

COMMUNITY GHOST STORY



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AN UNCONVENTIONAL YEAR

FINDING CREATIVE WAYS TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

As we round out the end of the 2019-2020 school year, we can, with complete certainty, say that this year has been anything but "normal."

We have, however, persevered. We've risen to the challenges presented to us, and found creative ways to keep in touch, support each other and our communities, and finish the year strong, in a very different manner than which we started.

WELL DONE.

Thank you to our teachers that worked tirelessly through the challenges presented by our flexible learning environments to teach skills and connect with each student throughout the final twelve weeks of school. You found places to work and ways to reach all students, and you supported and celebrated



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

STRONG MINDS. STRONG HEARTS. STRONG STUDENTS.

It is hard to believe that the 2019-2020 school year has come to a close. In years past, the year-end celebrations, graduation, that final bell ring, and our staff closing ceremonies bring a tangible close to the school year. This year has been ... different. To be honest, I am still looking for the "right" way to find closure on the 2019-2020 school year.

With that said, I would like to say that I am incredibly proud of the Kaukauna Area School District. In the wake of school building closures and a complete upheaval of the traditional school day, our students, staff and families continued to move forward, to succeed, in the most remarkable ways.

I believe that success was driven by compassion. Our staff members care so deeply about our students and our community, and continued to support the individual needs of all of our learners, despite the decrease in access to our students. Their desire for successful outcomes for all of our students is made so clear by their ability to be present and build communities, beyond our school building walls. Our students strived to succeed; they completed assignments, shared stories and pictures, and just kept learning! Our parents, guardians and extended families supported our students — and our teachers — from helping students complete assignments, to supporting their emotional understanding of a complicated and scary situation, to communicating concerns and celebrations with our teachers to keep our students moving forward. We are a strong bunch, KASD, and I couldn't be more proud to serve you.

With the recent birth our first granddaughter, I was reminded of the significant energy and teamwork that is needed to care for and support a child's physical, social and emotional learning, regardless of their age. For this reminder, I am grateful, and it has carried me through the past twelve weeks.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Kaukauna Area School District students. Kaukauna Strong continues to inspire **Strong Minds, Strong Hearts, Strong Students.**

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

each other through the highs and lows of a very new, very unique situation.

Thank you to our families for supporting our students through each new challenge that was presented this year. Your support for your children and for our teachers, even in the most difficult times, was strong and courageous and we couldn't have done this without you.

Thank you to our students, who worked hard to keep learning. Our flexible learning environments and processes looked different at each level, and you worked through them and kept going. That's perseverance. We're grateful that you are our students, and we're so proud of you.

Thank you to our community for your strength and your support through this unconventional year. Community members came forward to help in unconventional ways, from our front-line and essential workers who risked their health to directly support our community, to those who stepped forward to deliver lunches to families that couldn't get to our pickup locations, or served as emotional support systems to friends and neighbors. We made it through this year ... **together and strong.**

STRONG MINDS. STRONG HEARTS. STRONG STUDENTS

Flexible Learning meant new challenges at home.

Prior to school building closures, the STEAM Girls group at Kaukauna High School hosted about 50 middle school girls for an event designed to encourage the girls to take STEAM classes and consider STEAM-related professions. After a keynote presentation, the girls broke into small groups rotating through hands-on sessions pertaining to different STEAM fields.

Chartwells and KASD delivered meals to students from March 18 through June 5; All children 18 and younger were able to pick up two meals (lunch and breakfast) at River View Middle School during the time buildings were closed.

KHS Seniors celebrated awards and scholarships on Wednesday, May 27. 177 awards totaling nearly \$1 million were presented to the Class of 2020.

On Thursday, June 4, seniors were welcomed to drive through the KHS parking lot for a Senior Send-Off celebration. Students and their families drove through and were recognized and cheered by teachers, administrators and members of the KASD Board of Education.



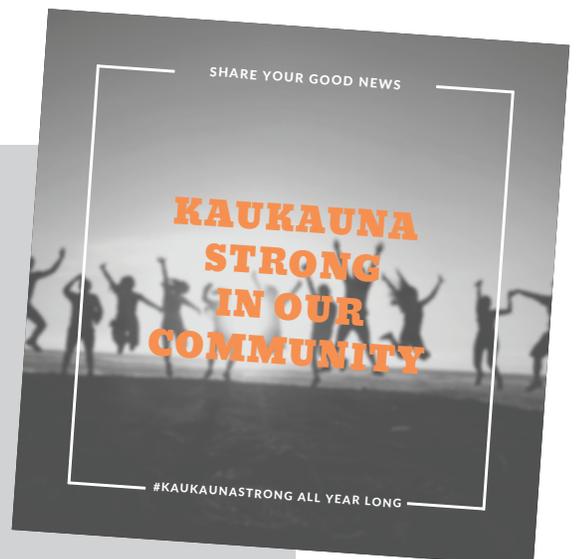
We want to know about the great things happening within our community! Share your good news with us; we would love to promote "Kaukauna Strong" and the ways that our students, staff and community embody its meaning.

www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS

**KAUKAUNA
STRONG
IN OUR
COMMUNITY**

#KAUKAUNASTRONG ALL YEAR LONG



LET'S TALK ABOUT

MENTAL WELLNESS: A KEY PRIORITY

At Kaukauna Area School District, mental wellness is a priority. We aim to balance academic excellence with social and emotional growth and learning to prepare all students for lifelong success. Students come to school with a variety of academic, emotional and personal needs, and KASD provides multiple levels of support to best meet our students where they are.

Wellness Screening

The Kaukauna Area School District offers freshman students the opportunity to participate in an emotional health Wellness Screening, meant to identify risk factors associated with depression, anxiety, and alcohol and substance abuse. The program is free, completely voluntary and confidential.

United Way PATH

The United Way's PATH (Providing Access to Healing) for Students is a partnership between United Way Fox Cities, Family Services of Northeast WI, Inc., Lutheran Social Services, and KASD, created to offer mental health outreach and school-based counseling services.

The program goal for the United Way's PATH is, "To improve access to mental health services for children and youth experiencing barriers to care in the community."

Triumph Program

The Triumph Program is a collaboration between the Kaukauna, Kimberly and Little Chute Area School Districts. Together, they have partnered with Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin to provide educational services integrated with on-site mental health services, with the goal of helping our students in grades 9-12 have academic success.

Child Psychiatry Consultation Program (CPCP)

In March 2020, Governor Evers signed a bill allowing teachers, school counselors and administrators to address mental wellness needs in a more efficient manner, connecting school counselors with psychiatrists who can provide mental health consultations for students without the long wait times that had existed previously, providing school staff members with immediate, same-day consultation services with a child psychiatrist to better support a student in need. In addition, educational services regarding mental health could be provided to all school staff.

"It will add resources and tools to this continuum of services that we provide on a daily basis for our kids. Our student services staff works everyday with many, many kids in managing and coping through their mental illness."

Superintendent Mark Duerwaechter

The program, operated in Outagamie County by the Medical College of Wisconsin and funded by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, is provided at no cost to families or the District.

For additional information on any of these mental wellness resources available to our students, please visit the Kaukauna Area School District website at:

www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/district/mental-wellness-resources.cfm



WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE AT PARK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

Since 2012, Park Community Charter School has been practicing Conscious Discipline, a comprehensive approach to classroom management based on brain research and evidence-based, in-depth understanding of social and emotional learning. This school-family-centered approach uses an intentional shift in adult mindset and understanding of behavior as it relates to the brain to teach adults to self-regulate first, then provides specific, brain-friendly strategies for responding to each child's individual needs to help the child self-regulate and increase their sense of safety, connection, empathy and intrinsic motivation to prepare themselves for learning.



Jennie Gries with
Dr. Becky Bailey

Utilizing Conscious Discipline requires intensive training for Park Community Charter School's teachers and staff, who attend a 5-day Conscious Discipline Summer Institute prior to teaching, to learn from founder Dr. Becky Bailey in intensive, hands-on sessions.

Park Community teacher Jennie Gries has poured herself into learning and teaching this effective approach, and was recently asked to attend an invitation-only Conscious Discipline Advanced Institute in Florida; only 42 people were invited from 23 states and four countries. Jennie shared Park's journey with other attendees and received praise from Dr. Becky Bailey for the school's work. She's since been asked to speak at other national conferences. Park Community Charter School is truly grateful to Jennie for her work and her dedication to improving their school family.

In October, Park is excited to host an on-site Conscious Discipline National Conference, at which Master Instructor Elizabeth Montero-Cefalo will be presenting and running sessions.



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.

Call us at (920) 759-6109 for a registration packet, call one of our school offices to schedule a tour, or visit www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us and click on the "Enrollment & Registration" Quick Link.

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

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

A LOOK BACK ON OUR 2019-2020 SCHOOL HEROES

At the end of each school year, five Kaukauna Area School District employees are recognized as Employees of the Year, announced and celebrated at the District's closing ceremony after the final day of classes.

This year, employees still celebrated the end of the year — virtually — with a closing ceremony presented by Superintendent Mark Duerwaechter, and all employees were recognized as “Employees of the Year.”

Elementary Certified Staff

Certified Staff from Haen, Quinney, Tanner, Park and NDLC rose to the incredible challenge of presenting opportunities for learning continuity for students in grades 4K-4. Our staff members did a remarkable job staying connected with students in any ways they could, building communities when students couldn't be together. They promoted unique learning opportunities to each other and to our students every day.

Middle School Certified Staff

River View Middle School staff made the transition to online learning, and did a fantastic job of creating online communities at the middle school level. Students in grades 5-8 were led through curriculum standards using daily individual work and virtual team efforts; our staff worked to maintain connections with students, supporting them both academically and emotionally during their time at home.

High School Certified Staff

Kaukauna High School certified staff had a nearly seamless transition to this flexible, distance-learning environment, incorporating core class curriculum and encore programming like music, art, consumer, career and technical education and more. KHS staff stayed connected with their students, worked together to make sure that the assigned work wasn't overwhelming our students, and worked with administrators to make sure that all students were taken care of, heard, and recognized for their work.

District Support Staff

KASD District support staff spent the entire year supporting students, families, and their co-workers; that did not change when school buildings closed. These incredible employees stepped up and took on the challenges of keeping schools and families connected through both existing and new platforms, and making sure the needs of every student were being met.

Administrators

The Administrative team worked tirelessly to overcome the challenges thrown at them this year with the closing of our school buildings. We have a hard-working, student-focused team of administrators that went above and beyond to meet the needs of all students. Teamwork, compassion and motivation set this team apart from all others. Principals stepped outside of their comfort zones to create opportunities and to connect with both staff and students; our District Office staff worked to support each other through changes to our daily routines, curriculum, grading, event cancellation, and more, all of which was done with such a profound understanding of what is best for our students.



“This school year, like years past, has been filled with moments that define Kaukauna Strong. But this year presented us with additional challenges like we've never faced before, and every one of you took the opportunity to rise to the challenge and model the way for our students, family and community. Thank you for your teamwork, your strength, your compassion, your flexibility and for providing an incredible support system for our students and for our school family.”

Superintendent Duerwaechter

THE ROAD TO MIT

KHS SENIOR MICHAEL KRAUS HEADS DOWN A NEW PATH THIS FALL

This fall, Michael Kraus ('20), will head east to start his college career at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). This highly-competitive, top-rated program is applauded for its scientific and technological training and research; and Michael has spent his time at Kaukauna High School working toward this opportunity.

During the 2018-2019 school year, Michael, along with some of his friends, built a pulse jet during engineering club. Limited by available materials, the group built a propane-powered smaller engine out of copper piping. While it was hard to build the engine using proper dimensions with these materials, they were still able to fire it up, albeit weak; this did not live up to their expectations. Rather than give up, they went on to design an appropriately-dimensioned 3D model using SOLIDWORKS, and use a 3D printer to create an actual plastic model.

"While we couldn't run the plastic model, it was a great exercise in using a CAD program to model a part and play around with its dimensions," Michael said of the project. "This project and the SOLIDWORKS class offered at the high school helped prepare me for my job at August Winter & Sons."



Through the KHS Youth Apprenticeship program, Michael earned a position at August Winter & Sons, a mechanical contractor specializing in commercial HVAC systems. Last summer, he began working on a project in which he was asked to add a new HVAC system and update parts of an existing HVAC system for a local manufacturing plant. Using sketches provided by one of the project managers at August Winter & Sons, Michael had the opportunity to bring them to life as 3D models, and ensure that the system would fit into the existing building. Since that project, Michael has continued to develop his CAD software skills, and had the opportunity to work on other projects as well.

Michael's engineering mentor, Jeff Luczek, said that during his time with the company, Michael has gained nearly four times the hours and experience that a college student would generally earn during an engineering internship with the company.

His hard work both at school and in the CTE program, and his experience beyond the high school walls as part of the Youth Apprenticeship program have been recognized by the likes of the highest-rated engineering program in the country. Best wishes, Michael, on a very successful future!

DOWNLOAD THE KASD APP

If you haven't yet, now is the time to check out this great new 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!

An advertisement for the KASD App. It features a smartphone in the center displaying the app's home screen with various icons like Newsfeed, Calendar, Forms, Directory, Parent Calc, Menus, About KASD, Supply Lists, and Contact Us. To the left is the Kaukauna Area School District logo. In the center is a speech bubble that says "There's an App for that!". To the right is a QR code and the text "Download for Free Today!". Below the QR code are buttons for "Download on the App Store" and "GET IT ON Google play". The background is a collage of school supplies like pens, paper, and a ruler.

**GROW STRONG
 WITH US**




KAUKAUNA.K12.WI.US

*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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