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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meeting

Thursday, May 9 & 23, 2019
7 p.m.

Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

May 1

High School Conferences
4-7 p.m.

May 2

Middle School Conferences
To Be Scheduled by Building

High School Conferences
5-8 p.m.

May 24

No PEEP

May 27

Memorial Day — No School

May 28

KAMSC Senior Recognition
Ceremony

May 31

Last Day for Seniors
and PEEP

June 3

Phoenix Graduation
Chenery Auditorium / 7 p.m.

June 5

Loy Norrix Graduation
Wings Event Center / 7 p.m.

June 6

Kalamazoo Central Graduation
Wings Event Center / 7 p.m.

District Graduation Rates Climb; District Programs Should Help Fuel Continued Growth

Kalamazoo Public Schools continues to drive graduation rates upward to their highest level under the current national graduation rate formula, Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice reported at the KPS Board of Education meeting on March 14.

The district’s four-year graduation rate has risen to 75.2 percent. Overall, the district continues to gain on the state four-year graduation rate of 80.6 percent. KPS also reported a rising five-year graduation rate of 80.4 percent, compared to the state five-year graduation rate of 83.2 percent—this despite the district having significantly greater poverty than the state as a whole. Last year the state’s free/reduced price lunch percentage was 50.7%, compared with the district’s 70.4%.



2018 Kalamazoo Central graduation with Morgan Dantzler, Artrell Davis, and Kevin Davis.

These numbers continue to reflect positively on the district, especially when compared to urban school districts of similar socioeconomic status, Rice said.

Board President Patti Sholler-Barber praised Rice and KPS staff for the improvements, and said, “Teachers deserve the first round of applause, the major round of applause. I can’t begin to tell you how important they are.”

Sholler-Barber said it’s important to remember that KPS is making improvements while dealing with all of the challenges that face a large urban district such as inadequate funding, shelter and food challenges for students, and teacher shortages.

Board Secretary Jennie Hill also praised teachers, paraprofessionals, food service workers, and everyone who helps drive the improvements and said it was

(continued on page 3)

Gov. Whitmer Visits Edison Environmental Science Academy



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer stopped in Kalamazoo to celebrate National Reading Month with students at Edison Environmental Science Academy on March 21. Thank you to the Governor for helping Kalamazoo Public Schools students appreciate the importance of reading every day. Teacher Erika Zavasky, left to right, Gov. Whitmer, and intern Haley Crowton pose with Zavasky’s kindergarten class.

More pictures on page 3.

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

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

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KPS Rich in Partners

In 1981, my sophomore year in college, I decided to become a big brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program in New Haven, Connecticut. I applied, went through the reference check process, and was introduced to my little brother several weeks later.

Erick and I became fast friends. I was accepted as part of his family and network of friends. He spent time on campus with me and my friends. He loved sports, and we were in a lot of pickup games together. His mother and I attended his baseball games and his spelling bees (He won a school championship!), and we even went to Madison Square Garden one day to see the Knicks play the 76ers.

By the time that I had graduated almost three years later, he was about to enter high school and was taller than I was. The little brother had become the big brother. Years later, my wife and I invited him to our wedding. Just a half decade ago, we had brunch in New York

City. A couple of years ago, we went to lunch in Connecticut, where I heard not only about his kids but his grandkids.

I've appreciated Big Brothers Big Sisters for almost four decades, since that great experience with Erick and the organization in New Haven. We're fortunate in Kalamazoo to have a strong Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. It does a terrific job with one-on-one mentoring.

We're lucky to have not just Big Brothers Big Sisters as a partner when it comes to one-on-one mentoring. Churches affiliated with Kids Hope have provided one-on-one mentors for district children for a number of years. Communities in Schools (CIS) of Kalamazoo has also provided one-on-one mentors for our students.

In 2015, we began multi-student mentoring in the dis-

trict, and expanded the program in 2016 to community mentors each typically mentoring four or five students. Last year, 413 staff and community mentors mentored 1,168 students in 9,572 weekly mentoring sessions. Great support for our kids! Thanks to those staff and community members who have joined me in this important way.

KPS is blessed beyond its mentors. We're also fortunate when it comes to tutors as well. CIS-Kalamazoo coordinates volunteer tutors, and both Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College, among others, provide tutors for our children.

Our kids have benefitted from our food partnerships as well. In addition to having expanded our school breakfast, school lunch, and school dinner programs, we have an outstanding partnership with Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, which has implemented food pantries in 11 of our schools in the last several years.

Several organizations provide after-school support or programs for our children, in-

cluding, but not limited to, CIS-Kalamazoo, the YMCA, the Boys & Girls Club, the Douglass Community Association, and Eastside Youth Strong.

KPS health/mental health partners include the Family Health Center, Family and Children's Services, Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bronson and Borgess hospitals, and CIS-Kalamazoo.

No list of Kalamazoo partners would be complete without the Kalamazoo Promise, which provides free college tuition to the vast majority of KPS high school graduates, the gift of generous, anonymous donors.

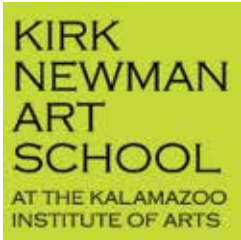
Any way one counts partners, KPS has more than 250, and the list continues to grow. Some organizations such as CIS provide many services. Others have a niche. All serve children in a mix of ways. For them all, we are enormously fortunate.

Below please find a list of 82 KPS partners. Over the next few months, we will share with you additional KPS partners and partner impacts. In the meantime, if you want to ensure that your partner organization is noted, please send your name and organization, along with how it partners with KPS, to Linda Mah at mahls@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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ARTS FAIR JUNE 7-8



FRIDAY

Art sales 3-8 pm, Bronson Park
Beer Garden 4-10 pm, at the KIA

SATURDAY

Art sales 9-5 pm
Family activities 12-4 pm

Food trucks & entertainment both days



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Advocacy Services for Kids (ASK)
Agape Christian Church
Air Zoo
Allen Chapel AME Church
Alliance for a Healthier Generation
Alpha Kappa Alpha
Alpha Phi Alpha
Airport Auto
AmeriCorps
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
The ARC Services for Youth
The ARK for Youth
Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo
Ascension - Borgess Hospital
August Optical
Backpack Buddies
Bert's Bakery
Bible Baptist Church
Big Brothers / Big Sisters
Bigs with Badges
Bigs in Business
Black Arts & Cultural Center
Black Education Ensemble Theatre
Blaze Pizza
Blessings in a Backpack
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp
Boys and Girls Club
Boy Scouts
Breakfast of Champions
Bronson Healthcare
Brown Sugar Book Club
BUNDLE UP
Capoeira
Child Evangelism Fellowship - Good News Club
Centerpoint Church
Central Lodge #10 Prince Hall Association of Freemasons
Chapel Hill United Methodist Church
Children's Place
Colleagues International
Communities in Schools - Kalamazoo
Community Advocates for Parents and Students (CAPS)

Community & Parent Volunteers
Community-Based Vocational Education
Community Dental
Community Feast
Community Presbyterian Church
Consumers Credit Union
Consumers Energy
Courtyard Inn
Crescendo Academy of Music
CSM Group
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Douglass Community Association
Eastside Youth Strong
Order of the Eastern Star - Zorah Chapter #3
Education for Employment (EFE)
Education for the Arts (EFA)
El Concilio - (Hispanic American Council)
Elizabeth Upjohn Healing Center
Fair Food Matters
Faith Temple
Family & Children's Services
Family Health Center
Fatherhood Network
FIRE
First Congregational United Church of Christ
First Day Shoe Fund
First Presbyterian Church
First United Baptist Church
First United Methodist Church
Flowserve
Food Research Corporation
Forensic Fluids
Fresh Fire AME Church
The Gilmore
Galilee Baptist Church
Girl Scouts
Girls on the Run
Goodwill Industries
Grace Harbor Church
Graphic Packaging

District Graduation Rates Climb; District Programs Should Help Fuel Continued Growth *(cont. from page 1)*

truly a “team effort.”

Other key points from the presentation:

- Graduation rates for the district’s two traditional high schools exceed the state four-year graduation rate, with Kalamazoo Central graduating 88.9 percent of students and Loy Norrix graduating 82.8 percent of its students in 2018, according to data from the Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information.
- For five years in a row, KPS has raised its African American male four-year graduation rates from 46.7 percent in 2013 to 61.5 percent in 2018. That is just 2.6 percent below the state graduation rate of 64.1 percent for African American males. The African American male five-year graduation rate was 66.5 percent in 2018, less than a percentage point below the state’s 67.2 percent.
- In 2010, President Barack Obama spoke at the Kalamazoo Central High School graduation as the prize in the first annual Race to the Top Commencement Challenge, which was awarded for work toward establishing a college-going culture. That year, the district’s four-year graduation rate was 63.1 percent. The district’s four-year graduation rate has risen 12 percentage points since Obama’s historic visit.
- Rice said that teachers, support staff, administrators, and community members have worked hard to improve outcomes for all KPS students. He noted the district expects to continue to improve graduation rates given programs begun for and continuing to affect current KPS students, such as full-day preschool and kindergarten; new reading, writing and math curricula; increased mentoring; and enhanced summer reading programs.

May Mobile Health and Dental Clinic Schedules

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, and 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. Here are the May schedules for the clinics. Schedules are subject to change. For more information, visit www.fhckzoo.com/mobile-units, call (269) 349-2641, or contact the Community in Schools of Kalamazoo office at your school.

Mobile Health Unit

- May 6 - Woods Lake
- May 8 - Woodward
- May 13 - Washington
- May 16 - El Sol
- May 20 - Hillside
- May 22-23 - Edison
- May 29 - Parkwood

Mobile Dental Unit

- May 2 - Woodward
- May 3 - Northeastern
- May 6-7 - Maple Street
- May 8 - Linden Grove
- May 10 - Parkwood
- May 13-14 - Woods Lake
- May 16 - Prairie Ridge
- May 20 - Lincoln
- May 21 - Hillside
- May 22 - Woodward



Gov. Whitmer Visits Edison Environmental Science Academy *(cont. from page 1)*



KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer pose with students Prestin VanMeter and A'Lee Jamison at Edison Environmental Science Academy.



Third-grader Dallas McDade met the Governor during her visit.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer visited fourth-grade teacher Danielle Buehrle's class at Edison Environmental Science Academy.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer posed for a photo with KPS administrators and teachers at Edison Environmental Science Academy. Front row, left to right, Chris Aguinaga, William Santilli, Atiba McKissack, Mark Hill, Valerie Boggan, Gov. Whitmer, Heather Reid, Trisha Fires, Amanda Miller, and Atiba Ward. Back row, left to right, Dr. Lindsay Noakes, Dr. Michael Rice, Corey O'Bryan, Anthony Barnes, Michelle Wilson-Banks, Andrew Muysenberg, and Scott Hunsinger.

Students Champion Adult Education Options at Kalamazoo Forum

By **Teri Banas**
*Communications Manager,
Michigan's Children*

Ruby Dixon was barely getting by when she acted on a co-worker's suggestion and enrolled in the Kalamazoo Public Schools Adult Education program. Last fall, the 22-year-old achieved a milestone in her quest for a better life for her and her daughter.

In November, she earned a GED through adult education, and today she is enrolled in a certified nursing assistant program in partnership with Michigan Works! and the adult education programs in Kalamazoo and Comstock.

"I knew that this wasn't just a priority for myself; my priority was to work hard for my daughter, too," Dixon said.

She shared her story at a "Students Speak" forum, sponsored by Michigan's Children and the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education (MACAE), on March 11 in the Kalamazoo Community Education Center. MACAE advocates for community and adult educa-



Kalamazoo Public Schools Adult Education Director Kim Bell speaks with Mary Judnich from Sen. Debbie Stabenow's office, state Sen. Sean McCann, and Janice Storrs, coordinator of Coldwater Adult Education.

tion on the local, state and federal level. Michigan's Children is a child advocacy group, with an emphasis on children in need.

Among those attending the forum were: state Sen. Sean McCann; Annie Brown, a staff member for U.S. Sen. Gary Peters; Mary Judnich, a staff member for U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow; and Mariah Phelps, a staff member for state Rep. Jim Haadsma.

Kim Bell, director of the Kalamazoo Adult Education program, said stories like Ruby's and others illustrate the impor-

tance of helping community residents on a path to academic and career improvement.

There are immeasurable benefits for communities when under-educated residents achieve the educational skills they need for better-paying jobs or when parents are able to better participate in their children's education, Bell said.

"These circumstances benefit our local economies and have the potential to break cycles of poverty," she said.

In the past, nearly every

school district in Region 8 (Beren, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties) operated an adult education program, but most have closed because of funding issues. Today, just Kalamazoo and Comstock operate adult education programs in Kalamazoo County.

For years, adult education programs have been underfunded and inaccessible for many in Michigan. MACAE estimates that more than 42,000 Michiganders of child-bearing age do not have

more than a ninth-grade education, limiting their employment opportunities and chances for economic self-sufficiency.

"Michigan will have over 811,000 career openings through 2024," said MACAE President Bob Steeh. "Who's going to fill those jobs openings when one in 10 Michiganders over 18 do not have a high school diploma? We are at a critical stage. Adult education can play an important role in workforce development and in closing that basic skills gap."

HiSet Equivalency Test Now Available at Kalamazoo Adult Ed

Kalamazoo Adult Education is now offering the HiSet test for high school equivalency as an alternative to the GED exam. (Students should note these programs are NOT interchangeable. If a student has completed some of the GED tests and would like to switch, they must retake ALL subjects in the HiSet tests.)

The HiSet comprises five tests: language arts—reading (65 minutes); language arts—writing (120 minutes); mathematics (90 minutes); science (80 minutes); and social studies (70 minutes). Tests are available in Spanish.

The Kalamazoo Adult Education Testing Center currently offers only paper tests. Computer tests should be available by June 1. Paper testing is in two-hour blocks and any of the five tests can be scheduled during that time. Candidates must arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled test time. Late arrivals will not be allowed to test based on HiSet testing requirements.

All scheduling may be done through a HiSet account, which can be established at <https://hiset.ets.org/>, or by calling (855) 694-4738. Tests must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance. The Kalamazoo Adult Education Testing Center does not offer scheduling nor accept any payments.

The fees are as follows:

- Paper delivery — \$53 for first test; \$23 for each additional test.
- Computer delivery — \$48.75 for first test; \$18.75 each additional test.
- Retests — \$8 each (two maximum per test subject — before waiting 90 days and starting over)

The fees may be paid by credit card, debit card, or by PayPal. There is an additional \$10 fee for scheduling by phone. Upcoming HiSet schedule — paper tests only — for the Kalamazoo site:

- Wednesday, May 15 – 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 15 – 1:45 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 29 – 11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 29 – 1:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 4 – 11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, June 4 – 1:45 p.m.

Additional testing days for summer and fall will be added later.

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NOTICE

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

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

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

Director of Student Services

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

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
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District Directory at :
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Math Night: Taking the Fear Factor Out of Math for Families

Greenwood Elementary School knows that when you add parents into the mix, learning adds up to something special.

Greenwood held its 11th annual Math Night, a celebration of counting, games, books and fun all designed to promote math skills — and help everyone feel a little more comfortable with their math facts.

Some students are a little scared of math — but then so are some parents. That's what Greenwood staff realized several years ago. So, Math Night was designed to emphasize math as a way to have fun while bonding.

Teacher Jami Skinner organizes the event for the school.

"We've got it down to a science," she said. "We've done various things through the years, but there are always new games. Teachers choose games based on whatever is going on with their curriculum at the time."

The basics are always the same: There are different games in each classroom and children take home a grade-appropriate math game the next day — whether or not they were able to attend the event. In addition, there are



Camille Lambert and her dad Jesse Lambert play a bingo-type game at Greenwood Elementary School.

snacks, games in the hallways and raffle prize, all math-related.

Skinner was new to the building when the former principal announced they were looking for a new family involvement activity that was fun and educational.

"It was really designed for families, not just the children," she said. "Math can be intimidating. So many parents are hands off. A lot of parents read every night with their kids, they write thank you notes and draw pictures for grandparents. But, they say, 'I can't do math.' So much of society has that mindset. We wanted to take the fear out of it.

"Math Night helps get families excited about math. The idea is to have intentional conversations about math—conversations about shapes, colors, sorting, numbers, costs and probability."

Greenwood is a prekindergarten to third-grade school, so math tends to focus on basics such as counting and number recognition, before moving to addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions.

Skinner offered some simple fun ways for parents to incorporate math learning into family life:

1. Make it fun. There are tons of counting books and rhymes that help develop number sense, like "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed." "You want children to play with numbers and shapes," she said. "We want them to not just count but to know that three is three."

2. Count. She has little plastic counters that she uses to teach students about combining numbers, but "children can count anything. It's not always about counters and fingers. It's whatever you've got," she said. Toys, socks, books. For preschoolers, the challenge can be finding

matching pairs or sorting, such as matching socks, or separating toys into vehicles and stuffed animals.

3. Use your environment. The grocery store is a perfect place to spy numbers. As the children get older, they can add numbers on the grocery bill. The kitchen is another great place to incorporate math, from counting, measuring and mixing.

4. Play games. Many board games involve math skills, such as counting spaces. Children may know how to move from one space to another, but might not know how to jump four spots. In the car, they can play I Spy looking for shapes or colors.

5. Look for books with math themes. Many books involve counting or simple shapes. Have children count along with characters, identify numbers or predict mathematical outcomes or changes in a story.

6. Visit the Kalamazoo Public Schools' website. Under links, you can find student and family links, which includes links to math games, curriculum guides and videos for all students in grades prekindergarten to 12.



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Northglade Celebrates African American Icons with Black History Wax Museum

The halls of Northglade Montessori Magnet School are usually pretty quiet, but not during the Black History Month Wax Museum.

Then, the halls are filled with chatter, laughter, and learning as older students take on the personalities of some of the best known African Americans in history — and some lesser known historical figures who deserve more attention. Younger students, parents, and other guests can wander the hallways and learn more about black history.

This year's array of "wax figures" — students dressed up as African American icons who recite a brief bio when a guest touches the black button inked on their hands — included aviator Bessie Coleman, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, gymnast Simone Biles, inventor Granville Woods, President Barack Obama, and civil rights activist Ella Baker.



Zamiir Jones portrayed inventor Granville Woods.



Lily Harris was pop singer and icon Tina Turner.



E'Marri Compton was Academy Award-winning film director and writer Spike Lee.



Kavayla Patterson chose to portray actress and singer Vanessa Williams.



Maya Graham serenaded guests with "Stop in the Name of Love," when she portrayed Diana Ross at the Northglade wax museum.



Te'Asia Ponder portrayed civil rights leader Ella Baker.



Christopher Baker took up the gavel as Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

the

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Kaniya Dixon dressed as aviator Bessie Coleman for the Northglade Black History Month Wax Museum.



Ryland Gilroy portrayed folk hero John Henry.



Kamaria Darden was entertainer and media mogul Oprah Winfrey.

Loy Norrix Quartet Trades Classical Music for Classic Rock in 'Beatles vs. Stones'

A group of Loy Norrix High School students used to playing classical music had the opportunity to explore classic tunes of a different sort when they backed up the tribute bands Abbey Road and Satisfaction — The International Rolling Stones Show at the State Theatre on April 14.

A string quartet of freshmen Chanel Wilson and Cassidy Conley, both violinists; senior Hanna Terrian, violist; and freshman Anthony Porco, cellist, performed six songs during the show “Beatles vs. Stones” at the State Theatre on April 14.

Terrian has been playing for eight years, while Wilson, Conley and Porco have each been playing about five years. Largely, the teens perform classical music with their school orchestra.

But, the students, who called themselves the Cohda Quartet (which is ad hoc backwards, because they do not usually play together), were excited to be able to stretch musically.

“It’s more fun when you like what you’re playing,” Porco said.

Wilson plays a fair amount of jazz and R&B with her father.



From center front, clockwise, Anthony Porco, Hannah Terrian, Cassidy Conley, and Chanel Wilson performed with “Beatles vs. Stones” concert at the State Theater on April 14.

Porco said his parents introduced him to the Beatles when he was young. Terrian, who writes music, said she’s open to “trying anything musically.”

The ensemble was nomi-

nated for the honor of playing the gig by their Norrix orchestra teacher Sandra Shaw and quartet coach Carol Corey. It was a whirlwind of activity to prep for the concert. They had less than

two weeks to practice then record their video audition, during which they were required to play “Eleanor Rigby” and “Give Me Shelter,” two of the songs on the playlist for the show. During the show they also played back up on “Ruby Tuesday,” “A Day in the Life,” “Hey Jude,” and “Hello, Goodbye.”

“It is definitely more my style to play this kind of thing,” Terrian said.

“It’s definitely fun because it’s more familiar,” Conley said.

Quartets are known for their intimate back and forth between performers. The Norrix musicians expected “Beatles vs. Stones” to

be less of that kind of performing but to still challenge them.

They needed to rely on strong sight reading skills because they had only one rehearsal with the professionals in the show, and they had to be able to follow the band members and shadow them musically, Wilson said.

Despite the high pressure and the short rehearsal period, Terrian said they were excited to share the spotlight in a totally new setting on the stage of the State Theatre and to play before a paying audience.

“I just want to get up there and feel the music and just flow with it,” Wilson said.

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KPS Music Students Earn Honors at State Events

The KPS Music Department has announced several honors given to district music students this spring.

HONORS BAND & ORCHESTRAS 2018-2019

Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) District XI Middle School Honors Band

Students are selected for the MSBOA District XI Middle School Honors Band by audition in the fall. They are given their concert music then spend a day



Pictured left to right, clockwise Chanel Wilson, Abigayle Smith, Anthony Porco, and Adam Ismaili-Alaoui in District HS Solo & Ensemble on Feb. 2 at Schoolcraft High School.

in November at Vicksburg High School working on it with a guest conductor. The students perform the music in a concert for family and friends the same evening.

Linden Grove Middle School

Cindy Zerban, director
Savannah Keck - trumpet
Sarah Mughazy - clarinet
Tyler Bale - trumpet

Hillside Middle School

Dan Stout, director
Tishawn Wilson - tenor sax
Diego Menchinger - percussion
Sydney Hughes - French horn

MSBOA All-State Middle School String Orchestra

The All-State Orchestra is comprised of approximately 70 auditioned students. The ensemble performed Saturday, January 26, 2019, at DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids.

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts

Sandy Shaw, director
Maia Lintner, violin

Michigan Youth Arts Festival MSBOA Honors Orchestra

The MYAF/MSBOA Orchestra comprises top-scoring high school students from Solo & Ensemble Competitions. The ensemble will perform as part of MYAF on Saturday, May 11, at Western Michigan University

Loy Norrix High School

Sandy Shaw, director
Garrick Hohm, bass

HONORS CHOIRS 2018-2019

Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) 6-7-8-9 State Honors Choir

Participation in all honors choirs is by audition only. Students who gained entry into the choir rehearse several Saturdays at schools throughout Michigan. Students performed Jan. 24 at DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids.

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts

Julie Davis, director
Ruby Berg
Alayna Boucher
Braeden Davis
Dominick Fooy
Catie Frink
Georgia Hutton
Charlie James
Isabella Johnson
Naomi Kimbrough
Charles Kutzko
Elyse Link
Rami Moghrabi
Emmalee Murphy
Will Murphy
Taniyah Pritchett
Chloe Rathbun
Ava Ritenour
Ellen Terzino

Hillside Middle School

Theresa Williams-Johnson, director
Davion Hubbard

Kalamazoo Central High School

Theresa Williams-Johnson, director
Martell Underwood

MSVMA High School Regional Honors Choir

Students in grades 10-12 audition to be accepted into the choir. They performed with the regional ensemble this fall.

Kalamazoo Central High School

Theresa Williams-Johnson, director
Taylor Beilby
Maicee Bishop
Karis Clark
Kaylyn Filer
Zachary Gillish
Madelyn Honeysett
Natalia March
MarQuan Snell
Sam Van Natter

Loy Norrix High School

Julie Pelligrino, director
Christopher Aranda
Katherine Gray
Hannah Newhouse

MSVMA High School State Honors Choir

These students are selected from the pool of regional honors choir participants. They performed Jan. 26, at DeVos Hall.

Kalamazoo Central High School

Theresa Williams-Johnson, director
Taylor Beilby
Maicee Bishop
MarQuan Snell

Loy Norrix High School

Julie Pelligrino, director
Christopher Aranda
Katherine Gray

MSVMA High School All-State Honors Choir

This choir consists of 120 students from the State Honors Choir, who audition to participate in this next level of performance. They perform at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Honors Concert in May at Miller Auditorium.

Kalamazoo Central High School

Theresa Williams-Johnson, director
Taylor Beilby

Loy Norrix High School

Julie Pelligrino, director
Katherine Gray

MSVMA High School All State Jazz Honors Choir

Students auditioned for one of 20 openings in the choir. They performed Jan. 25 at the J. W. Marriott Ballroom in Grand Rapids.

Kalamazoo Central High School

Theresa Williams-Johnson, director
Ellie Pollard



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Kalamazoo Central High School
Class of 2004 Reunion

Start pulling out your old photos to share and join us for our 15-year Class Reunion from June 21-22, 2019 in Kalamazoo.

We're planning a fun, casual Friday evening of catching up with friends and a formal event on Saturday evening at the Bernhard Center at WMU.

Visit [KCHS04Reunion.eventbrite.com](https://www.facebook.com/groups/KCHS2004) for details and to buy tickets!

Facebook:
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Website:
KCHS04Reunion.wordpress.com

Email:
KCHS04ReunionCommittee@gmail.com



First Day Shoe Fund Moves to Fall-Only Distribution

The First Day Shoe Fund, the program that provides free shoes to students at the start of the school year, is announcing a major change to its distribution plans.

The program will no longer deliver shoes during the summer, instead opting to focus on delivering the shoes at the beginning of the school year and expanding the service to schools outside of Kalamazoo Public Schools.

“The summer school shoe distribution model goes back to the organization’s founding in 2012, but with increased need (the organization provided over 4,750 pairs of shoes in 2018), it is necessary to focus on efficiency,” said Andrea Macklin, the executive director of the First Day Shoe Fund. Macklin joined the organization in February.

Moving to fall distribution will eliminate waste and



First Day Shoe Fund provides new shoes to eligible students at the beginning of the school year. Volunteers help fit the students with shoes.

duplication of services, which should help the group provide an estimated 800 additional pairs of shoes to students in the 2019-2020 school year, Macklin said.

Shoe request forms will be sent home with eligible children during the first week of school. Once these forms have

been returned, shoes will be delivered to elementary schools where staff and volunteers will help children try them on to ensure proper fit. Exchanges are available.

First Day Shoe Fund serves schools throughout Kalamazoo County.

Photo courtesy of Fran Dwight

Spring into Summer

MATH MOVES!

NOW – JUNE 2

Math Moves is a multi-sensory interactive exhibit that encourages visitors to set up, measure, describe, and compare ratios and proportions in a fun and active approach to problem solving.



THE SECRETS OF BEES

JUNE 1 – SEPTEMBER 30

Learn about the lives of bees, their importance in our world, and the influence humans have on them.

This exhibit is created by Imaginarium.

AMUSEMENT PARK SCIENCE AND TEAM UP! EXPLORE THE SCIENCE OF SPORTS

JUNE 15 – SEPTEMBER 8

Explore how our favorite amusement park rides work, and then test your skills in sports while learning about math and physics.

Created and circulated by Discovery Center Museum, Rockford, IL and made possible with funds provided by the National Science Foundation.



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

JUNE 15 | 1 – 4PM

Join us in a celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Live performances, vendors, hands-on activities, and more for the entire family.



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



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Artists' Corner

Winchell Elementary School fifth graders, from left, Carter Pickett, Lauren Rafferty, and Ariel Bennett show off their landscapes for the Artists' Corner.



Winchell Elementary School fifth graders created colorful landscapes inspired by the Canadian artist, Ted Harrison. Harrison's distinctive style was mimicked with the simplification of the landscape using line and shape. Students studied warm colors, cool colors, tints, and shades to develop these vibrant images. The project allowed students to experiment with color mixing, which is an essential skill when moving onward to middle school art. Their teacher is Mandy Clearwaters.

Chef Shaun • KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Caramel Cappuccino Mousse

Hello, Kalamazoo! I hope you enjoy this light, yogurt-based dessert, which has the added benefit of being a source of protein and calcium. Sharing this sweet treat with someone special is the perfect way to top off any occasion. Best regards, Chef Shaun



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

Ingredients

- 1/2 teaspoon unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup fat-free milk
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking cocoa
- 1/4 teaspoon instant coffee granules
- 1/3 cup fat-free, coffee-flavored yogurt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat whipped topping
- 1 tablespoon caramel syrup
- Dark, milk or white chocolate shavings, to taste

Directions

1. In a small saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over milk; let stand for 1 minute. Heat over low heat, stirring until gelatin is com-

pletely dissolved. Add cocoa and coffee; stir until dissolved. Transfer to a small bowl; refrigerate until mixture begins to thicken.

2. Beat until light and fluffy.
3. Combine yogurt and sugar; stir into gelatin mixture. Fold in whipped topping and caramel. Divide between two dessert dishes. Refrigerate until firm.
4. Garnish with chocolate shavings and a sprinkle of cocoa powder and enjoy!

Servings: 2

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Music Composed by Roberta Carlson

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Literacy Night Fun Around KPS Celebrates Books, Reading

Elementary and middle school night celebrations held in March. Students participated in “lit” events around the district as part of literacy themed evenings that celebrated the



Northeastern Principal Mitch Hawkins poses with students, from left, Derrion Stewart, Massiah Bluntson, Shannon Rodriguez-Creagan, and Douglas Howard during the school's "Wizard of Oz" themed literacy night celebration.



Anna Blakely shows off some of her book selections at the Northeastern Elementary literacy night.

ways literacy makes a difference in their lives. Literacy night themes included reading and employment at Washington Writers' Academy, science and literacy at Winchell Elementary, world cultures at Lincoln International Studies School,



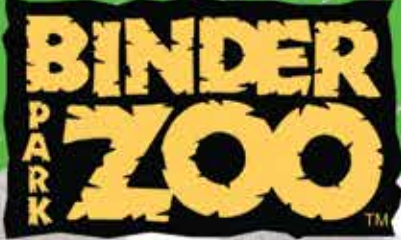
Kashmere Davis and Furaha Hussein look at the Egyptian crooks at a literacy night display at Lincoln International Studies School.

following the Yellow Brick Road to college at Northeastern Elementary's "Wizard of Oz" celebration, and healthy living at a Bronson Methodist Hospital health fair at Spring Valley Center for Exploration.



Aleen Alsubaie tries out the hula hoop at Spring Valley's Literacy Night with the Bronson Health Fair.





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of Early Childhood Literacy

Featuring: a book for each child; costumed characters; lots of wonderful stories; healthy snacks and juice.
This is a **FREE** event. Please R.S.V.P. to 553-7885 by May 24th. Register on our website: kpl.gov/party
Bring a blanket to sit on. Portable toilets will be available at the park. Weather cancellations may apply.

Birth–5 Years



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