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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, Oct. 8 & 22, 2020
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

Oct. 9: Half-day for grades 6-8 and Phoenix

Oct. 14: Half-day for grades 9-12

Oct. 15: Half-day for grades 6-8

Oct. 16: Half-day for K-5

Oct. 30: No school for grades 6-12 or county programs

Nov. 3: Election Day

Nov. 13: Half-day for PK-grade 8

Nov. 20: Half-day for grades 9-12 (not Phoenix)

Nov. 23: Half-day for grades 9-12 (not Phoenix)

Nov. 25-27: Thanksgiving break

Dec. 21 - Jan. 1: Winter break

Jan. 4: Classes resume

Other dates will be announced following the finalization of the contract between KPS and KEA, our teachers' union.

Community Keeping Teachers, Students Stocked with Essentials through KPS Supply Closet

Angee McCormick has been involved with Kalamazoo Public Schools for a long time — she has four children ranging in age from 31 to 13.

One of her biggest concerns has always been for the teachers and making sure they have the tools they need to help their students. So, when she was a parent at Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary, she organized a supply closet of donated goods that teachers could tap whenever they needed things like tissues, dry erase markers, and paper.

“I just didn’t want to see teachers have to pay for things out of their own pockets,” McCormick said.

This summer when she was



The KPS Supply Closet donation tote is located under piles of baked goods at The Victorian Bakery. Those wishing to make donations can look for the black and yellow totes at almost 25 sites around Kalamazoo.

volunteering to help with meal distribution at Parkwood-Upjohn, she had the chance to see how eager families were to receive school supplies when they stopped at the lunch site.

Both experiences inspired her to start the KPS Supply Closet, a community effort to collect and distribute school supplies across the district. Through the community volunteer group, supplies are being collected at more than 20 sites around the city and on an Amazon wish list. Community members can also contribute gift cards. No cash donations are being accepted.

“My biggest thing is I want people to look out for each other,” McCormick said. “Right now, everyone needs to look out for each other. Some might be too proud to reach out for help, but we need to make sure everyone is on as level a playing field as possible.”

(continued on page 8)

Administration Building Closing for Mechanical Updates, Departments Moving

The Kalamazoo Public Schools Administration Building, 1220 Howard St., will be closing at the end of September for renovations and mechanical work. During that time, the departments housed in the Administration Building will move to temporary locations for at least the next six months.

There should be minimal disruption to services while staff move to their new locations.

The temporary office assignments will be:

Business, Human Resources, and Food Service, 3410 Laird Ave. (former Oakwood Junior High/Alternative Learning Program).

Superintendent’s Office, Teaching and Learning Services, and Communications, 3333 S. Westnedge Ave. (in the South Westnedge School).

Student Services, 824 Jackson St. (the former transportation office).

Transportation, (has permanently moved to its new facility) 1800 Ravine Road.

Administrative Information Systems, 600 W. Vine St. (located near the new Kalamazoo Community Education Center).

All phone numbers will remain the same (269 area code).

Business Office	337-0115
Human Resources	337-0177
Food Service	337-0120
Superintendent’s Office	337-0123
Teaching and Learning Services	337-1680

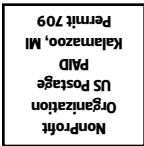
with Technology Services in the Community Education Center).

Administration Building mail should be sent to KPS, 3410 Laird Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

Communications	337-1572
Student Services	337-0161
Transportation	337-0500
Administrative Information Systems	337-0146

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

Find information at <https://kalamazoopublicschools.com/humanresources>



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Communities in Schools Not in Schools this Fall, but Still in Students' Lives

Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo staff members are not in schools seeing students every day — but they still want kids and families to know that they are here and ready to help them.

“We’re making connections to kids and families through phone, email, and text,” said James Devers, executive director of CIS of Kalamazoo. “We’re still pretty much following the same case management process that we do in person, so we’re conducting student need assessments and connecting kids to services.”

CIS still receives referrals from teachers and other school staff, but families are welcome to contact CIS directly for assistance. Staff are checking their KPS emails. They also have started using Google phone numbers for calls and texting.

In the spring CIS helped the district provide students with

devices and internet access. It continues that work along with helping students obtain food and basic school supplies. At the end of 2019, the mobile dental, vision and medical appointments ceased. CIS is working to reinstitute those service this fall.

“It’s definitely been hard on folks not being able to see students on a regular basis,” Devers said. Google Meets and helping at food service sites have provided some connection. “They’re brief and socially distanced, but those encounters help us lay eyes on children again and to talk to them and see how they’re doing.”

CIS still offers some of its programming — albeit virtually.

“We’re providing academic support like we always do,” Devers said. “One of our goals is to emphasize the enrichment piece, so we’re making it fun and enriching. It’s not like the

typical school experience.”

For example, one site coordinator has started a Wake-Up Club to get kids energized before they start the virtual school day. Kids log in and chat with CIS staff over breakfast.

“It’s like when students ar-

rived at school and needed encouragement or a smile, they’d stop by the CIS office — except now the site coordinator is making that available virtually,” he said.

CIS has hired a number of enrichment providers to or-

ganize special events, such as having students record a song over the summer or complete a jewelry class, in which materials were sent to students so they could manipulate actual materials.

Participation has dipped on the virtual platform, Devers said, “But we’re encouraging families and kids to give it a chance. It may seem like you’re just online, after you’ve been in school virtually all day, but it’s a different type of experience. We think they’ll be surprised by how much fun kids are having learning about different things.”

“We look forward to being able to see all of our children and families face to face, but in the meantime we’re still going to do as much as possible to make sure they are supported to the same degree they were in the past.”

To reach CIS visit ciskalamazoo.org/contact/.



CIS Site Coordinator, Dana Flynn and a KPS staff member put food pack’s into Flynn’s car to deliver meals to families who do not have transportation.

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***KPS Grad in Action:* Nikki Czuhajewski Leaps through Stellar Experience at Adrian College**

Nikki Czuhajewski always loved ice skating, but never envisioned that her college skating experience would allow her to travel the world representing the United States.

Actually, as Czuhajewski was preparing to graduate from Kalamazoo Central High School in 2015, she wasn't sure what role skating would have in her college life. She assumed she might skate with a club team in college. But that year, The Kalamazoo Promise expanded to include 15 private schools in the Michigan Colleges Alliance.

That opened up the possibility of Czuhajewski, 23, using her Promise scholarship to attend Adrian College, a small college that is one of only three schools in the United States with a varsity skating program.

"I didn't even know Adrian existed until the summer of my senior year," she said. "I ran into the skating coach at a competition in Grand Rapids. They were recruiting, and I introduced myself. I attended camp at Adrian."

She visited the campus several times and found herself drawn to the small campus and intimate class sizes. She fell in love with campus — and loved the thought that she'd be able to continue skating. That year she became one of the first Promise scholars to attend Adrian.

In 2019, she earned her bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing and graphic design minor. She's now enrolled in Adrian's graduate program in sports administration and leadership.

“I loved the entire experience at Adrian,” she said. “I made my best friends. I met faculty who do nothing but support me. It’s been an incredible experience. I have grown as a person and learned so many independence skills. It’s been a game changer.”

Czuhajewski skated as an

individual athlete and with the synchronized skating team. Synchronized skating teams are groups of 16 athletes who perform highly choreographed routines that are judged on precision, technical skills and artistic presentation.

As a synchronized skater, she was tapped for the Team USA Synchronized Skating Dream Program, which has junior and senior teams that represent the United States in competitions around the world. She has traveled to Italy, Scotland, Sweden, England, France and Croatia with the Team USA Dream Team.

"I love so many things about skating. My favorite thing on the ice is jumping or when you nail an element for the first time," she said. "You do something exactly the right way and that rush of excitement is one of the best feelings. I love how free I feel when I am on the ice."

Being a scholar athlete — and eventual skate team captain — was demanding, she said. She

estimates she spent 15–18 hours a week in practice either on the ice or training. When she joined the team as an individual skater, that added another eight hours a week to her training schedule.

“You have to be really careful with your time management,” she said. “There are so few hours between practices, you have to be really conscious of how you spend your time.”

She laughs, recalling how an advisor chastised her for not joining some extracurricular activities, in addition to her sport during her freshman year.

"I don't think she fully understood the capacity of everything I was committed to and how focused I was on my freshman year academics and maintaining my GPA."

But, eventually, she did join other activities, including serving as a photographer for the school newspaper, joining a campus media group, and being a member of the Mortarboard, an academic honor society.



Kalamazoo Central 2015 graduate Nikki Czuhajewski is the head figure skating coach at Adrian College. She has traveled the world representing the United States as a member of the U.S. Synchronized Skating Dream Team.

Czuhajewski, who is now the head figure skating coach at Adrian, is not the only skater in the family. Her sister Amy, who also skates, followed Nikki to Adrian and is studying biology. They are the daughters of Jo and Don Czuhajewski. Being at Adrian has allowed the sisters to skate together for a few more years, and that's a gift Nikki Czuhajewski never anticipated.

“I’m incredibly thankful for The Promise and the opportunity to skate while achieving my degrees – even into my master’s. It has been an awesome privilege for me to be able to do that. I’ve been able to travel worldwide with my teammates and my best friends – and my family has been able to travel to almost every event. Those are memories that I will be able to cherish forever.”

EQUITY • TRUST • EXPERIENCE • INCLUSION

We are incumbents and longtime district locals committed to KPS who pledge to:

TRUSTEE

TiAnna L. Harrison



- Facilitate students to become positive, productive and contributing members of society
- Work to eliminate gaps created by the digital divide
- Promote post-secondary education options while in KPS for all youth

TRUSTEE

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

TRUSTEE

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.
- Promote inclusion with a focus on every child's truth, encouraging teamwork throughout the district to eradicate unwarranted biases

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE 11/3

PROMOTING THE VALUE & WORTH OF THE KALAMAZOO PROMISE

Paid for by: Citizens for Patti Sholler-Barber • Friends of Jason Morris • Friends to Elect TiAnna Harrison

Kalamazoo Public Schools Now Providing Meals for Seven Days a Week

Through a waiver granted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kalamazoo Public Schools has been approved for Community Eligibility Provisions as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs for the 2020–21 school year. That has allowed the district to increase its breakfast and lunch programs from five days of meals to seven days of meals each week.

KPS is now providing three days-worth of breakfasts and lunches on Tuesdays, and four days-worth of food on Thursdays.

The free meals are available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to 26 years old who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a state or local public educational agency. Meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability, and there will be no

discrimination in the course of the meal service.

The meals may be picked up by any adult or child. There is no income requirement for participation. The district does not require IDs or names of students.

Families are asked to complete the Household Information Report. The report is used to determine the amount of money the district receives from a variety of state and federal supplemental programs, such as Title I A, At-risk, Title II A, E-Rate, etc., which are vital to the district. The programs help provide funding for staff, supplies, counseling, parent engagement and technology. Forms have been mailed home and can be found on the KPS website.

The forms can be mailed to KPS, 3410 Laird Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

For more information or questions, contact KPS Food Services at (269) 337-0120.



Meals are free to all children 18 years of age and younger and to persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a state or local public education agency. No names, application or proof of income is required.

Delivery is Tuesdays and Thursdays. The two packs provide meals for an entire week.

Meals may be picked up at any site.

SCHOOL SITES, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	
Arcadia, 932 Boswell Lane Edison, 924 Russell St. El Sol, 604 W. Vine St. King-Westwood, 1100 Nichols Road Lincoln, 912 N. Burdick St. Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road Maple Street, 922 W. Maple St.	Milwood Elementary, 3400 Lovers Lane Parkwood-Upjohn, 2321 Park St. Prairie Ridge, 2294 S. 9th St. Spring Valley, 3530 Mt. Olivet Road Washington, 1919 Portage Road Woods Lake, 3215 Oakland Dr. Woodward, 606 Stuart Ave.
NON-SCHOOL SITES, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	
Eastside Association, 1301 E. Main St. Fox Ridge Apartments, 1320 Fox Ridge Dr.	Interfaith Homes, 1037 Interfaith Blvd. New Village Apts., 2500 St. Albans Way

EXTENDED HOURS SCHOOL SITES, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Hillside Middle School, 1941 Alamo Ave. Kalamazoo Central, 2432 N. Drake Road Linden Grove Middle School, 4241 Arboretum Pkwy. Milwood Magnet School, 2916 Konkle St. Northeastern Elementary, 2433 Gertrude St.

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October 2020

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NOTICE

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

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

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

Director of Student Services

Kalamazoo Public Schools
3410 Laird Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Kalamazoo Public Schools
3410 Laird Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri

Thank You to the 2020 KPS Retirees!

Kalamazoo Public Schools would like to acknowledge the following employees for their many years of service to the district. The traditional spring retirement celebration was canceled because of the pandemic, but that does not diminish the gratitude the district and the community has for all that these retirees have done throughout the years to support, nurture, and educate the students of Kalamazoo Public Schools. It is with tremendous thankfulness that the district acknowledges the 2020 KPS retirees and wishes them a happy retirement.

- Margaret Adams, assistant principal, Linden Grove Middle School
- Mary Banks, special education paraprofessional, Kalamazoo Central High School
- Bonnie Blackman, science teacher, Linden Grove Middle School
- Connie Brenes, bilingual paraprofessional, Lincoln International Studies School

- Orlando Briggs, special education teacher, Linden Grove Middle School
- Gail Bunschoten, school secretary, Greenwood Elementary School
- Christopher Caldwell, special education teacher, Kalamazoo Central High School
- Michael Champion, mechanic foreman, Transportation
- Judith D'Arcangelis, director of Elementary Education, Administration
- Kelly Dopheide, fourth grade teacher, Arcadia Elementary School
- Ramona Fletcher, coordinator of Bilingual, ESL, and World Languages, Administration
- Debora Gant, second grade teacher, Arcadia Elementary School
- Kelly Geier-McMahon, fifth grade teacher, Milwood Elementary School
- Michael Gilmore, homebound teacher, Student Services
- Cynthia Gippert, physical education teacher, Spring Valley Center for Exploration

- Jennifer Gougeon-Catarino, English teacher, Hillside Middle School
- Cheryl Hach, organic chemistry and human sciences teacher, Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center
- Terina Harvey, curriculum and instruction, Teaching and Learning Services
- Julie Hill, special education teacher, Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School
- James Johnson, facilities management, Facilities
- Angela Johnson, special education teacher, Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts
- Kenneth Jones, music teacher, Maple Street, Milwood Elementary, and Woods Lake Elementary
- G. Alex Lee, executive director of communications, Administration
- William Logan, paraprofessional, Loy Norrix High School
- Jeffrey Meyer, plumber foreman, facilities
- Gregory Miller, custodian, Milwood Magnet School

- Jack Mills, Academically Talented teacher, Prairie Ridge and Parkwood-Upjohn elementary schools
- Dale Monje, special education teacher, Hillside Middle School
- Charles Parker, behavioral specialist, Arcadia Elementary School
- Barbara Pollard, paraprofessional, Woods Lake Elementary
- Brian Pratt, culture and climate specialist, Indian Prairie Elementary School
- Leroy Robinson, campus safety, Kalamazoo Central High School
- Pamela Salak, dean of students and assistant principal, Kalamazoo Central High School
- Sharon Sankarsingh, fifth grade teacher, King-Westwood Elementary School
- Ruth Schafer, first grade teacher, Arcadia Elementary School
- Tameka Sims, special education paraprofessional, Kalamazoo Central High School
- Melissa Wilson, school psychologist, Special Education
- Elaine Zackery, teacher consultant, Spring Valley Center for Exploration

NEW VOICES, FRESH PERSPECTIVES

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First Day of School!



Landry, Jack, and Mia Smeader are ready for the first day of school at Prairie Ridge Elementary.



Lennox and Crane Conkling share a little sibling togetherness before school starts.



Kameron Doubblestein, third grader.

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Bruce Leiby looks excited about the first day of kindergarten.



Te'Arii Pratt tackles a coloring assignment on the first day of school.



Raziel Hernandez is all smiles on his first day of kindergarten.

(continued on page 7)

FULLER
County SHERIFF

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- ▶ Graduate of the National Sheriff's Institute
- ▶ Supervising a staff of 220+ and 100 reserves

I pledge to continue bringing best practices in policies, training and response, technology improvements, and inmate services to my office, along with positive community relationships.

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ON FACEBOOK: **RE-ELECT SHERIFF FULLER 2020**

Paid for by Friends of Richard Fuller,
PO Box 20417 Kalamazoo MI 49019

First Day of School! (continued from page 6)



Daphne Willis brought a friend to the first day of class.



Annie Mansfield, first day of her senior year.



Jackson Bergan checks in on the first day of school.



Lyndon Willis is ready for remote learning.



Eleanor and Ezra Lownds are ready for their first day of school 2020.



Dane and Dalton Mills pose for the traditional first day of school picture.



Phoenix High School math teacher Michelle Wilson-Banks got a great first day photo with her nephew Kha'Lil Green, a third grader at Edison.

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October 2020

EXCELSIOR

7

Community Keeping Teachers, Students Stocked with Essentials through KPS Supply Closet *(continued from page 1)*

The response has been tremendous, said Lynn Chio, a KPS employee who has been helping organize the KPS Supply Closet.

“I am always in awe of how the community will rally for important causes,” Chio said. “In these uncertain times and with all of the struggles everyone is going through — whether it’s being stuck in the house or a decrease in income or someone being sick — people still find a way to be generous with their time or their money. I think that’s a testimony to Kalamazoo.”

McCormick said she owes



The KPS Supply Closet is collecting school supplies such as these for distribution to teachers and students throughout the district.

a debt of gratitude to Chio and the other volunteers who have helped make the effort a success. There are dozens, but she’s especially thankful for Joe Snyder, owner of Salut Market; Lesa Brenner, who has organized the Amazon wish list; Tina Jackson at Milwood Magnet School, who is serving as a liaison with staff; Susan and Tim Brady, who have set up the email and will be handling inventory, and Minchie Brockman, who is organizing the totes at drop-off sites.

Popular items when she ran the Parkwood supply closet included tissues, dry erase markers, paper towels, pads of paper, clay, and crayons. Those are still important, but there are some new needs in the online environment, such as headphones, personal white boards, masks, flashcards, and tri-fold cardboard screens to help children create private study spaces. She anticipates the list evolving as staff get settled into the online environment and see what the students need.

The KPS Supply Closet is not taking requests for supplies from families. All donations are being funneled through the teachers. Teachers can request supplies for their use, and they are helping identify students who may need assistance. Families can reach



The KPS Supply Closet has set up a storage site at Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School.

out for help through their teachers. Volunteers are then delivering the supplies.

There are three ways to donate to the KPS Supply Closet:

1. Drop off supplies in one of the black and yellow, donation tote boxes located around the community. Boxes can be found at:
Salut Market
Treat Street
Rocket Fizz
Vine Street Neighborhood Association

- Kay Jewelers in The Crossroads mall
Niskier’s Chargrill
Midtown Fresh
Uncle Ernie’s
Victorian Bakery
Chau Haus
Pop City Popcorn
Kalamazoo Farmers Market
Identities Salon
Michelle’s on Gull Road
LFG
Kelvin & Co.
Civic Coffee House
Cole Nissan

Advantage Roofing
KaZoopy’s on West Main
and at various Food Truck Rallies

2. Donations of gift cards may be sent to KPS Supply Closet, P.O. Box 19364, Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

3. Donations can be made through the group’s Amazon wish list at t.ly/wBrr.

For up-to-date information about needs and collection sites, visit the Friends of the KPS Supply Closet on Facebook.

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Loy Norrix Knight Life Brings Home Awards in State Journalism Competition

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 staff of the Loy Norrix High School Knight Life school newspaper, who once again took home multiple awards from the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association competition through the Michigan State University School of Journalism.

Knight Life is a student-produced publication that has been reporting the news since 1960. The staff publishes the news on the website Knight Life News. Knight Life can also be found through the app Student News Source. The faculty advisor is Tisha Pankop.

MIPA AWARD WINNERS FROM 2020 COMPETITION

Online Breaking News Coverage
Ourania Alexopoulos, Brandon Schnurr, Honorable Mention

News Story
Ourania Alexopoulos, Honorable Mention

Online Follow-up News Coverage
Lily Stickley, Honorable Mention

News Brief
Claire Goodwin-Kelly, 3rd Place

News Analysis
Audreanna Dunton, Honorable Mention

Editorial
Devon Gross, Honorable Mention

Bylined Opinion Article
Lydia Snapp, 2nd Place
Lily Stickley, Honorable Mention

In-depth Feature
Lydia Snapp, Honorable Mention

Informative Feature
Maya Crawford, Honorable Mention

Human Interest Feature
Clara Moss, Honorable Mention

Personality Profile
Elliot Russell, Honorable Mention

Sports Action Photo
Alexis Weeden, 3rd place

Sports Feature Photo
Perla Santiago, 3rd Place
Alexis Weeden, Honorable Mention

News/Feature Photograph
Yasmin Mosqueda, 2nd place

Photo Story
Perla Santiago, 1st Place and 3rd Place

Editorial Cartoon
Cameron Greene, Rayna Sorrentino, Honorable Mention

Comic Strip
Bella Ford, 1st Place
Aanje Greymountain, 3rd Place

Illustration
Elliot Russell, Eli Reynolds, 3rd Place

Information Graphic
Maya Crawford, 3rd Place



From left to right, First Row: Brandon Schnurr, Natacia Branstrom, Riley Dominianni, Maya Crawford. Second Row: Ourania Alexopoulos, Ms. Pankop, Elliot Russell, Jackson Kiino-Terburg, Lily Stickley, Yasmin Mosqueda. Third Row: Clara Moss, Jeanie Gould-McElhone, Devon Gross, Claire Goodwin-Kelly, Emma Hilgart-Griff, Alexis Weeden, Brandi-Rose Phiri, Eli Reynolds, Perla Santiago. Not Pictured: Gigi Fox, Shin-Ling Yeh, Colin Carnell, Nathan Goodwin-Kelly, Audreanna Dunton, Finn Brent, Lydia Snapp, Samantha Shaffer, Hannah Locke.



REGISTER FOR WINTER



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Kalamazoo VALLEY™

First Day of School for Teachers and Staff!



Northeastern Principal Sylvia Washington. This is Washington's first year at Northeastern.



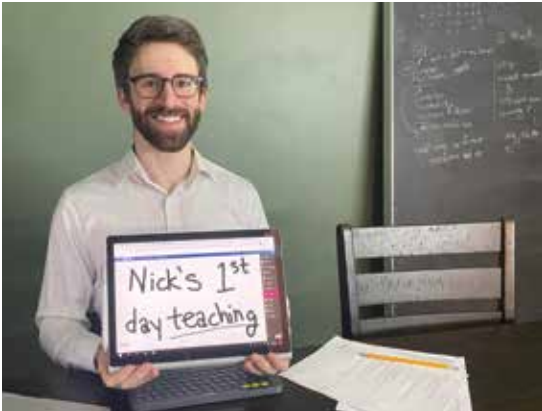
Linden Grove teacher Daniel Chase had company on the first day of school.



Milwood Elementary Principal Craig LeSuer and staff members Carolyn Betke, Kim Knight and Leroy Green offer students encouragement for the start of the 2020-21 school year.



Prairie Ridge teacher Kendall Schneider is ready for her fourth year of teaching.



Nick Wasylyshyn celebrates his first day of teaching at Loy Norrix.



El Sol staff welcomes back the students at El Sol Elementary. From left: Maria Flores, child accounting secretary; Gracie Arevalo, secretary; Elizabeth Dana, activity helper; and April Guevara, special education teacher.

(continued on page 11)

GET READY TO VOTE!

YOUR VOTE • YOUR VOICE

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VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Vote411.org

Before October 19, 2020

Register to Vote Online or by Mail:
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October 20 to November 3, 2020

Register to Vote in person at your city or township clerk's office.

ALL REGISTERED VOTERS MAY VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.

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Early Voting: Thursday, September 24 to Monday, November 2, 2020
By Absentee Mail Ballot or In-Person at the Clerk's Office. Clerk Hours & Dates Vary.

MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR BALLOT EARLY!

Ballots must be received by the clerk by 8pm on Election Day.
Verify receipt of your mail-in ballot Michigan.gov/Vote.

If voting in person, please plan to vote safely by following the CDC's recommendations: Wear a Face Mask, bring Hand Sanitizer and follow Social Distancing guidance of 6' or more.

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First Day of School for Teachers and Staff! (cont. from page 10)



Secretary Cynthia DeYoung, principal ReQwal Duckworth, and Reading Recovery teacher Christy Roth welcome back Northglade students on the first day.



Elizabeth Spaner-Jackson, the new principal at Greenwood Elementary School, hopes students have a happy day and a happy year on the first day of the 2020-21 school year.



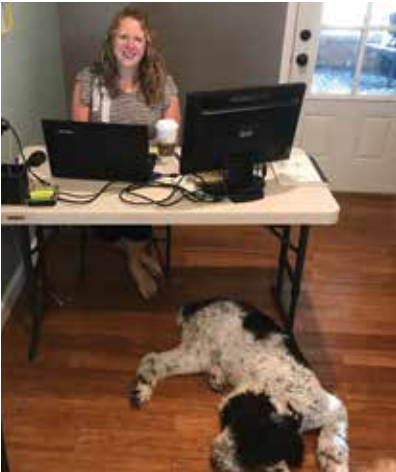
Parkwood-Upjohn teacher Renay Williams-Whitson doesn't look like she has the First Day jitters.



Mitch Hawkins, the new principal of Milwood Magnet School, welcomes students back to school.



Winchell Elementary teacher John Lehman has multiple screens ready for his students on the first day of school.



Maple Street choir teacher Julie Rogers Davis gets a little help from a friend to start the new school year.



Lincoln International Studies Schools sends huge thanks to Forensic Fluids for their recent donation of school supplies, such as paper, pencils and notebooks. Thanks to Forensic Fluids' generosity, the school was able to provide almost 300 students with school supplies for the start of the year. Erin Michael, Matt Borr, Dave Bergland, and Bobby Elster delivered the supplies. Others who helped collect and pack the supplies were: Ian Kerr, Marilyn Cole, Mark Fournier, and Cameron Holtman. Lincoln appreciates its community partners!

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KPS Librarians Recommend Books for: National Bullying Prevention Month

PreK – 2

Bully
by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Interacting with other animals in mean-spirited ways, a little bull calls names and behaves in an intimidating manner until his bullying behavior is brought to his attention.

My Footprints
by Bao Phi

Upset after being bullied, Thuy, a Vietnamese American, pretends she is different creatures, including an especially strong, wonderful being made up of her two mothers and herself.

Grades 3 – 5

Mia Mayhem vs. The Super Bully
by Kara West

Confronted by a bullying fellow superhero who accuses her

of not belonging at THE PITS, Mia leans on the support of her friends while trying to figure out how to stand up for herself, in the latest entry in the series that includes “Mia Mayhem Learns to Fly!”

The Banana-Leaf Ball : How Play Can Change the World
by Katie Smith Milway

Separated from his family when they are forced to leave their home in East Africa, Deo is sent to a refugee camp in Tanzania, where he endures bullying until a coach organizes a soccer team that helps the boys at the camp find friendship and a sense of belonging.

Grades 6 – 8

New Kid
by Jerry Craft

Enrolled in a prestigious

private school where he is one of only a few students of color, talented seventh-grade artist Jordan finds himself torn between the worlds of his Washington Heights apartment home and the upscale circles of Riverdale Academy.

Save Me a Seat
by Sarah Weeks

Ravi, who has just moved to America from India, and Joe, who is learning disabled, gain strength from each other as they struggle to navigate middle school, family relationships, and friendships.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle
by Leslie Connor

As he grieves his best friend Benny's death, Mason and his friend

Calvin, who are targeted by the neighborhood bullies, create an underground haven for themselves, but Mason finds himself in trouble when Calvin goes missing.

Grades 9 – 12

Hope Nation: YA Authors Share Personal Moments of Inspiration
by Rose Brock

This collection of essays and original stories by some of today's most influential young adult authors speaks directly to teens on how to find hope and comfort in today's turbulent society.

Here to Stay
by Sara Farizan

When a cyberbully sends the entire high school a picture of basketball hero Bijan Majidi, photo-shopped to look like a

terrorist, the school administration promises to find and punish the culprit. But Bijan just wants to pretend the incident never happened and move on.

Your Rights as an LGBTQ+ Teen
by Barbra Penne

This nonfiction book describes and explains the legal rights of LGBTQ+ young people in the United States, including information on free speech and expression, identity, protection from abuse and discrimination, and privacy.

Mobile Health, Dental Clinics Preparing to See Students

The Family Health Center Mobile Health Clinic and Mobile Dental Clinic serve Kalamazoo Public Schools students and their families. The medical clinic provides physicals, immunizations, well-child visits, among other services, while the dental clinic can clean teeth and provide sealants. The clinics take insurance and offer a sliding scale fee. Clinic schedules will be released soon.

Students must complete a registration form before attending any of the clinics. For more information or to find a registration form visit <http://www.fhckzoo.com/mobile-units/> or call (269) 349-2641. Registration forms can also be found on the KPS website under the Quick Links section on all school pages. You can also contact Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo for assistance at <https://cis-kalamazoo.org/contact/>.



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