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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, Oct. 10 & 24, 2019
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

Board Advance Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019
6:15 p.m.
Media Center
West Main Professional
Development Center
1627 W. Main St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

Oct. 11
Grades 6–8
Half Day

Oct. 16
Grades 9–12
Half Day
High School Conferences

Oct. 17
Grades 6–8
Half day
Middle School Conferences

Oct. 25
Grades PreK–12
No School

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Administrators
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Director of CIS
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Number of Graduates Continues to Climb for District

It takes 13 years to raise a graduate — and it takes the concerted effort of an entire community to ensure as many students as possible succeed.

The number of students graduating from Kalamazoo Public Schools since the announcement of The Kalamazoo Promise continues to rise, administrators told the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education on Aug. 29.

In June, KPS had 715 graduates, the largest graduating class since The Promise was announced in 2005, said Cindy Green, assistant superintendent for Teaching



The Kalamazoo Central choir performs during the 2019 commencement ceremony.

and Learning Services.

Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix high schools recorded

“Since the announcement of The Promise, the district has increased the number of graduates by 57 percent.”

and 297 graduating from Loy Norrix this year. Phoenix High School had 82 graduates, and the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program’s third graduating class had 14 students.

“It takes 13 years to raise a high school graduate,” Johnny *(continued on page 3)*

Special Guests and Special Events Kick-off Exciting New School Year

The 2019-2020 school year got off to a wonderful start with the support of more than 100 community greeters who turned out to welcome students back to school. Greeters helped students find their teach-

ers, distributed pencils, and cheered students on with clapping, handshakes and high fives.

Leading up to the first day of school were other special events around the district, including ice cream socials and meet-and-greets that allowed families to introduce

themselves to their teachers (including at Washington Writers’ Academy and Woodward School for Technology and Research, which started the new year in July).

(continued on page 4)



Alice Efting is all smiles as she prepares to enter Woodward on the first day of school on July 22. She’s followed by her mom Amy Efting.



Jacquelyn Copper cuts Masaun Winters’ hair at the Washington Writers’ Academy’s ice cream social in July.



Alfajiri Baradosa and his mom, Aurelia Baradosa, were all smiles for the first day of school at King-Westwood Elementary.

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KPS Offers a Multitude of Ways for Students to Succeed and Shine

For the past few years, the August edition of the *Excelsior* has celebrated the accomplishments and talents of our graduating seniors. The young adults in our district always amaze me.

As we launch a new school year, it occurred to me that reading the stories of our students provides insight into some of the programs that make KPS a unique educational experience. As a large and diverse district, we can offer students multiple ways to succeed, depending on their needs, interests and talents.

In 2017, for example, one of the graduates we highlighted was Kalamazoo Central student Roselyn Nsenga, whose family fled violence in their native Rwanda. She was born in Kenya and grew up in Malawi. KPS is home to hundreds of students from immigrant backgrounds and offers an extensive English as a Second Language program.

For someone who spent

years hiding her background because of fears of ethnic violence, Nsenga said it was refreshing to come to a school where she was accepted into a diverse and empathetic community.

Our award-winning music and art programs and other extracurricular activities give many talented students outlets in which they can express themselves. Two examples are Kalamazoo Central students Kendra Parkman, who was known for her choral and musical theater work, and Julia Kemple-Johnson, who won accolades through Mock Trial.

Other students find ways to shine on the court and on the field, carving out identities as athletes. Isaiah Livers, who was the 2017 Mr. Basketball and who



Gary Start, Interim Superintendent

now plays for the University of Michigan, was a basketball — and baseball — standout at Kalamazoo Central.

The Class A sports opportunities at KPS high schools include everything from tennis to football, swimming and diving to basketball and softball. Soccer, lacrosse, bowling and golf are just a few of the other sports offered in our schools. The wide variety allows students to forge unique paths. 2017 Loy Norrix alumna Sheridan Britney, who in the off-season from track started working out with the wrestling team, discovered a second athletic love and became the co-captain of the wrestling team in her senior year.

Diverse opportunities exist not only in extracurricular activities, but in our academic program as well. Students stretch themselves through collaboration with Education for the Arts, Education for Employment, Early/Middle

College, and the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

There have been stories of students for whom school is a place where they thrived, and our Academically Talented program and educational partnerships allow us to offer opportunities that challenge students on every level. In 2018, Kalamazoo Central's Thomas "Jake" Fales talked about the inspiration he found as an English student in the Academically Talented Youth Program, which allows students to complete four years of high school work in two years of middle school. Rachel Mei Lanting, who is a Heyl Scholarship winner, came to KPS as a freshman and was thrilled by the challenging AP classes she found at K-Central as well as at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

And finally, one thing that comes through clearly in these stories is not just that our stu-

dents are smart, talented, and gifted, but when they do struggle, we have a caring community of staff there to help students with the challenges life sets in front of them. Some students have shared those stories in the *Excelsior* as well.

Students also have shared stories about struggling with drugs, dealing with deaths of family members and friends, and addressing anxiety. They have shared their experiences, which luckily included them finding the right environments in which to heal and the support systems within their schools to enable them to succeed.

Not only are our students extraordinary — but so are our teachers, administrators, counselors, paraprofessionals, and community supporters. Together, we provide our children with diverse opportunities that let them shine no matter what their talents or their stories.

Explore



Grades 6-12

Saturday, October 19 | 11 am-3 pm
Kalamazoo County Expo Center | 2900 Lake St.

Discover



Meet the Author:
Sarah Steele

Saturday, October 19
10:30 am | OSH/Community Room
Family

Engage



Meet the Author:
Charmane Echols

Saturday, October 26
11 am | OSH/Community Room
Family

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Number of Graduates Continues to Climb for District

(continued from page 1)

Edwards, director of secondary education, said at the meeting. “We’ve improved in every level throughout the district. This includes curriculum improvements, best practices with instruction, parent and guardian support, and collaborative efforts within the community.”

That sentiment was echoed by several board members including Board President Patti Sholler-Barber. “This was not done by any magic wand. This was not done by any hocus pocus,” she said. “This was done with our community partners, our mentoring program, our caring food service workers, our caring para-pros, our caring parents, our teaching staff. This is a concerted effort.”

Edwards also cautioned people not to assume that the increase in graduation numbers is simply a byproduct of increased enrollment numbers. The real picture is much more complicated than that.

“Since the announcement of The Promise, the district has increased the number of graduates by 57 percent,” he said. “But, enrollment growth from 2005 to 2019 is 25 percent. While you could argue we don’t get credit for the first 25 percent, we definitely get credit for the other 32 percent. This is to say we are improving and our increases are not simply a function of our enrollment growth.”

Green and Edwards also presented information on the district’s three-year graduation rate for a four-year cohort and the four-year graduation rates for a five-year cohort. The rolling rates looks at bands of data, which present smoother trend lines than individual dates. Both rates have increased for seven straight years.

The 2018-19 graduation rate will be released by the Michigan Department of Education in the winter.

Artists' Corner

Woodward School for Technology and Research art teacher Todd Patrick has been talking to students about “What makes up a superhero? Does a person need superpowers to be super?” Students drew themselves as superheroes and discussed how their powers would help the people around them.



Nevaeh Cardenas, third grade, “The Magazine of Harely Quinn.”



Thomas Boddy Jr., third grade, “Aquatic Cyborg.”



Jaden Dunigan, third grade, “The Real Spiderman.”

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Special Guests and Special Events Kick-off Exciting New School Year (cont. from page 1)



Leslie Palmer with Lucas Palmer, fourth grade, and Lokia Palmer, sixth grade at Washington Writers' Academy's ice cream social in July.



Interim Superintendent Gary Start with his granddaughter Lillian Start at King-Westwood Elementary School on the first day of school.



Kindergartener Angel Hernandez and her mom, Renee Guzman, arrived together at King-Westwood Elementary School for the first day of elementary school.



Cousins Jeremiah Daniel, Israel Moore, and Nadiah Stevenson arrive together for the first day at Lincoln International Studies School.



Realtor Jim Hess points Debesh Marquardt and his father, Gary Marquardt, toward the fifth-grade line on the first day at King-Westwood Elementary School.



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

All other inquiries should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent of
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District Directory at :

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Gary Start



Spring Valley teacher Jill Sikaundi welcomes back students.



Crowds of greeters welcome students back to Edison Environmental Science Academy.



From front, Western Michigan University's Chris Praedel, CIS Executive Director James Deavers, and Pastor Jesse Herron greet students at Spring Valley Center for Exploration.



Kalamazoo County District Court Judge Tiffany Ankley gives Nataleia Nabors a warm welcome at Lincoln International Studies School.

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KPS Hires Seven New Administrators for 2019-2020 School Year

King-Westwood Elementary School Principal **Dwight Quinn Jr.** is excited to return to Kalamazoo Public Schools for the next phase of his career.

Quinn grew up in Muskegon. He came to Kalamazoo to attend Western Michigan University where he earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in educational leadership.

He began his career with Kalamazoo Public Schools, where he taught second grade at Washington Writers' Academy for six years. During that time, he taught summer school and was the instructional lead teacher for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers after school program. He represented Washington teachers on the superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council, served on Washington's School Improvement Team and the Magnet School Grant Writing Committee.

"I'm just really passionate



Dwight Quinn Jr.

about education," Quinn said. "I believe all students can learn and be successful. I really work and strive toward that goal."

Parents play a key role in achieving that goal, and it is key for any principal to develop a strong relationship with parents so they can be a team that helps children do their best, Quinn said. "The best education, the most important education starts

at home," he said. "All stakeholders play a vital role in the educational process. What I do is I try to forge a strong relationship with parents so they know their input is valuable."

Quinn is the father to a 16-year-old, 11-year-old and a newborn. As a parent, he said he supports his children, sets high expectations and involves them in activities outside of school.

"Whenever I go to their schools, though, they say, 'Dad, put on your dad hat.' They don't want me to go in and analyze things as an educator."

Meaghan Timmons said she's proud to be able to say she is a Kalamazoo Public Schools graduate — even though she didn't enroll in KPS until she was a senior in high school.

Still, that year was an important one. She was able to participate in an internship that allowed her to job shadow a teacher at



Meaghan Timmons

King-Westwood Elementary School and to work with children.

"That actually led to my teaching career," said Timmons, who is the new principal of Arcadia Elementary School.

"I like how teaching lets you work to better other people's lives and help better the community. It's a way of giving back. I think being able to mix a career

with a passion is just a beautiful thing."

After she graduated from Kalamazoo Central, she earned a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's degree from Grand Valley State University. She has worked for KPS for 14 years. She taught at Edison Environmental Science Academy for 13 years before becoming the district's literacy interventionist and coach.

She said she's thrilled to step into the diversity of the Arcadia community, which is known for its rich international culture.

"I think it's fabulous that we're providing these windows for the children to see the world," she said. "I get the feeling that no matter where people are from, they fit in and stand out in a good way here and people are learning from each other."

She said she sees her role as empowering children with

(continued on page 7)

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KPS Hires Seven New Administrators (continued from page 6)

a growth mindset, that says, “when you try hard, and you work hard and you put in effort you can always get — as I like to say — bigger, better, faster, stronger and smarter. We’re really about building our children up, not just academically but socially and helping them grow into themselves.

“I also think school should be the friendliest place there is. We’re serving kids. Learning should be rigorous, but it should also be a lot of fun.”

The new principal of Northglade Montessori Magnet School should be a familiar face to students and families.

Principal **ReQwal Duckworth** has taught at the school for 18 years, with experience in all grade levels. She has served as a mentor teacher, a member of the school improvement team and on the curriculum alignment team that helped align Michigan Department of Education curriculum standards to Montessori outcomes.

A native of Flint, Duckworth earned her bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University and a master’s in Montessori education from the College of Saint Catherine’s in St. Paul, Minn. She is enrolled in the educational leadership program at WMU.

Although she began her career in a traditional teaching style, she said she felt a tremendous affinity for Montessori practices after going through the training.

“It’s just a great way to learn. There are so many ‘ah-hah’ mo-



ReQwal Duckworth

ments you have as a teacher. It just makes sense,” she said.

She especially appreciates the philosophy of freedom that Montessori provides students. At Northglade, the students operate in a culture of freedom of choice, freedom to move and freedom to repeat.

“We really try to teach children to be independent and to practice cooperative learning,” Duckworth said. All of that takes place in a closely monitored environment, she said. For instance, if a student is choosing to avoid math — a teacher may help guide them back to that work.

Another key element of the school is the use of multi-age classrooms “where children can learn from one another and they have the same teacher for a number of years. That allows teachers to build better relationships with students and their families.”

Building strong relationships with parents is one of Duckworth’s goals for the school. “I want to get more parents in the building to see what is going on in



Matt Murray

the classrooms and to work with students and teachers. Parent participation is so important in a child’s education.”

Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School Principal **Matt Murray** traveled halfway around the world building up his teaching credentials before returning to Kalamazoo Public Schools last year.

Murray, who is originally from Highland, earned his bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Western Michigan University, where he completed student teaching at Hillside Middle School and in Paw Paw.

After that, he and his family moved to Texas where he taught in the San Antonio area, interned as an assistant principal, was a summer school principal, and earned a master’s degree in educational leadership at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

His family moved to Taiwan, where he taught middle school and high school social studies

(continued on page 8)

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KPS Hires Seven New Administrators (continued from page 7)

and English at a private international school, before returning to Kalamazoo last year. He taught at Milwood Magnet School. His wife, Sara Murray, is a special education teacher at Kalamazoo Central.

“In graduate school, I realized I had the ability to have a profound impact on students and colleagues through organizing events, and leading academic initiatives,” he said.

He said he is a big fan of authentic learning, which helps students connect their classroom learning to the broader world. He’s used that, for example, to help students rewrite the ending to their favorite stories and then to create plays that they performed for audiences. Another example might be starting a school store to teach economic principles, but also using it to teach students social skills and math skills.

“Authentic learning helps students reach out and engage the community, and in engaging they learn skills that prepare them for the real world and help them make connections,” he said.



Sally DeVisser

Murray said he wants to engage all parents because he wants to know what kind of education they want for their children. “Education belongs to the community,” he said.

Hillside Middle School has a new assistant principal this year. **Sally DeVisser** is a native of the Kalamazoo area who graduated from Portage Central High School before earning an associate’s degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and a bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University. She earned



Susan Coney

two master’s degree in literacy and educational leadership from Spring Arbor University.

She substitute taught for several years before joining the staff at the Middle School Alternative Learning Program for nine years.

DeVisser always thought she’d teach elementary school — inspired in part by her grandmother who was a second-grade teacher.

But when she joined ALP, “something just clicked,” she said.

“I loved working with the



Matthew McCullough

kids and helping them figure out what was behind their behavior and working to address that,” DeVisser said.

“I think one of the challenges is helping kids navigate the road between childhood and adulthood,” she said. “It’s a constant battle with middle school kids in that they want to be independent, and they want to be adults, and they want to be ‘grown,’ but they’re not always ready for that and they slip up.

“I like helping kids navigate that and figure out who they are as people.”

Susan Coney was hired this summer as the director of marketing and communications.

Coney worked for South Bend Community School Corporation in South Bend, Ind., for the

past 24 years — the last 16 years as director of communications.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from DePauw University and a master’s degree in education/school counseling from Indiana University South Bend. She completed the Non-Profit and Communication Series from the University of Notre Dame.

She is a member of the Indiana School Public Relations Association, the National School Public Relations Association, and a graduate from the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class XX.

In August, **Matthew McCullough** was appointed the director of curriculum, instruction and professional development. McCullough was the director of innovation, teaching, and learning for Schoolcraft Community Schools for the past three years. Previous to that, he was assistant principal at Arbor Preparatory Academy in Ypsilanti and was a KPS teacher for eight years.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in history, social studies, and education and a master’s degree in educational leadership, both from Western Michigan University.

He has received prestigious fellowships and is a sought-after speaker in the areas of curriculum, instruction, project-based learning, and technology.

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Kalamazoo Central Alum James Devers Selected to Lead Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo

The Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo Board of Directors has selected James Devers to serve as the nonprofit organization's second executive director. He replaces Pam Kingery, the organization's founding director, who retired in June.

"I am grateful to be stepping into the role of executive director with the perspective gained from my current position as senior director of site services," Devers said. "I already know our staff — we have a terrific team. In my new position, I want to ensure that the work we've begun, as well as the progress we've made together — both programmatically and relationally, will continue.

"I'm looking forward to bringing my perspective and experience to this dedicated team of staff, volunteers, school and community partners at CIS.

Together, we will continue to build upon CIS's successful history focused on helping kids stay in school and achieve in life."

Devers has more than 19 years of experience in the field of education, ranging from working for the Ohio Department of Education to doing community-based computer literacy training to serving as principal at a K-8 public school in Ohio. For the past year, he served as the senior director of site services for Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo.

A graduate of Kalamazoo Public Schools, Devers holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in public administration from Ohio State University. A passionate advocate for youth and families, his volunteer work over the years has included

starting several summer camps, tutoring youth, and mentoring high school students who were at risk of dropping out of school.

"After a very thorough search, the board is excited to welcome James Devers to lead Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo into the future," said Tony McDonnell, president of CIS of Kalamazoo board. "James bring tremendous experience, passion for helping kids succeed, and a steady leadership style to his new role as CIS ex-

ecutive director."

Devers attended Woodward, Woodrow Wilson, Spring Valley and Washington elementary schools, and Milwood and Hillside middle schools — before graduating from Kalamazoo Central High School and Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center in 1990. His wife Tanisha Devers, another KPS graduate, is a nurse with the Nurse Family Partnership.

As he steps into the role of executive director, he said he

looks forward to strengthening and building upon the CIS partnership with Kalamazoo Public Schools and on improving the impact of the work that CIS does.

"Now, with the 21st Century grants being renewed for another five years, I'm just excited by the possibility of refining the work we do in those programs, and giving children new and enriching experiences and supporting them in their academic pursuits."



James Devers is the new executive director of Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo. He is a graduate of Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Vote November 5th - Pete Kushner for Kalamazoo City Commission

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KalamazooVALLEY Museum

EXHIBIT

**FILLING IN THE GAPS:
THE ART OF MURPHY DARDEN**

OCTOBER 12, 2019 – MARCH 29, 2020

Selections of longtime Kalamazoo resident Murphy Darden's art will be assembled into four distinct themes: black cowboys, Darden's personal experiences in Mississippi, civil rights heroes and the African American community in Kalamazoo.

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

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

A collage of images featuring Murphy Darden, a Black man with glasses, smiling. To his right are three framed artworks: one of a person on a horse, one of a person in a car, and one of a group of people.

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KPS Graduates in Action

Three Graduates Use Artistic Talents to Design Unique Careers

Raul Ortiz, Abi Ramos, and Rogelio “Roy” Almaguer visited Loy Norrix art teacher Cindy VanLieu’s class last spring to give students insight into their unique career paths that allow them to use the artistic skills they honed at Norrix.

All three recalled how VanLieu encouraged them and how the art class was a place for them to hang out in high school. While other students might have been getting into trouble, they were getting into art.

After graduating from Loy Norrix (Almaguer in 2012 and Ortiz and Ramos in 2013), they all attended Kendall College of Art and Design.

Ortiz earned a degree in industrial and graphic design and snagged an internship with the golf division of Puma after graduation. He now works full time in Boston with the design team for the running and training division of Puma.

“The design process is very subjective. It’s all about your perspective,” he told students.



Rogelio “Roy” Almaguer, Raul Ortiz, and Abi Ramos grew up in the Edison neighborhood together. After graduating from Loy Norrix High School, they all attended the Kendall College of Art and Design. Ortiz and Ramos are athletic shoe designers and Almaguer runs a successful art and tattoo studio.

What looks crazy to one person, looks like high fashion to another, and looks like it came from Goodwill to a third, he said.

Illustrators and graphic designers like himself work closely with exercise researchers and engineers when designing shoes.

A shoe won’t sell if it doesn’t benefit the athlete, but the artistic process helps the buyers connect emotionally with the product.

When designing, “You want to show off or flex a little bit,” said Ortiz, who especially enjoys the “culture” of athletic shoe design. For him, it allows him to combine his love of art and sports.

Like Ortiz, Ramos’ industrial design skills took him into the world of athletic shoe design. He entered a design competition for New Balance, which attracted 1,200 applicants — from which three or four artists were hired to work for the company.

But along the way, he’s also worked on everything from snowboards to coffeemakers, and at each step he was called upon to develop products with engineers.

“It’s all about the process,” Ramos said. “There’s never a moment when you’re not in the process.”

He told students, “Stay humble and work hard. You can’t

cut around that. I’m still trying to reach higher goals.”

Almaguer’s career has taken several unique turns. After earning his bachelor’s degree from Kendall, he built a career in Kalamazoo. He’s known for creating a clothing line, painting murals and running his own tattoo studio. He painted the 15-foot long mural inside Los Amigos restaurant on Gull Road. He owns Manifold Art Studio in the Park Trades Center.

Becoming a tattoo artist was something Almaguer had long thought about doing, but he always knew that he was not going to be a typical tattoo artist. He went to Kendall with an eye toward developing his artistic skills to create the most detailed and beautifully drawn body art.

“It has to be good art work for me,” he said. “If it’s not good art, I’m not going to put it on someone’s skin.”

Almaguer said he came from modest means like many of the students in the class, but that never kept him from having dreams and going after those goals.

“I came from a family that didn’t have anything. No one in my family went to college,” he said. “Now, I have four employees. I never thought I’d have anyone working for me.”

Ramos said that he and Ortiz didn’t have other artists to look up to when they began to work in shoe design. “There was no one who told us this is what you can do. Other kids in college did have that support. They were told you can be whatever you want. Growing up like we did, college and becoming artists seemed like a far-away dream.”

But the three urged students to keep imagining beyond what life seems to hold. “Don’t limit yourself just because you haven’t seen someone else do what you imagine,” Almaguer said.

“Keep on experimenting,” Ortiz said. “Keep doing whatever you have to do to grow.”

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Pumpkin Muffins

Hello Kalamazoo! The fall harvest us upon us, and you know that means pumpkin spice season. This recipe gives you a healthful way to experience the sweet, warm elements associated with this flavor, which is often a blend of spices such as cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Please enjoy this delicious recipe with family and friends.

Best regards, Chef Shaun

Ingredients

1¾ cups all purpose flour
1 cup granulated sugar
½ cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

2 large eggs
1 15 oz. can pure pumpkin puree (do not use pumpkin pie filling)
½ cup coconut oil, melted
1 tablespoon whole milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup white chocolate baking chips

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375° F. Line a muffin pan with paper liners or grease with nonstick spray. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, sugar, brown sugar, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and spices. Whisk to combine and set aside.
3. In a small bowl, combine the eggs, pumpkin puree, coconut oil, milk, and vanilla extract. Whisk to combine. Pour the wet mixture into the dry ingredients and fold to combine. Sprinkle in the white chocolate chips. The batter will be thick.



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

4. Using a standard, quarter-cup-size ice cream scoop, scoop the batter into the prepared muffin pan.
5. Bake for 22-24 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of a muffin comes out clean. Let cool for at least 5 minutes before removing the muffins from the pan.

Serves: 12

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Explores Diversity with Three Exhibitions

Former KPS art teacher Al Harris Jr. is among nine regional artists featured in the exhibition “Where We Stand: Black Artists in Southwest Michigan at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts” through Dec. 8. As part of the exhibition, Harris will serve as an artist in residence at the Kalamazoo Public Library Oshtemo branch, Nov. 11-15.

The exhibition is one of three current shows exploring diversity in the arts. The other two are the nationally touring “Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem” and “Resilience: African American Artists As Agents of Change” curated from the KIA collection. For more information on the exhibitions, visit www.kiarts.org.



“Shadows in Elijah's Mind” by Al Harris Jr. Harris is a former KPS art teacher.



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