

COMMUNITY GHOST STORY



AN UNCONVENTIONAL YEAR

STAYING CURIOUS AND HUMBLE, AND LIVING OUTSIDE THE BOX

KHS teacher Brandon Roberts hit the proverbial nail on the head during his 2018-2019 commencement speech: Be unconventional. While Mr. Roberts took “unconventional” to a whole new level (and a new first at KASD), proposing to his long-time girlfriend (now fiancée!), the message rang clear to our graduates: work to improve, rise to challenges, stay curious, remain humble, ask the hard questions, put in the work ... and defy convention.

Our staff models the way: three teachers earned National Board Certification this year; our Technology and Engineering program won multiple awards and was honored by Local 400; and our KHS principal was awarded the Herb Kohl Foundation Principal Leadership Award. They continue to inspire students to push beyond their comfort zones, helping them grow and reach new levels of success.



Our students continue to break boundaries; and we proudly celebrate. During the 2018-2019 school year: a record number of students and hours were registered volunteering — as we continued to celebrate our unique community partnerships; instrumental and choir students excelled in competitions and performances; student artwork was displayed regionally and nationally; students with disabilities were celebrated during their triathlon; KHS athletes brought home medals, trophies and lifetimes of experiences; drama students put on two stellar performances; KHS celebrated six valedictorians, one salutatorian and presented 57 Presidential Awards, 72 academic certificates and 38 academic letters; and KHS seniors celebrated more than 200 awards and scholarships totaling nearly \$1.5 million. It was another outstanding year for KASD, as we continue to build this culture of success.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

STRONG MINDS. STRONG HEARTS. STRONG STUDENTS.



Our Culture of Success driven by the “Kaukauna Strong” mindset continues to develop. **Strong Minds, Strong Hearts, Strong Students:** a theme which was proudly on display throughout our school community during the 2018-2019 school year — consciously and subconsciously woven into our teachings, activities, behaviors, songs, posters, communications and just about everywhere in between.

Just recently, during the District’s Closing Ceremony (a uniting all-staff event held at the end of each school year), we celebrated countless student and staff success stories: our principals shared highlights from the year that contributed to their school’s culture of success; we celebrated five employees

who went above and beyond this year — and recognized that we had more than 160 nominations; we bonded over music from “The Ghost Riders,” a staff-comprised band; and I had the privilege of reading a heartfelt letter that we received from the parent of a 2019 graduate — very affirming of Kaukauna Area School District’s ability to meet and exceed the many challenges that we, together, encounter throughout a student’s experience in our District.

Now that we have taken the time to celebrate our success, the summer of 2019 brings us the opportunity to reflect on and learn from the past. Maya Angelou captured it best: **“Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better.”**

One major initiative for the District during the 2018-2019 school year was the referendum that was presented on the April 2 ballot; by 315 votes (approximately 6%), the community voted against the school improvement solutions offered. Thank you to all of the residents that voted; the Democratic process is an incredible privilege. Understandably, as a District, we were disappointed with the outcome, however, as we teach our students: when faced with disappointment, we must learn and grow from the experience; we accept the results with grace and will continue to find the lessons within. Our spirit is strong, and the referendum does not define who we are as a school community.

The Board of Education will continue to evaluate the needs of the District and plan for future improvements, and while the Board *has* had thoughtful discussion about next steps, a decision to proceed with another referendum has not yet been made. It is important to note, however, that you will see work being completed this summer at several schools. This work had been approved through the normal budget process and is not related to the previously presented referendum proposal.

I wish you an incredible summer, filled with time to enjoy the moments. Enjoy the Community Ghost Story.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark P. Duerwaechter', written over a white background.

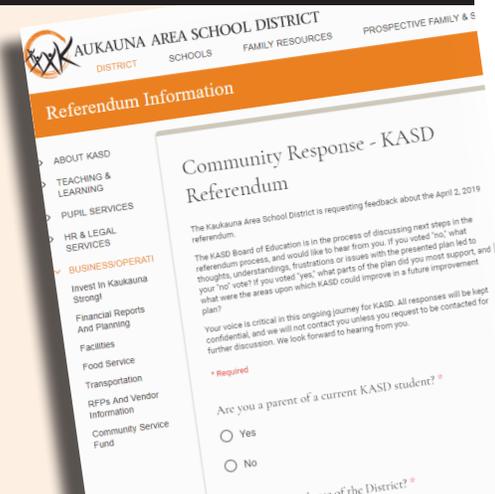
MARK P. DUERWAECHTER
SUPERINTENDENT

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.

HELP US LEARN MORE ...

As the KASD Board of Education continues the process of discussing next steps in the referendum process, we seek to gain better understanding of the community vote. If you voted “no,” what thoughts, frustrations or issues with the presented plan led to your “no” vote? If you voted “yes,” what parts of the plan did you most support, and what were the areas upon which KASD could improve in a future plan? Your voice is critical in this ongoing journey for KASD. If you’d be willing, please fill out a **brief** survey at:

www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/referendum



EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

At the end of each school year, five Kaukauna Area School District employees are recognized and celebrated for their accomplishments. Employee of the Year award recipients were announced and celebrated at the District's closing ceremony on Thursday, June 6, 2019. Congratulations to:

- **Kerri Vanderloop, Elementary Certified Staff**
- **Paula Davis, Middle School Certified Staff**
- **Michael Keehan, High School Certified Staff**
- **Deanna Gierach, District Support Staff**
- **Brian Reindl, Administrator**



“Today has been filled with moments that define Kaukauna Strong. We receive so many nominations for these awards each year, and while it is difficult to make a final decision, I am humbled at how deeply you care about each other as a community. Thank you for your drive, your compassion, your teamwork, and for everything that you bring to the table each and every day for our students and for each other”

~Mark Duerwaechter, Superintendent

READ MORE AT BIT.LY/1819-EOY

STRONG MINDS. STRONG HEARTS. STRONG STUDENTS



River View's 6th grade Destination Imagination Creativity Crew earned a ticket to the Global Finals in Kansas City in May.



River View held its annual Community Service Day, connecting with the Kaukauna Community through various projects.



KHS held its first Breaking Boundaries Triathlon: an adaptive event for high school students with disabilities. Elementary students cheered them on as they ran, walked and biked.

Tanner students used iPads to code music for Dash Robots with the xylophone attachment during Music class.



Park Community Charter School 3rd graders used Google Slides and BenQ boards to showcase their United States regions work — an integrated lesson, covering social studies, science, technology and literacy.





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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.**

KAUKAUNA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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

Contact Us

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District Office

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
Human Resources Coordinator - 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

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