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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, Oct. 11 & 25, 2018
7 p.m.

Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

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Welcome Back, Students (and Thank You, Greeters)!



Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell greets Ana Maria Herrera Canaveral and her father Brandon Keyser, and Andrew and Tiffany Burciaga and their daughters, Mila and Kali. Ana Maria and Kali are kindergarteners at El Sol Elementary School.



Dr. Michael Rice and Lincoln Principal Linda Howard welcome Khimere Irving to Lincoln International Studies School on the first day of classes.
(see more photos on page 6)

Mobile Medical and Dental Clinics Ready for Another Year — And Hope For More Students

For thousands of Kalamazoo Public Schools students, going to see the doctor and the dentist is as easy as going to school.

That's because the Family Health Center (FHC) operates mobile health and dental units that visit every KPS school several times a year.

This year, it will be easier than ever to access the services of the medical and dental units. The FHC is now offering online registration and a calendar of where and when the clinics will be throughout the school year. Appointments may be made by



The Family Health Center's mobile clinic has three examination rooms and a waiting area. It serves students and families across Kalamazoo Public Schools.

visiting www.fhckzoo.com/mobile-units/, calling (269) 349-2641 or by contacting the Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo representative in your school.

"Or, feel free to knock on the door and see what we're doing," said Jeff Jousma, the

mobile unit manager for the FHC.

Two years ago, the Family Health Center launched its mobile health clinic, which as of last year had seen about 3,000 students. It is staffed by a physician's assistant and a medical assistant.

At the end of 2017, Kalamazoo County transferred ownership of its mobile dental clinic to the health center. The mobile dental unit sees about 3,500 students a year, many for their twice-annual dental

(continued on page 5)

Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.

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

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Some Good Questions About Education To Ask

With the November election right around the corner, lots of us have become interested in state candidates and their positions on issues. After all, voters will select the next governor, the next lieutenant governor, the next attorney general, the next secretary of state, all 110 state representatives, and all 38 state senators.

Here are the questions that will help me decide for whom I am going to vote in November.

(1) More than 80 percent of school district funding is controlled by the state. Per pupil state funding has declined by 20 percent on an inflation-adjusted basis in the last 12 years. Do you believe that the current state funding of Michigan public schools is adequate? If not, what will you do to correct the decline in inflation-adjusted state funding?

(2) In January, the School Finance Research Collabora-

tive study indicated that Michigan public schools were not simply underfunded; they were unfairly funded. Specifically, the study noted that Michigan's poor children, special needs children, and English language learners were substantially underfunded. Do you agree with this study's conclusions? If so, what have you done and what will you do to create a new state school funding formula? If not, why not?

(3) In 2011, the state legislature cut \$470 per student in state school aid. For KPS, this cut led to \$6 million of cuts for the 2011-12 school year budget. If you were in the state legislature at the time, did you vote for a budget that included



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

I encourage you to create your own lists of questions important to you and to solicit responses to these questions from candidates on your November ballot. I also strongly encourage all eligible voters to vote in November.

this cut?

(4) If you were elected or re-elected, would you vote for, or support, the right of citizens to carry guns in public schools? If so, under what conditions?

(5) Do you support the current state test M-STEP? If not, with what would you replace the test? Would you be supportive of replacing it with a more valid, more reliable

national test?

(6) Did you vote for or support the transfer of state school aid funds to the state general fund by funding community colleges out of the state school aid fund?

(7) Did you vote for or support the expansion of cyber schools, funded at the same per pupil foundation allowance as traditional brick and mortar

public and charter schools?

(8) In November 2018, there is a ballot proposal to create an independent citizens redistricting commission to draw congressional and state legislative district lines. Are you supportive of this initiative?

(9) In 2015, did you vote for or support the state law — later overturned in a judicial challenge — that prohibited officials of school districts, city commissions, and county commissions from providing objective information within 60 days of an election to citizens about initiatives that the legislative bodies had voted to place on the ballot?

I encourage you to create your own lists of questions important to you and to solicit responses to these questions from candidates on your November ballot. I also strongly encourage all eligible voters to vote in November.



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Academically Talented Youth Program Seeks Students for 2019-2020

Each year, a number of Kalamazoo Public School students participate in the Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP) through Western Michigan University's Office of Pre-College Programming.

ATYP offers advanced and accelerated classes in math and English for students beginning in seventh or eighth grade, with students coming to class on the WMU campus one or two afternoons a week. Tuition is paid for by the public schools, with families paying a per-semester registration fee that is waived if the family qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch.

Students can enroll in ATYP after receiving qualifying scores on either the SAT or ACT, either



ATYP students, from left, Tyler Bale, Sarah Mughazy, and Amody Mboup work on a short quiz in their English class with teacher Amy Sailer at Western Michigan University in 2017. Bale and Mughazy attended Linden Grove Middle School, while Mboup attended Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts.

of which can be taken through (NUMATS).

Northwestern University's Mid-west Academic Talent Search from informational meetings

offered in the fall of each year. Testing occurs during the winter months, and students are notified of eligibility in the spring.

Students in the sixth or seventh grade who receive a letter from the ATYP office encouraging them to test for qualification, or students that would like to be challenged are invited to attend an informational meeting.

Presentations will be held at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 9, at Hillside Middle School; 6:30 p.m., Oct. 16, at Maple Street Middle School for the Arts; and 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, in 1910 Sangren Hall, WMU.

Other meetings are listed on the program website at www.wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/

qualifying.

ATYP also offers an AP Computer Science class that is available to any student who has completed Algebra I. No minimum test score is required for this class. AP CS teaches students programming skills and analytical thinking by using multimedia labs in the Java programming language. Any student who wants to learn to program is welcome to participate in this year-long course which meets two afternoons per week on campus.

Please visit www.wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/ for more information about the program, or contact the office by email at atyp-info@wmich.edu or by phone at (269) 387-3553.

KC Class of 1998 Plans 20th Reunion

The Kalamazoo Central High School Class of 1998 is planning 20th class reunion festivities for Friday, Oct. 12. For more information, please visit the Kalamazoo Central Class of 1998 Class Reunions page on Facebook.

Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program

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Career Readiness Lunch & Learn Introduces Students to Job Options

Kalamazoo Central High School students expanded their knowledge of career options last spring as part of the Kalamazoo RESA Career Readiness Initiative, which launched a series of “Lunch & Learn” sessions for students.

Students attending the last meeting in the series enjoyed a free pizza lunch and met Darrell Browning, an electrical customer field solutions supervisor for Consumers Energy in Grand Rapids.

He told the students that the company provided the opportunity for career advancement. He started as a meter reader with the company before moving into gas and electrical distribution. The company employs 280 workers in Kalamazoo County. Accompanying Browning were Angela Borton and Raymond Ryan, who is a Kalamazoo Central graduate.

Other speakers who visited KPS high schools as part of the initiative included the director of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College culinary education program; the education director at Bronson Medical Labs; president of Forrest Company, a tool and machine manufacturer; a United Airlines pilot, and the human resources manager for W. Soule, a sheet metal fabricator.

Anne Smith, the Career Readiness Coordinator for KRESA, said the program promotes self-awareness and career exploration opportunities for Kalamazoo County students, ranging from kindergarteners to high school seniors; works with teachers to en-



Darrell Browning, of Consumers Energy, talks to Kalamazoo Central students during a “Lunch & Learn” organized by KRESA’s Career Readiness Initiative.

hance curriculum so students understand the connection between school and careers; and coordinates with local businesses and school districts to create learning opportunities.

The program can be tailored to meet the needs of different districts, Smith said. Options through the program include: “train-the-trainer” and professional development opportunities for elementary, middle school, and high school teachers to learn ways to integrate career information into academics; coordinat-

KRESA is looking for local business and industry partners to connect classrooms and careers. For more information, contact KRESE/EFE-Career Readiness at (269) 250-9300 or email anne.smith@kresa.org or kristen.garceau@kresa.org.

ing externships for teachers and school counselors which offer opportunities for school personnel to visit workplace and connect academics and skills to jobs; career-related morning announcements for middle schools; and the Lunch & Learn events for middle schools and high schools.

“Kids need to know what they can be before they have to choose what they want to be,” said Career Readiness coordinator Kristen Garceau.

During his visit to KC, Browning encouraged students to explore skilled trades in addition to thinking about going to college. Many of those jobs have excellent salaries, high job placement and provide an opportunity to work with your hands.

Consumers Energy offers several training programs, including a two-year school-to-work program at schools such as Alpena and Lansing community colleges. The company also offers a four-year apprenticeship program, which pays students while they learn to be an electrical linesman for the company.

Outside of encouraging them to explore more Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses, Browning told students to focus on the basics: stay in school, get good grades, stay away from drugs, maintain a clean driving record, network, and ask questions.

“This is a big step, just being here to learn,” Browning told the students.

Chef Shaun • KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Apple Treats

Welcome to fall, Kalamazoo. It’s such a beautiful time of the year, and autumn is a great time of year to enjoy our locally harvested fruits in Michigan. Please try out this simple but very tasty recipe.

Apples have many benefits, including flavonoids and powerful antioxidants to fight cancer, hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease. They are also a great source of fiber, calories and help the body stay hydrated. As always, please enjoy with friends and family. Best regards, Chef Shaun.



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

Directions

1. Spread one side of sliced apple with almond butter and sprinkle with cinnamon.
2. Dip the apple slices into granola to cover the almond butter.

Use sweet Red or Yellow Delicious, tart Granny Smith, tangy Fuji, or your favorite variety of apple. In seconds, you’ll have a satisfying snack or dessert.

Servings: 2

Ingredients

- 1 apple, unpeeled, cut into 1/2-inch thick slices
- 3 tablespoons almond butter
- Cinnamon to taste
- 1/4 cup granola

Enroll in The Loy Norrix Child Care Center for 2018-19

Is your child ready for pre-school? The Loy Norrix Child Care Center, a five-star rated Kalamazoo County Ready 4s program, is accepting applications for childcare and pre-school for 2018-19.

The center is located inside Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road. Open 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., LNCCC offers full-day and half-day enrollment, as well as a daily rate. Tuition

is \$160 a week for full-time care, \$105 a week for half-day care, and \$43 a day. Two snacks and lunch are provided for full-time students.

The school accepts 3- and 4-year-olds. Students must be toilet-trained. School district residency is not required for the program, which is open to the public.

For more information, call Stephanie Ludwig at (269) 337-0264.



LNCCC is open to any child, regardless of residency.

JASON MORRIS for KPS Trustee



My Goals for KPS

- Continued Improvement in High School Graduation Rates
- Improve Literacy Skills at all Levels
- Increase Participation in Vocational Training and Skilled Trades
- Enhance Educational Opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Experience

- Co-President, Parkwood UpJohn PTO 2013-2017
- Parent Advisory Council 2013-2017
- Co-Chair KRESA Special Education Millage Initiative 2015
- Co-Chair Bond Steering Committee 2018

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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
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

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Mobile Medical and Dental Clinics *(continued from page 1)*

cleanings. Two hygienists and a dental assistant run the dental unit.

“The people that work on our units are very passionate about working with the kids,” he said. “They love going to the schools.”

Lately, the clinics have been at some community events.

“We’re just trying to raise awareness of the units,” Jousma said. “There are still some people out there who aren’t aware of what’s going on with the units. We’re just trying to get out in the public eye more this summer and fall.

“We hope to get a few more kids involved this year. We’re always looking for additional students to see.”

The medical unit can provide a host of services, including well child visits, immunizations, and management of chronic conditions. The dental clinic can do cleanings and apply sealants. The staff on the mobile units can help manage more extensive care, and connect students and families with doctors and dentists, and specialists such as eye doctors.



The Family Health Center's Mobile Dental Clinic can provide routine dental cleanings

Mobile Clinics October Schedule

Mobile Health Clinic

Oct. 2-3—Arcadia

Oct. 4, 8—Edison

Oct. 9-10—Parkwood-

Upjohn

Oct. 12, 15-16—Woods Lake

Oct. 17-18—Lincoln

Oct. 23-25—King-Westwood

Mobile Dental Clinic

Oct. 2-4—Woods Lake

Oct. 5, 8-9—Arcadia

Oct. 10-11—Edison

Oct. 15-17—Parkwood-

Upjohn

Oct. 29-30—Lincoln

Oct. 31 & Nov. 2—King-Westwood

Parents are always welcome to join students for appointments, but usually school staff escorts children to the units for their appointments, Jousma said.

“That’s part of how the whole mobile health unit got going. We wanted to help parents not have to take off from work to have kids seen for preventative care,” Jousma said. “We found that there was a need in the community for students to be up to date on their immunizations. We wanted to make sure kids were current on immunizations for school and to be able to perform yearly physicals.”

Not many parents take advantage of the clinics, he said. But last year, some staff suggested that it would be convenient if the units could offer flu shots, so the FHC is looking to provide that service this fall.

While the units provide a necessary service for students, they also bring a certain cool to school as well.

“The individuals that work on the units are also licensed CDL drivers as well. They need to be to move a unit of that size,” he said. “When the kids find out that the people that they are seeing that day also drive the units, they think that’s cool.”

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Welcome Back, Students!

(continued from page 1)



Trenches Community Church volunteers handed out backpacks filled with school supplies to Northeastern students at the school's back to school event.



Mayra Moreno dropped off Fernanda Moreno for kindergarten at El Sol Elementary School. Fernanda's little brother Emiliano tagged along.



KPS Deputy Superintendent Gary Start was a celebrity greeter at King-Westwood Elementary School where his granddaughter Lillian Start was starting first grade.



Traveling barber Johnny Jackson gave Edison fourth grader Damion Trainer a haircut during the school's kick-off to the school year.



Dr. L. Marshall Washington, president of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, greets first grader Naomi Johnson and her father William Johnson at Lincoln International Studies School.



Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Assistant Chief Vernon Coakley, community advocate Alice Gordon, Pastor A.J. Gretz from Third Christian Reformed Church, and State Rep. Jon Hoadley posed for a picture after their greeting duties at Winchell Elementary School.



Arelyn, Aylin, and Aimee Castro enjoyed cold treats at the El Sol back-to-school celebration. Arelyn attends Milwood Magnet School, while twins Aylin and Aimee are fourth graders at El Sol.



KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice, right, welcomes former State Rep. Sean McCann and his wife Priscilla Lambert, who were at El Sol Elementary to drop off their son Alex, for third grade, and their daughter Lauren, for kindergarten.



Principal Mitch Hawkins and first grader Ivy Story visit at Northeastern Elementary's back to school extravaganza and discuss who her teacher will be for the 2018-19 school year.

Summer Construction Projects Includes New Look for Norrix

Loy Norrix High School is wearing true blue colors.

The school completed a \$5.5 million renovation project this summer, which outfitted the building with energy-efficient modifications and replaced the dated exterior turquoise panels with new navy blue sections, voted on by members of the school and public. The work began in the summer of 2017 and is part of a 2013 bond.

The new blue is most visible in the school's glass tower, where the blue is used alongside a new framework of anodized aluminum.

"We're trying to bring that forward, and we thought we could use a blue glass there and really help to offset that entryway," said Shawn Parshall, architectural designer, with architectural and engineering firm Tower Pinkster. "Architecturally, it's already a focus but through the use of the glass and different materials we can help differentiate it even further. We see the tower as a signature element of the building."

The remodeling retained much of the building's distinctive look, which includes the use of wide swaths of glass. The old glass was replaced by an energy efficient alternative: two quarter-inch thick glass panels sandwiching a half inch of air space. While some of the glass elements of the building, such as the floor-to-ceiling windows along the courtyards, were re-



Loy Norrix High School got a major facelift this summer. In addition to new, energy-efficient glass, the school color scheme changed.

tained, some of the glass was replaced with brick or fiberglass panels, especially in high traffic areas that were prone to damage, such as the ramp corridor.

In addition to the improved efficiency of the glass, some of the old porcelain-coated steel panels seen along the bottom of some walls were replaced by more efficient and better insulated masonry. All of the building's 92 exterior doors were replaced by doors made of the same steel used for the tower frame.

Other 2018 summer construction projects were:

- Removal of portable classrooms at Edison Environmental Science Academy and Greenwood Elementary School.
- Replacement of flooring in the music room at El Sol Elementary School.
- Installation of a drywell in the north parking lot entrance of King-Westwood Elementary School.
- Removal of ceiling sections at South Westnedge School.



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October 13 | 12 - 4PM

Area chemists come together to explore "Chemistry in Outer Space!"

GHOULISH TRANSPORTATION

October 27 | 12 - 4PM

Transportation arts and crafts with a Halloween spin.

Planetarium shows alternate every half hour from 11AM - 4:30PM
Nightwalk & This Is Halloween, Ghostbusters & Monster Mash

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kalamazoomuseum.org

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



Washington Writers' Academy Celebrates End of Its First Summer Session

Books for Breaks: Promoting Reading During Breaks

Washington Writers' Academy celebrated the end of its first session just before Labor Day by sending students home with bags of books to encourage reading. Each student in PEEP through fifth grade received one age-appropriate or reading level-appropriate book for each day of the break that was a traditional school day. The school sent home 1,524 books.

Principal Lanisha Hannah-Spiller said the plan is to distribute books for all major breaks.

Students can keep the books to start family libraries. Students will be asked to log their reading hours and write about their favorite book. They can earn prizes for their logs and reading after the break. When students returned to school after Labor Day, they turned in their logs and journals, and their names were entered into a drawing for a special mystery prize. PEEP student Robbilynn Herndon won the first Books for Breaks drawing.

"In the past we had a book room full of donated books or readers left over from older reading series," Hannah-Spiller said. "This room now has over 10,000 books. Teachers would use this room for their students to check out additional books



First graders Denise Hayes and Za'Niya Gustafson show off the books they received before heading on break at Washington Writers' Academy.

that they could take home to read and library books would be kept at school to read.

"Many students wanted to keep the books and we would let them. In speaking with parents and students, we found many do not have family libraries. We thought this would be a great way to keep students focused on reading while on their breaks and a way to assist with building family libraries in the homes of all of our children."

Guest teachers and long-time Washington supporter Deb Weesies sorted and bagged the books for the children.

"We want to instill lifelong learning by way of becoming lifelong readers," said Hannah-

Spiller, who hopes to make the book giveaway a tradition.

Math Family Fun and Field Day

Washington Writers' Academy was looking for a way to combine math knowledge, family participation, and a fun school activity, and from that idea the school started the Math Family Fun and Field Day. The project was developed by teachers Aaron Mason and Ally Bracken.

The first one was held in the spring of 2017, with plans for it to become an end-of-the-year tradition. But when the school became part of the Summer Slide Reduction Pilot and moved to a calendar that runs throughout the year, the staff moved the event to the break right before Labor Day. It helped help mark the first break of the school year and to celebrate the completion of the school's first testing cycle.



Trevon Brown, left, and Jour'dyn Hegar play a math game where the opponent has to tell what number must be added to the number on the card to equal 10.



Dulce Ramierz, in pink, makes a dash for it in the water relay race.



Abrianna Partee, left, and Michael Parsons answer math problems to win cards.

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Craig Herschleb

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- Girls on the Run, long-time volunteer
- UAW Member

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Students Explore Job Skills at KPS Career and Job Readiness Workshop

Kalamazoo Public Schools Teaching and Learning Services invited high school seniors to attend a KPS Career and Job Readiness Workshop to reflect, explore, and prepare for a meaningful and self-sufficient professional life.

The event was held during Michigan Merit Exam testing for other students and took place at the West Main Professional Development Center. Workshop sessions provided by community partners included “Marketing Your Skills to Employers,” “How to Land Your Dream Job,” “Your Image is Everything,” and “Exploring Skilled Trades & Apprenticeship Opportunities.” Other career field trips were held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University.

Students engaged in activities to learn career preparation and job-seeking skills. They explored career resources, summer employment opportunities, and in-demand job skills. Workshops provided students with tools necessary to enter



Joseph Birdsall, from Teaching and Learning Services, works one of the raffle tables.

the job market with more confidence and to make great first impressions. Students inventoried their talents, interests, and skills and learned about the importance of setting educational and career goals.

Presenters included Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo; The Kalamazoo Promise; Kalamazoo Regional

Educational Service Agency; MiWorks; Youth Opportunities Unlimited; OnStaff USA; WSI Talent; the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 131; the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, and HVAC/R Service Techs, Local 357; and Goodheart-Wilcox.

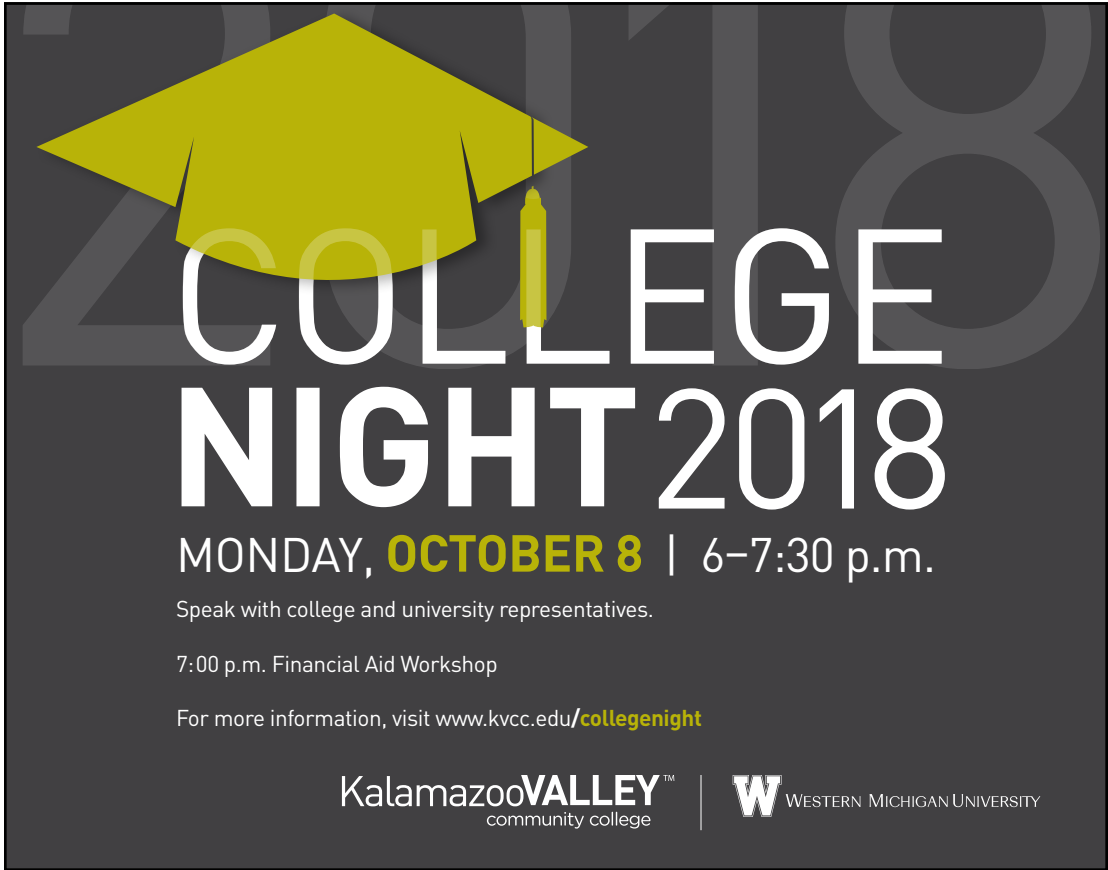


Student attendees include, from left, Brandon Whitmore, Ty'rell Stegall, Dane Jacko, Toryano Cooks, Kendra Parkman, Andy Kaliyati, Alexa Osorio, Anacaren Morales, Jada Lassiter, Marcia Nesbitt, Ashley Maxwell, Flavia Cocchi, and Sofie Nehlsen.

The following businesses provided raffle items for the event: Airway Fun Center, Air Zoo Aerospace & Science Museum, ALDI, AMC Theater, Big Burrito, Buster's Bookstore, Celebration Cinema, Chipotle, Cottage Inn, Kalamazoo Wings, Goodrich Kalamazoo 10, Kalamazoo County Parks and Expo Center, Kalamazoo Growlers,

Meijer, Nick's Gyros, Niskers, Noodles & Company, Nova VR, Pita Pit, Qdoba, The Spirit of Kalamazoo, Target, The Union Cabaret & Grille, WMU Office of Sustainability, WMU Recruitment Office, and the YMCA.

KPS staff, retirees, and college personnel helped facilitate the career and college preparation experiences.



COLLEGE NIGHT 2018

MONDAY, **OCTOBER 8** | 6-7:30 p.m.

Speak with college and university representatives.

7:00 p.m. Financial Aid Workshop

For more information, visit www.kvcc.edu/collegenight



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- Get great jobs
- Live successfully

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Call the **KPS PEEP**
(Pre-Kindergarten Early Education Program)
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Every child, every opportunity, every time!

Transportation Safety Awards

Given to 60 Bus Drivers

Kalamazoo Public Schools 2018 Retirees

The Kalamazoo Public Schools Transportation Department honored bus drivers who earned the annual Safe Driving Award with a ceremony this summer.

Drivers who earned the award had three points or better on the no-fault attendance policy, no more than two points on their Michigan CDL driver’s license, and no at-fault collisions. They also had to have a good rating on two of these four items: regulating student behavior, cooperation with co-workers and others, filing current paperwork, and maintaining clean and safe bus conditions.

Awards were presented to:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Myshia Abron | Annalisa Ford | Jeanine Potgiesser |
| David Allemang | Derick Gilling | Chelsea Redd |
| Jennifer Baker | Abigale Hamilton | Naomi Sanchez |
| Corcelia Barnett | Vickie Hassiel | Penny Schneider |
| Lane Bertrand | Nelson Hiestand | Shirley Simmons |
| Jason Bower | Brittany Jackson | Tom Slater |
| Cindy Carroll | Richard LaPorte | Troy Slayton |
| Brian Cleveland | Carlos Lewis | George Slomp |
| Amanda Courtney | Mary Lewis | Raymond Vader |
| Larry Cruse | Jalisa Lumbard | Edita Vais |
| Darian Curry | Meghan MacCarron | Roman Vais |
| Lasasha Davis-Ndiaye | Matthew Martin | William VanderKlok |
| Mark Davis | Joe Anna McLain | Eureka Vincent |
| Assane Dia | Joanna Miller | Jacille Ware |
| Tricia Dinda | Thomas Miller | Nicole White |
| Donald Drefs | Jessica Mitchell | Crystal Williams |
| Donald Ebbitt | Joseph Morgan | Stanley Williams |
| Tom Elder | Patty Noyes | Jeannie Wilson |
| Douglas Fleming | Edward Palmore | Dave Woessner |
| Jeffrey Flora | Susanne Porter | Dale Yarbrough |



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- NOT PICTURED:**
- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Karen Brooks | King-Westwood |
| Michelle Dooley | Northeastern |
| Elizabeth Dubuissou | Northeastern |
| Musette El-Mohammed | Adult Education |
| Gay Frew | Parkwood-Upjohn |
| Deborah Fritz | Prairie Ridge |
| Kairi Hokenmaier | Greenwood |
| Diana Johnson | Kalamazoo Central |
| Maureen Lonergan | Transportation |
| Valerie Mallory | Loy Norrix |
| Laura Mercadal | Prairie Ridge |
| Evelyn Phillips | Hillside |
| Linda Pfarr | Teaching and Learning Services |
| Clarmarie Pillsbury | Indian Prairie |
| Susan Schewe | Milwood Magnet |
| Dawn Wheaton | Spring Valley |
| Ann Wheeler | King-Westwood |
| Wendy Wilkerson | Transportation |
| Roni Worden | Business Office |
- 
Grace Yeo
Transportation

KPS Graduates In Action

Jack Kujacznski: On Top of the World as a Wind Turbine Technician

Jack Kujacznski was on a pre-college track, taking classes at Loy Norrix High School and the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

As graduation approached in 2017, everyone kept asking where he planned to go to college and what would be his major. The only problem: he wasn't convinced a four-year college program was what he wanted.

"My sophomore year in high school, people started pushing about college, but I didn't really know what I wanted to do," Kujacznski said. "I still didn't know what I wanted to do up until the beginning of my senior year."

What he did know: he didn't want to do the same thing every day, he didn't want a desk job, he didn't want to stay in Kalamazoo.

It was his KAMSC physics teacher Mike Sinclair who suggested that he check out the Wind Turbine Technician Academy at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

"I was drawn to it because I knew I'd be out in six months and be able to join the workforce right away," he said. "And, I liked the idea of not being stuck in one spot. Traveling all around the United States right out of high school was the main selling point."

Today, he is a traveling turbine technician for NextEra Energy, a division of Florida Power & Light. He's based in Wilton, N.D., servicing turbines mostly in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. But, he's also been sent to work on turbines in California, Iowa and Colorado.

"I wanted to be outside and to experience places other than Michigan and Kalamazoo," he said. "At the end of the day, when you're getting a turbine up and running and producing power, that feels pretty good."

Excelsior: Tell me about the Wind Turbine Technician Academy experience at KVCC.

Jack Kujacznski: It's a unique



Jack Kujacznski stands atop a wind turbine in Livermore, Calif. Kujacznski is a 2017 graduate of Loy Norrix High School and the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

24-week program. The first two months were all about safety. We learned about working at heights and using all of the unique tools that we use. After that we worked on electrical systems and hydraulics and studied Ohm's law and how circuits work. From there, we moved on to wind-specific systems, turbine efficiency, how turbines are put together and all the work that goes into it before they start building them. Then we had two, one-week service trips. We did the biannual maintenance, inspection and repair on two turbines: a 900 KW NEG Micon in Mackinaw City and a 2.5 megawatt Fuhrlander in Cadillac.

E: Were you scared of heights?

JS: Going into it, I wasn't sure if I was afraid of heights or not. On the very first day, they have you put the harness on and climb up a 30-meter climbing tower. Once I got up there, I peeked over the edge and looked around and thought, "OK. This is fine."

E: What did you like best about the program?

JS: The whole program is competency based. You practice with your classmates and instructors performing hands-on tasks. When you feel ready to perform in front of the instructor, you run through a task and show how well you understood it and whether you meet the requirements of the competencies built by the industry. There are

a number of those you have to complete to be eligible for certification at the end of the program.

I was the youngest person in the class of 11. All of my other classmates had previous experience in construction or working for cable companies. I only had KAMSC schooling and two years of working at Five Guys. That was definitely a difficulty, just the basic mechanical stuff, but when it came to the math in the electronics and hydraulics, I was able to excel in that. I worked out a relationship with my classmates. I'd help them with some of the math and they were able to help me with the more mechanical, technical stuff I didn't understand.

E: Did you land a job right away?

JS: I graduated from high school in June, started at KVCC in July. I graduated from KVCC in December and by January I moved out to Bismarck, N.D. My company came and interviewed my entire class. I had a job lined up before I graduated. This year and the last few years, it's one of the fastest growing jobs in America.

E: What is the actual job like?

JS: I work in central maintenance doing things like replacing blade rotors and gearboxes, using the crane to pull apart turbines, bring down parts to repair or swap out and then put them back together with the crane. Even if you're just packing bags or operating the hoist, it feels good that



Jack Kujacznski

four weeks on and one week off. About a quarter of my time has been outside of my region. One of my rotations was in California for the whole time. My last rotation

you're doing that and putting something toward the job being completed on time and safely.

E: What is the work week like?

JS: We work

was in Wilton the whole time. I've also been on a couple of sites in Iowa and Colorado. I make \$26.40 an hour.

E: What advice would you have for students?

JS: Don't feel pressure to go to a four-year college, because, honestly, that's not a great truth. I don't want a desk job. I don't think I could ever have a job with a constant schedule doing the same thing every day. We don't talk about trade jobs enough. There's one quote I love, "The world is always going to need people to turn wrenches."

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