



IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, Nov. 16 & 30, 2017
7 p.m.
Administration Building
1220 Howard St.

For more information, call
(269) 337-1572

Thanksgiving Recess

Nov. 22-24

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Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program is a Perfect Fit for Some Students' Needs

Flor Roman's anxiety attacks made attending large classes at Loy Norrix impossible. She would get so anxious in large group settings that she would sometimes flee the room.

Luckily for her, the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP) was able to provide the smaller class size and emotional support she needed to continue her education. She plans to graduate in December.

KILP is Kalamazoo Public Schools' newest alternative high school. The year-old program offers flexible half-day scheduling, online learning, small-group study, and individualized counseling. KILP is Kalamazoo Promise-eligible.

Though KPS graduation rates have risen over the last several years, there are



Flor Roman attends KILP the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP).

still KPS students who benefit from smaller environments. That's where Phoenix High School and KILP enter. Phoenix has had its two largest graduating classes — 96 and 67 students — in its history in the last two years.

Roman said her counselor at Loy Norrix suggested she try KILP last year. The smaller classes of about 15 students and one-on-one interactions with teachers helped her find success in school.

"It allows me to work at my own pace. The teachers are still there to help me when I need them," she said. "I'm focusing on bettering my health and my education."

In addition to attending KILP, she also works part time at the Hispanic American Council.

(continued on page 3)

Families and Schools Pledge Support to Students During Promise Signing Days

Kalamazoo Public Schools kindergarteners and their parents pledged to work hard to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise at the Promise signing days held throughout the district this fall.

Promise signing days are designed to encourage families to acknowledge the work and commitment that it takes to prepare a student — starting in kindergarten — to graduate from high school.

"We as a district, several

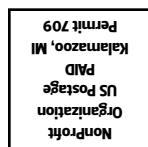
Kalamazoo Promise Executive Director Bob Jorth, left, and KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice sign a certificate for kindergartener Harlem Franklin, at the Lincoln International Studies School Promise signing day in October.

years ago, made a promise that we want our community to go to college for free," Nina LeSuer, the Washington Writers' Academy data coach told families at the school's event. "Teachers do the best they can every day, but we ask for your

(continued on page 5)



Kalamazoo Public Schools is Hiring.
Find information at <http://www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/Departments/HumanResources/EmploymentOpportunities>



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New Study Seeks to Answer an Old Question

How much does it cost to reasonably fund the education of a student from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade?

This simple question is surprisingly complicated. Indeed, it has been the subject of studies in numerous states over the last three decades. Until recently, however, Michigan had never attempted to answer this fundamental question.

That changed in December 2014, when Michigan state legislators contracted for a study to address this question. The study—which used one of four accepted research methods for answering the question—was published in the summer of 2016.

In a nutshell, the study suggested what many of us have argued for years: that Michigan public education is underfunded, to the detriment of the state's 1.5 million public

school children. Among the research findings were the following:

- The per pupil foundation allowance—the base revenue amount per student in the state—was underfunded by approximately \$1,000 per student.

- Many students cost more than others. For example, the study noted that English language learners cost roughly 40 percent more on average than general education students and should generate this percentage additionally over the base for their education. It also determined that poor students cost approximately 30 percent more on average than their middle-class peers and



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

should generate this percentage more over the base for their education.

- While it acknowledged that special needs students cost more to educate on average than non-special needs students, it noted that the technical challenges with Michigan data did not permit a firm estimate of the additional costs for special needs students.

When it came out, state officials initially criticized and then largely ignored this first study. While it is true that the study had its limitations, it is also true that it was a good beginning at answering the important question of adequate funding.

A new group—the School Finance Research Collaborative—a group of business leaders and educators—has recently contracted for a new study on the same question. This study,

“When one compares inflation over the last 12 years to state per pupil foundation allowance growth, KPS has lost approximately 20 percent of [its] buying power...”

broader than the first, uses two of the other three research methods to address the question of adequacy of school funding for public school students.

For many years, Michigan public education was well funded compared to other states in the country. Over the last two decades, however, Michigan's poverty has increased, its funding for public education

relative to other states and to inflation has plummeted, and its student achievement relative to other states has declined as well. Funding and school performance are related to one another.

One way of looking at the funding challenges in recent years is simply to look at the adverse effect of inflation relative to state aid. Take KPS for example. When one compares inflation over the last 12 years to state per pupil foundation allowance growth, KPS has lost approximately 20 percent of the buying power of its state per pupil foundation allowance. That's a profound cut over the last 12 years. Other districts have been significantly harmed as well.

Michigan is poorer than it was 17 years ago at the turn of the century. For years, at risk
(continued on page 2)

**15TH
ANNUAL**

**TEEN
Filmmaker Festival**

Saturday, March 17

12–2 pm at the Judi K. Jolliffe Theatre
359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 205

2018 kpl.gov/teenfilmfest

New Study (continued from page 2)

funding in the state, the funding that was supposed to address the additional costs of educating poor children in the state, was fixed at \$309 million statewide. In 2015, the governor recommended a \$100 million increase statewide in this amount, and the legislature approved \$70 million. This year, the governor recommended a \$150 million increase statewide, and the legislature approved \$120 million. While these increases don't begin to fully address the added costs of educating poor children, they begin to recognize and partially address the state's historic underfunding of our children in poverty.

For many years, the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education and the KPS administration have lobbied the state legislature for more state funding for public schools. Since the advent of Proposal A in 1994, the vast majority of school funding comes from the state. If education funding in the state is to improve, it must be the state that improves it, given our state school finance system post-Proposal A.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Steering and Technical Committee for the School Finance Research Collaborative. I appreciate the fact that the collaborative is funding a study that is due to be finished and published mid-winter. I appreciate the fact that, while no one knows what the study in process will ultimately reveal, those of us who have had the opportunity to work in other states—and particularly in states that fund public education better than Michigan—know that supports that are taken for granted in other states are more rarely seen here.

We can do better in Michigan. Better funding for students and staff is a part of what is needed to make us a top 10 education state over the next ten years.

Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program *(continued from page 1)*

She appreciates the fact that KILP is Promise-eligible, and said director David Gamble is helping her complete her college applications. She'd like to go to college to become a clinical psychologist.

Roman is exactly the kind of student KILP was designed to serve, Gamble said. The smaller, individualized approach to school gives students a chance to rebuild their high school resumes and find success.

Students attend either a morning session from 7:30 a.m. to 12:23 p.m. or an afternoon session from 11:30 a.m. to 4:23 p.m. The focus is on completing the Michigan Merit Curriculum with classes in math, English, social studies, science, and world languages required for graduation. Students complete the work mostly through online study, with small group work and teacher assistance when needed.

The program began last year with 60 students. Fourteen graduated in June, and two others completed their credit



Students work on their individual programs in a Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program classroom. Pictured, closest to the window from left, Nathaniel Johnson, Summer Garcia, Idris Griswold; center of the room from left, Flor Roman and Aaron Cunningham; and front, Andrew Holland.

recovery at KILP and returned to their home schools to graduate with their friends. This year, the school expects to educate about 100 students.

Mikiesha Clark, like Roman, is a returning student who plans to graduate in December. Clark attended Kalamazoo Central, where her counselor also suggested she try KILP because of the smaller classes and the student's ability to pace her own learning and coursework more quickly than in a traditional school.

Clark said she plans to graduate and to use the Promise to attend college. "I'll be the first to graduate out of my mom's kids," Clark said.

People would be wrong to think that KILP is just "easier," she said.

"If you want to graduate, you have to work. I found that out last year," she said. "But the teachers are willing to work with you. They want you to graduate, especially Mr. Gamble. He'll help you with everything."




Mikiesha Clark attends KILP, the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program.

Roman said that the support is very important but so is the independence and self-paced study. She said students come in each day and choose what they will be studying, spending a day on several subjects or choosing to focus on one topic for the entire session.

"I like that they allow us to work by ourselves," Roman said. "I like the independence that it gives us."

For more information on the program, contact Gamble at gambleds@kalamazoopublicschools.net or at (269) 548-0190.



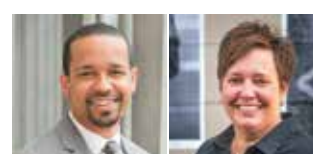
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Friends of Erin Knott, 1416 Forbes Street Kalamazoo, MI 49006
Friends of Eric Cunningham, 3431 Shadow Bend Dr. Unit D, Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Donald Webster Brings 25 Years of Public Safety to New Job at KPS

During Donald Webster's 25 years with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, his title was everything from neighborhood liaison officer to tactical response unit officer to deputy chief. But, he says his main job was always the same: relationship building.

And, that is exactly what he sees as his main job as the new chief of campus safety with Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Webster joined KPS this summer, replacing Ray Ampey, who retired this year.

Webster, 51, said he didn't always have great experiences with police officers as he was growing up on the south side of Chicago, but the good encounters had a positive impact.

"The experiences I had were engaging," Webster said. "They took time to talk to you and to share some life experiences with me when I was growing up. And, they were pleasant to be around. And, my mom and dad always taught me to respect law

enforcement."

That — and the sharp-looking Illinois State Highway Patrol uniforms — inspired him to study criminal justice at Michigan State University. He graduated in 1992 and was thinking about going to law school, when he met Ampey, who visited MSU on a recruiting trip for Kalamazoo Public Safety.

Webster said he was intrigued by the concept of joining the public safety department in which officers cross-train as police, firefighters, and paramedics.

Over the next 25 years, Webster rose

through the ranks of the department, serving as — among other things — patrol officer, neighborhood liaison officer, tactical response unit officer, patrol sergeant, tactical response unit sergeant, patrol lieutenant,



Donald Webster joined Kalamazoo Public Schools as chief of campus safety this summer. He retired from Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety earlier this year after 25 years with the department.

individual," Webster said. "And to deliver that service in a way that the community expects it to be delivered — with professionalism and respect."

That approach won't change with his role as campus safety chief, he said. Students need as much respect and support as any other members of the community, he said.

"My philosophy is no different with the security staff than I had with public safety," Webster said. "The guiding philosophy is that you are building relationships everyday

you come to work. We are here engaging the students and getting to know the students"

He said he commends Ampey for the work he's done with the district, not only

for the work he's done with the students but with law enforcement agencies in the area. Having strong lines of communication between the schools and law enforcement means better community safety overall, he said.

"Our schools are a reflection of the community," he said. "A lot of things that happen in the schools originate in the community. We need to be proactive and communicate with law enforcement."

Webster is married to Chandra Webster. His daughter Demetria is a junior in mechanical engineering at Michigan State University and his son Devin is a sixth grader at Linden Grove Middle School. Webster is a member of First United Baptist Church and is active on the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Kalamazoo, board chairman of the Douglass Community Association, and a coach for Northside Rocket Football and a youth basketball coach for the YMCA.

"Do I like kids?" Webster said. "I love kids. You have to love kids."

"Speaking on behalf of campus safety, I want to say we're here to encourage kids and to help them, and if kids or parents have concerns, feel free to contact campus safety."

executive lieutenant, captain of the training division, assistant chief and deputy chief.

"It is the most rewarding job you can ever have — to provide a much needed service to an

Other new administrators for 2017-18



Chad Brady, a former Kalamazoo Central High School teacher, is the interim assistant principal at Loy Norrix High School.



Joletta Drake is the former principal at Greenwood Elementary School and is now principal at Prairie Ridge Elementary School.



Craig LeSuer is the former Milwood Middle School principal and is now principal at Milwood Elementary School.



Pam Salak, a former Loy Norrix teacher, is the new dean of students for Kalamazoo Central.



Mark Tobolski, who is new to Kalamazoo, is the principal at Milwood Magnet School.



Sylvia Washington, a former Reading Recovery teacher, is principal at Greenwood Elementary.



Dr. Natalie Wilson, a former Woods Lake Elementary teacher, is principal of El Sol Elementary School.

November Mobile Health Clinic Schedule

The Family Health Center Mobile Health Clinic serves Kalamazoo Public Schools students and their families. It provides physicals, immunizations, well-child visits, and other services. The clinic takes insurance and offers a sliding scale fee. Here is the clinic's schedule for November, along with the schedule for the county's mobile dental clinic. For more information, visit fhckzoo.com. Appointments can be made by calling (269) 349-2641 or contacting

Community In Schools at your school.

Mobile Health Clinic

Nov. 6-8 — Kalamazoo Central
Nov. 9, 13-15 — Woods Lake
Nov. 16, 20-21 — Hillside
Nov. 27-28 — Northglade
Nov. 29-30 — Parkwood-Upjohn

Mobile Dental Clinic

Nov. 9-10, 13-17 — Kalamazoo Central
Nov. 20-21, 27-30 — Woodward



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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Families and Schools Pledge Support to Students During Promise Signing Days *(cont. from page 1)*

support. The most important influences are parents.

“We need you to get your children ready for school. Come to school for events like these. Help children when they have homework.”

Schools celebrated with cake and punch. Some events included special photo sessions and caps and gowns for the children to try on. KPS Superinten-

dent Michael Rice and Kalamazoo Promise Executive Director Bob Jorth attended the signing day at Lincoln International Studies School.

At the signing days, families signed pledges to support and encourage their students by helping with homework and reading; the school district promised to create a positive learning environment; and the Kalamazoo Promise of-

fice promised to pay the students' college tuition upon high school graduation.

The Kalamazoo Promise is a scholarship for Kalamazoo Public Schools' graduates. The amount of scholarship varies depending on how long the student has continuously attended KPS and resided in the district.

For students who attend KPS from kindergarten through

12th grade, the Promise pays all tuition and mandatory fees at all public universities and colleges and most private schools in Michigan. For students who enroll in KPS by ninth grade, the Promise will pay 65 percent of tuition and fees.

For more information about the Kalamazoo Promise, visit www.kalamazoopromise.com or call (269) 337-0037.



The Washington event was fun for, from left, Marcelle Rey, Kha'iah Rey, Martrelle Rey and Angie Moore.



Nikolai Hagenbuch and his mom Ameythist Moreland-Hagenbuch pose during the Washington Writers' Academy Promise event.



Sameleah Doubley and her mother Tashia Doubley smile for the camera at Washington.

MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Announcing the December 1 deadline for the Clarence L. Remyse Scholarship

Up to \$7,500, depending on financial need and is renewable for high school seniors planning to pursue a bachelor's degree full time in business, education, engineering, law, math, medicine, psychology or science.

Apply now at www.kalfound.org/remyse

Other scholarship applications will be available by January 1, with a deadline of March 1.

(If you don't have a computer, just let us know. You can use one of ours or we can send you a paper application. Call us at 381.4416.)



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Academically Talented Youth Program Seeks Students for 2018-19 Year

In middle school Jake Fales set a goal for himself: Be the top of his class in high school.

He started on his goal using the Academically Talented Youth Program at Western Michigan University. There, he participated first in accelerated math classes and then accelerated English classes.

The program is run by Western Michigan University's Office of Pre-College Programming and is open to students in Kalamazoo County. Students take the SAT in middle school to qualify for the program. Testing is currently open to students and informational meetings are being held around the community.

Fales, a senior at Kalamazoo Central, said he was inspired to try ATYP because his sister had participated.

"She had a great experience with it, so that is what led me there," he said. "It let me go to an environment where I could feel more challenged. The credits are weighted for high school, so I went into high school with a



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. Bale and Mughazy attend Linden Grove Middle School, while Mboup attends Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts.

5.0 GPA. That is a benefit itself." The program offers accelerated classes that allow a student to complete four years of high school work in two years.

He started the math program in eighth grade completing Algebra I and II his first year, and geometry and

calculus in his second year. He began the English program as a high school freshman, completing ninth and 10th grade English in his first year, 11th and 12th grade English in his second year, and AP English as a junior.

"ATYP English especially is a lot of work, but you learn to adjust to it," Fales said.

"Once you get through it, you realize what you're capable of. When you're writing four essays a week, plus revisions (on previous assignments), it prepares you for the rest of your days in high school and for college.

"You have to keep in mind that ATYP only has one or two classes a week. Most of your learning comes from doing your homework."

Students can enroll in ATYP math or English after receiving qualifying scores on either the SAT or ACT, either of which can be taken through Northwestern Michigan University's Academic Talent Search (NUMATS).

ATYP also offers an AP Computer Science class that is available to any student who has completed algebra. 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 course which meets two afternoons per week.

Students learn about ATYP 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.

Sixth and seventh graders who received a letter from ATYP encouraging them to test for entrance in the 2018-2019 school year and students who would like to explore the option of testing for the classes are invited to attend an informational meeting to learn more about the program.

The next presentation is at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 29 at Western Michigan University.

Families are also welcome to attend a presentation at any other location. The complete dates, times, and locations of the meetings are listed on the website at www.wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/qualifying.

Tuition is paid for by the public schools, with families paying a per-semester registration fee that is waived if the student qualifies for free or reduced lunch.

Fales said ATYP was one of the most valuable educational experiences of his life, not just because it set him up to take more advanced classes in high school but because it taught him how to think.

By the time he was a sophomore, he was taking AP calculus — as the only non-senior in the class. As a senior, he's taking AP statistics.

ATYP English was invaluable for the discussions he had with teachers and other students and for what it taught him about education.

"You build appreciation for the work and the learning," Fales said. "You see that it's not just about preparing for a test, it's about your understanding."

And remember the goal, Fales had? To be top in his class? Done.

For more information, visit www.wmich.edu/precollege/atyp, email at atyp-info@wmich.edu, or call (269) 387-3553.

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

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 Follow the Holiday Parade back to the museum to create gifts for friends and loved ones.

Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum
kalamazoomuseum.org
 269.373.7990

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

MiCareerQuest Southwest Expands to Include Open House and Job Fair

A popular career exploration program for middle schoolers will broaden its reach this year with the addition of a community open house and job fair.

MiCareerQuest Southwest will be held Nov. 1 and 2 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake St.

Approximately 2,500 eighth graders from across Kalamazoo County will attend the career exploration fair during school field trips on both days. The community open house and job fair will be held 4-7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 1.

This is the third year for the MiCareerQuest event, which is designed to provide students with hands-on activities and personal interactions with employers in four industries: arts

and communication; business, technology and human services; engineering and manufacturing; and health and natural sciences. Some of the activities will include using Stryker brain surgery equipment, racing roofers, and changing tires with a pit crew.

“Every year we have new activities and new companies that join us,” said Jason Luke, program administrator for Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency’s Education For Employment program, which organizes the activity. “We try to keep it fresh in that regard.”

During the community open house and job fair, members of the public can tour the same exhibitions the students will see during their field trips, and in

some cases speak with employers about job opportunities. Luke said employers have been asked specifically to share job opportunities that might be available for 16 to 18 year olds as well as adults.

More than 85 businesses are participating in the event, including: Bronson Healthcare Group, CSM Group, Flowserve, Graphic Packaging International, Humphrey Products, Kalsec Inc., Landscape Forms, National Flavors LLC, Pfizer Inc., Republic Airline, Schupan & Sons Inc., SMART Local 7 Union, United 4 Change, and Western Michigan University College of Aviation.

The event is being sponsored by KRESA, Southwest Michigan First, and Michigan Works! Southwest.



Acurea Brown works on photo editing software at the MiCareerQuest Southwest event in 2016.



Jonquez Benson works on a construction simulation at the MiCareerQuest Southwest event in 2016.

Enroll in The Loy Norrix Child Care Center for 2017-18

Is your child ready for preschool? The Loy Norrix Child Care Center, a five-star rated Kalamazoo County Ready 4s program, is accepting applications for childcare and preschool for 2017-18.

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 \$155 a week for full-time care, \$100 a week for half-day care, and \$42 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 Mary Hentschl-Early at (269) 337-0264, or email hentschl_earlym@kalamazoopublicschools.net.



LNCCC is open to any child, regardless of residency.

Parkwood-Upjohn Staff and Guests Hit the Hoops for the Annual Panther HOOPLA Fundraiser

The Parkwood-Upjohn PTO will hold its 12th annual Panther HOOPLA at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 3, at Loy Norrix High School. This family-friendly event is open to the community.

The night includes a basketball game featuring staff and special community teammates, as well as a silent auction with unique items and services, face painting, contests, music, food, and special guest appearances.

The event raises money for the school’s special assemblies, library books, field trips, classroom resources, teacher grants for classroom enrichment, the Family Fun Night, playground maintenance, and student achievement recognition.

Doors open and the auction begins at 6 p.m. The game starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person, \$10 for a family pass. For more information, call Parkwood-Upjohn at (269) 337-0720.



Sitting next to teacher Denise Jordan, Parkwood-Upjohn principal Robin Greymountain was the queen of the Hoopla with crown and cape.



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Cathleen Huling, Artistic Director



Nutcracker
2017

Saturday, December 9
2 pm and 7 pm

Sunday, December 10
2 pm

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Reserved seats available for \$15 to \$22
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online at balletartsensemble.org.

Group Rates: Special ticket rates available for groups of 20 or more.

Fresh flower bouquets by Schafer's Flowers available at the door while supplies last.

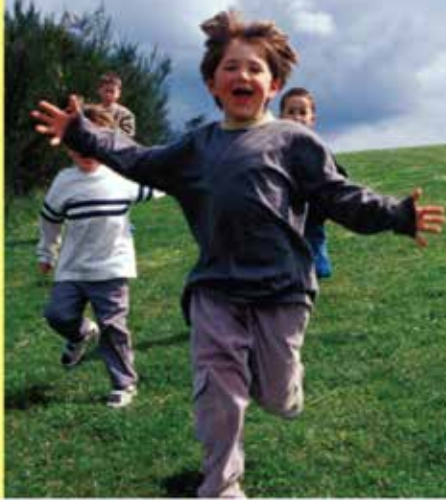


KALAMAZOO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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are our
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valuable
resource.

Herbert Hoover



KPS Early Education Program

CEC Building, 714 S. Westnedge Ave., Room 212
Office 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Call (269) 337-0095

Full and Half day sessions are available with three highly trained staff

Early Childhood Pre-Kindergarten program in many KPS Elementary Schools

Half-day PEEP preschool classes are still available at these KPS elementary schools: Arcadia, Greenwood, Parkwood-Upjohn, Prairie Ridge, and Winchell

Breakfast, Lunch, and snack provided depending on your child's placement

Transportation may be available

APPLY TODAY!



These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education

Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Chicken and White Bean Gratin

Hello Kalamazoo, as the November winds come upon us, it's time for some hearty comfort food. Please try this tasty dish with friends and family. Feel free to substitute your favorite proteins in this Chicken and White Bean Gratin.

Best regards, Chef Shaun



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

Ingredients

- 1½ cup coarse fresh breadcrumbs
- ¾ cup Parmigiano-Reggiano, grated
- 3 Tbs. fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves, chopped
- 1 Tbs. plus 1 tsp fresh thyme leaves, chopped
- 2 tsp. fresh rosemary, chopped
- 1 tsp. fresh sage leaves, thinly sliced
- Coarse salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 4 oz. turkey bacon (about 4 slices)
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 1 pound), cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1½ lbs. turkey sausage
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 medium yellow onion, thinly sliced
- ½ cup cooking sherry
- 2 14½-ounce cans cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 14½-ounce can diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 cup low-sodium chicken broth

2. In a Dutch oven, cook the bacon over medium heat until crisp, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer to paper towels.
3. Add the chicken to the Dutch oven; cook until browned, about 6 minutes. Transfer to a plate.
4. Add sausage and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned, about 5 minutes. Transfer to plate.
5. Drain all but 2 tablespoons of fat. Add the garlic and onion; cook, stirring, until soft, about 3 minutes. Add the sherry and cook, scraping up brown bits with a wooden spoon, until most of the liquid has evaporated, about 2 minutes.
6. Stir in the chicken, sausage, beans, tomatoes, and broth, plus the remaining 2 tablespoons of parsley, 1 teaspoon each rosemary and thyme, and ½ teaspoon sage; season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with breadcrumb mixture.
7. Cover the pot and bake until bubbling, about 20 minutes. Uncover; bake until golden brown, about 10 minutes. Crumble reserved bacon on top. Let cool slightly before serving.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Combine the breadcrumbs, cheese, 1 tablespoon each parsley and thyme, 1 teaspoon rosemary, and ½ teaspoon sage; season with salt and pepper.

Servings: 10

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Woods Lake PeaceJam Club Helps Students Become Engaged Citizens

The PeaceJam Jr. service learning club at Woods Lake Elementary: A Magnet School for the Arts was designed for fourth and fifth graders.

But club activities, such as renovating the school courtyard with new plants and marching in the Memorial Day parade, were so popular, the club expanded to include all of the younger students who wanted to join in the fun of making Woods Lake a better place.

This year more than 80 students have joined the club, which started with 30 children last year.

Teacher Shannon Parlato said she was inspired to start the club by fellow teacher Sveri Stromstra May, the longtime advisor for the Loy Norrix PeaceJam, and her neighbor Todd Bannon, who is program director for the Great Lakes PeaceJam, which is located at Western Michigan University.

"I loved that the program promotes positive behavior through service learning," Par-



Leon Tillman, Jase Cooper and Tasjiah Favorite, left to right in the foreground, help clean the space used for the PeaceJam garden at Woods Lake Elementary School.

lato said. "I originally thought I may have 10 kids show up – and was shocked that it has grown to 80 kids. The PeaceJam kids feel a sense of pride at being leaders in

our school. We are learning to help each other and to take care of our school community."

This year she is being assisted by teacher Patricia Bolton and

parent volunteer Jan Sneddon.

PeaceJam is designed for students kindergarten through college age. Members study the lives of Nobel Peace Prize winners and learn how to be active, engaged citizens. The Loy Norrix PeaceJam has been mentoring the Woods Lake group and assisting the younger students with their events.

Parlato said the group is still discussing projects for this school year, but they are talking

about continuing their work on the PeaceJam garden at Woods Lake, working with veterans in the Memorial Day parade, participating in a community activity for the holidays, and attending the PeaceJam celebration at WMU in April, at which a Nobel Peace Prize winner will speak. The group will walk in the Kalamazoo Holiday Parade with the Loy Norrix PeaceJam club to collect donations for the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes food bank.

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Board Approves Bond Scope Committee

The Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Trustees has approved the formation of a Bond Scope Committee to review the school district's potential need to include a bond question on an upcoming ballot.

The committee, which was approved at the Oct. 12 board meeting, includes parents and staff from across the district. If the committee recommends a bond, it also will propose a related project list and bond amount for the consideration of KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. Rice will make a recommendation to the board for a subsequent voter referendum.

The committee co-chairs are Patti Kanipe and Jason Morris.

Committee members are: David Berlin, Carolyn Betke, Anthony Bradley, Yolanda Browning, P.J. Buchholz, Ron Dillard, Lisa Dougherty, Rana Findling, Annette Fox, Tamica Fox, Ajamian Gardner, Mary Kate Goodwin-Kelly, Mark Hill, Jacquelyn Hobson, Scott Hunsinger, Amy Kendall, Marnee Michalski, Erin Middleton, Amanda Miller, Greg Orr, Linda Spicketts-Lass, Tina Tabulog, and Sally Wright.

Central Administrative Staff representatives to the committee are: Judy D'Arcangelis, Johnny Edwards, Cindy Green, Karen Jackson, Alex Lee, Nathan McLaughlin, Caycee Sledge, Gary Start, and Al Tyler.

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Food Network Chef Jet Tila Tells Linden Grove: Eat More to Cook Better

Whether he was talking about the logistics of making 440-foot sushi rolls or contemplating the value of boiling watermelon, chef and TV personality Jet Tila had the students at Linden Grove Middle School eating out of his hand as he encouraged them to be curious students of the world around them.

“Do you want to be a good cook, not even a good chef, but a good cook?” he said. “Then eat everything. You’re creating a data file in your mind.”

Tila made the visit to Linden Grove on Sept. 27 as part of a partnership with Chartwells K12 Dining Services, which handles food service for Kalamazoo Public Schools. He met with two classes in the morning and performed cooking demonstrations during the lunch period.

“Kids are really keen on cooking shows,” said Jenn Brower, the regional executive chef for Chartwells for the Kalamazoo area. “He really emphasizes fresh ingredients and how to put fresh food together. When kids see food made, it help them understand how to make healthy choices.”



Food Network chef Jet Tila answers questions from students at Linden Grove Middle School.

Tila pumped up his middle-school audience by relating cooking to math, science, and exploration.

Tila, who specializes in Thai and Chinese cooking, is a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu and the California Sushi Academy. He has appeared on numerous Food Network shows including “Cutthroat Kitchen,” “Guy’s Grocery Games,” “Iron Chef America,” “Chopped,” and “The Best Thing I Ever Ate.” He grew up in Los Angeles working in his family’s Bangkok Market and Royal Thai restaurant.

He’s set multiple world records for the world’s largest fresh fruit salad at more than 15,000 pounds, world’s largest stir fry (4,010 pounds), the largest seafood stew (6,500 pounds), and the longest California roll (440 feet).

Creating the giant sushi roll was all about logistics, calculating amounts of rice, and coordination, he said.

At one point, a student said he wanted to boil watermelon. Tila asked, “Why?” The boy said he was curious.

“I like that you’re curious. You should absolutely do it,” Tila said. “Check it out. Don’t stop him. The only way you’re going to know the effect on the watermelon is to do it.”

He then talked to the students about moist-heat cooking, like boiling and steaming, and dry-heat cooking, such as sauteeing, baking and grilling.

“Do an experiment,” Tila said. “If you promise to boil the watermelon, then I’d like you to bake watermelon or grill it, then we can analyze what the effects of dry heat and moist heat have on watermelon.”

Kids shouted out some of their least favorite foods: Brussels sprouts, vegetables in general, and meat. Tila let them in on a secret:

“If you educate yourself on how to cook, then there’s a way to make everything delicious.”

Chef Jet Tila's Perfect Fried Rice

Ingredients

3 Tbs. cooking oil
4-6 cloves of garlic, coarsely chopped
2 eggs, lightly beaten
4 cups day old rice, long grain or jasmine
1/2 tsp. salt
1-2 Tbs. thin soy sauce
1 Tbs. oyster sauce
1/2 Tbs. sugar
2 tsp. white pepper
2-3 green onions, chopped

Chicken and marinade

3-4 oz. chicken, sliced for stir fry
1 tsp. cornstarch
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp vegetable oil
pinch of salt

Directions

1. Combine chicken and marinade ingredients in a small bowl and reserve.
2. In a large skillet, heat oil until a wisp of white smoke appears. Add the eggs and lightly scramble until just set.
3. Stir in the chicken and garlic and cook for about two minutes, until the chicken is almost cooked through.
4. Fold in rice, pressing down in small circles to separate rice grains. Add salt, soy sauce, oyster sauce, and sugar. Continue to fold for about a minute or two. Don’t be afraid to scrape rice stuck to the bottom of the pan. Cook until rice absorbs the sauces and is slightly crisp on the edges.
5. Fold in green onions and white pepper, cook for an additional minute. Serve immediately.

A Citizen's Guide to HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Cleaning products like aerosols, bathroom and drain cleaners, and car supplies like waxes, starter fluids and repair products are all considered household hazardous wastes. Many ingredients in these products are corrosive or reactive, and if they aren't disposed of properly,

they can harm people and contaminate our rivers, lakes and drinking water. Simple alternatives can replace many hazardous substances. If you choose to use commercial products, however, make sure to dispose of them properly! See the chart below for details.



Proper disposal of household hazardous wastes is easy — the trick is just knowing how!

Okay to throw away
 Take to hazardous waste drop-off site
 Recycle
 Pour small amounts down the drain with lots of water

Kitchen	Aerosol cans (empty) Floor care products Household batteries	
Bathroom	Disinfectants Medicine (expired) Nail polish/remover (dried up) Toilet, tub and tile cleaner	
Garage	Antifreeze Battery (lead acid) Garden fertilizer Gasoline and kerosene Motor oil Insecticides and weed killers	
Workshop	Paint (latex — dried) Paint (oil-based, auto, model) Paint thinner, stripper or primer Wood preservative	

For more information, visit our website:



Tips for handling toxics

- Store household hazardous wastes in their original containers, and make sure the labels are readable.
- Save money and reduce waste by purchasing only what you need and use.
- Let solvents and paint thinners set in a closed jar to let dirt and paint settle to the bottom. You can reuse the top portion, and dispose of less waste!
- **Never** pour motor oil, paints or chemicals directly down the sink or into a catch basin in the street. Recycle or dispose of them properly. For disposal locations and drop-off dates, call the recycling authority in your area or go to www.earth911.com where you can enter your zipcode to locate the nearest disposal site.



Non-toxic alternatives

Homemade solutions to prevent pollution

- **to disinfect**, use one-half cup borax or washing soda* dissolved in one gallon hot water.
- **to clean floors**, use 1/4 cup white vinegar, 1/4 cup washing soda* in one gallon warm water.
- **for glass cleaner**, mix one part vinegar to four parts water. Dry windows with newspapers.
- **to unclog drains**, use a plumber snake instead of drain cleaners.
- **instead of toilet cleaner**, scrub with a toilet brush and baking soda.
- **to deodorize carpets**, sprinkle with baking soda, and vacuum after 30 minutes.

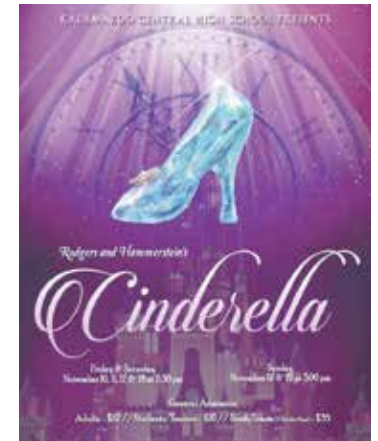
* Be sure to use washing soda (sodium carbonate) in these recipes and not baking soda (sodium bicarbonate).

Let Us Entertain You

**"Cinderella" at K-Central;
Cabaret Concerts at Loy Norrix**

The **Loy Norrix Choirs** will present their Cabaret Concerts at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10 and 11 at Loy Norrix's Kasdorf Auditorium. The concert will feature the Loy Norrix choirs as well as solo and small group ensembles. Tickets are \$5 students and KPS staff, and \$10 for other adults. Dessert is included in the ticket price.

Kalamazoo Central High School presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic "Cinderella" in November. The show runs 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10-11 and 17-18 and 3 p.m. Nov. 12 and 19 in the school auditorium. The musical includes the songs "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible," and "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?" Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors, and \$35 for families (a maximum of two adults). For more information, call the Kalamazoo Central box office at (269) 337-0330, ext. 341.



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