

Kalamazoo Public Schools



EXCELSIOR

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

April 2023 • Volume 26, Issue 4

Linden Grove Offers 'Big' Help

(STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 6)

Kalamazoo
RESA
inspiring educational
excellence

KRESA Enhancement
Millage — PAGE 8

2023 Summer
Camp Guide

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Saturday, April 1 | 6 p.m. at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Dale B. Lake Auditorium
Featuring acclaimed artists Jake Blount, Laurel Premo and Nic Gareiss diving deep into the history of Americana music and bringing it into today. Concert at 6 p.m. Pre-concert talk at 5 p.m. Tickets now available at FretboardFestival.com.

EVENING PROGRAM APRIL 29 | 5 P.M. | FREE

STATEWIDE ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Learn more about the amazing telescopes of today with free planetarium shows and a guest lecture from telescope designer and expert Kevin Iott.



AGES 0 - 5 | FREE

CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE

NEW THEME APRIL 11: My Feelings Matter

Explore emotions and how to handle big feelings. Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for Children's Landscape days, times and special programming.

2023 Kalamazoo Valley



EVENTS

FREE

KALAMAZOO VALLEY FOODWAYS SYMPOSIUM

April 10 | 6 - 8 p.m. Virtual keynote address by food media authority Emily Contois, Ph.D.

April 15 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Outdoor celebration at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Food Innovation Center on Crosstown Parkway. More info is available at KalamazooFoodways.org.

PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE

APRIL SHOWS | THURSDAYS & SUNDAYS | \$3

One World, One Sky | Preschool - Grade 1 | 1 p.m. | 30 min.

Join Big Bird, Elmo and their Chinese friend, Hu Hu Zhu, exploring the sky they share. Discover the Big Dipper and North Star, and take an imaginary trip to the moon.

The Sky Above Us | Grades 4 & up | 2 p.m. | 40 min.

Within this live, season-focused program, learn about "celestial wonders" like constellations, planets and meteor showers that can be seen overhead in Michigan.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | \$3

Magic Tree House: Space Mission | Grades 3 & up | 11 a.m. | 30 min.

Travel with brother-sister duo Jake and Annie in their Magic Tree House as they investigate six questions left behind for them in a mysterious note.

Weather Wonders & Mysteries Revealed | Grades 5 & up | 2 p.m. | 30 min.

A gaseous blanket of air surrounds our planet. Learn how our atmosphere is affected by the sun and the Earth, causing phenomena that we call "weather."

PUBLIC HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday | Noon - 4 p.m.

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Note: Some areas of the museum may be closed due to exhibit changes, staffing needs, special programs or collections care. We thank you for your patience.

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



230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo
kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7990

Creating a Culture of Academic Success Involves Everyone

WHEN Kalamazoo Public Schools talks about creating a culture of academic success, it may be difficult for the average person to envision all of the different people involved in helping to create a community that supports and lifts our students to become the most successful

and engaged learners possible.

As we as a district focus on literacy and numeracy, helping children develop the reading and math skills they need to participate in their world as adults, the first place we as educators look for assistance is to the caring adults in a child's life.

Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, older siblings, family friends and other involved adults are a child's first and most inspiring teachers.

We encourage families to tackle this task first by encouraging the children in their lives to read daily. Reading more

not only leads to better readers, but it leads to better writers and better thinkers. At an early age, reading more helps students cement the mechanics of reading. As students read more as they get older, they broaden their world views, begin to dissect the fundamentals of good writing, and explore challenging new concepts.

Children need to be exposed to books with a wide range of topics and a variety of characters — including characters that look like they do. Weekly trips to the Kalamazoo Public Library are valuable to promoting an interest in reading. Not only can children enjoy the thousands of books at the library, but they can participate in the myriad programs KPL offers, including the First Saturday activities at the Powell Branch Library. We hope you take your children to the library and other places where they can read and learn and where you enjoy the experiences as much as they do.

KPS also relies on the use of coaches to help further our teaching efforts. You may think we're referring to our

athletic coaches — who do an amazing job helping keep students engaged and excited about school — but the district also has academic coaches who implement new programs, support new teachers, and give teachers the support they need to go deeper into instructional practices that meet the needs of all students.

And, because KPS knows that a child's success in school is not just about academic skills, the district is committed to serving the whole child. We do that by working to help children grow the social-emotional skills they need to navigate the world. These skills include self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, social awareness, and relationship skills.

Just as we have coaches who help students with literacy and numeracy skills, the district employs coaches and social workers who drive this social-emotional learning. As we transition out of the pandemic, the need for this work has become even more crucial. Our SEL team provides support to building ad-

ministrators and works with individual children as well as small groups.

There is one more key element to creating a positive culture of learning for our students, and that involves community support. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to our community partners who operate programs to support learning, the volunteers who dedicate an hour to read with a child, the voters who have supported our school millages, the generous companies who donate school supplies, and every other person who makes an effort — large or small — to communicate how important school and learning and growing are.

Everyone can play a role in creating this positive culture of learning by simply taking an interest in the children in your world. One question about what they are reading, a genuine interest in what they learned today, a kind word of encouragement for a student, a teacher, a parent — it all ensures Kalamazoo fulfills its promise as a community that celebrates learning and education.

A Message from the Interim Superintendent



Cindy Green



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For More Information
communityhomeworks.org

This activity is brought to you in partnership with the City of Kalamazoo and support from other grant funding partners.



ARTISTS' CORNER

Winchell Elementary School student artists have been studying landscapes at various grade levels. In kindergarten, the students incorporate line variety and rainbow colors. The third-graders advance to color mixing and

value scales. Then in fourth grade, art teacher Mandy Clearwaters challenges students to develop their color mixing and composition skills. It is incredible to see the progress from one year to the next, Clearwaters said.



Lexie Balmer, fourth grade



Rhayine Bowden, kindergarten



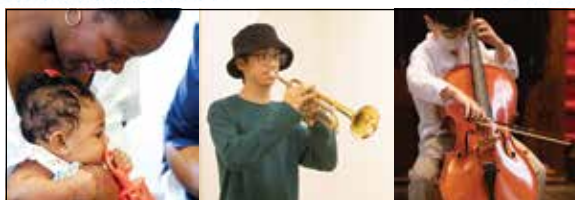
Avery Kelly, third grade

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Cindy Green

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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 for
Instruction and Student Services**

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

**Assistant Superintendent of
Human Resources**

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Recipe**from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells****Kirsten Strong, registered dietician****Samuel Dunn, executive chef****Create Less Food Waste, Make Tasty Meals**

EARTH DAY is coming up on April 22. It is important that we think about how to reduce our carbon footprint. This seems like a daunting task, however, you can do your part by making a few adjustments in your kitchen. Here are 10 at-home tips on how to create less food waste and tastier recipes by utilizing what you do not waste!



❶ Dehydrate your fruit in an oven or air fryer — if it looks like it is going to go bad before you can eat it. Use it as cereal or yogurt topping or add it to nuts for a homemade trail mix! Great for strawberries, apples, and bananas.

❷ Peel, dice, or chop produce and freeze it in plastic bags if it's going to go bad before you can use it. Use the frozen produce in soups, breakfasts, or casseroles another day. Great for potatoes, broccoli, carrots, onions, and tomatoes.

❸ Use the whole herb. The stems of cilantro, basil, mint, etc., taste just as good as the leaves and add a little crunch. Using it all saves time.

❹ Blend your extra herbs with a little water and freeze it in ice cube trays. Use the herby ice cubes instead of fresh herbs for soups and sauces.

❺ Use veggie scraps and bones to make a stock, and freeze it for later use.

❻ Use the internet to check the proper way to store your produce and for ways to prolong its shelf life. You'd be surprised the difference proper storage makes.

❼ Meal Plan vs. No Plan. Planning will cut down on buying unneeded items. And you'll have fewer incomplete meals items that are more likely to be pushed to the back of the fridge and forgotten.

❽ Buy some grocery items in smaller quantities and more frequently. This way you are less likely to forget about food you purchased, and you are more likely to prepare it before it goes bad.



❾ Play the leftover game. Write down leftover items in your fridge and/or pantry and compete with family members to come up with the most creative and delicious recipes using the list.

❿ Make soup from any vegetables.

For 4-6 servings

- 1-2 pounds fresh or frozen vegetables
- Aromatics, such as an onion, a couple of garlic cloves, or leeks
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4-6 cups low-sodium broth
- Seasonings to taste, such as pepper, cumin, chili powder, ginger; or dried herbs, including basil, sage, oregano and bay leaf.
- Leftover cooked meat, rice, pasta, quinoa or beans, optional

Combine ingredients and simmer. Adjust seasonings to taste.

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Creating Big Smiles for Big Brothers Big Sisters

KALAMAZOO Public Schools' Linden Grove Middle School has a special connection to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Michigan's Bowl for Kids' Sake.

For the last six years, life skills teacher Erica Drogosch and her students have made the "Wacky Awards" that are handed out at the fundraising event for Big Brothers Big Sisters, which matches caring adult volunteer mentors, "bigs," with "littles," children ages 6 to 18, in Kalamazoo and surrounding counties.

This year's Bowl for Kids' Sake theme was sports. The students in Drogosch's sixth-hour class created bowling pin-shaped awards for the teams attending the fundraiser. The designs included baseball, football, basketball, playbook, referee and BBBS jerseys.

The students that helped create the awards were: Kylie Beckwith, Kalea Bodian, KyMora Buchanan, Gabe Corradini, Kyla Elliot, Feza Etungano, Alexis Garcia-Ortiz, Alainia Hiatt, Violet Kouba, Naomi Laverder, Dane Mills, Journey Murphy, Abraham Perez, Rand Rasool, Rashya Somerville, Hunter Sova, Olivia Wade and Brady Winther-MacInnis.

In addition, Drogosch, and fellow Linden Grove teachers Amy Mulvey, Leslie Patterson, Cynthia Zerban and Luciana Rua-Weaver created a bowling team for the event and raised more than \$800 to support BBBS programs.



Alainia Hiatt and Olivia Wade craft tournament prizes.



Students in the Linden Grove life skills class show off the completed awards.



Rand Rasool and Journey Murphy create custom Bowl for Kids' Sake bowling pins.

ON THE COVER:

Kyla Elliot, Feza Etungano, and Rashya Somerville put the finishing touches on the awards.

Spelling Bee Champs Compete at Chenery Auditorium

CLARA MERVAK, a fifth-grader at Northglade Montessori Magnet School, took first place in the inaugural Kalamazoo County Regional Spelling Bee held March 4 at Chenery Auditorium. Clara's winning word was cyclone. Clara will be representing Kalamazoo County in the National Scripps's Spelling Bee in National Harbor, Maryland, during the 2023 Memorial Day Weekend. First runner-up was Jean-Pierre Van Der Westhuizen, an eighth-grader at Maple Street Magnet

School for the Arts (and Northglade alum). Other finishers in the Top 5 were: Rosa Van Heest, Arcadia Elementary School; Abigail Halifax, Linden Grove Middle School; and Neela Parthasarathy, Arcadia Elementary School. All of the spellers competed with grace and demonstrated wonderful sportsmanship. There were 31 first-place winners and first runners-up from across 15 schools in the district who qualified for the

regional spelling event. School staff organized the school spelling bees and prepped the students for the regional competition, which organizers hope to make an annual event. KPS Interim Superintendent Cindy Green served as the head judge for the competition. The event was hosted by Discover Kalamazoo, The Kalamazoo Promise, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, and KELC Events.



Kalamazoo County Regional Spelling Bee first runner-up Jean-Pierre Van Der Westhuizen with Madysen Dolye, of Discover Kalamazoo, one of the sponsors of the spelling bee.



Clara Mervak and KPS Interim Superintendent Cindy Green, who served as the head judge for the first Kalamazoo County Regional Spelling Bee. Clara was the 2023 champion with the word "cyclone."



Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts eighth grader Jean-Pierre Van Der Westhuizen spells for the Kalamazoo County Regional Spelling Bee judges.

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KRESA Seeks Enhancement Millage Renewal on May 2 Ballot

ON TUESDAY, May 2, 2023, voters will be asked to decide whether to renew a 1.5-mill property tax millage for six years that supports the operations of all public and private schools operating within districts in Kalamazoo County.

Each school district and charter school receive the same per-student amount, which is approximately \$425/student. Local school boards decide which district budgetary needs and priorities to fund with the monies from the millage, which currently provides about \$5 million for KPS. These funds are budgeted in the district's operating budget. If these funds are eliminated, budget cuts would be inevitable.

Because the enhancement millage is a renewal, it would not cause any increase in tax rates. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their home, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays approximately \$112.50/year, which is about \$9.38/month.

We encourage you to consider whether you will support this measure. To read the language that will appear on your ballot on May 2, 2023, please visit Michigan's Voter Information Center online at mVIC.sos.state.mi.us. You can also check your voter registration status, apply for an absent voter ballot, or find your polling location on Michigan's Secretary of State website: www.michigan.gov/sos

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is this a new millage or a millage increase?

Neither. It's a renewal of the original three-year, 1.5-mill property tax millage that voters first approved in May 2005 and then most recently renewed in 2020. This is a request whether to renew the millage for another six years. If approved, taxpayers would continue paying the same millage rate they have been paying since 2005

How do school districts currently use the money?

Each local school board decides district budget needs and priorities. Millage funds are used to support instructional services, support services and other district priorities. Helps fund local districts operating expenditures. KRESA is fiscal agent and revenue is distributed to local districts based on their blended pupil count.

How much do the schools get from this millage?

As the fiscal agent, Kalamazoo RESA distributes the tax revenues to school districts and charter schools on a per-student basis. Each school district and charter school receive the same per-student amount, which is approximately \$425/student.

Why are charter schools included in the millage renewal proposal when they have not been included in the past?

Changes to the applicable state law since the millage was originally approved added charter schools as beneficiaries of the millage effective May of 2018. All beneficiaries must be listed on the ballot.

How much would this renewal request cost the taxpayer?

Since the enhancement millage is a renewal, it would not cause any increase in tax rates. Homeowners would pay based on the taxable value of their home, which is typically about half of the market value. A homeowner with a home with a taxable value of \$75,000 (approximate market value of \$150,000) pays ~\$112.50/year, which is ~\$9.38/month.

When will the Enhancement Millage be voted on by voters?

The registered voters in each of the nine school districts in the Kalamazoo RESA service area will be asked to vote on May 2, 2023, on whether to renew the 1.5-mill property tax millage, which supports the operations of the public-school districts and charter schools in the KRESA service area.

When is the last day to register to vote?

The last day to register to vote by mail for this election is Monday, April 17, 2023, using the form available at www.michigan.gov/documents/MIVoterRegistration_97046_7.pdf. An individual can register to vote online by visiting www.michigan.gov/voterregistration. Voters may register in person through Election Day, May 2, 2023, during any hours in which the local election clerk's office is open.

How many years is the millage good for this renewal?

This time, the millage request would be for 6 years so that school millage requests can be spread out and, therefore, fewer school resources will be used for preparing for millage renewals that have been clearly supported by the community for over 17 years.

What is the language on the ballot?

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL — DRAFT

This proposal will allow the intermediate school district to continue to levy regional enhancement millage that expired with the 2022 levy. Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the millage will be collected by the intermediate school district and distributed to local public school districts based on pupil membership count.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 6 years, 2023 to 2028, inclusive, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2023 is approximately \$14,044,867, which funds will be disbursed as required by statute to the following school districts: Climax-Scotts Community Schools, Comstock Public Schools, Forest Academy, Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools, Gull Lake Community Schools, Kalamazoo Covenant Academy, Kalamazoo Public Schools, Oakland Academy, Paramount Charter Academy, Parchment School District, Portage Public Schools, Schoolcraft Community Schools, Vicksburg Community Schools and Youth Advancement Academy.



SUMMER CAMP 2023

INSIDE: Picking a Camp.....10 Types of Camps.....12 Benefits of Camp.....16 Low-Cost Fun.....18



Picking a Camp: Start Early and Ask Questions

Soon that last school bell will ring and kids will be ready for summer. For parents and caregivers, however, the thought of summer's arrival can be stressful as they try to figure out the best ways to keep their kids active and engaged during the summer break.

One of the best ways to keep your kids from going stir-crazy (and making you crazy) is to sign them up for various camps throughout the summer. But with so many options and types of camps from residential to day camps, science to arts, academic to adventure, choosing the best camp for your child means starting early and asking the right questions.

1. Start now. Camps fill up quickly. April is the peak time for parents to sign their kids up for summer camps, so don't put off too long making your decisions. Also, some camps require health appraisal forms or deposits to secure a spot, so you need to plan ahead to ensure that you have taken the steps needed to reserve your child's spot in a camp.

2. Decide on the type of camp. Do you want your child's camp experience be to learn new skills, develop self-confidence, increase their athletic ability or provide adventurous, age-appropriate activities? As you narrow down the types of camps, be sure to include your child when finalizing the selection. Some children, just like adults, appreciate being made aware of or involved in the decisions that affect them.

3. Get recommendations. Ask other parents and caregivers for recommendations of summer camps that match your child's interests. You can often learn about the physical environment and the camp's daily operations, including things like noise level, type of food served, and staff diversity, that could affect the quality of your child's camp experiences. It doesn't hurt to ask former campers about their experiences as well, and to share what you learn with your child.

4. Make a budget and stick to it. Summer camps can be expensive, so decide early how much you will set aside for your child's camp experiences. Make sure to find out if the camps you'd like them to attend



offer scholarships or other financial aid, because many do. Don't let a camp's price tag keep you from considering it for your child; you might be surprised at the financial help that is available.

5. Do your homework. As you narrow down different camps for your kids, make a list of any concerns and questions you may have for each camp. Camps' websites are a great place to learn about rules, procedures and special considerations for campers, including what to bring and what to leave at home. If you still have questions after reviewing the information, reach out to the camps. Camp directors will gladly talk to you and tell you how they can address your concerns. They have heard and been asked it all, so don't feel like any question is a "silly question." Here are some questions to consider:

What kind of support is available for campers with special health care needs?

Some children with special health care needs or disabilities may need special accommodations so they can enjoy camp while being protected. If your

child has special health care needs, talk with camp directors and your pediatrician to identify specific accommodations your child may need. Existing plans, such as Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans can be helpful to assist the camp in making accommodations.

What is the refund policy if my child becomes sick and can't attend camp?

Ask about the camp's policy regarding rolling the enrollment to next summer. Or, if your household is in a position to do so, consider reaching out to your camp to let them know that you'd like your enrollment dollars to be a donation instead.

What medical facilities are on-site or nearby?

The American Camp Association (ACA) recommends that an overnight camp have a licensed physician or a registered nurse onsite everyday and that camps have direct phone access. Be sure your camp will be able to handle your child's medical needs, for example, medications or allergies.

What is the camp's approach to discipline and how does it handle conflict between campers?

Ask what breaches of camp rules would result in the camper being sent home. You should feel comfortable that the camp's practices are in line with your parenting practices. Also, ask what the camp's bullying policies are. What does it look like? Is it zero tolerance? Be sure to share this with your camper.

What are the camp's relationships and statistics with staff and campers?

Ask about the hiring process for staff. Do they go through criminal background checks? Are the staff trained and certified in first aid, if so, from which organization? Ask how many counselors are returning this year. The ACA states that most camps see 40%-60% of staff return. If the number is low, ask why. Also ask how many campers return. A good number is 50% or higher.

What does the ratio of counselors to campers look like and how old are the counselors?

The ACA guidelines for counselor-to-camper ratios are:

For overnight camps:

- Ages 7 and 8: 1 counselor to 6 campers
- Ages 9-14: 1 counselor to 8 campers for ages 9-14
- Ages 15-18: 1 counselor to 10 campers

For day camps:

- Ages 6-8: 1 counselor to 8 campers
- Ages 9-14: 1 counselor to 10 campers
- Ages 15-18: 1 counselor to 12 campers

The ACA also recommends that 80 percent of a camp's staff be 18 years of age or older and that all staffers be at least 16 and a minimum of two years older than the campers they supervise. ●



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KazooCivic.com/Education

So Many Types of Camp, So Little Summer

When looking at camp for your children, there are many options



Traditional/General — Traditional/general camps offer a little bit of everything like team sports, swimming, boating, fishing, archery, performing arts, arts and crafts, music, dance, hiking, wilderness adventure, and rock climbing. Some of these camps can be resident camps, where the campers stay overnight for a week or for several. Others are day camps, which can last from 2-3 hours a day or all day.

Traditional/general camps also have different types of programming. Programs can be structured, where the schedule is pre-arranged; semi-elective, where the camper has some choice in activities; or elective, where the camper decides his or her entire schedule.



Academic — Academic camps focus on specific areas of study designed to either improve grades or explore special topics, like the sciences. Some examples of what academic camps offer are: ESL, STEM, SAT Prep, foreign languages, tutoring, study skills, biology, computer gaming, general science, rocketry, robotics, and physics. While the schedule is usually structured and can be rigorous, many of these camps also have fun activities to give kids time to rest and play.

(Continued on page 14)

GILMORE PIANO CAMP

DAY & OVERNIGHT CAMP JUNE 25-30, 2023
AT SHERMAN LAKE YMCA

DAILY LESSONS • CAMP ACTIVITIES

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Play in some of our 32 events at
20 different area golf courses.
Age groups include 12 & Under,
13-15 and 16-18.



Register online or get more info at
www.kalamazoojunorgolf.org
(269) 447-1484

**SIZZLING SUMMER
SCIENCE**

June 19 –
August 4, 2023

One- and two-week STEM experience for
preK – high school students regardless of race,
religion, gender, country of origin, or physical
or intellectual disability.

Please check our website after April 1 for safety
guidelines and full registration information.
Register early – spaces are limited.

Kalamazoo Area Mathematics
and Science Center
600 W. Vine Street, Kalamazoo
kamsconline.com • 269.337.0004



Van Buren Youth Camp

BLOOMINGDALE, MICHIGAN

WWW.VBYC.ORG/MAIL@VBYC.ORG



Growing leaders since 1950!

A co-ed residential summer program offering
traditional camp activities for youth
in grades 1-12/age 6-18



2023 Summer Schedule: *all sessions \$425 unless noted

June 14-17	Advanced Leadership	Grades 10-12+	\$300
June 18-24	Leadership & Counselor Workshop	Gr 9-12+	
June 25-July 1	Great Bear Early Youth	Grades 3-6	
July 5-8	Little Bear #1	Grades 1-3	\$275
July 9-15	Wolverine Middle Youth	Grades 5-8	
July 16-22	Discovery Middle Youth	Grades 4-9	
July 23-29	Frontier Middle Youth	Grades 4-9	
July 30- Aug 1	Little Bear #2	Grades 1-3	\$250
August 6-11	Explorer Early Youth	Grades 3-7	\$390
August 12	Camp Fest Family Fun Day	All Ages	Tbd
Sept. 21-24	Women's Wellness Weekend	Ages 21+/\$200	

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE !!!

Select "requesting campership" in the Finance/Payment
section of the session application at vbyc.org

SUMMER CAMP 2023

(Continued from page 12)



Wilderness Adventure — Wilderness adventure camps are usually overnight camps and can last anywhere from a couple of days to a month or longer. They are usually in a forest or a mountainous area. Campers sleep in tents and sleeping bags. Some of the activities are backpacking, hiking, camping, rock climbing, white water rafting, survival skills training, canoe trips, and mountain biking.



Community Service — Community service camps offer programs for kids to be involved in helping local communities. Some camps offer enrichment credits toward graduation. It is normally labor intensive and includes things like building houses, installing water systems, farming, engineering, animal care, and nature preservation.



Arts — Arts camps can specialize in dance, music, performing arts, comedy, creative arts, technical theater, painting, and visual arts. Many are held in theaters, on college campuses, and at dance companies. The programs are normally exclusive to the art. Some camps are for children who already have experience and there may be auditions required.



Religious — Religious camps are predominantly Christian, Jewish, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, and Presbyterian. Some religious camps can be traditional/general camps, where they offer the same activities as a traditional camp but with a focus on a specific religion. Other religious camps can be week-long day camps often called Vacation Bible School.



Sports Specialty — Sports specialty camps usually focus on one sport. There is extensive instruction and campers spend most of their time playing or learning about the sport. Some examples of sports specialties are football, soccer, baseball, basketball, volleyball, golf, and tennis.



Special Needs — Special needs is a broad term that is used to separate traditional and specialty camps from those that cater to kids with specific needs. A special need includes, but is not limited to, cancer, autism, physical disability, burn victims, grief/loss, and LGBTQ. Similar to traditional camps, these camps offer activities such as horseback riding, swimming, climbing, team sports, and arts and crafts. The camp may also offer education for kids and their families specific to the need. There may be group therapy sessions or one-on-one counseling. If the camp specializes in serving children who have a disease or physical disabilities, there are most likely nurses or doctors on site as well as medical facilities. Some camps have an approval process. This may mean filling out an application, providing medical documents, or speaking directly to their admissions personnel. ●

— Information provided by the
National Camps Association

Kalamazoo Nature Center
CAMP

**ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!
KNC SUMMER CAMP**

Camps for Ages 4 - Grade 12
Visit NatureCenter.org to see the
camp themes and
REGISTER TODAY!

QR Code

New lower camp prices | Financial assistance is available

**STEAM learning
for all ages!**

2023
**summer
camps**

AIR ZOO
Aerospace & Science Experience
airzoo.org

REGISTER TODAY!
airzoo.org/camps

6151 Portage Rd. Portage, MI | 269.382.6555

Benefits of Attending Camp Can Be Lifelong

Summer camp offers kids the chance to learn a variety of different skills that may have been missing from their day-to-day experiences. According to the American Camp Association, summer camp experiences help students develop social skills and self-respect, build character and learn about caring and being a good citizen. In addition, attending a camp can have these benefits:



1. Socializing and Friendship Building

Whether it's a day camp or overnight camp, summer camp provides a great opportunity for kids to socialize and meet new people, especially other kids who share the same interests. A summer camp program provides a safe environment for children to develop social skills and decision-making skills. Kids develop important life skills through socializing — such as sharing, setting boundaries, and problem-solving — and learn how to develop strong, healthy relationships by interacting with their peers.

2. Less Sitting and More Exercise

Our kids spend a lot of time sitting at school and during screen time and are more sedentary than ever. Sedentary lifestyles increase the risk of health issues including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and obesity. A summer camp is a great solution to get kids moving again. Many programs take place outdoors and include physical activities such as hiking, archery, horseback riding, swimming, rock climbing, dance and team sports.



3. Personal Growth and Exploration

Summer camps are an opportunity for kids to explore their interests and learn new things. For example, local science-focused camps can teach kids about chemistry, robotics or aeronautics, while other camps focus on such things as the arts, cooking and nature. While they are having fun and exploring new interests, kids are also being educated and challenged. Studies have shown that 70 percent of parents report that their child gained self-confidence while at camp.





4. Positive Role Models

Through their camp counselors and directors, children will have opportunities to interact with positive adult role models. Many camp counselors are younger adults who work or volunteer over their summer breaks from school and whom kids see as “cool” and more relatable than their parents. Because these young adults often share their personal experiences as well as interests with campers, they can provide your child a glimpse into what their future could be like.

5. Becoming More Independent

Going to camp gives kids an opportunity to become more independent. Whether for a day, week, or entire summer, separation from parents and caregivers allows children to learn to rely on themselves and other trusted adults and peers. Separation from parents allows children ability to think independently, which builds self-esteem. ●



2023 ATYP SUMMER CAMPS

For bright kids who are eager to learn:

- 1/2 day camps
- computers, math, science, writing, and more
- \$150/camp
- dates in June and July
- no eligibility requirements
- on WMU's Kalamazoo campus

Visit the website for more information:
wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/summer-programs




REGISTER AT
www.DomeSportsCenter.com
 OR SCAN QR CODE BELOW

SUMMER AT THE DOME SUMMER CAMPS
 JUNE 12 - AUGUST 18

SPORTS

- ARCHERY
- BASEBALL
- FOOTBALL
- LACROSSE
- SOFTBALL
- SOCCER
- VOLLEYBALL



SCAN ME



12733 US-131 Schoolcraft, MI

BEST SUMMER EVER®

the Y

When school is out, the Y has all your child needs to stay engaged and active for the summer! Between outdoor activities, art projects, reading time, swimming, games, and STEAM learning, your kid will experience a summer of enriching fun at the YMCA's day camps.

The YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo
kzooymca.org



summer camp memories ♥



Low cost, no-cost options for summer fun

Looking for a little more fun this summer for your family and children? Here's a list of places to go to find out about no-cost and low-cost alternatives:

KYDNet Summer Program Finder

A great place to start your search for summer programs is through KYDNet (Kalamazoo Youth Development Network). KYDNet is working to ensure that Kalamazoo County youth have access to high quality in person and virtual programs and the organization's program finder is a great online tool to see youth-oriented programs and activities are available in Kalamazoo County this summer. Find it online at www.kydnet.org.

Camp Kzoo

The City of Kalamazoo's Parks and Recreation department offer a variety of programs for Kalamazoo's youth. Plans for this summer's activities will be available on its website at www.kzoozoo.org/programs. Financial assistance is available from Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation to help ensure that these programs are available to, and affordable by, everyone. For more information, visit the Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation website at www.friendsofrec.org.

All Things Possible

All Things Possible is a free program offering career and college exploration for KPS students entering high school. Held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, there will be two sessions this summer: June 12-July 7 and July 10-Aug. 4. Daily events will include learning work skills and life skills, recreational activities, talent development and career/educational exploration. For information or to register visit <https://www.kzoozoo.org/Programs/All-Things-Possible>.





Do-Dah Parade

The Do-Dah Parade, the event that kicks off the summer season in downtown Kalamazoo, is set for June 3 with a theme of "Kalama-Seuss: Children's Stories Take to the Streets!" This parade, now in its 36th year, encourages parade participants to create a laughable and satire-filled parade to reinvigorate the meaning of

"Do-Dah" (a parody based on a spoof or a satire).
Get more information at www.dodahkzoo.com.



Outdoor concerts

Another great outdoor activity is offered by the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo's Summertime Live concert series. Free concerts are held throughout the community including in Portage, Parchment, Oshtemo Township, and of course, downtown Kalamazoo. The schedule was still being finalized at press time, but to find out who is playing where and when visit www.kalamazooarts.org.

(Continued on page 20)

★ 2023 SUMMER PROGRAMS ★

Youth Dance Opportunities (Ages 3+)

Adult Dance Opportunities (Ages 15+)



wellspringdance.org/summer

Visit our website for more information!



Register Today!

Overnight Camp
With locations around the state, your girl has tons of options for a summer filled with fun!

Kalamazoo Day Camp
Conveniently located in central Kalamazoo, our day camp will be the best part of her summer!



GirlScoutCamp.org
800-497-2688

girl scouts heart of michigan

Camp experiences for ALL girls!

SUMMER CAMP 2023

(Continued from page 19)

Take a Rewarding Hike

The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy is challenging kids to Hike Our Preserves (HOP) this summer. Registration is \$7 per person and includes a free hiking stick (if you want one), a medallion for each HOP preserve you visit, and a free prize from Jr. Rangerland Educational Publishing for the first 50 hikers to visit all 10 preserves. Preserves feature many different types of landscape from wetlands and forests to fens and beaches. For more information visit www.swmlc.org/hop or call (269) 324-1600.

Join a Reading Program

Kalamazoo Public Library offers a robust reading program for kids with benchmarks and prizes. All that's needed to participate is a library card (which most KPS students got in first grade!). Visit kpl.gov or check with your local library branch for the details of this summer's reading program. ●



SHERMAN LAKE YMCA
SUMMER CAMP 2023

the  **Register today!**
WWW.SHERMANLAKEYMCA.ORG

Summer Day Camps & Zoo Overnights

Sign up at binderparkzoo.org or scan here

Turning experiences into memories

1-94 Exit 100 | Battle Creek | Open 7 Days



KPS Superintendent Interviews Expected in April and May

THE KALAMAZOO Public Schools Board of Education hopes to conduct the first round of interviews for the new KPS superintendent on April 24 and 27, with final interviews expected to occur on May 8. A board decision is anticipated on May 9.

The Board of Education selected the national recruitment firm of Ray & Associates to help conduct the search for the next KPS superintendent. Already, the board has conducted a community survey to collect desired qualifications for the new superintendent, and a series of input sessions were conducted in mid-March. The input sessions included meetings for students, parents, staff and members of the public.

Information from the surveys and input sessions will be shared with the board of education to help them identify what qualifications are important to stakeholders as they create a search profile for the new superintendent.

The board interviewed four search firms before unanimously choosing Ray & Associates, which is based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and has specialized in education executive searches since 1975.



Board President TiAnna Harrison has said the board is committed to an inclusive process that involves the public.

"I want to re-emphasize that this board understands that this is the most important thing that we will be doing. And we'll be doing our due diligence in doing this work," Harrison said, adding that a focus on student achievement and instructional goals will be key for any candidate. Quality is "non-negotiable," Harrison said.

The board hopes to conclude the search by late

spring and have a new superintendent on board by mid-summer.

Board Vice President Jermaine Jackson said that his research into Ray & Associates led him to talk to Northville Public Schools and they were very pleased with their search process and results. They were also pleased with the firms focus on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"(Northville schools) were delivered a great pool of candidates," Jackson said. "When they got down to their Top 3, it was certainly a challenge to the wire because there was so much they all brought to the table."

The firm helped the board stay focused on the stated desired qualities that the board and the community identified throughout the search process, Jackson said. "The firm helped the board to take the emotions out of the decision, to take the politics out of it."



For the most up-to-date information on the search, visit the KPS website at www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

The poster for the "Jazz and Sweet Potato Pie" event. It features the title in large, bold, blue letters. To the right is a photo of a woman singing into a microphone. Above her are musical notes and a vinyl record icon. The background is a mix of white and pink.

Tuesday, April 25
6:30 pm | Douglass Community Center |
All Ages | KPL presents Faith Quashie in an evening of vocal jazz and sweet potato pie!

The poster for the "Hip Hop with Speak It Forward" event. It features a photo of two men, one with glasses and one with a beard, looking towards the right. The background is black and orange with the event title in white and yellow. A small logo for "SPEAK IT FORWARD" is in the bottom right.

Friday, April 7, 14, 21
3:30-5:30 pm | Powell | Teen | Join Ed Genesis and Gabriel Giron from Speak it Forward and create your own hip hop narratives.

Check out these fun KPL events this spring!
Visit kpl.gov to learn more.

The logo for Kalamazoo Public Library, featuring a stylized 'K' in yellow and red.

Kalamazoo Public Library
kpl.gov

History Lessons Come to Life with Black History Wax Museum



Tiffany Anderson as author and poet Maya Angelou.

LINCOLN International Studies School fifth-graders helped bring history to life for younger students in their school through a Black history wax museum in February.

Students chose some of their favorite African American historical figures, researched their lives, and prepared short first-person speeches. On the day of the wax museum, the older students dressed as their historical figures and posed. Younger students visited the gallery of “wax figures” and pushed a paper button to see figure come to life and deliver the speech.

Students chose a variety of famous individuals from history including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Toni Morrison, and Michelle Obama. A number of students also selected sports figures such as Muhammed Ali, Serena Williams, and Jackie Robinson. Lesser known historical figures were also represented, including Mary Mahoney, the first African-American licensed nurse, and Elijah McCoy, an inventor and engineer.



Lincoln student Lundyn Perttu as activist Rosa Parks.



Damarquez Brown as Michael Jordan.



Jan'iyah Gardner-Woods as Oprah Winfrey.



Dhani Daniels as Jackie Robinson.



Jose Sanchez Salazar as inventor Elijah McCoy.



Lincoln fifth-grader Aja Arnold portrayed singer Beyonce Knowles.



Jeremiah Daniel as Muhammad Ali.



Ke'Dale Woods talks to a younger student as he portrays Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

El Sol Inventors Win Honors at WMU Innovation Expo

EL SOL Elementary inventors Noa and Armani Al-Dean and Jasmine Wilson took honors in the K-5 division of the recent Innovation Expo at Western Michigan University.

Noa and Armani won first place and Jasmine took second place at the Innovation Expo at which K-12 students in the region and WMU students competed for awards and prize money by presenting their products, models, or prototypes for a panel of judges and the community.

All students created a table display and pitch — or sales speech — to present their ideas to people

who stopped by their table. This year, 128 teams and 264 K-12 students participated in the expo.

Noa and Armani created Bronso Bear, a stuffed animal with interchangeable parts, such as tails, ears, fur color, eyes, noses and more. Jasmine created an Elephant Night Light, a stuffed animal with a flashlight built into its trunk.

At the expo, a panel of community judges selected the Top 3 teams from each age group (K-5, 6-8, 9-12, college). Judges looked at how students identify an age-appropriate, realistic problem; offer an original solution and provide evidence that it solves

the problem; present an attractive display that tells the story of the project; and deliver a well-rehearsed presentation that explains the project.

In addition, a Popular Vote award is given to the team that receives the most Innovation Dollars. All guests and participants receive “dollars” that are used to vote for their favorite projects.



For more information, see wmich.edu/ieem/innovationexpo.



El Sol Elementary School students Noa and Armani Al-Dean created Bronso Bear, a stuffed animal with interchangeable parts, such as tails, ears, fur color, eyes, noses and more. They won first place in the K-5 division of the WMU Innovation Expo.

El Sol Elementary School student Jasmine Wilson created an Elephant Night Light, a stuffed animal with a flashlight built into its trunk. Her invention won second place in the K-5 division.



Kalamazoo Public Schools

EARN A SEAL OF BILITERACY!

This award is given to graduating high school seniors by the Michigan Department of Education to honor students who are proficient in English and one or more other languages.

Are you fluent in another language?

Call Bilingual/ESL/World Languages at (269) 337-1579

Itzel Gomez-Avalos
gomez-avalosi@kalamazoopublicschools.net

Wessam Abdelaziz
abdelazizwi@kalamazoopublicschools.net

Do you have 21st century communication skills?

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Helps colleges and universities determine language credits. Shows employers you are a global citizen ready to communicate with the world.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Earn Intermediate High proficiency on world language tests and meet graduation requirements.

WHEN DO I APPLY?

Apply as a junior by talking to your counselor. Applying is free!

Kalamazoo Public Schools Annual Notifications

UNDER federal law, parents have the right to request information on the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers and the qualifications of any paraprofessionals who provide services to their children. Parents may request and receive information about: (a) whether the teacher is state-certified, (b) whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or another provisional status, and (c) the baccalaureate major of the teacher and any other graduate degree or certification. Parents may request information on the level of achievement of their child in each of the state academic assessments.

If a student attending a school that receives any Title I, Part A funds is assigned to, or taught, for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified, the school must provide timely notice to the student's parents. Any inquiries should be directed to:

Human Resources
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0182

Title VI protects people from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Kalamazoo Public Schools operates in a non-discriminatory man-

ner including, but not limited to, admissions, academic programs, student treatment and services, counseling and guidance, discipline, classroom assignment, grading, vocational education, recreation, physical education, and athletics. Any complaints or concerns regarding Title VI should be reported to:

Dr. Amy Vondra, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Student Services
VondraAE@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

* * *

Section 504 is a part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It applies to all persons with disabilities regardless of age. It is an anti-discrimination, civil rights statute that requires the needs of students with disabilities to be met as adequately as the needs of the non-disabled are met. Section 504 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Students are not to be excluded solely by reason of their disability or be subject to discrimination. All students with an Individual Educational

Plan are protected under Section 504. Section 504's definition of disability is a broad definition that also protects students who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include physical, mental, self-care, learning, reading, communicating, and thinking. Any complaints or concerns regarding Section 504 should be reported to:

Barry Smith, Coordinator of Student Services
SmithBJ@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

* * *

Title II provides grants to school districts to increase student achievement through teacher and administrator training. Kalamazoo Public Schools provides high quality training to assist teachers and administrators in many different areas to improve achievement for all students. Any complaints or concerns regarding Title II should be reported to:

Dr. Amy Vondra, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Student Services
VondraAE@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-1680

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. The school must honor your request to review your child's education records within forty-five (45) days of receiving the request. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will arrange for access and notify the par-

(continued on page 25)



SCIENCE INNOVATION HALL OF FAME AWARDS



Are you, or do you know an exceptional West Michigan high school student, K-12 level educator, local organization or individual who has innovated and excelled within, or shown exceptional support of, education in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM)?

Great! Apply or nominate someone today!

Applications due by April 5.

Awardees will be celebrated and receive a cash scholarship May 20 | 6pm

LEARN MORE
airzoo.org/sihof

6151 Portage Rd. Portage | 269.382.6555

Kalamazoo Public Schools Annual Notifications *(continued from page 24)*

ent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

• Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record that they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of his or her right to a formal hearing regarding the request for amendment. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

• Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student to release any information from a student’s education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

- School officials with legitimate educational interest; contractors, consultants, or volunteers to whom the district has outsourced institutional services or functions. For example, the district shares data with ed-

ucational institutions that have a vested interest in helping district students such as:

- Communities In Schools;
- The Kalamazoo Promise;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies;
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law; and
- Information the district has designated as “directory information.”

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS), with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to

the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. However, KPS may disclose appropriate designated “directory information” without written consent, unless you have advised the district to the contrary in accordance with district procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow KPS to include this type of information from your child’s education records in certain school publications. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following: a playbill, showing your student’s role in a drama production; the annual yearbook; honor roll or other recognition lists; graduation programs; or sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which includes student’s name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized school activities and sports, weight and height of athletic team members, dates of attendance and previous school(s) attended, is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to organizations without a parent’s prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish

(continued on page 26)



STAND OUT. START HERE.

**REGISTER NOW FOR
SUMMER SEMESTER.**
**CLASSES START MAY 8, MAY 22
AND JUNE 27.**

**FALL REGISTRATION OPENS
APRIL 3. CLASSES START SEPT. 6.**

www.kvcc.edu/register

Kalamazoo**VALLEY**[™]
community college

Kalamazoo Public Schools Annual Notifications *(continued from page 25)*

yearbooks. The district may disclose personally identifiable information from education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student to other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the district has determined to have legitimate educational interests, such as Communities In Schools and The Kalamazoo Promise. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the district has outsourced institutional services or functions. In addition, two federal laws require us to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories — names, addresses and telephone listings — unless parents have advised KPS that they do not want their student’s information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want KPS to disclose information from your child’s education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district by writing to:

Department of Instructional and Informational Technology
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0146
or by faxing to (269) 337-0195 on or before Friday, February 25, 2022

NONDISCRIMINATION, TITLE IX, SECTION 504, TITLE VI, AND TITLE II CONTACT INFORMATION

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, or disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs, or services. In addition, Kalamazoo Public Schools will not tolerate any retaliation against individuals who submit complaints and/or who participate in investigations relating to such complaints.

Further, in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), students, employees, and candidates for admission to any educational program and/or employment and all other persons are protected against all forms of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, including based on gender identity or stereotypical notions of gender identity.

The following person is designated as the Title IX coordinator with respect to any Title IX complaint of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation involving staff members or third parties:

Sheila Dorsey-Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
DorseySR@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0182

The following person is designated as the Title IX coordinator with respect to any complaint from students regarding discrimination, harassment, retaliation and/or bullying from another student(s):

Dr. Amy Vondra, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Student Services
VondraAE@kalamazoopublicschools.net
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

In addition, building-level administrators are responsible for monitoring adherence to the district’s nondiscrimination policy and for incorporating the district’s policy statement in all printed promotional materials and newsletters. Students should report concerns or complaints about discrimination, harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying by another student or students first to a teacher, and then if not satisfied, to the principal or assistant principal. Any concerns or complaints of discrimination, harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying not satisfied at the building level may be reported to an administrator in the Student Services Department. Concerns and/or complaints should be in writing, with the date, details of the concerns, and signature of the person making the complaint.

Any complaints and concerns of discrimination, harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying that involve adults and/or staff members should be reported to the building principal. If the inquiry is not satisfied at this level, or if the building principal is the subject of the complaint, then the concern may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. All concerns should be in writing, with the date, details of the concern, and signature of the person making the complaint.

Complaints of any violation of the district’s nondiscrimination policy will be promptly investigated and appropriate actions taken based on the results of the investigation. Individuals who report violations of the district’s nondiscrimination policy will be granted confidentiality to the extent reasonably practicable. Any questions or assistance required regarding the district’s nondiscrimination policy, bullying policy, or Title IX protections should be addressed to the office of Student Services (269) 337-0161 for students and Human Resources (269) 337-0182 for staff.

The district has modified its guidelines and a grievance procedure for complaints filed under Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex in any district educational program, service, or activity. The district’s new Title IX Statement and Grievance Procedures are being updated on the KPS website at: www.kalamazoopublicschools.com/ExploreKPS/AnnualNotifications.aspx and will be included in the district’s student code of conduct.

WHAT'S NEW

@

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo



ARTS COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP

CREATE. CONNECT. ACHIEVE.

Become part of a network of members that share a similar respect and passion for the arts in our community. Plus, access opportunities to showcase and promote yourself! Each Arts Council membership includes an:

- Online profile and listing in directory
- Unlimited event listings on our website calendar
- Access to calls for work/calls for artists
 - Free Artist Grant Workshops and waived Grant fees
 - Discounted services through Public Media Network

Membership has its benefits.



Visit KalamazooArts.org/membership/

Model Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents of elementary and secondary students certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include, but are not limited to, the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED):
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships,
 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student’s parent; or
 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility,
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:
 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or

- screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others. (This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.)
- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:
 1. Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Kalamazoo Public School’s (KPS) policy is to follow the requirements of the PPRA, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrange-

ments to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. KPS will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. KPS will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. KPS will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this direct notification requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing, sales, or other distribution,
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.



Don’t forget your child’s wellness exam!
**Be prepared for sports activities and
make sure all immunizations are up to date.
Call for your appointment today!**
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS · 269.337.4600

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Get paid this summer!

Join one of our YOU programs!

Paid opportunities available
for city of **Kalamazoo residents!**



MyCITY

[Ages 14-21]

June 19–August 4

- ✓ Open to city of Kalamazoo residents
- ✓ Ages 14-15: career exploration, project-based learning and career pathway planning
- ✓ Ages 16-21: paid internships and professional development
- ✓ 15-20 hours per week at \$10.50/hour

MyCITY 2Gen

[Families]

June 13–August 15

- ✓ Open to city of Kalamazoo residents
- ✓ 9-week career exploration and family enrichment program
- ✓ 2-3 hours per week with a monetary stipend awarded at completion of the program

CareerNOW

[Ages 18-24]:

Dates Vary by Training Type

- ✓ Open to residents of Kalamazoo County
- ✓ Free Short-Term Training/Credential Opportunities:
 - Certified Nurse Assistant
 - Phlebotomy
 - Patient Care Aide
 - Emergency Medical Technician
 - Welding/Skilled Trades
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Pre-Apprenticeships/Apprenticeships



Scan the QR code to submit an application or learn more about our summer programs at YOU!

Application Deadline: April 10



KALAMAZOO RESA
Career Connect
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