supported students’ involvement in community projects and protests.

“Mr. Hill always wanted us to be outspoken and to use our voices,” Newell said.

That support and encouragement is what she will remember the most as she leaves Phoenix, where she feels like students are given the opportunity to succeed — maybe more than one opportunity if they need it.

“Everyone at that school wanted us to feel like we could talk to anyone,” she said. “All of my classmates felt comfortable going to any of the staff members. The staff do their jobs but they were also family. We could talk about things hurting us or good news like a new job. Even if you don’t say anything, they’re so close to us they can notice things on our face.

“And I love Mr. Hill. He’s always there. He’s a man of his word. If he says he’s going to do something, he gets it done.”

Name: Talia Newell
Parents: Deborah and Dominique Grays
Schools attended: Woods Lake Elementary; Linden Grove Middle School, Kalamazoo Central, Loy Norrix and Phoenix high schools.
Best advice: Just keep going. Keep moving even if you feel down. It’s OK to feel down once in a while but it doesn’t mean stop. It just means you have to continue and everything will get better.

Phoenix High School 2020 Graduates

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Ainsworth, Hayden | Hall, Beau Richard | Nichols, Tamara |
| Montgomery | Hawkins, Isaiah Micah | Patrice |
| Alexander, Tahjanique | Hawkins, Kahmya Minya | O’Day, Dondrell |
| Samon’e | Heard, Sierra Lynn | Patterson, Quan’dae |
| Baucom, Tre’veon A | Hegler, Savion Xavier | M |
| Bigby, William Le’Arthure | Henley, Alaya Shyrell | Phillips, Kiajj A’kyon |
| Azariel | Henley, Nahzjeon Jaeyzir | James |
| Blanchard, Hakiem | Hickman, Damel Arvon | Phillips, Tyrone Allen |
| Jashaun | Hollin, Da’myr Lamar | Phipps, Alay’sha |
| Blanks, Nailah Helene | House, Xavier Morrell | Shawnee |
| Jackson | Hughes, Ja’ Quari Martez | Plair, Da’quay Marrice |
| Bogan, Oscar | Iben Abu–Jebreel, Abdul | Pollins, Konnor G |
| Booker, Malik Jaheim | Maalek | Ramirez, Uziel |
| Bowden, Jaionna | Jackson, KeShawn Robert | Benjamin |
| Lakease–Lee | Jeffries, Ryan Kevin | Ramos–Morales, |
| Brandt, Bailey Michael | Johnson, Amanda | Arturo |
| Burnett, Keshawn Tyrece | Yvonne | Richardson, Camille |
| Carter, Serena Janelle | Johnson, Jolessa Lela | Nakayla |
| Chervenak, Gabriel | Johnson, Willis James | Ridenour, Zackary |
| Charles | Jones, Lyric D’Vyne– | Jebidiah Jean |
| Crenshaw, Christen Alecia | Destiny | Russell, Amari T’yan |
| Cruz, Jack Guadalupe | Khabeiry, Carmen | Sandoval, Jovanna |
| Dalrymple, Liam Oscar | Wineka | Shannon, Dashana |
| Daniels, Dylan Michael | Knox, Quailin Paul Seville | Lashae |
| Derby, Paul James | Lager, Isabella Marie | Singleton, Skylar |
| Dickey, Ondre’is Trinton | Landwer, Curtis R | Tyrese |
| Latroye | Lewis, Taijahn Nicole | Spivey, Aaliyah |
| Dortch, Devin Kiandre | Lopez, Lizcel | Di’shawna |
| Donte | Mayes, Oshinay Shontell | Stevenson, Quorrean |
| Finkle, Morgan Catherine | McBride, Jamiya Lynn | Corinthal |
| Phenicie | McClure, Samaria Lee | Suddeth, Zakiya |
| Fitzpatrick, Sto’nia | McElrath, Damian Damar | Tazanay |
| Leeann | Meier, Benjamin Hemi | Sykes, Jamyra Latyah |
| Foster, Terrance Donnell | Mejia Cabrera, Juan | Thomas, Alexander |
| Francik, Michael Andrew | Carlos | Chase |
| Gardner, Bianca Lynn | Miles, Rashon Anthony | Thomas, Ezekiel |
| Gardner, Mya Sierra– | Moreno, Elize Aranza | Desmond |
| Alexis | Moss, Celeste Anthoula | Tipton, Kei’once |
| Gathing, Angel Marie | Muhammad, Zubair | Yionna |
| Givan, Danaz Jermaine | Myrick, Megan | Trotman, Honesty |
| Goins, Henry William | LeighAnne | A’jaiyah Jean Ann |
| Grady, Rayshawn Derrick | Newell, Talia Milan | Wallace, Zaylan Jipri |
| | | Walters, Kaniya |
| | | Kenterreia |
| | | Weathers, Paige |
| | | Mackenzie |
| | | Whitfield, Treveon |
| | | Shawn Devay |
| | | Williams–Thomas, |
| | | Jo’Zazia Patrice |
| | | Williams, Marquay |
| | | Tyquese |
| | | Willis, Jarius Dishon |
| | | Wilson–Martin, K’lora |
| | | Zhane |
| | | Yarbrough, Danon Noel |



Elize Moreno
Phoenix

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Kalamazoo Central High School 2020 Graduates

Abdullah, Ahmad I
Abrams, Karlise Monay
Adams, Madison Grace
Aguilar–Dimas, Josue
Alcala, Paulo Damian
Alkinani, Kareem Jasim
Allen, Khalil Knasir
Alston, Isaiah Malcolm
Alvarez Mares, Emily
Jocelyn
Amini, Farida
Anakwa, Amara Ofosuah
Anderson, Najee Joshua
Arreguin Zacarias,
Alberto
Awad, Maher A
Awad, Nidal A
Baker, Chloe Miranda
Carter
Bale, Michael James
Banks–Arnold, Anayshia
Denise
Barkman, Alexander
Sandor
Barrett, Hayley Jade
Bates, De'ja Monique
Bau, Matthew Alan
Bean, Makayla Elizabeth
Beilby, Gregory Dean
Bellia, Victoria Felton
Berry, Aiyanna Alise
Bertch, Collin Adam
Bilbrey, Seth Dionisio
Billings, Caleb Andrew
Bin–Mahfouz, Abrar
Fahad
Birchmeier, Kaden Jay
Blanks, Daquavion Allen
Blue, Matthew Alexs
Frank
Bolton, Lukas Kenneth
Bowen, Jayden Jaquavion
Bowker, Mallory G
Boyd, Elizabeth Kay
Boyd, Morgan Louise
Bradley, Amaree Dimitri
Bragg, Kamron Michael
Braxton, Arianna Rene
Brim, Derwin Arnez
Brown–Case, Brandon
Rashad
Brown–Ray, Savon Stan
Brown, Amadi Rain
Buford, Ashanti Kiara
Burch, Dejah Danielle
Bushouse–Sterling, Jada
Amere
Camilli, Daniel Milo
Campbell, Tyla Diana
Cardona, Moises
Carlson, Chloe Anne



cutline

Carter–Sanders, Jaquann
Jerome
Carter, Aliyah Natae
Carter, Javion Jerrell
Carver, Jalela Mae
Clark, Vanessa Rose
Clarke, Wunand Isas
Coleman–Hegler,
Doshameir Amareal
Comer, Giancarlo Golden
Cooper, Jacob Samuel
Coronado, Fidel Alejandro
Corradini, Angelina
Elisabeth
Crawford, Canaan Carlus
Crocker, Abigail Jean
Cruz, Nihveah Niyah
Cusano, Alexander Paul
Dalla, Annalisa Peyton
Davis, Justin Allen
Davis, Tayvon Antoine
Dee, Devon Elise
DeLaPaz, Hilario
DeVault, Aaron Jacob
Dickason, Aaron Charles
Diget, Ashley Nicole
Dinda, Grace Marie
Dixon, Amari Devon
Doane, Nicholas Matthew
Doonan, Abigail Taylor
Douglas, Seth Aaron
Durham, Jason Erwin
Echols, Steven McArthur
Edge, Cody Lee
Eisenhauer, Tyler William
ElKafrawy, Ammar Tamer
Mohammad
Evink, Daniel Mason
Fleckenstein, Brandon
Thomas
Fonger, Ethan Hughes
Foster, Elijah Jontae'
Quenel
Foster, Parker Thomas
Frankhauser, Zephram
Mitchell Senn

Franks, Brandon
Christopher
Fry, Tamia Renee' Marie
Gakodi, David Fumiembo
Galicia Medina, Abraham
Jacob
Gardner, Ja'Keise Gary
Gascon, Jennifer
Gerhard, Caitlyn Emma
Gheen, Griffin Kazaleh
Gilleylen, Latasia Jewell
Gilmore, Malachi Michael
Gleaton, Patrick Wells
Gomez Mizrahi, Angel
Eduardo
Gonzalez Lucero, Jahir
Gonzalez, Nicolas
Gordon, Gavin Anthony
Wayne
Goulette–Blank, Kaela
Nicholle
Green–Underwood, Indya
Renee
Griffin, Genesis Symone
Griswold, Conner James
Gross, Natalie Jane
Gueraskov, Martin
Lubomirov
Gunnerson, Stephen
Harold
Gunter, Trevon Ladanian
Haley, Daynen Kaleb
Hardy, Trinity Rayn
Harper, Kimora Monea
Harris, MaKayla Yvonne
Hawkes, Isabelle Julianne
Heard, John Phillip
Henderson, Gabriel Caid
Henderson, Jaylen Mekhi
Henley, Lillyanne Rose
Hennessy, Margaret
Sandra
Henry, Jayvion William
Herder, Mitchell Todd
Hess, Thomas Alexander

Hickman, Lakeya Mohna
Hoehle, Bijou Isabella
Holloway, Jontae Dwayne
Holtman, Harmony Maya
Honeysett, Madelyn Elise
Horwath, Katelyn
Elizabeth
Hough, Alyxandria Renee
Hunt, Kayla Alyssa
Hussein, Alinoti
Intikhab, Hayat
Jackson, Caleb Daniel
Jackson, Jay'Kree Avanti
Jackson, Madison Paige
Jackson, Mantra Deanna
Jackson, Mikaylah Ann
Destiny
Jacobs, Tanner Robert
Johnson, Anjel Ariel
La'tavia
Johnson, Daryl Duane
Johnson, Davion Lamar
Johnson, Jada Lauren
Johnson, Jordan Terrill
Johnson, Joshua
Johnson, Keyon Phillip
Johnson, Nolan Donald
Jones, Darveon Quincy
Jones, Jaylijah Lyn
Juhnke, Abby Christine
Kalisiak, Joseph Michael
Kamara, Mohamed
Karraker, Crystal Joy
Kasem, Ayah Jameel
Kassas, Mahmoud Jamal
Kelley, Jenna Fitzgerald
Kelley, Rahya Kama
Kelley, Simone Monai
Kirschensteiner, Jack
Nolan
Kloosterman, Robert
Domenico
Kloosterman, Steven
Margalli
Kocefes, Alexi Anise

Kohn, La'Maria Katie
Kostrzewa, Kayleigh
Marie Liberty May
Lamb, Riley Scot
Larder, Grant Steven
List, Eleanor Jean
Lockhart, Lillian Grace
Lopez, Kasandra
Lyle, Jacob Christian
Maguire, Grace Margaret
Maikoski, Kerri Aubrey
Eileen
Maldonado, Luiz Gustavo
Mann, Miya Marie
Mardini, Dana Hatan
Marfo, Emmanuel Agyei
Marion, Phillip
Martinez, Daisy Crystal
Mashour, Ebhar Jaber
Matthews, Ayonna
O'mara
Matthews, Jeremiah
Laquinn
McClinton, Nataeja
Nashee
McCoy, Derea Latrisha
McDermott, Aidan John
McElroy, Juba Joedy
McGarey, Abbigail
Lucinda Rita
McLean, Jenna Monet
Meier, Tyler Caleb
Merrick, Ivy Celene
Mitchell, Ariel Elise
Moore, Lester Duane
Moreno–Aguilar, Belen
Morgan, Ethan Michael
Mosley, Brandon Lee
Motan, Abdelrahman
Damous
Mullen, Keyasia Zykira
Murray, Brandon Adam
Mwakwari, Ochieng
Dante
Nash, Mercedes Nashell
Neily, Amia Zamie
Nguyen, Daniel Bao–
Hung
Norman, Arrian Ashae
Norman, Johnathon
David Clair
Nower, Haleigh Jo
Nunez, Jesus Antonio
Ousley, Anya Mone'
Oviedo, Isaac Wayne
Baldwin
Pacheco Valera, Naidely
Saidith
Palen, Riley Kay
Palmquist, Haley Theresa
Parsons, Tasia Renee

Patel, Dev Piyushbhai
Payton, Zaria Temia
Perez Herrero, Adriana
Pomeroy, Payton Jade
Poucher, Grace Elizabeth
Pratt, Alayziah Rakayla
Prendergast, Rose Marie
Pritchett, Navahni
Shondale
Pritchett, Shontrel
Lemere
Pyne, Nicholas Robert
Quintanilla, Madeleine
Kay
Raines, Yanari Yazmine
Rakowski, Christian
Hager
Rakowski, Nicholas
Joseph
Reason, Ane'ah Shaquay
Zoe
Rebenstorf, Jason
Douglas
Reed, Justin Maurice
Reynolds, Christopher
Tohan
Rice, Rebecca Mary
Richardson, Daniel
William
Rodriguez–Rhea, Jaylin
Vashan
Rolland, Antwon Dontae
Roth, Cormac James
Rothwell, Nathaniel
Christopher
Rudlaff, Andrew Jacob
Rugano, Telvin Mwangi
Rushlau, Megan Gianna
Salazar, Christopher
Antonio
Salha, Bassel
Schutz, Adam Jacob
Schwartz, Nora Elaine
Shaw, Hailey Marie
Shepherd–Friday,
Kenaujune Je'mond
Shepherd, Rhajani
Sidwell, Charity Rachelle
Simmons, Damarrion J
Singleton, Shakiyah
J'mese
Sinkler, Madison Lee
Smalley, Kaitlyn Nicole
Smith, Adrianna Marie
Smith, Amari La'shawn
Smith, Brittney May
Smith, Clara Lucille
Smith, Jaxon Corless
Smith, Jordan Marie
Smith, Katiera Shonyce
Smith, Lamar Davont

Smith, Larenda Tarrand
Smith, Rhyan Isaac
Smith, Shemar Davon
Snell, MarQuan Michael
Snider, Jessica Leigh
Sokolowski, Abbegail
Leigh
Solomon, Richard Lamar
Steele, Azshia Vearnise
Shauntate
Stewart, Courtney Lynn
Street, Briani Jenee'
Streeter, Stephanie Lynn
Stubbs, Isabelle Grace
Sykes, Aquariah Leigh
Tayara, Moayyad K
Taylor, Marcell Alexander
Terranella–Hoffman,
Jaxson Aleksander
Tessmer, Tylor John
Thomas, Aliyah Monet
Thomas, Trayshaw
Jimmie Dekareo
Thomason, Jenny Leann
Thompson, Keyonna
Lenae
Timmons, Nicholas
James
Toutant, Gavin Ray
Tuyizere, Jean Bosco
Underwood, Mariah
Lynnell–Robann
Van Atti, Jasmine Renee'
Van Natter, Samuel Scott
Varda, Brandon Michael
Vargas, Ana Yesenia
Vasquez, Andres Jay
Verschoof, Chase Robert
Vincent, Steven William
Wade, Jordan James
Wafford, Trynity Jerae'
Walker, Aquari Demond
Ward, William Wallace
Watkins, Burgandy
Brianne
Watkins, Keith Kobe
Watts, Dorien Renee
Watts, Teanna D
Wesel, Kevin Moroni
Weston, Nicholas Scott
Whimper, Roy Dewan
Williams, Demi Juanita
Williams, Mikayla Elisha
Williams, Nia'Jah Amiria
Williams, Roderick Earl
Williams, Samara Fay
Woodrum, Jordan Marie
Woods, Jajuan Dominic
Wooster, Grant Henri
Worthy, Dasia Sanae
Young, Faith Nicole

Rhajani Shepherd: Taking a Chance on a New Direction

Rhajani Shepherd’s best advice for high school students: Don’t be afraid to try new things.

The Kalamazoo Central graduate will be trying something new when she goes to Michigan State University in the fall: She is joining the MSU Women’s Rowing team.

The Kalamazoo Central volleyball standout had been looking at Michigan State as a possible site to continue her volleyball career. The MSU volleyball program encouraged her to get more training, but that was followed up by a surprise recruiting email from the women’s rowing coach.

“At first, I didn’t know what to do. I sent the email to my mom and she said, ‘Let’s look into it,’” Shepherd said. “I did a little research and watched some videos. My mom said, ‘Don’t shoot it down, let’s give it a try.’”

They went for a campus visit to meet the coaching staff and to watch practice, where she was impressed by the coaches and athletic trainer.

“Watching it, it hit me that this was something I wanted to try,” said Shepherd, 17. “I like how with rowing you have to be in sync with the people in your shell – or boat. This is just super, super teamwork.”

She has never held on oar or been in a shell yet, but rowing may not be as big of a leap as some may imagine, she said. While people may think of rowing as being about arm work, it’s actually 80 percent legs and 20 percent arms, and “volleyball players jump a lot. I’m a middle and it takes a lot of leg strength to push off.”

Rhajani played volleyball for seven years. As the KC varsity volleyball team captain, she earned her third-year varsity award and holds both SMAC All-Conference and All-Region awards. But, she was more than a volleyball player at KC. She also served as editor in chief of the yearbook staff, a member of the National Honor Society,



Rhajani Shepherd, Kalamazoo Central, 2020

fundraising coordinator for the student council, and a violinist for her school orchestras since fourth grade.

As excited as she is at the prospect of trying her new sport, what really attracted Shepherd to MSU is the school’s food science program.

“In my mind, I wanted to be a chef first,” she said. “I looked into that and then I found food science and then food technology, where they actually make the food that we eat.

“I’m going into college with an open mind. I want to take this shot.”

Name: Rhajani Shepherd

Age: 17

Parents and siblings: Tony and Rhasheda Shepherd

Schools attended: King-Westwood Elementary, Hillside Middle School, Kalamazoo Central

Best high school memory: My senior night of volleyball, I came off the court crying and the whole student section came and gave everyone hugs. That embrace for the last time was really nice.

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Kalamazoo Public Schools Annual Notifications

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

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

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Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0182

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

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

Section 504 is a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It applies to all persons with disabilities regardless of age. It is an anti-discrimination, civil rights statute that requires the needs of students

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

Barry Smith, Coordinator of Student Services
SmithBJ@kalamazoopublic-schools.net

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

* * *

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

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

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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

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

• Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. The school must honor your request to review your child's education records within forty-five (45) days of receiving

the request. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will arrange for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

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

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

- School officials with legitimate educational interest; contractors, consultants, or volunteers to whom the district has outsourced institutional services or functions. For example, the district shares data with educational institutions that have a vested interest in helping district students, such as Communities In Schools;

- The Kalamazoo Promise;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;

(continued on page 13)



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Kalamazoo VALLEYTM
community college

Kalamazoo Public Schools Annual Notifications *(continued from page 12)*

- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies;
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law; and
- Information the district has designated as “directory information.”

Disclosure of Information

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

Directory information, which includes student’s name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized school activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance and previous school(s)

attended, is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to organizations without a parent’s prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. The district may disclose personally identifiable information from education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student to other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the district has determined to have legitimate educational interests, such as Communities In Schools and The Kalamazoo Promise. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the district has outsourced institutional services or functions. In addition, two federal laws require us to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised KPS that they do not want their student’s information disclosed without their prior written consent.

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

Administrative Systems and Technology Services
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0146
or by faxing to (269) 337-0195 on or before Friday, February 26, 2021

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

Kalamazoo Public Schools welcomes all students and staff of any religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification,

height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability. The district will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs, or services. In addition, Kalamazoo Public Schools will not tolerate any retaliation against individuals who submit complaints and/or who participate in investigations relating to such complaints.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Any complaints and concerns of discrimination, harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying that involve adults and/or

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

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

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



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Elizabeth and Morgan Boyd: Perfect Attendance Easier When You Love School

Sometimes you love something so much — you don't want to miss a minute of it.

For twins Elizabeth and Morgan Boyd, they loved everything about Kalamazoo Central, which resulted in perfect attendance records for their high school careers.

Elizabeth earned perfect attendance in eighth grade, and said that as she looked toward her high school years, she thought maybe that was an attainable goal for the next four years.

"It wasn't just for myself," she said. "I wanted to show up every day, but the teachers wanted that too. They want to see a student who is dedicated and wants to be in school. I thrive in the classroom. I love school a lot. I love the atmosphere of school. I love being at school every day."

OK, well maybe not every morning. She is human.

"There were days I didn't want to get out of bed, but I knew I had to. And when I got to school, I was excited to be there."

Morgan, on the other hand, said she didn't realize she had



Elizabeth Boyd, Kalamazoo Central, 2020



Morgan Boyd, Kalamazoo Central, 2020

perfect attendance until she was presented with the award.

"I was going to school, one, because I'm supposed to be here, and two, it was fun for me because I enjoy learning," Morgan said.

And they admit they were blessed with good genes — meaning they were rarely sick — and lots of support at home and

at school.

"We grew up in a home with very hard-working parents who have always had the expectation that we go to school," Elizabeth said.

"And the teachers and the staff want you there and encourage you to be there," Morgan said. "They want you to succeed. They want you to build on your

book knowledge and your world knowledge and your interactions with them. It's great."

Part of their enthusiasm for school also came from finding extracurriculars that they both enjoyed. For Morgan, that meant being on the stage crew for musicals and school plays, one of the founding members of the disc golf team, and serving in National Honor Society and Model UN.

Elizabeth was in the marching band for four years and in the school orchestra. She also served on the Student Council.

In the fall, the twins face a new adventure: living apart.

Morgan will be attending Western Michigan University where she plans to study aviation technical operations. Elizabeth is going to Calvin University, where she plans to study

elementary education with a minor in ministry leadership focusing on family and children ministry.

It will be hard for the pair that shares a bedroom at home — but it will be good for them, they said.

"My best friend for eternity isn't going to be with me," Elizabeth said. "It's going to be a challenge but we'll get through it and work through it together."

Name: Elizabeth and Morgan Boyd

Age: 18

Parents: Angela and Dan Boyd

Schools attended: Indian Prairie and King-Westwood elementary schools, Hillside Middle School, Kalamazoo Central

Best high school memory: Elizabeth: Getting a superior rating at orchestra festival. I have been the section leader for violas for the past two years. I just felt really happy and ecstatic helping lead the orchestra and working with a great group of musicians toward that goal.

Best advice:

Morgan: Times will get hard but know that the teachers are there to help. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Many are there to listen — it doesn't have to be an issue with homework. They want to know you and to be sure you're in a good environment. Be willing to talk, because they're willing to listen."

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Class of 2020

Miranda Cole Loy Norrix

Kay Gilbert Loy Norrix

Mikayla Ide Loy Norrix

Remember
the Basics
(continued from page 1)

frequent breaks; and maintaining good communication between family members and with your school.

Even in online classrooms, Parlato and Misner said, there are rules and basic etiquette that students should follow, such as muting your microphone until called on, waiting to be called on before sharing, respecting participants' privacy by not taking photos of screen shots of the class and posting or sharing, dressing appropriately, and paying attention.

Schedules are important, and teachers will be providing students with schedules when classes begin. Try to follow them as much as possible, but recognize that these are unusual times and that there may need to be some flexibility. And it's helpful to give students a say in how they spend time that is not highly scheduled.

"Voice and choice is what we call it," Misner said. One of her daughters pushed back against having Misner make every decision in the spring. "I was forgetting best practice of giving them choice and options. You can do this or this assignment and then we can go outside and play. Both choices were appropriate but she felt like she had some power."

Misner and Parlato shared these 10 Tips for Managing Learning from Home.



Class of 2020 - Congratulations Graduates!



Nora Schwartz
Kalamazoo Central



Emily Edlefson
Loy Norrix



Rahya Kelley
Kalamazoo Central



Carly Loken
Loy Norrix



Trinity Hardy
Kalamazoo Central



Jeanie Gould-McElhone, Loy Norrix



Grace Dinda
Kalamazoo Central



Riley Dominianni
Loy Norrix



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UPCOMING DATES

Tuesday, September 8	9:30 am—12:30 pm
Thursday, September 17	5:30—8:30 pm
Tuesday, October 6	9:30 am—12:30 pm
Thursday, October 15	5:30—8:30 pm
Tuesday, November 3	9:30 am—12:30 pm

Bethany Christian Services
6687 Seeco Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009