

COMMUNITY GHOST STORY



LOOK INSIDE FOR

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

GROWING GHOSTS: ENROLL SOON

STRONG HEARTS. STRONG MINDS.

COVID-19 INFO AND UPDATES

LET'S TALK ABOUT: CTE

MOVING MOUNTAINS

STAYING STRONG TOGETHER FOR ONE GOAL

To say that this year has started out unconventionally would be an understatement. As students entered our school buildings on September 1, donning their masks and with sanitizer in hand, they encountered (and quickly embraced) a new normal — distanced work areas, fewer classroom manipulatives, materials, and furniture, increased time with one cohort of peers in their “home” classroom — an environment seemingly far-removed from their experience just one year prior.

Those unpleasant feelings that come with the anticipation quickly faded, however, thanks to one remaining constant: **KASD staff.** Our teachers and educational assistants — our front line — welcomed students through masked smiles and elbow “fives” and set the tone for the year: one of excitement, flexibility, resilience, optimism, and teamwork. The steadfast



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER CREATING A SPECIAL JOURNEY

The 2020-2021 school year is in full force. It's both an exciting and humbling feeling that comes with knowing we're already through October; it's been a strange, yet wonderful year, and I continue to look forward to all that

we will accomplish in the months ahead of us. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the extra work that our staff and administrators have put into this year. They continue to plunge through daily challenges with so much passion — for the sake of doing what is best for our kids each and every day. I am both proud to work with these exceptional educators and grateful for their dedication.

I'm also grateful for the work of our students and the support of our families. Whether our students are in our school buildings or working virtually, they continue to showcase their excitement for learning, their flexibility, and their resilience. Their willingness to tackle the hard things, to rise to every challenge presented this year and to redirect when necessary is going to serve them well.

The environment we're in as a community, state, nation and world right now ... it's tough. However, if we shift our mindset ever so slightly, maybe we can use this leg of our journey as an opportunity to remind ourselves of the strength that lies within us as individuals, and more so, as a community. Instead of looking at our (perceived) "losses," what if we look at what we've overcome, and what we can continue to do for each other, so that years down the road, when we look at this time, we remember not what we lost, but what we learned?


MARK P. DUERWAECHTER
SUPERINTENDENT

The Kaukauna Area School District will educate students to be effective life-long learners who can successfully meet the challenges of their lives and be positive contributors to society.

UNCONVENTIONAL: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work of these individuals — of this team — is the hallmark of what is destined to be a unique, yet wildly successful school year.

The past several weeks in our schools have not come without challenges ... including the closing of an elementary school classroom after the first day of in-person learning; but both students and staff continue to adjust to these conditions and successfully navigate the many new routines that have become part of our school days.

As part of the hybrid learning environment at KHS, principal Corey Baumgartner has watched as staff members navigate the new experience of having students in-person *and* online each day.

"Our staff have taken on a tremendous amount of work all to ensure that we are able to keep welcoming students back into our building," he said. "Their dedication to our school community has been immeasurable and I am proud to serve as their principal."

This sentiment spans all age levels.

"I just see happy kids," beamed Tanner Early Learning Center 4K Teacher Lisa Mader. "We've really made this as close as we can to a 'normal' school year, and I'm proud of KASD for making decisions that meet the needs of all our families."

Mader says that both in-person and virtual environments (she has a 4K class of each) come with their own sets of challenges; but while this year looks different, both parents and school administrators have been extremely supportive.

Whether our staff members are teaching face-to-face, in a virtual environment — or navigating both — one thing that remains constant is their dedication to helping their students succeed. Each of our staff members continues to forge a new path this year, creating a special journey toward success for each of their students.

We will continue to move mountains this year ... **together and strong.**

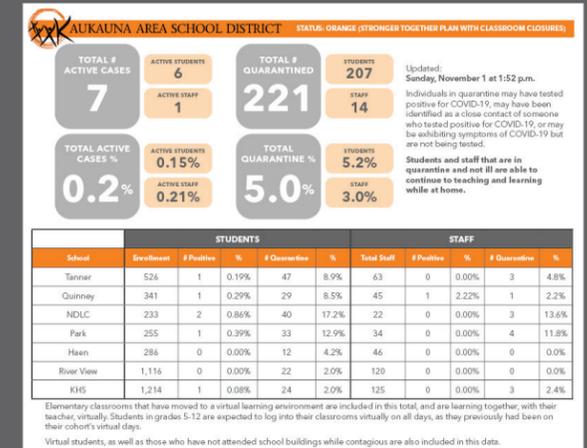
WORKING TOGETHER TO STAY IN SCHOOL COVID-19 UPDATES FROM OUR SCHOOLS

KASD's Stronger Together guide has served us well, now entering into our third month with students and staff learning both in our buildings and virtually.

Staff and students are doing an exceptional job transitioning between instructional models when necessary and adjusting to revised operational protocols to help keep our buildings open. We must continue to keep in mind, however, that the conditions within any instructional model can change rapidly. Through the efforts of KASD's Contact Tracing Team we are able to quickly act in those situations requiring transition to mitigate the spread of the virus through our schools. Additionally, the District has an area on the website dedicated to providing information and updates related to the pandemic and how it is affecting our schools. This information includes a newly-developed COVID-19 dashboard as a way to keep the KASD community informed about the conditions surrounding COVID-19 within our schools.

Given the serious regional spread of the virus of late, each of us within our community *must* take on a greater personal responsibility to follow recommended mitigation behaviors to give the Kaukauna Area School District a better chance of keeping our buildings open for staff and students.

Kaukauna Area School District is asking you to *please*: avoid close contact (being within 6 feet of a person for 15 or more cumulative minutes in a single day, physical contact) with infected individuals; should you be in close contact with someone, please quarantine for 14 days; if someone in your household is getting tested, please keep everybody in the home quarantined until that person receives the results; wash your hands; and wear a face covering. **Do your part.** Our community must stop the spread of the virus to help keep our schools open.



DOWNLOAD THE KASD APP

If you haven't yet, check out this great tool from KASD. Download from your app store today! Select the notifications for the school(s) that you'd like to receive, and catch all the district and school information you need in one, easy-to-access location!

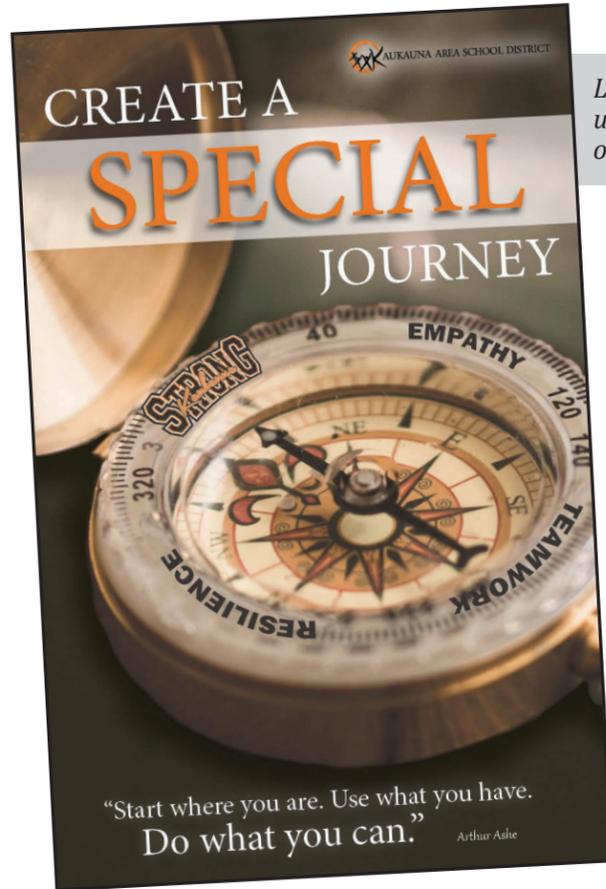
There's an App for that!

Download for Free Today!

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GET IT ON Google play

STRONG MINDS. STRONG HEARTS.
STRONG STUDENTS



Let's make it a special year, using Kaukauna Strong as our guide.

3rd grade students watched a Ninja Warrior clip of the first woman to win the finals ... and then created obstacles out of legos during their STEAM lesson.



KHS band students prepared for and filmed their first drive-in band concert, to showcase their hard work so far this school year.



Tanner Tigers had some fun during Fire Safety Week. Our friends at the City of Kaukauna Fire Department even provided a special bag of gifts and activities for each of our students. Classrooms also read stories, completed art projects, and even went on some virtual field trips.



Virtual learning may not be ideal, but our teachers and students are making the best of it every day!



MASK BREAK!
 We enjoyed every moment we could of nice weather, moving daily lessons outside whenever possible.



Officer Romenesko is pretty impressive on the drums ... we learned this when he recently stopped into a Tanner music class. We're grateful for his work in our elementary schools.



A great day at Fassbender Park, as the city held an opening ceremony for the revitalized area ... a plan set into motion by KHS Civic engagement students three years ago!

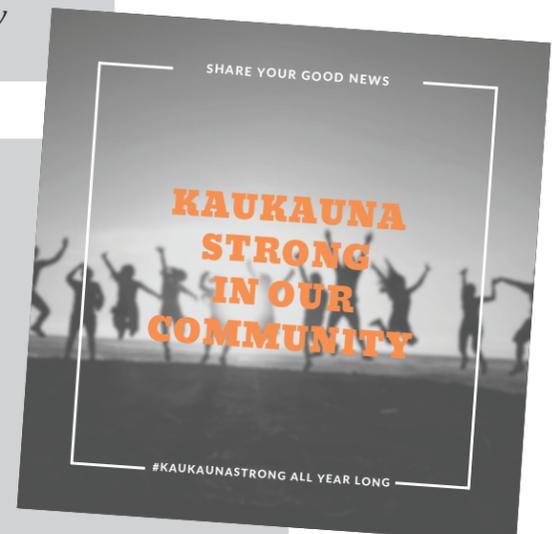


Thanks to a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Kaukauna Area School District and Chartwells are now able to offer free breakfast and lunch for all children 18 and younger throughout the Kaukauna community. This means that whether attending school at home or virtually, and whether enrolled in KASD schools or not, a free, school-provided breakfast and lunch is available for all children 18 and younger.



We want to know about the great things happening within our community! Share your good news with us; we would love to promote "Kaukauna Strong" and the ways that our students, staff and community embody its meaning.

www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us



LET'S TALK ABOUT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

While February is Career & Technical Education month each year, at KASD we have so much to celebrate, it's hard to fit it into only one month! There's always something new and innovative going on in our classrooms, our shops and even outside our school walls!

An Enhancement to the Fleet

This October, KHS announced the addition of a state-of-the-art CNC machine for the high school metals program. The new CNC machine will serve as the high school's sixth full-size CNC unit, joining a fleet that has a successful history of serving students. In partnership with Fox Valley Tool & Die, the KHS Technical Education Department leaders wrote a Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Fast Forward grant to fund the \$100,000 addition. This grant from the DWD actually funds 1/3 of the cost of the machine; the remaining cost is to be paid by the KHS Technical Education department-raised funds, and a local business (Fox Valley Tool & Die) match. In addition to their financial contribution to the CNC machine, Fox Valley Tool & Die additionally funded over \$5,000 in tooling for the new Mazak Machining Center.



With this hands-on experience in our high school environment, students are able to explore their interests, which can lead to career paths down the road.

A Brighter Image

The success of the Technology Education program was recognized again last month with the "Brighter Image" award by the NEW Manufacturing Alliance as part of their Excellence in Manufacturing/K-12 Partnerships Awards. The award highlights the work of the department to better the futures of their students. Between securing and utilizing grants to continuously upgrade equipment and provide cutting-edge, industry-relatable tools for student learning to matching more than 700 students with potential career paths through the Youth Apprenticeship/Co-Op programs, the District continues to positively transform the lives and futures of KHS students.

An Opportunity to ... "Excel"

Kaukauna High School students continue to earn industry-standard Microsoft Certifications, learning and validating new skills and creating opportunities to showcase proficiency in these applications to their future employers. During the 2019-2020 school year, 79 Kaukauna High School students earned a total of 191 certifications in the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) series; 36 of these students earned the Microsoft Office Specialist Associate certification, completing and passing the Word, Excel and PowerPoint certification exams.

Two KHS students, Zach Kestell and Mason Pencil, earned top scores in the state for their respective exams (Zach in Excel, Mason in PowerPoint), and were honored with invitations to compete in the Certiport 2020 Microsoft Office Specialist U.S. National Championship in Dallas, Texas this past June.

Since 2017, 251 Kaukauna High School students have earned over 562 certifications. 72 students from the Class of 2020 graduated with 162 Microsoft Office Specialist certifications that they had earned during their high school careers; 58 of those students earned at least two certifications.

<https://www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/schools/high/academics/KHScareerprograms.cfm>

BE PREPARED

SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

As much as we aren't ready to admit it, winter is just around the corner. At KASD, the safety of our students and staff is our greatest concern. Any decision to close schools during inclement weather will be made based on review of regional weather data and forecasts from the National Weather Service, along with conversations with leaders from other local districts and our transportation company.

Severe weather may result in:

- **Delayed Start Time:** School begins two hours after normal start time, allowing streets and highways to be cleared and/or temperatures to rise.
- **School Closing:** The school day is canceled due to bad weather or unsafe conditions that are expected to last throughout the day.
- **Early Release:** Students may be released early due to conditions that would impact the safety of after-school transportation.



Stay Informed!

If the decision is made that affects the scheduled school day, families will be notified in a number of ways:

- **KASD's Emergency Communication System:** Please update your contact information in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. You can find a link to it on the District home page.
- **District Website & App:** Visit www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us, or download the KASD App.
- **District and School Social Media Sites:** Follow our Facebook and Twitter pages for quick updates.
- **Local TV and Radio Stations:** We will communicate closures with local TV and radio stations, including WBAY TV 2, WFRV TV 5, WLUK TV 11 and WGBA 26, as well as WHBY 1150 AM, WAPL 105.7 FM, WGEE 1360 AM, WIXX 101.1 FM, WNCY 100.3 FM, WKSZ 95.9 FM and WZOR 94.7 FM.

Note to our families: If KASD opts not to change the school schedules or close schools, parents have the right to keep a child home should they feel that it is in their child's/family's best interest. We ask that parents call their student's school to inform staff of the student's absence.



GROW STRONG WITH US

At Kaukauna Area School District, students come first. Throughout our District, students, teachers and staff members strive to get better every day, and, as a result, great things are happening, both in and out of the classrooms. We're proud of our District, and we'd love to have your child be a part of it.

It's almost time for 4K and 5K Registration! Make sure you are on our list to receive a registration packet by filling out the form at bit.ly/KASD-4K, or visit www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/4k-enrollment to learn more.

We are, and will continue to be Kaukauna Strong. Join us; **Choose KASD.**

**GROW STRONG
 WITH US**



KAUKAUNA.K12.WI.US/4K-ENROLLMENT

*This publication was produced for the residents of the Kaukauna Area School District. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap is difficult to eliminate without significant cost. **Thank you for your understanding.***

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Residential Customer

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Meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Kaukauna Area School District's Board Room: 1701 County Road CE, Kaukauna. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. For agendas, minutes and additional info please visit: www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us.

KASD serves all or portions of these communities

- City of Kaukauna
- Town of Kaukauna
- Village of Sherwood
- Town of Buchanan
- Village of Harrison
- Town of Holland
- Town of Vanden Broek
- Town of Woodville
- Village of Combined Locks
- Village of Little Chute

Leadership Team

- Superintendent – Mark Duerwaechter
- Business Manager – Robert Schafer
- Director of Elementary Education – Ty Maki
- Director of Secondary Education – Matthew Smith
- Director of Special Education and Pupil Services – Sarah Newberry
- Director of Human Resources and Legal Services – Eloisa DeLeon

Principals

- KHS – Corey Baumgartner
- River View – Daniel Joseph
- Haen – Holly Magness
- NDLC – Abbey Frischmann
- Park – Ken Kortens
- Quinney – Stacy Knapp
- Tanner – Elizabeth Thoreson

Contact Us

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