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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Thursday, August 11 and
Thursday, August 25; 7 p.m.
Administration Building

For more information call
(269) 337-1572.

First day of school

Tuesday, Sept. 6

Winter break

Dec. 26-Jan. 6

Spring break

March 31-April 7

CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATION DATES

Adult Education graduation
Monday, 7 p.m. May 22
Chenery Auditorium

Kalamazoo Area Math and
Science Center graduation
Tuesday, 7 p.m. May 30,
Chenery Auditorium

Phoenix High School graduation
Tuesday, 7 p.m. June 6
Chenery Auditorium

Loy Norrix High School
graduation
Wednesday, 7 p.m. June 7
Wings Event Center

Kalamazoo Central High School
graduation
Thursday, 7 p.m. June 8
Wings Event Center

KPS Board Approves 2016-2017 Budget

(please see page 4 for details)

Congratulations to the Class of 2016

Names of our Loy Norrix, Kalamazoo Central, and Phoenix high school graduates are on pages 3, 6 and 7.



Daniel Henry, center, and Jeremiah Richard pose for a picture before the start of the Kalamazoo Central commencement ceremony at Wings Event Center.



Zhi Nee Wee and GaBreon Wells-Lindsey walk into the Loy Norrix graduation ceremony at Wings Event Center.



Phoenix High School students share a few selfies before graduation. The students are (L to R) Raequan Burnett, Khaleel Cook, Alanna Connors, Jakayla Lipsey, and Aquarius Gill.

Loy Norrix Girls Soccer Captures District Trophy and Community Spirit

Loy Norrix High School's Lady Knights brought home the school's first district title in women's soccer since 1992.

It was a win that invigorated the school and showed the power of community.

The team finished the season with a 15-4-2 record, with three of the team's four losses coming to teams ranked No. 1 or 2 in the state. It took the district title with a 4-0 win over Okemos High School on June 4.



Photo courtesy of Deanne Pucca

Students rush the field after the Loy Norrix Womens Varsity Soccer team won its district championship this spring at Loy Norrix.

For co-captain Julie Zabik, that game was certainly the highlight of the season — including her goal 71 seconds into the game.

But just as remarkable was the crowd that night — filled with family members, school board members, former players and community members.

(continued on page 8)

FIRST SATURDAY @ KPL August 6

The next First Saturday @ KPL event will be held at the Kalamazoo Public Library, downtown, on August 6, 2016, from 2-3:30 p.m.

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Kalamazoo Case One More Example of Commitment to Education

This month's column by Kalamazoo Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice is an adaptation of remarks given June 21 at a State Bar of Michigan celebration of "The Kalamazoo Case," the famous 1874 Kalamazoo decision by the Michigan Supreme Court, which affirmed the constitutionality of taxes to fund public secondary schools. Dr. Rice spoke on the luncheon program at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo with Lori Buiteweg, president of the State Bar of Michigan; Janet Welch, executive director of the State Bar of Michigan; John Allen, partner of Varnum LLP in Kalamazoo; James Robb, associate dean of external affairs and general counsel of the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School; and Bob Jorth, executive director of the Kalamazoo Promise.

My responsibility today is to speak primarily about the 21st century, Kalamazoo Promise

era, and I will certainly do my job. But I can't resist returning to the 19th century for just a moment before fast forwarding to the last 10 years.

In 1853, a child was born in Kalamazoo, the son of a doctor and his wife. Upon graduation from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1875, a year after the Kalamazoo case was decided, the young man became a doctor. The young man's name was W.E. Upjohn, and he is well known in Kalamazoo, less so perhaps elsewhere in Michigan.

Ten years later, in 1885, Dr. Upjohn invented the friable pill. A year after that, in 1886, he began the Upjohn Co., which he led for the next 40 years. But his importance to this story is his



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D.
Superintendent

philanthropy.

With his generosity, Dr. Upjohn began many institutions that continue to help the community to this day: the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, and the Civic Theatre, to name a few.

Kalamazoo's history of educational leadership, cemented by the Kalamazoo Case, and Kalamazoo's history of philanthropy, most extraordinarily exhibited by the Kalamazoo Promise, both had their roots in the 1870s. I would argue that the deep spirit of giving in Kalamazoo, evidenced for more than a century in this community, is directly related to W.E. Upjohn. So as the 1870s gave birth to taxpayer-funded and constitutionally protected secondary education in Kalamazoo and many other places in Michigan and across the country, so too did it give birth to a philanthropic spirit that, 130

years later, would manifest itself in the Kalamazoo Promise.

In November 2005, then-Superintendent Dr. Janice Brown announced the Kalamazoo Promise, the extraordinary gift of generous, anonymous donors. At the time, like many urban districts across the state and country, Kalamazoo had lost enrollment every year for a third of a century since the early 1970s, the peak of baby boomers in our nation's schools.

In 2006, KPS grew by 1,000 students. Since the Promise began, KPS has grown by 2,400 students, or 24 percent. Only one other urban district in the state has grown during this period. Most urban districts have declined precipitously in enrollment. Instead of closing schools, we have re-opened two schools, built three new schools—the first since 1972, added onto two others, and renovated all the rest.

Kalamazoo County was

the first county in the state of Michigan to pass an enhancement millage and has passed three renewals since. KPS helped power the way. KPS residents have passed three bonds since the Kalamazoo Promise and helped lead a special education millage increase, this last initiative on the same ballot as the disastrous state roads referendum in May 2015.

Yes, we have significant challenges in the district and community. Our child poverty rate is among the highest in the state, and we contend with the ramifications of our children's challenges in school every day. Seven of our elementary schools have had 90 percent-plus free or reduced-price lunch eligibility in the last three years. Half of our schools have had 80 percent-plus free or reduced-price lunch eligibility in the last three years.

That said, every major KPS academic indicator has improved

(continued on page 5)



First Saturday @ KPL

Rio 2016



**Saturday, August 6
2 - 3:30 pm, CEN**

Take your family to the library the first Saturday of each month! Get your library card or pick out some books to check out. Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes. Something different each month! First Saturday is a partnership program for KPL and Kalamazoo Public Schools. Each monthly event is co-hosted with an organization serving children and families in Kalamazoo. In August, participate in a special Summer Olympics 2016 Celebration.

Partners
Boys and Girls Club of Kalamazoo
Communities In Schools of Kalamazoo
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan
Great Start Collaborative
Great Start Collaborative Parent Coalition
Hispanic American Council
Kalamazoo in Bloom
Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
Kalamazoo County Ready 4s

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
Kalamazoo Literacy Council
Kalamazoo Public Schools
Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra
Kalamazoo Valley Museum
KRESA
NAACP
Northside Ministerial Alliance
Parents for Public Schools of Greater Kalamazoo
SW Michigan AEYC
Western Michigan University Reading Clinic

Phoenix High School Class of 2016

Olivia Adams	Scott Cook	Maliek Hargrave*	Ciera Robinson
Victoria Barron	Madison Cretsinger	Max Herald	Heaven Robinson
Tasha Belschl*	Jeannette Cruz	Danielle Hoag	Rastassja Robinson
Jasmine Block	Mary Daly	Isis Hughes-Mohney	Isaiah Shack
Detrevis Booth	Reynardo Dixon	Kia Johnson	Jacob Shepard
Paris Branson	Tarrethia Dixon	Dakota Kandler	Ivan Simons
Tyshon Brown	Rachel Dodge	Jaidyn Kynaston	Cayesha Small
Travontae Brown-	Myah Doxey	Giana Lambert-Coleman	Pereshieanna Smith*
McFerrin	Darryl Durham III	Seth Larthridge	Danny Spencer
Aakiah Buchanan	Aquaireon Edmonson*	Jakayla Lipsey*	Katelyn Spoone
Zoe Burdick	Reanna Edwards	Destiny Luce	Carli Stevens
Kalynn Burnett*	Parker Fields	Brandi Mann*	Tierra Thompson*
Keiondre Burnett*	Dravon Fort	Austin Martin	Keyaira Triplett-Johnson
Kyazzia Burnett	Damian Freemyer-	Rashiyia McClenney	Heather Vanderbilt*
Raequan Burnett*	Shelton	Bryan Miranda Suarez	Terrion Vaughn
Demarcus Campbell	Crystal Galicia	Jamesha Morgan	Aaron Wallace
Kiara Carriger	Jesse Gartner	Cinneya Moseley	Kamri Warren*
Chandra Clark	Diamonique Gibson	Ja'quan Murff	Lawrence White
James Clark	Selton Gibson*	Tiffany Murphy	Ahmmad Whiteside
Jammie Clark	Aquarius Gill*	Akiria Nichols	Chazz Wilbon*
Nautica Clark	Anesa Graham	Ciara Oneal	Ty Wilburn
Elias Clarke	Edward Griffin Jr.	Ayana Patterson	Kenneth Williams
Izzyonna Coleman	Roman Grove*	John Pitts*	Wilson Willmore
Dianna Collins	Arianna Hampton	Lance Post	Davia Wilson
Alanna Connors	Alicia Hardin	Juwaun Price	Yolanda Yarbrough
Khaleel Cook	Diamond Hardwick	Ray Reason	*Student Ambassadors

Otto Kailing is National Merit Oberlin College Scholarship Winner

2016 Kalamazoo Central graduate Otto Kailing has been named a winner of the National Merit Oberlin College Scholarship. The award was announced by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation in June.

He plans to major in music at Oberlin, which is a private school located near Cleveland. Kailing was a student at K-Central and the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

He is an accomplished pianist and saxophonist, and he was a member of the 2016 All State Jazz Band, the Kalamazoo Central Marching Band and the Kalamazoo Central Jazz Band. He won numerous academic honors at KAMSC, including the Freshman Medallion.

National Merit Scholarship winners are selected based on overall academic success, SAT scores, extracurricular activities, awards, and leadership.



Otto Kailing

Adult Education 2016 Graduates

Dustin Ammon	Gary McNeil
Olivia Arnett	Paul Merkle
Shane Brandenburg	Mario Moctezuma
Nicole Brawner	Derrico Moody
Jeramie Burgell Jr.	Joshua Moore
Luis Canseco	Robert Narlock
Katie Cline	Daniela Petlick
Brad Dietzel	Christian Rodriguez
Tim Fraley	Kenneth Rohrsheib
Ashley Glenn	Estefani Rosales
Michael Hughes	Austin Sabel
David Huntsberger Jr.	Kayla Swiecicki
Kendall Jackson	Christian Tapia
Ashley Johnson	Melanie Tipken
Fernando Juarico	Trolia Tobar
Jennifer LaValley	Amber Vega
Patrick Martin	Madeline Wick



2016 Adult Education graduate Amber Vega poses with her family after the commencement ceremony at Chenery Auditorium.

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KPS Administrator Named Transportation Supervisor of the Year in Michigan

Kalamazoo Public Schools Executive Supervisor for Transportation Terri Aman was named Transportation Supervisor of the Year in Michigan at the Michigan Association for Pupil Transportation conference held June 22 in Bellaire.

The award honors nominees for management skills, involvement in school programs and the ability to set and achieve goals.

Aman said the award was a tribute to her entire department.

“Transportation is not just one person. We have a whole big group that works hard together,”

she said. “Our whole transportation department works hard and does a great job transporting our kids to school every day.”

In nominating Aman for the award, KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice said she is in charge of one of the largest school bus fleets — 120 — in the state. The transportation department transports more than 7,000 students daily. The district’s approximately 120 bus drivers log more than 1.4 million miles per year for families.

“This is an extremely complex and often challenging de-

partment,” Rice said. “However, Terri always handles the complexities and stressful situation professionally, and often with a measure of humor as well. She is dedicated to meeting the needs of all of our students. It is vitally important to her that our students have a safe and comfortable bus ride, and that the buses arrive to their bus stops and schools on time.”

Aman began working with the district as a co-op student in 1977. Aman moved to transportation in 2003, after the death of the transportation director and an unexpected medical leave by

the transportation coordinator. She was named the head of the department in 2004, said Deputy Superintendent Gary Start.

She oversees an annual \$7.7 million budget, has instituted annual safety awards, and manages a bus maintenance program that has seen 99 percent of the district’s buses passing the state police annual inspection over the past three years.

But above all, Start said, Aman has excellent people skills. “I have found that keeping bus driver morale high is very difficult,” he said. “However, our



Terri Aman has worked for Kalamazoo Public Schools for 39 years, including the last 13 as transportation supervisor.

transportation personnel know that Terri cares deeply about each one of them.”

KPS Board Approves Budget with Funds for New High School Program, Teaching Coaches

On June 27, the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education approved the district’s 2016-17 budget, which includes additional funds for a new alternative high school program, additional literacy and math coaches, and services to help recruit, train and retain employees for hard-to-fill hourly positions.

The budget includes an enrollment increase of 91 students in the state blended (fall-winter) enrollment count. If the increase materializes, it will be the second year in a row and the ninth in 11 years that enrollment has risen in KPS, which has grown by 2,400 students in the 11 years since the advent of the Kalamazoo Promise.

The 2016-2017 budget includes \$290,000 for the Ombudsman Program, a new alternative high school program. It will operate in addition to Kalamazoo Central, Loy Norrix and Phoenix high schools. The program will start with approximately 60 students.

“It is another option at the secondary level for young people to succeed,” said KPS Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice. “While we have raised graduation rates over the last several years,

we continue to have room for improvement. Ombudsman has worked successfully with students and districts across the country to help young people who have struggled with life circumstances and, in some cases, with school itself to become more successful in school and to graduate.”

Two years ago, district and school administration and staff helped to restructure Phoenix, the district’s alternative high school. The 2014-15 school year was Phoenix’s first under the new structure. In June, 102 students graduated from Phoenix, the largest graduating class in its history and a proud moment for students, staff, parents, and grandparents.

While Phoenix has improved substantially, as have the district’s two comprehensive high schools—Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix—Phoenix still can only accommodate about 200 students a year, and there are many other students in the district who could benefit from a smaller and more personalized learning environment, Rice said.

Ombudsman is a national company that offers alternative education services for school dis-

The budget includes an enrollment increase of 91 students.

tricts. In operation since 1975, Ombudsman currently educates students in 20 states. The KPS Ombudsman program will be housed at its South Westnedge School, which in recent years has been the temporary home of Milwood Elementary and Washington Writers’ Academy while the schools were undergoing construction or renovation. The program will offer an online element, flexible scheduling, career development, and a socio-emotional learning component.

The budget has a number of initiatives that address board goals. The Ombudsman Program will focus on the district’s goal of improving graduation rates, which have been rising since 2010. Last year’s graduation rates were the highest in the district’s history under the new federal graduation rate formula. From

2010 when President Obama visited as the prize for Kalamazoo Central winning the first Race to the Top Commencement Challenge, to 2015, the district graduation rate rose 7.9 percentage points to 71 percent. The Loy Norrix graduation rate rose 13.3 percentage points to 78.3 percent. The Kalamazoo Central graduation rate rose 7.6 percentage points to 85 percent.

“This is an effort to try to continue to improve the graduation rate, to increase the number of children in the district who are able to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise and to move on and to work on their goals and dreams for their lives,” Rice said.

The board’s other goals are to improve achievement in reading, writing and math and to increase Advanced Placement participation.

The budget includes a doubling of the number of literacy coaches from two to four and of the number of math coaches from one to two. The coaches will help teachers, particularly those at high poverty elementary schools, improve their instruction.

In terms of Advanced Placement classes, the district

will add an Advanced Placement (AP) French class at Loy Norrix this year, with the potential for expansion to Kalamazoo Central in 2017-2018. The district is also collaborating with the Confucius Institute to begin offering Mandarin Chinese classes at both high schools. Neither program will cost the district additionally. The Loy Norrix French teacher, Ms. Rachel Lerner, will teach the French AP class, while the Mandarin Chinese is being funded by a Confucius Institute program, a Chinese government effort to increase Mandarin Chinese speakers.

The district also anticipates spending \$20,000 on training for activity helpers and \$60,000 on recruitment and retention of hard-to-fill hourly positions such as bus drivers, food service workers, activity helpers and substitute teachers.

Deputy Superintendent Gary Start said in the improving economy, it has gotten more difficult to fill these critical positions and to retain employees. It is hoped that additional training and support will make the job opportunities more attractive and help develop longer-term commitments to the positions.

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:

Assistant Superintendent 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

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Kalamazoo Case One More Example of Commitment to Education *(continued from page 2)*

since the advent of the Kalamazoo Promise.

Our KPS school board has established broad goal areas of reading, writing, math, Advanced Placement (AP) participation, and graduation rates.

Since 2008, we have improved our reading, writing, and math achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, in most cases with growth faster than the state as a whole.

From 2007-2008 to 2014-2015, the number of KPS students taking AP courses, classes equivalent to introductory college courses, increased by 146 percent, and the number of AP courses taken by our students increased by 209 percent.

During the same period, the number of economically disadvantaged students taking AP courses increased by 317 percent,

the number of African American students taking AP courses increased by 264 percent, and the number of Hispanic students taking AP courses increased by 875 percent.

In 2010, we had the good fortune to have an outstanding visitor at the Kalamazoo Central graduation. The early *New York Times* headline read, "Michigan high school snags noted Hawaiian as speaker." We were delighted to have that so-called "noted Hawaiian," President Barack Obama, with us, the prize for winning the president's first Race to the Top Commencement Challenge.

But 2010 wasn't our high point in the district.

Indeed, last year's graduation rates were the highest in the district's history under the new federal graduation rate formula. From 2010 to 2015, our district

graduation rate rose 7.9 percentage points to 71 percent. The Loy Norrix High School graduation rate rose 13.3 percentage points to 78.3 percent. The Kalamazoo Central graduation rate rose 7.6 percentage points to 85 percent.

And yes, to paraphrase Robert Frost, we still have miles to go before we sleep.

Our rate of going to college within six months of high school graduation from Kalamazoo Central or Loy Norrix increased from 64 percent to 78 percent from 2004 to 2014. This rate exceeds not only the national average but the average for high-income schools.

Comparing the class of 2004 (pre-Kalamazoo Promise) to the classes of 2006 through 2008 (the three graduating classes immediately following the announcement of the Kalamazoo Promise), the six-year college graduation

rate—a common higher education measurement—for Kalamazoo Central/Loy Norrix students entering college increased from 33 to 39 percent. This rate compares favorably to the national college graduation rate for low-income schools of 22 percent and the national college graduation rate for all public schools of 32 percent. Our rabbit, 50 percent for graduates of high-income high schools, remains a goal.

Every day we get up and do battle in Kalamazoo to improve what we do and how we do it for children, both in our schools and in our community. We are aided by a rich history—a generous history of philanthropy and dedication to providing education for all—one that dates back to the 1870s. It is a privilege and an honor to be a small part of the history of supporting children in Kalamazoo.

Time to Think About Sports Physicals

Kalamazoo Central High School will be hosting sports physicals at the school 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4. The cost is \$25 for the physical, or \$50 for the physical and sports participation insurance. The physical

and insurance payment are valid for the entire school year, which covers three sports seasons. Follow signs at the school for the location of the physicals.

Loy Norrix High School will not be

holding physicals on campus; students are directed to three immediate care facilities that offer exams: Bronson FastCare located in Meijer, 5121 S. Westnedge Ave.; MedExpress Urgent Care, 6929 S. Westnedge Ave., and Hometown Urgent Care, 5142 S. Westnedge Ave.

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Kalamazoo Central High School Class of 2016

Devyn Abdullah~Bush
Lucas Acosta
Maxson Aguilar~Dimas
Toni Alexander ~
Joseph Anderson
Josephine Anderson ~
Victor Ankley +~
Samantha De La Cruz
Randy Ashby
Taylor Ashby +~
Jasmine Atkins
Abdalrahman Awad
Rochelle Banks
Brogan Barnhart
Nathan Batker
Jonah Battani
Desiree Baughman
Asiyah Baylis
Tierra Bell
Imani Berry
Kahlil Bey~Woodson
Breanna Bizzell
Hayley Blackledge +~
Sydney Bodzianowski +~
Takoda Bostwick
Caitlyn Boyer
Raven Boykins
Adia Brown
Sherryse Brown
Shamari Browning
Roshanda Brunson
Mohamed Bzizi
Andrew Carpenter
Joyce Carter
Zjalyn Carter
Janai Castaneda
Javier Caswell~Vargas
Armind Chahal +~
Kenyontae Chaney~
Walden
Braden Chenier
Yu-Ting Chiang +~
Lucienne Chou
Keygan Clark
Jada Clopton
Tierra Cole
Marquavion Coleman
Prescott Coleman
Kelsi Conroy +~
Kera Conroy +~
Taylor Cooper
Cynnea Cornelious
Trevor Corsi
Kiara Cox ~
Christian Creamer
Mylesha Crim
Adam Cronin
Rachel Cross
Kyle Cunningham



Photo courtesy of Lisa Boulding

Yu-Ting Tiffany Chiang, Olivia Shinavier, Jennifer Maldonado, and Shelby Russcher share a moment before the Kalamazoo Central commencement ceremony.

Danielle Dantzler	Tyonna Hoskins	Orlando Little Jr.
Maurice Davis Jr.	Abigail Hough	Quentin Little Jr.
Adreeonna Deem	Antar Howard	Nekima Lockett~ Blackeagle
Kimberlin Diaz Chalas	Brian Humprey	Matteo Loewe
Darryl Dixon Jr.	Tristan Hunt	Timothy Loruss
Reanna Doonan	Dustin Hunter	Michael Lovely
Megan Dukes	Jordan Hunter	Tyler Lyle ~
Rico Earl II	Niyah Jackson	Jennifer Maldonado
Shaquille Echols	Tristen Jansheski	Devin Marsh
Jamiese Edmonson	Emily Jean	Jelani Martin
Logan Eldridge	Bryce Jefferis	Mar'charnae Martin
DeShontae Ellis	Yasmine Jerbi+	Hannah Matuz
Lauren Ellis	Alysia Johnson	Cierra McCants
Calvin Emery	Darshay Johnson	Daylin McCants
Ogheneyiole Evovo ~	Diamond Johnson	Rashawn McKay
Caleb Farrar	Finneas Johnson +~	Torrey McKay
Bader Farwana	Martin Johnson	Taylor McLean +~
Jade Feger~Willis	Sadia Johnson	Anton McMillon
Antonio Ferguson Jr.	Theodous Johnson	Javion McPherson
James Fernandez	Keith Jones	Logan Mejeur
Tyler Fountain	Otto Kailing **+	LaShawnda Melton
Morgan French ~	Sean Kalisiak Jr.	Bryson Merriam
Aaliyah Garel~Fields	Cornelius Kates Jr.	Tamas Mezei
Chloe Geary +~	Brianna Keller	Jacob Mickel
Chloe Gerhard	Keagan Kirshman	Jordan Miller
Lauren Giddings	Henry Klein +~	Lanquya Moore
Natasha Goenawan *+~	Jackson Klein ~	Lisbeth Morales +~
Noah Gonzales	Jeremy Kohler	Michelle Morales ~
Aryon Gray	Tyler Lajiness ~	Adriana Moran
Jedediah Gunnett Jr.	Alexandria Langsdale	Stephanie Myers
Samuel Hagerty	Izac LaTurner	Jacobi Nabors
Warren Hairston	Kyle Launius	Alaya Neville ~
Kara Hamann ~	Hannah Laurin +~	Joshua Newman
Destinee Hampton	Jacob Laymon	Christopher Nguyen +~
Jerica Harris	Jhane'yah LeFlore~ Swindle	Tonette Nichols~Johnson
Tasia Hayes ~	Esteban Torres	Liam Niehus~Staab +~
Andre Haywood Jr.	Nathan Lethiot	Patience Nsenga
Dadric Haywood	Destiny Lewis	Hilton Nuechterlein
Daniel Henry	Jauciar Lewis	Rachel Oostema
Jose Hernandez Mortera	Allisha Poucher	Alinah Oropeza
Alissa Hickmon	Tirrell Lipsey	Esparanza Oviedo
Trevor Hill		

Kiera Parkman ~	Azaria Sistrunk	Cassandra Veenkant
Samuel Patrick	Darius Skinner	Anna Villagrasa
Aryana Patterson	Aaron Smith	Art'es Wachowski +~
Emmet Paul	Jaelon Smith	Orlandre' Wafford
Yazmin Perez	Kaylyn Smith	Tara Wagner
Eric Pettis Jr.	Elisa Smith~Alquarelles	Gregory Wagy
Romello Phillips	Stephen Smoker ~	Dominic Walker
ShanBreka Phillips	Akiyah Snell	Navia Walker
Adrian Pollard +~	Emily Spilman +~	Dandelion Waltz
Andrew Poole	Shane Spink +~	Marquala Ward
Omarie Poole	Elmahdi Sprague	Taylor Washington
Kishion Pratt~Bragg	Sha~Prace Stegall	Noelle Watson
Destine Price +~	Gary Stevens III	Tempis Webb
Diana Price	Mitchell Stevens	Robert Webster
Marc Pulphus II	Tabatha Stinson	Nicole West ~
Suzann Rangel	Ashley Streeter	Shayonna West
Doreisha Reed	Mindi Sundell	Brandon White
Dorian Reed	Garret Tanner	Anna Wiley
Sage Renstrom~Richards ~	Victor Taylor	Masio Willhite
Christya Reynolds	Diamone Tedford	Brandon Williams
Jeremiah Richard	Theodore Tenbusschen	Donovan Williams +~
Nichelle Richards	Olivia Terrentine	Zachary Willoughby
Joseph Richardson Jr.	Nikyla Thomas	Quierra Wilson~Abrams
D'Angelo Robinson	DeVahn Thompson	Max Winkle +~
Shelby Russcher ~	O'Sheanna Thompson	Londrica Woods
Megan Sager	Lauren Thorpe	Arthur Woodworth +~
Alexis Salas	Austin Timmons	Keonda Wright
Tishon Sanchez~Clay	Alec To	Arieyonna Yarbrough
Faruq Schieber +~	Leah Todd ~	Devin Ziegler
Ryan Schutz	Lynn Tomlinson	
Alan Seager ~	Adara Tran	*Valedictorian
Kennedy Warfield Shelton ~	Jaylen Trotter	** Salutatorian
Olivia Shinavier	Kathryn Tyler	+Top 10 percent of
Luke Sidwell	Patricia Tyler	Graduating Class
Alex Silva Jr., III	Christopher Tyson ~	~National Honor Society
Camarea Simpson	Jacob Tichelt	

K-Central Mock Trial Team Takes 11th Place at National Tourney

The Kalamazoo Central Mock Trial Team took 11th place at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Boise, Idaho, in May.

The K-Central team competed against 46 teams and more than 30,000 students from across the country during two days of competition. In addition to the 11th place team win, Kalamazoo Central senior Donovan Williams took home the Best Witness Award.

Central went into the national competition after securing its 18th Michigan State championship earlier in the spring.

The mock trial program is designed to reenact much of what might take place in trial courts. High school students take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses and compete against other schools in real courtrooms, in front of real judges and lawyers.

Team members included seniors Zjalyn Carter, Donovan Williams, Alec To, and Josephine Anderson; juniors Rosemary Sidwell, Nicholas Sosulski and Sydney Woodcock; sophomores Julia Kemple~Johnson, and timekeeper Rochelle Sims. Lead Coach is Francis P. Bilancio.

Loy Norrix High School Class of 2016

Tajanae Acree
Arryon Alexander
Cameron Amesbury
Kia Anderson
Koichi Anderson +
Ethan Antisdel
Mario Arteaga Jr.
Arieonia Atlas
Nicolas Augustine
Julia Ballesteros
Keegan Banks
Clayton Barker
Samuel Barrett
Alana Bartley
Alexis Bell
JeNessa Boggan
Matilda Bower
Zoe Branson
Cindy Bravo
Michael Breneman
Owen Brennenman
Scott Brigham
Jasmine Brooks
Jordan Brown
Mariah Brown
Samantha Brown *+
Kyseana Burton
Makayla Bush
Zoe Buszka +
Benjamin Byrd
Taija Campbell
Damon Carlson
Emma Carnell
Katherine Cartwright
Alexander Clements
Ian Colburn-Jaynes
Nijel Cole
Travis Cole
Caitlin Commissaris
Melissa Commissaris
Zion Cooper
Isabella Cowles +
Daniel Crowl
Kendra Curtis
Sa'von Davis
Tavion Davis
Lily De Hollander-Bird
Julia De La Orden
Morera
Shawn Dearmond +
Aliyah Denny
John Dillon
Desirae Douglas
Joshua Dunham
Mariana Duran
Kayleigh Dyer
Erik Eichhorn
Brooks Eisenbise *+
Sidney Ellis



Loy Norrix students Julie Zabik, Megan Zabik, Olivia Russell, and Kimberly Romph pose for a photo before the Loy Norrix commencement ceremony on June 9 at Wings Event Center.



Counselor Rebecca Learner poses for a selfie with seniors Kathryn Puca and James Robinson Jr. IV.

Jacob Elyea
Alexis England
Alexis Esquivel
Okeoghene Evovo +
Antasia Fareed
Mitchell Farrell
Julio Fernandez
Herrero*
Joseph Fette
Steven Finley Jr.
Josephine Fiore +
Tanner Franklin
Jeremy Frey
Mizuka Fujii
Keegin Garrison
Sinclair George
Dimande Gilbert
Najah Gill
Sarah Giramia
Je'Na Gladney
Carmela Gonzalez Leon
Leon Gonzalez
Stephanie Gonzalez
Cameron Goodale
Maia Greer
Shane Gruizinga
Kevin Guerrero
Kirsten Haines
Jazemine Hairston
Seth Harding
Alex Harrell
Kiesha Harris
Jacob Heasley
Christian Heintzelman
Dawn Hendrix
Ruby Hensley
Zachary Hentkowski
Austin Herbert

Gustavo Hernandez
Matthew Heyart
Collin High +
Arrion Hill
Jordyne Hitt
Turner Hoehle
Aaron Holmes
Daquarion Hunter
Christopher Hybels
Jessica Imel
SaeVon Ivy
Amanda Jackson
Corniquwa Jackson
Jazmyn Jackson
Rellisha Jackson
Ty'riq Jackson
Tyler Jackson
Lorena Jaimes-Salinas
Eliot Jaynes-Colburn
Thatcher Jensen
Jaylen Johnson
Lastarra Johnson
Tykiea Johnson
Haven Johnston
Felicie Jones +
Luis Juarez Castro
Leslie Julian
Dominic Julien
Jillian Kalhorn
Keegan Keck
Morgan Kester
Anthony Kiewiet
Gregory King
Allegra Kistler Ellis +
Ethan Klooststra
Anna Knutson
Eleanor Kolasinski
Lillian Krone +

Taylor Krupianik
Maddison Kuiper
Haruto Kumasaka
Aude Kuzniak
Grace Labadie +
Jane Labadie
Jasmine Lamb
Quinntonia Lampkins
Matthew Landcaster
Mikayla Langford
Maya Lannen +
Luis Lara
Dakota Lee
Shia'ann Lee
Dameon Leflore
Aubrey Leppen
Ethan Leverton
Nahshon Lewis
Tajanae Lewis
Jakob Link
Jonathan Lo +
Megan Lohner +
Alexander Lutz
Jessica Lynk
Audrey Lyons
Hunter Machin +
Chayne Maize
Arya Malmgren
Amari Marshall
Alexis Martin
Bailey Martin
Riley Martin
Zachary Mason
Totalnysha Matthews
Nicholas May
Kennith McDonald
Jalen McFerrin-Pace
Jacob Merriam

Dylan Miller
Grant Mitchell
Ti-Zhane Mitchell
Luis Morales
Bailey Mosher +
Wilburn Moss II
Martin Mueller +
Ahnissah Myles
Rene Navarrete
Mayeesha Nayeem
Skyler Makuch
Nicholas Nelson
Genevieve Nicolow
Sabrina Nieves
Damarquay Norman
Anna Nordmoe
Markus Northup
Shukrani Nsenga +
Maxwell Offerman
Madeline Olech
Cutter Olmsted-Meade
Agnes Osei
Henry Paas
Quincy Page
Kiyah Parks
Traver Parlato
Ashly Pearson
Pedro Patury Accioly
Audra Penny
Connor Petherman
Rebekah Poff
Dalvin Poitier
Shaquan Polk
Thaddeus Pollard
Janna Pollens-Voigt
Sincere Powell
Madison Preston
Jalin Pritchett

Kathryn Puca +
Hannah Putkamer
Kwamilah Ramsey
Marah Ranger +
Skyler Ratering
Maureen Reed
James Robinson Jr. IV
Marshelle Robinson
Mitchell Rockwell
Mario Rodriguez
Matthew Rodriguez
Kimberly Romph
Joshua Russell
Olivia Russell +
Lois Rustenholtz
Drew Samuelson
Nijayah Sanders
Jimena Sandoval
Makenna Sandt +
Miguel Santos
Carli Schmidt
Brady Secord
Alisabeth Shigwadja
Latharia Smith
Simeon Smith +
Helen Snyder
Lukas Sprinkle
Kaila Starks
Luisa Stock
Mikaela Stover
Carsten Strand
Eryka Swank-Schreffler
Noah Taplin
Zaron Tate
Isabelle Tavares
Rian Thompson
Tre' Thompson
Armonte Tolbert

Joshua Trudgeon-Pollack
Joseph Umbanhowar
Paul Vallier
Olivia Vande Pol
Corinne VanOstran
Mikhel Waling
Shiloh Waling
Roe Warner
Brooke Washington
Zhi Nee Wee +
GaBreon Wells-Lindsey
Tony Whitelow
Timothy Whittaker
Ryan Wiessner
Dequindre Wiggins
David Williams
FaNai Williams
Hali Williams +
JaMeelah Williams
Bianca Wilson
Khari Witcher
Marjorie Wolfe +
Joanna Yiu +
Megan Youngs
Ahmed Younis
Julie Zabik +
Megan Zabik +
Chi Zhang
Chase Ziegler
Jesus Zuniga

***Co-valedictorian
+ Dean's List, 4.0 GPA
and above**

Loy Norrix Girls Soccer Captures District Trophy and Community Spirit *(continued from page 1)*

“The support from the school and community was vital this season,” said Zabik, who was co-captain with fellow senior Grace Labadie. “To see how many people were coming to the games and how many people wanted us to be successful was amazing. It really pushed us to reach our goal.”

Labadie agreed. “The school and community support was overwhelming this year. I think it made a huge difference. The fact that so many people were behind us just gave us motivation and, more than anything, it gave us confidence. Also, it seemed like we were bringing some pride back to Norrix.”

After districts, the team went on to regionals where it lost to Grand Rapids Forest Hills 3-0.

Coach John McKenzie said that not only was this a team deep with experience — nine seniors, many who had played together for years for Norrix and on travel teams — but it was a group of students who got along extremely well.



Front row (L to R) Maria Egloff, Grace Labadie, Marjorie Wolfe and Julia Labadie; Second row: Kaila Starks, Madison Hanfland, Jane Labadie; Third row: Lena Wood, Megan Zabik, Lorena Jaimés-Salinas, Amanda Jackson, Julie Zabik, Ava Wood; Back Row: Coach Kevin Labadie, Macy Hoppe, Catie Stamper, Maeve Novotny, Abigail Roberts, Olivia Boblet, Kate Puca, Ava Keller, Coach John McKenzie.

“I was so happy for the girls who have put so much time and hard work into the team for such a long period of time,” he said. “It wasn’t just the work they put in this year, it was work they put in last year and the year before that. This is something we’ve been working toward for quite a long time.”

“And everybody bought in. They all genuinely seemed to

like being around each other, to enjoy each other’s company, to be friends — and that goes a long way toward having a successful season.”

Zabik agreed.

“We were super close and had really good team chemistry,” she said. “We also knew it was the last chance for these seniors, so we were all super focused on making it a

successful season.”

Even after losing to Gull Lake High School in the conference final, Labadie said, the team remained focused and confident, which is what ultimately led to them bouncing back and defeating several strong teams to take the district championship.

By the end of the season Cate Stamper, Megan Zabik and Amanda Jackson earned honorable mentions on the All-Conference Team. Team members Grace and Jane Labadie, Maria Egloff and Julie Zabik were First Team All-Conference. Six players were named to the All-District Team: both Labadies, both Zabiks, Egloff and Stamper.

Loy Norrix Athletic

Director Andrew Laboe said not only was the team a success on the field, but off the field as well. The team had a collective G.P.A. of 3.82. The team included two Heyl Scholarship winners, Zabik and Marjorie Wolfe. Four of the seniors were ranked among the Top 15 students of the graduating class.

While many think that next year will be a rebuilding season with the loss of the core group of seniors, McKenzie and Laboe note that 11 team members will return — and they anticipate a strong group of incoming freshmen.

“We have a winning culture now and that culture, psychology and attitude will go a long way,” McKenzie said.

Adrian Pollard Wins 2016 WMU Medallion Scholarship

Kalamazoo Central High School senior Adrian Pollard has been named one of 20 Western Michigan University Medallion Scholarship winners for 2016.

Medallion Scholarships are the highest merit-based award WMU can bestow on an incoming freshman. Valued at \$60,000 each over four years, they constitute one of the largest merit-based awards in American higher education.

Pollard plans to major in mechanical engineering at WMU. He was awarded the Harold H. Holland Memorial Medallion Scholarship.

A member of the National Honor Society, Pollard has held a leadership position in the group, creating programs at KCHS, coordinating volunteer opportunities and sponsorships, finding funding support and forming partnerships with community businesses. He earned the Award for High Honors in Academic Achievement twice, as well as three Advanced Placement



Adrian Pollard

Scholar awards.

Pollard has played soccer nearly all his life and participated in the sport throughout high school, playing varsity for three years and serving as team captain for one. He has been involved in debate and forensics.

In addition to the \$60,000 monetary award, Medallion Scholars become members of WMU’s Lee Honors College.

2016 Eastside Schools Reunion Set for Sept. 17

The 2016 Annual Eastside Schools Reunion (formerly called the Roosevelt Reunion) will be held noon-4 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds and Expo

Center, Room B.

Former students, teachers, principals, and faculty from Roosevelt, Brucker, Wilson, Burke, Spring Valley, St. Mary’s, Northeastern, and Barber

Hall schools are all invited. Socializing begins at noon, followed by a potluck lunch, prize giveaways, and memory sharing and making.

The cost to attend is \$5 if guests pre-register and \$6 at the door. Please bring a dish to pass. Beverages and table service will be provided.

Those with questions, can contact Nancy Ruse Flipse at Nanjac@chartermi.net or Ailene Lind Buchtrup at Lindytwin1@yahoo.com — or post questions on the group’s Facebook page under Eastside Schools Annual Reunion. The group is a closed group for current and former Eastside schools alumni and teachers and features photos and memorabilia.



Student Steve Lagsdin gets a hug from his No. 1 teacher of all times, Mrs. Grace (Jackson) Hardy.

EFE Honors Outstanding Students at Annual Banquet

Each year, the Education For Employment Council hosts the Outstanding Senior Awards Ceremony to honor outstanding seniors for their academic achievements and to award scholarships for continued study.

EFE consists of approximately 3,200 students in 34 different programs that provide practical career training experience. EFE is a collaboration between many public and nonpublic school, Kalamazoo RESA, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and more than 400 businesses.

All outstanding seniors are nominated by their EFE teachers. Scholarships are awarded based on each student's academic achievements, community involvement, extra-curricular activities, and future goals.

Toni Alexander, Kalamazoo Central, digital imaging/photography
Victor Ankley, K-Central, accounting/finance
Nathan Baker, K-Central, art & design career skills
Reanna Doonan, K-Central, art & design career skills

Jerica Harris, K-Central, marketing
Tasia Hayes, K-Central, marketing
Tyonna Hoskins, K-Central, marketing
Antar Howard, K-Central, business management administration
Tristan Hunt, K-Central, mechanical drafting
Lisbeth Morales, K-Central, digital imaging/photography
Chris Nguyen, K-Central, electronics & robotics
Emmet Paul, K-Central, art & design career skills
Austin Timmons, K-Central, business management administration
Leah Todd, K-Central, electronics & robotics
Jeremy Frey, Loy Norrix High School, mechanical drafting II
Maia Greer, Loy Norrix, business finance
Christopher Hybels, Loy Norrix, business management administration
Allegra Kistler Ellis, Loy Norrix, conservation biology
Skyler Ratering, Loy Norrix, automotive technology

Chef Shaun - KPS FOOD SERVICE CHEF

Cherry Tomato, Corn, Red Cabbage and Chicken Salad

Hello Kalamazoo. Another gorgeous summer is passing by, please enjoy this recipe, and try it out using ingredients from our local farmers' markets or your very own garden to make it as fresh as possible. To turn it into an appetizer, use the salad as a crostini topping. My favorite bread to use for crostini is a French baguette. As always, share with friends and family. Best regards, Chef Shaun



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

- Ingredients**
- 3 tablespoons fresh lime juice
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - Kosher salt and black pepper to taste
 - 1/2 pound cherry tomatoes, halved
 - 2 cups fresh corn kernels (from two ears)

- 1 avocado, peeled and chopped
- 1/4 head red cabbage (about 1/2 pound), thinly sliced
- 4 scallions, sliced
- 1/8 cup fresh cilantro leaves, chopped
- 5 oz. cooked chicken breast cooked, thinly sliced (charrill the chicken and chill)

- Directions**
1. In a large bowl, whisk together the lime juice, oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper.
 2. Add the tomatoes, corn, avocado, cabbage, and scallions and toss to combine.
 3. Top salad with chicken, or dice chicken and mix into vegetables for a great chicken salad. Serve in a wrap. Salad can also be used to top your favorite toasted baguette slices to create crostini appetizers.

Yield: 4 servings

K-Central Football Season Opener Will Be Played at U of M

Kalamazoo Central has big news: This year's varsity football opener will be at the Big House. The Maroon Giants will take on the St. Joseph Bears at Michigan Stadium in Ann Arbor at 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26. The game will be part of the inaugural Battle at the Big House, in which 14 schools will play their first games of the season in the famed stadium. Tickets will be \$10, according to Dylan Patterson, the new K-Central athletic director. As ticket information is released, it will be posted on the Kalamazoo Public Schools Facebook page and web at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com.

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KPS Computer Science Students Code Their Way to the Top of Several Competitions

Kalamazoo Public Schools students made a big impact on the success of Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science computer science teams in programming contests held throughout the year at Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan—Dearborn, Michigan State University and Saginaw Valley State University.

Kalamazoo Central senior Sydnie Bodzianowski and Loy Norrix juniors Ava Wood and Vaughn Taylor represented KAMSC at the 2016 American Computer Science League All-Star International Invitational in Nashua, N.H., on May 28. Bodzianowski was part of a five-person senior division ACSL team. Wood and Taylor were on the five-person intermediate division ACSL All-Star team.

Wood and Loy Norrix junior Sam Ratliff were part of a KAMSC trio that took first place in the 2016 Saginaw Valley ACM High School Programming Contest.

Taylor and Loy Norrix junior Lachlan Woods won second place in the Simulation Division at the 2016 U of M—Dearborn



In front from left are Sydnie Bodzianowski, Ava Wood, Lachlan Woods, and back row Vaughn Taylor, Addison Krueger, Otto Kailing, and Kevin Mitchell. Not shown Ashley Bynum, Natasha Goenawan, Ian Hawthorne, Sam Ratliff.

Engineering & CS Experience. Taylor also finished fourth in the beginning programming division at the MACUL High School Programming Contest at Eastern Michigan University.

Loy Norrix junior Addison Krueger took third place in the Robotics Division at the 2016 U of M—Dearborn Engineering & CS Experience.

Bodzianowski, Wood and Loy Norrix junior Ashley Bynum were part of an all-girl KAMSC programming team that competed against predominantly male teams from other Michigan high

schools at the 2016 MSU High School Programming Contest. Bodzianowski's team took second place in the advanced programming division, and Wood's team placed third in the same division.

In the fall at the MACUL High School Programming contest at EMU, Bodzianowski and Kalamazoo Central senior Natasha Goenawan were sixth in the advanced programming division and Ratliff and Wood collaborated on an eighth-place finish in that division. Taylor won fourth place in the beginning programming

division and Loy Norrix junior Ian Hawthorne finished eighth.

National Center for Women & Information Technology awards

Additionally, the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) recognized seven KPS students as winners of the 2016 Aspirations in Computing Awards, including one of two national finalists from Michigan. There were 35 winners from across the country.

Kalamazoo Central's Goenawan was one of 35 national finalists for the 2016 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award. She attended the national award celebration in Charlotte, N.C.

Goenawan was also among four Kalamazoo County students honored at the Air

Zoo Hall of Fame Inductions with a \$500 Student Excellence Awards for her outstanding research, especially in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair; her contributions to KAMSC Computer Science teams; and her outreach to local schools with the Hour of Code.

Loy Norrix junior Ashley Bynum was a state finalist in Michigan regional NCWIT AiC awards. K-Central senior Sydnie Bodzianowski earned an AiC Distinction Award, as did Central sophomore Julia Naranjo. Loy Norrix sophomore Abigail Guimond, Loy Norrix junior Ava Wood and Central sophomore Julia Kemple-Johnson earned State Runner Up in the AiC Awards.

Seven KPS Students Awarded Prestigious Heyl Scholarships

Seven Kalamazoo Public Schools graduates were named recipients of the 2016 Heyl Scholarships for students studying science or math at Kalamazoo College or nursing at Western Michigan University.

The prestigious award covers full tuition, book costs and room fees for up to four years.

This year's winners from Kalamazoo Central and the schools they are attending are:

Taylor Ashby, K-College
Kelsi Conroy, WMU
Brianna Harrison, WMU
Hannah Laurin, WMU

This year's winners from Loy Norrix and the schools they are attending are:

Shukrani Nsenga, K-College
Julie Zabik, K-College (Zabik will also play soccer for the Hornets.)
Marjorie Wolfe, K-College

The scholarship is supported by the F. W. and Elise L. Heyl Science Scholarship Fund. F. W. Heyl joined the Upjohn Co. in 1913. He later became a vice president and first director of research for the company. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Kalamazoo College in 1937. The fund also supports fellowships at

Yale University for students in the exact sciences, such as chemistry, physics or astronomy.



Taylor Ashby



Kelsi Conroy



Brianna Harrison



Hannah Laurin



Shukrani Nsenga



Julie Zabik



Marjorie Wolfe

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Register for KPS Community Education Classes Ranging from Cooking to Swimming

Kalamazoo Public Schools can help wannabe chefs learn how to rock that tailgate party, strengthen a child’s backstroke, and encourage the most committed couch potato to get those biceps and quads in shape.

The KPS Community Education program offers many classes for community members including cooking classes with Shaun Robinson, the district chef for Chartwells

at KPS Food Service; swim lessons with the Kalamazoo United Swimming Club, yoga classes, open volleyball, and more than 300 online classes.

Community Education fall classes are open for online enrollment at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com. At the home page, look for classes and registration under the tab “Online Payments RevTrak,” located on the right-hand side of the page.

There community members can find an online listing of all of the fall offerings, and they can sign up and pay for classes. For more information, call Community Education Coordinator Lynn Chio at (269) 337-0461.

Also look for other stories on this page regarding Chef Shaun’s cooking classes and the success of some young KU swimmers.

Get Cooking with Chef Shaun Robinson this Autumn

Chef Shaun Robinson may not have a cooking show on the Food Network, but he’s definitely a superstar among Kalamazoo Public Schools students.

Chef Shaun is the district chef for Chartwells at KPS Food Service, and he is popular figure around the school district. When kids see him in his chef’s uniform, they know that there’s something tasty for them to try during one of his Chefs to Schools programs.

Sometimes he’ll swing by a school to whip up fresh smoothies, while other times he partner with area chefs like the Gorilla Gourmet’s Noel Corwin to serve grilled chicken tacos topped with pineapple salsa.

Members of the public can get to know Robinson and share some of his recipes and cooking tips through his Community Education cooking classes, held at the Community Education Center, 714 S. Westnedge.

Robinson’s background includes serving in the U.S. Army in Germany and Saudi Arabia, associate’s degrees from Lake Michigan College and Grand Rapids Community College, a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in career and technical education in culinary arts from Western Michigan University. He’s worked at restaurants and various institutions across west Michigan.

Readers of the Excelsior count on his monthly column offering recipes, which offer simple nutritious dishes that emphasize using local and fresh produce.

Robinson said those are some of the themes he offers in his cooking classes as well. He tries to introduce participants to the idea of cooking with locally sourced products, pricing, and seasonal availability. He praised the area for offering a wealth of fresh produce.

While the classes are not



Chef Shaun Robinson grills chicken for the students at Washington Writers Academy.

hands-on — a limitation based on the space he uses — he said he shares several recipes with participants and fully explains the cooking process. And, everyone gets the chance to taste all of the recipes introduced in the class.

Some of the themes he expects to offer this fall will include tailgate cooking, harvest tapas emphasizing produce available in the fall, and holiday breakfast items to make with children.

Robinson’s Community Education cooking classes are \$25 per person per class. For more information visit www.kalamazoopublicschools.com and click on the tab on the right labeled “Online Payments RevTrak”.

Washington Writers Academy students line up to try tacos with grilled chicken and pineapple salsa created by Chef Shaun Robinson and Gorilla Gourmet Chef Noel Corwin.



Kalamazoo United Swimmers Bring Home State Honors

The Kalamazoo United Swimming Club, which is a part of Kalamazoo Public Schools Community Education, ended its recent season on a high note. Several athletes swam their way to the highest level of achievement in the state.

Lillian Mahar, James Whitman, Eli Rimes, Grace Mahar and Alex Salinas swam at the Michigan State meets this spring.

Lillian came home with two state championship titles in freestyle and backstroke, while James (50 butterfly), Alex (50 and 100 breaststroke), and Eli (50 freestyle) helped bring home a Top 12 finish in relays.

Grace and Alex (100 and 50 breaststroke) were both Junior Olympic Champions for the State of Michigan. Grace also swam to a 13th place finish in the 50 breaststroke at the state competition. Their parents and coaches are very proud of both their individual and team successes. Their dedication, hard work, and love of the

sport is evidenced by their accomplishments.

The students were honored by the Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Trustees in June.

The Kalamazoo United Swim Club promotes interpersonal growth, social development, and improved physical and mental health for student athletes. It also fosters a sense of athletic spirit and tradition. The club swimmers participate in age appropriate competitions for fun and challenge. The program strives to create and enhance a positive image for the Kalamazoo community.

The club offers children ages 4- to 18-years-old year-round lessons and competitive events for beginners up to experienced swimmers. The fall Kalamazoo United season begins in September. To learn more or to register, visit www.kalamazoo united.org or go to www.kalamazoopublicschools.com and look under the “Online Payments RevTrak” tab on the right-hand side of the page.



Swimmers (L to R) Lillian Mahar, James Whitman, Eli Rimes, Grace Mahar, and Alex Salinas pose with coach Paul Mahar.



Johanna Mortimore gets ready to head out with her kickboard during a KU swim class. Johanna will be in fourth grade at Winchell Elementary in the fall.

FIRST SATURDAY

■ Saturday, August 6 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes!

STORYTIMES

■ Adult caregiver must accompany babies and toddlers. Siblings attend as guests. Info: KPL.gov/storytimes.

EVENTS

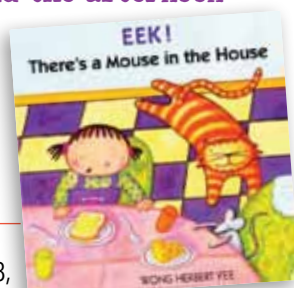
■ **Little Scientists** / Monday, August 1 / 10:30 am / CEN / Stories and science for preschoolers and a caregiver. Registration required. Ages 3-6.

■ **Go WILD! With Nature-on-the-Go** / Children ages 6-11 learn about Michigan wildlife and outdoor safety. Call host location for ticket information. FREE. **T**

Wednesday, August 3 / 2:00 pm / POW

Thursday, August 4 / 10:30 am / WSQ

■ **Meet the Author:**
WONG HERBERT YEE Thursday, August 4 / 2:00 pm / OSH / Spend the afternoon with the author and illustrator of *Eek! There's a Mouse in the House*, and more. Ages 4-8.



■ **Reading with Tucker** / Thursdays, August 4, 11, 18, 25 / 4:00 pm / OSH / Read to Tucker, the golden retriever. To register, call OSH. **R**

■ **KPL's 5th Annual Lego Building Contest** / Official contest details & rules available at www.kpl.gov/lego

August 6 / 10:00 am / OSH

August 13 / 10:00 am / CEN

■ **LEGO® @ the Library** / Build with other LEGO fans.

Sat, August 6 / 10:30 am / OSH

Wed, August 10 / 6:30 pm / WSQ

Wed, August 17 / 2:00 pm / POW

Sat, August 20 / 10:30 am / CEN

Thursday, August 25 / 2:00 pm / EAS

■ **Brain Buster Fridays** / Fridays, June 17 to August 26 / Puzzles, board games and more.

Fridays, August 5, 12, 19, 26 / 9:00 am / CEN

Fridays, August 5, 12, 19, 26 / 10:00 am / POW

■ **Capoeira for All** / Tuesday, August 9 / 6:00 pm / POW / Develop athleticism, strength, discipline and musical dance skill at this Afro-Brazilian martial arts workshop.

AUGUST @ the library

■ **Bookworms** / In August, we'll read *Fortunately, the Milk* by Neil Gaiman.

Tuesday, August 9 / 4:30 pm / OSH

Thursday, August 25 / 4:30 pm / CEN

■ **Creative Dance with Joy** / Thursday, August 11 / 2:00pm / EAS / Learn jazz, modern, hip-hop, ballet. Ages 8-11.

■ **Fancy Pants Theater** / Songs, stories, games, script writing and producing. **R**

Ages 3-6 / Saturdays, August 13, 20 / 10:00 am / OSH

Ages 6-11 / Saturdays, August 13, 20 / 11:00 am / OSH

■ **Let's Explore: Ocean Kids presented by Air Zoo** / Monday, August 15 / 10:30 am / CEN / Learn about the ocean. Ages 3-6. **R**

■ **Let's Explore: Ocean Odyssey presented by Air Zoo** / Monday, August 15 / 12:00 pm / CEN / Explore marine ecosystems. Ages 5-8. **R**

■ **Story Teller Chris Fascione** / Storytelling, mime, juggling, and comedy. FREE ticket at host location. **T**

Tuesday, August 16 / 11:00 am / CEN

Tuesday, August 16 / 2:00 pm / OSH

■ **G.Y.M. (Get Yourself Moving)** / Tuesday, August 16 / 2:00 pm / POW / Stay active this summer with Gail Gersonde. Ages 6-11.

■ **Summer Crafternoons** / "Rock" session: design a rock! **R**

Monday, August 22 / 2:00 pm / CEN

Thursday, August 18 / 1:00 pm / EAS

■ **Cinema Shorts** / Wednesday, August 24 / 2:00 pm / CEN / Watch *Sesame Street's Abby in Wonderland*.

TWEEN/TEEN EVENTS

■ **Tie Dye** / Materials supplied. Outdoors. Grades 5-12.

Monday, August 1 / 2:00 pm / OSH

Tuesday, August 2 / 2:00 pm / WSQ

Wednesday, August 3 / 2:00 pm / EAS

Thursday, August 4 / 2:00 pm / POW

■ **Tech Tuesdays** / Tuesdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 / 3:30 pm / CEN / Experiment with tech tools. Grades 5-12.

■ **Open Roads Bike Fixapalooza** / Tuesday, August 2 / 4:00 pm / EAS / Get your bike in shape! Grades 5-12.

■ **Theater Camp with Face Off Theater Company** / Wednesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 / 11:00 am / CEN / Theatre workshops for tweens/teens. Grades 6-12.

■ **Speak It Forward Presents: Spoken Word Summer Showcase, Tweens, Teens, and Adults** / Wednesday, August 3 / 6:30 pm / CEN / Speak It Forward will showcase their poetry.

■ **Code Camp** / Code training and a project from local tech experts.

Grades 1-4 / Thursdays, August 4, 11, 18, 25 / 10:00 am / CEN

Grades 5-12 / Thursdays, August 4, 11, 18, 25 / 11:30 am / CEN

■ **Zumba** / Monday, August 8 / 2:00 pm / EAS / Get your Zumba on with ZuCrew. Grades 7-12.

■ **#TAB** / Monday, August 8 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Fun club for Teens!

■ **Speak It Forward Presents: Leading Through Poetry** / Tuesdays, August 9, 23 / 4:30 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Youth poetry showcase.

■ **Game Central** / Wednesdays, August 10, 24 / 1:00 pm / CEN / Teen Area / Sign up to play in a tournament each week. Grades 5-12.

■ **Cooking Camp with Chef K** / Wednesday, August 10 / 2:00 pm / POW / Learn to cook! Grades 5-12. **R**

■ **J-Pop Club** / Monday, August 15 / 4:00 pm / CEN / Enjoy Japanese anime, manga, Pocky, and food. Grades 7-12.

■ **Improv** / Monday, August 22 / 6:30 pm / CEN / Learn the basics of improv performance. Grades 5-12.

■ **College and Career Fair** / Tuesday, August 16 / 5:30 pm / POW / Get prepared for your future! Grades 5-12.

■ **Minecraft Launch** / Thursday, August 18 / 2:00 pm / WSQ / Play on our custom server and see what you can build!

■ **Pokémon Party** / Monday, August 15 / 5:30 pm / OSH / Challenge with cards, DS games, Pokkén Tournaments, and more! Grades 5-12.

■ **Zen Journaling** / Tuesday, August 23 / 6:30 pm / OSH / Instructor Carrie Dunn will introduce this hot art form. All materials are provided. Grades 5-12.

■ **College Application Prep** / Tuesday, August 23 / 6:30 pm / CEN / Karen Williams will share tips for getting organized and presenting yourself well. Grades 9-12

■ Baby / Kid ■ Tween/Teen ■ Family ■ All Ages

T Ticket Required **R** Registration Required

kpl.gov/calendar

Central Library (CEN)
315 S. Rose St.
553-7800

Eastwood (EAS)
1112 Gayle Ave.
553-7810

Oshtemo (OSH)
7265 W. Main St.
553-7980

Alma Powell (POW)
1000 W. Paterson St.
553-7960

Washington Square (WSQ)
1244 Portage St.
553-7970



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