

Kalamazoo Public Schools

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MEET UP
and
EAT UP

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KC's Men's Track and Field Team Brings home a State Championship



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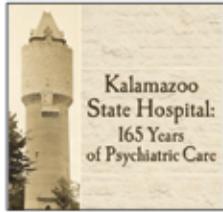


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We Are Proud of What You Have Accomplished, Excited for All You Will Achieve

A Message from the Superintendent

Dr. Darrin Slade



THIS IS the time of year when we celebrate students of all ages moving from one phase of their educational career to the next. We have kindergartners moving to first grade, fifth graders moving to middle school, and eighth graders moving to high school.

These are all special occasions, but I enjoy high school graduations the most. Outside of graduating from college, high school graduations are probably the most impactful on a young person's life. It's an amazing time of transition as young people move into adulthood. It is truly a time in life that should be celebrated.

I want to take this opportunity to share a few words of wisdom — some advice or suggestions that, looking back, I would have benefitted from hearing when I was a young person.

- Appreciate family members, friends

and those who love you. Life moves fast, and in most cases these are the people who will be there for you through good times and the rougher portions of your life. Spend time with them, listen to them, and learn from them. Family and friends are important. As you move into the next phase of your life, value the people who care for you and provide support.

- Take advantage of the amazing opportunities in Kalamazoo. We have great colleges, universities, businesses, organizations, and, of course, The Kalamazoo Promise. Please take advantage of the abundance of resources present in our great city. Most seniors participating in graduation ceremonies across the country right now do not have the vast resources we have. The Promise is an amazing gift that simply is not offered anywhere else in the country. I want to thank the anonymous donors who make the Promise possible. As a city and community, we cannot thank you enough.

- Enjoy being young. Have fun. Work hard and play hard. Eat pizza, ride roller coasters, play video games, and laugh as much as possible. You deserve it.

- Sometimes the difficult, hard road is

the best pathway. The decisions that you make when you graduate from high school will dramatically impact your future. Think your decisions through. Involve the people who love and care about you in those decisions. Do not shy away from making the hard, difficult, or more challenging choice. Taking the easy road is not always the best decision. If you were accepted into a college, university, or trade school and have decided not to go just because it may be hard or difficult work — rethink your decision. Knowledge is power. Hard work, dedication, and perseverance usually pay off in the end. You have the skills and talent necessary to be successful. Make it happen.

- You are amazing. Seriously, you are amazing. You are unique and special. There is only one person on this earth with the combination of skills, personality traits and positive attributes that you bring to the table. You can do anything and can be anything that you want to be in life. You can become an engineer, microbiologist, accountant, soldier, social worker, mechanic, counselor or teacher. Let me say that last one again — you can become a teacher if that's what you want to do and we truly need you. The teacher short-

age is real and I personally invite any one of you to come back to KPS. You can make your dreams become a reality. Just work hard and believe in yourself.

- Life is not a fairytale. You will experience days of both sunshine and rain. Please make the best of them both. In life, you learn from all of your experiences. Do not let obstacles block your dreams. You are amazing. You can do anything.

I want to thank everyone in the community for a great year. I'm proud to be the superintendent of Kalamazoo Public Schools. Together, we accomplished a great deal this year in KPS: Improved student achievement, improved overall climate, and, of course, improved district attendance. Thanks goes out to our teachers, staff and students for their incredible work.

And, of course, none of these accomplishments would be possible without our parents and family members, who are the unsung heroes in education, and the incredibly generous and supportive Kalamazoo community partners who help this district thrive.

Congratulations to the class of 2024. You did it, and we are all proud of you.

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

Kalamazoo Central's Men's Track and Field Team Brings Home First State Championship since 1965

THE KALAMAZOO Central High School Men's Track and Field Team this spring won the State Championship for their sport for the first time since 1965. It was a state title the KC team has previously held in 1942 and 1933.

The state championship came at the end of a season that included numerous other highlights, including becoming the SMAC runner up and earning their first regional championship since 2005.

The team set new school records in the 800, 1600, and 3200 meters, with all three records being broken by Jasper Cane. Additionally, they excelled in the relay events, setting new records in the 4x100 and 4x200 races.

Standout performances by individual athletes like Jeremy Dixon, who became the state champion in the 100 meters and secured second place in the 200 meters; and Cane, who finished third in the 1600 meters and second in the 3200 meters. Moreover, the 4x100 team achieved a commendable fourth-place finish and the 4x200 team secured fifth place in the state,



Members of the Kalamazoo Central Men's Track and Field celebrate their State Championship.

showcasing the team's overall strength and dedication, said KC Athletic Director Greg Straka.

Under the dedicated leadership of Head Coach Tyler Germain, both the men's and women's track teams have experienced consistent growth over the past four years. Beginning with 71 participants in 2021, the teams have now flourished to include 157 members this year.

"This incredible progress can be attributed to Coach Germain's relentless commitment, alongside the coaching staff, in recruiting and nurturing talented student-athletes," Straka said. "As a result of their hard work, Kalamazoo Central High School has proudly established itself as a powerhouse in the track and field scene in the State of Michigan."

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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:

Director of School Improvement, Title I and Assessments

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

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Kalamazoo Public Schools
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District Directory at:

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Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program 2024 Graduates

Al Hamoud, Muhammad Ibrahim

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Bueno, Britney Burton, Deairra Monet

Byrd, Sarah Kay Campbell, Dalea Anae

Chambliss, Sheldon Chase Crumell, Torrian William

DiPiero, Ashlee J Leann

Douglas, Vincent Liam Eason, Jamesha Janell

Eddington, Seth Ian

Eichorn, Carter Franklyn

Eichorn, Xavier Ray

Escobedo, Hope Julia Judy

Follmer, Nolan Christopher

Geisler, Robert Elliott

Glenn, Christian Thomas

Harris, Taj Sev'on Josiah

Hoogendoorn, Jackson Lee

James, Jashawn Menyon-

Latrell

Jennings, Gordon Nikolaj Fritz

Jennings, James Dion

Lee, Kiara Aaliyah

Lepsy, Ezekiel Hinds

Lubbers, Nathaniel James

Martin, Moe

Martinez, Lisandra Sarai

McGhee, Allen C

McKay, Leon Kurtis

Mejia, David Angel

Ortega-Hernandez, Catherine

Anita

Popp, Addison

Pratt, Ki'Ajah

Runyon, Jesse Michael

Salazar, Gabriel Jesus

Sarver, Alan Jerakko Dennise

Shaffer-Gardner, Frederick

James

Shepherd, Isabella Jo

Smith, Colin Robert

Ulmer, Adeline Jane

Vankrimpen, Bailey Renee

Walburn, Skyler Renee

Walker, Ky'arah Monique

Adult Education 2024 Graduates

Orthy Lumumba

Odlin Cadet

Diana Crumbsy

Anna Deuel

Christian Diaz

Kai-Laya Garret

Tegun Landrum

Shanacie Newbill

Sharleeta Stewart

Chayse Valdes

Barrington Brown

Christine Coy

James Esmar

Zarifa Haidari

Lillabeth Isaacs-Morren

Angel Magallon

Mark Mollohan

Matthew Noel

Staci McNally

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Jasen Bolhuis

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Emilee Rudlaff: Finding the Stamina to Stay the Course

EMILEE RUDLAFF has been racing toward the finish line for a long time.

Ever since middle school, the Kalamazoo Central High School graduate has been running cross country and track with zeal. In the fall, she will be taking her academic and running skills to Wayne State University, where she is considering a major in nursing.

Rudlaff, 17, attended Winchell Elementary School and Linden Grove Middle School as well as Central. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Nikki Rudlaff.

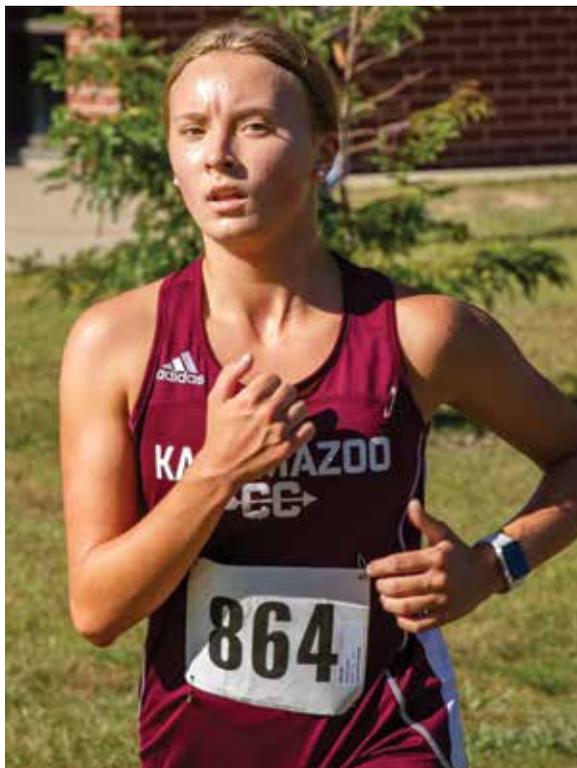
“In fifth grade there was a track meet at the end of the year,” she said. “I did the mile and I was good at it.”

She ran cross country and track in middle school, and the passion carried over to high school, where she was a two-year captain on cross country, a three-time All Conference, two-time All Region and one-time All State runner.

Part of the appeal of running — and cross country in particular — is the mental challenge.

“You have to be not just good at running, but what matters most is your mentality,” Rudlaff said. “You have to tell yourself you can do it, because your mind will tell you to stop before your body will — your body can do so much more than your mind thinks it can.”

She said she struggled to understand that, especially in middle school, when she could easily be in the lead in a race but feel like she’d want to



Emilee Rudlaff, Kalamazoo Central 2024

stop. Working on those issues helped her not only to become a better runner but a better student, able to handle deadlines and assignments with more focus, she said.

EMILEE’S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

“Get involved. Groups like the environmental club and NHS do a lot of good things. It makes you feel good. Make sure you don’t let yourself fall behind in classes. Reach out to your teachers for help.”



“Mentally, I need good grades. I like to do my best work,” she said.

And she became a better athlete.

She is the current school record holder in the 5,000 meter in cross country as well as a school record holder in track in the 4 x 800 relay. She was a member of the first girl’s cross country team in KC history to qualify for the state finals in 2023, which was one of her best high school memories.

A member of the National Honor Society, she carried a 4.36 GPA and was

the salutatorian for the Class of 2024.

Among her favorite classes have been the Advanced Placement classes at Central, including AP Comparative Government with Rex Hafer, who happens to be co-coach of the cross country team. In addition, she took AP classes in psychology, language, statistics, biology history, and U.S. government.

She also enjoyed the hands-on approach of her Career & Technical Education (CTE) Health Sciences class, which helped spark her interest in health care and nursing.



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Annalise Ransom: Finding Joy and Reward in a Busy, Goal-Driven Life

THE PANDEMIC may have shortened the time students had in school, but that didn't stop Annalise Ransom from packing four years of activity into the time she did have at Loy Norrix High School.

Her activities included:

- DECA
- National Honor Society
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation Youth Advisory Board
- Loy Norrix Executive Board
- Link Crew
- Varsity Tennis
- Volunteering with groups like Girls On The Run and Read and Write Kalamazoo

There's more. She can't remember it all, but she does remember that being active and involved made high school a special place. She doesn't talk about it with angst about being too busy or about feeling stressed by having an overflowing calendar — she expresses joy and enthusiasm for all of it.

"I came into high school wanting to make a lot out of the experience," said Ransom, 17. "I want to do things that enrich me personally, but also I always think about what can I do beyond that. I wanted to showcase my abilities."

And, that was across academics as well. She said that historically she struggled with reading and math. In middle school, she was in strategic math classes and that made her doubt herself.

"Being in that class created an internal sense of shame," she said. "And, I thought 'if I can't do academics, how am I supposed to juggle other activities?'"



Neyda Isidoro-Martinez, left, and Annalise Ransom ran a project assisting the Girl Scouts with their annual project to help wrap gifts for children with incarcerated parents.



Annalise Ransom, Loy Norrix 2024

But she found her stride in high school. She made the Dean's List and the National Honor Society with 4.02 GPA.

"High school taught me a lot about my academic abilities," she said. "If it's important to you, you can do it if you set your mind to it."

Ransom will be attending Michigan State Univer-

ANNALISE'S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

“Find your people. Make time to see people and do things with the people you enjoy. Have fun. Find balance between academics and extracurriculars. Become aware of the opportunities you have. Take care of yourself. That's valuable as a life skill.”

sity in the fall, with plans to major in international relations with a minor in economics. But, as we know, she's always willing to take on more, so she says she might double major in national security.

Growing up, Ransom attended Prairie Ridge, Winchell, Arcadia, Milwood and Northeastern elementary schools as well as Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. Her interest in world affairs was inspired by her Maple Street Spanish teacher Gordana Kloosterman and by her mother Toiya Ransom, who was in the military and served in locations such as Kuwait and South Korea. Annalise Ransom has her sights set on a law degree and perhaps a career in diplomacy with the United Nations.



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Scholar Athletes Plan to Take Their Athletic Skills to the Collegiate Level

THE FOLLOWING students have committed to extending their athletic careers by signing to play collegiate sports. Congratulations to the following scholar athletes:

LOY NORRIX

Zoe Reeves

Albion College
Volleyball
Parents — Molly and Matt Reeves

Nia Moncrief

Aquinas College
Basketball
Parents — Natoi and Richard Moncrief

Kennedy Lockett

Glen Oaks Community College
Basketball
Parents — Shannon and Troy Lockett

Jordan Partee

Glen Oaks Community College
Basketball
Parents — Joanna and Jerry Partee

Jansen Douma

Hope College
Baseball
Parents — Jaan and Chris Douma

Samuel Bistrek

Jackson College
Soccer
Parent — Laura Felton

Daniel Ewing

Kalamazoo College
Cross Country and Track
Parents — Chris and Emily Ewing

Isaiah Anderson

Kellogg Community College
Baseball
Parents — Vince Anderson and Amy Bayyapunedi

Riley Ketchum

University of Olivet
Volleyball
Parent: Anna Ketchum

Naomi Pulliam

Wayne State University
Cheerleading
Parents — Erin Alexander-Bell and Leon Bell

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL

Latay'vion Braxton

Michigan Tech University
Football
Parents: Rochelle Braxton and Maurice Streeter

Calvin Green

University of Olivet
Football
Parent: Glenda George

Kadin Morrison

Adrian College
Football
Parents: Tabetha Morrison and Emmott Hall

Cole VanDam

Adrian College
Football
Parents: Kathy and Robert VanDam

Ivan Murillo

Albion College, Soccer
Parents: Adelina Torrez and Candido Murillo

Kian Parker

Aquinas College, Soccer
Parents: Rachel and Sean Parker

Jada Collins

Tennessee State University
Basketball
Parents: Kim and Khary Collins

Tayla Dillard

Wayne State University
Basketball
Parents: Ondrea Johnson and Thomas Dillard

Jayla Parker-Vincent

Glen Oaks Comm. College
Basketball
Parents: Jamilah and Pat Parker

Calisse Mena

Siena Heights University
Cheerleading
Parents: Gisselle and Chauncey Turman

Jasper Cane

Michigan State University
Cross Country and Track
Parents: Victoria and Timothy Cane

Emilee Rudlaff

Wayne State University
Cross Country and Track
Parents: Jennifer and Nicole Rudlaff

Bella Butler-Goodyke

Lake Michigan College
Volleyball
Parents: Christie Graziano and Adam Goodyke

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Tayla Dillard: 'Mental Toughness' Helps Her Excel in School and Sports

SOME PEOPLE give 100 percent. Tayla Dillard gives 1,000 percent.

Kalamazoo Central High School's Dillard scored an impressive 1,000 points during her four years on the KC varsity basketball team. Next fall, she will play basketball for Grand Valley State University, where she will attend on a full-ride scholarship and hopes to study early childhood education.

How does one reach 1,000 points? She said it's a matter of consistency. She averaged 17-19 points a game, every game, for four years. But the consistency goes back even further, she's been honing her game for about 14 years — since preschool.

"My whole family played basketball," said Dillard, 17. "They had me going to play ever since I was little. I have to thank them because it turned out well."

Mom Ondrea Johnson played basketball in high school, at Grand Rapids Community College and at Western Michigan University, while dad Thomas Dillard played for the University of Detroit Mercy and Western Michigan University.

Her older brother Thomas Dillard IV also played basketball, and she looked up to him and his friends. "I always want to beat them. I was always competitive with the boys." She still is. "I definitely believe that I'm better than him," she said with a laugh.

In basketball, she was two-time All State, two-time Academic All State, two-time all Conference and



Tayla Dillard will play basketball for Grand Valley in the fall.



Tayla Dillard, Kalamazoo Central 2024

two-time District champion. She was awarded the 2024 Female Iron Giant Award at KC.

Her father was her first coach and perhaps her main coach. "My confidence came from my dad. He pushes you. When you think you can't keep going, you keep going. At the end of the day he gave me the tough mental mindset. His motto is: 'No days off'.

"Eighty percent of the battle is mindset. If you don't think you'll get far in life you don't have that mindset."

Dillard said she can play any position on the court, but "I love shooting guard. I love the 2."

Another major coaching influence was KC coach Jason Plunkett, who would open the gym at all hours so Dillard could hone her skills. "He's unselfish. He really pushes the players." Plunkett also worked with coaches Nelly Smith and Jaime Gordon.

When Dillard wasn't on the basketball court, she could be found participating in other sports. She ran cross country and track, running the 400 and also participating in the high jump. She was a member of the National Honor Society, a trainer at a gym, and worked at Prevention Works and a local ice cream shop. She was a YWCA Young Woman of Achievement for 2024.

TAYLA'S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

“Do not compare yourself to others. We are all on our own journey. Focus on what you can control. I'm a big believer in your mindset. You can't control the situation, but you control how you react to things. Build a relationship with a teacher not just because of the class but because it will build you for life outside of Kalamazoo Central.”



"Kalamazoo Central helped build me up as a person. That mental toughness will help me get on in the world. It will help me in basketball and my studies."

An advertisement for METRO bus service. It features the METRO logo at the top, followed by the slogan "CATCH A RIDE WITH US!". Below this, it states "With 21 bus routes throughout Kalamazoo County, Metro takes you where you want to go!" and "See our website for route information and track your bus with the myStop Mobile app!". The contact information "KMETRO.COM • (269) 337 - 8222" is provided. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a red METRO bus with a "STOP" sign.

Jaykwon Noble: Hitting the Right Notes at Every Turn

JAYKWON NOBLE loves the sound of the viola, but music is more than just a sound for him.

"I just love music as a whole. I love the feeling other people get when they listen to me," said Noble, who just graduated from Loy Norrix High School. "When I play for my family, they say it's the most magical thing they've ever heard. That's my motivation, making people feel good with the music that I provide."

"There was this time when our quartet was playing for a homeless shelter," Noble said. "This one lady was pregnant and she burst into tears at the end of the concert saying, 'That was so wonderful. My baby is going to be a musician now.'"

Noble, 18, was born and raised in Kalamazoo and attended Milwood and Woodward elementary schools, Milwood Magnet School, and Norrix. This year he received a Young Artists Award from the Community Arts Awards.

He began playing viola in his elementary school orchestra program. Although he initially hoped for the cello, he loves his instrument for the opportunities it presents.

"We can play solos that were written for the cello and we can play the violin concertos," he said. "Violas are so versatile. I think that's what I love most about them."



Jaykwon Noble competed with Boundless Winter Guard.



Jaykwon Noble, Loy Norrix 2024

By sixth grade he realized he was kind of good at music and by eighth grade he began to think that he could pursue music professionally. He started taking private lessons during that period and made plans to join the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra.

His private teachers have included Jenna Love, who is now the orchestra teacher at Kalamazoo Central, and Nicholas Jeffrey, the assistant principal violist with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.

Another influential ensemble in his life has been Kalamazoo Kids in Tune (KKIT), a program of the KSO, which provides high-level, afterschool music instruction for children in Kalamazoo Public Schools.

JAYKWON'S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

“Don't stop before you start. Don't give up trying before you really try. If you think you're bad now, that's fine, there's always room to grow. We have to start somewhere.”



"I'm pretty sure my mom forced me to do it," he said. "I remember, at first, I didn't want to be there. I wanted to quit because everyone was better than I was. My grandma said, 'You can't quit. You've been playing for two years. You love music. You're staying.'"

He said the program is a great experience for those who love music but may not have the means to participate in music. The program provides lessons and instruments in a supportive environment that makes students feel accepted. Noble played with KKIT for several years before leaving to pursue other musical opportunities, but he is now back with them as a staff member working with younger students.

He joined the KJSO his freshman year. Not a great year for making music together because of Covid; they tried to perform together virtually using video and metronomes, but it was almost impossible. Today, he serves as principal viola for the KJSO.

Noble, who is the son of Christine Williams and the late Charles Noble, plans to attend the University of Michigan in the fall to study viola performance. The grandmother who refused to let him quit KKIT is Lynda Parker.

While at Loy Norrix, Noble also performed with the band playing saxophone and French horn. He was also involved in Boundless Winter Guard, a competitive color guard program that draws students from across West Michigan.

Aliah Ward: Going for the Gold

LOY NORRIX 2024 graduate Aliah Ward received her Girl Scout Gold Award, an accomplishment few girls achieve. The Gold Award is akin to the Boy Scout Eagle Award.

To earn the Gold Award, the scout must complete a Take Action project that includes five elements. It must address the root cause of an issue the scout feels passionate about, have a national or global tie, demonstrate leadership, create a sustainable impact and create a measurable impact.

Ward, 18, raised community awareness about health issues by organizing a 5K run and elementary school health program, all of which is impressive on its own. But in addition, Ward took a unique approach to creating a sustainable impact: She has turned the story about her project into a children's book called "Aliah Goes for the Gold," which was released in May.

"It describes my experience in the Girl Scouts and talks about going for your dreams and going for what you're passionate about," said Ward.

Ward said she's always wanted to write a book and did not find the process difficult. She was able



Aliah Ward earned a prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award.



Aliah Ward, Loy Norrix 2024

to tap into another one of her community activities to accomplish her goal, receiving editing and publishing guidance from Sonya Bernard-Hollins, a published author, editor, and director of the Merze Tate Explorers, an empowerment and travel group for girls.

Ward is the daughter of KPS teachers Cherise and Atiba Ward. She was named a 2024 YWCA Young Woman of Achievement and was named an AP Scholar in her junior year. She attended Arcadia Elementary and Linden Grove Middle School in addition to Norrix. This fall, she will attend Western Michigan University on a full-ride Medallion Scholarship. She hopes to eventually go to medical school to become a pediatrician or a dermatologist.

Girl Scouts was only one of Ward's many activi-

ties during high school. She also played flute and piccolo in the marching band, was on the tennis team and volleyball teams, served in the Student Senate, and was involved in Link Crew and the National Honor Society. And she served on the medical ministry at her church, Bible Baptist.

Although only a high school student, she has been fully committed to pursuing her interests in medicine. She participated in the Kalamazoo RESA Career & Technical Education program in biomedical sciences, through which she became a certified Patient Care Technician.

"I thought I wanted to go into a health field," Ward said. "I wanted to see if I really wanted to do it. I got a lot more hands-on experience than you experience in a lot of classes."

She also participated in a CTE for business, for which she was named an Outstanding Senior this year. Ward has also gone to state and national competitions for DECA, a business club for high school students.

ALIAH'S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

“Join things you're passionate about — don't join things just because your friends are doing it. Lots of people say try EVERYTHING, that's a good piece of advice. Keep an open mind to where you want to go. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. It's OK to relax, mess up and learn from it.”



Congratulations!

Allen McGhee, KILP Administrator Kim Kirshman, Sarah Byrd, Isabella Shepherd, Adeline Ulmer, Hope Escobedo and Carla Bravo share a moment on the Chenery stage before the KILP commencement.



Mahanna Blakley and Miyah Ford pose cute before the start of the Phoenix High School commencement.



Best of luck to 2024 Loy Norrix graduates Celeste Perez-Castro, Mariona Moore, Arely Castro.



Aija Gardner and dad Ajamian Gardner, principal of Phoenix High School, share a moment before the Central graduation.



Gracelyn Moore took a moment to shine in the sun before the Phoenix graduation.



Sage Schrader, Jordan Flores-Nunez, Clarence McCants, Valentin H Sienna Thompson smile for a graduate selfie at Wings Event Center.



Staci McNally smiles with pride at the Adult Education 2024 graduation.



Bahram Shahi and Salar Mobarez laugh as they practice the diploma hand-off and handshake using a mortarboard.



Keira Casey-Higgins, left, and class valedictorian Odessa Clemente await their turn to march into the arena for the Loy Norrix 2024 commencement.



Devin Webster and dad KPS Donald Webster.



Aries Hobson, Isabella Ramsdell, Naliyah Hayes take a break from the preparations to pose for a photo at the Norrix graduation at Wings Event Center.

ON THE FRONT COVER

From upper left: KILP 2024 graduates Taj Harris and James Jennings; KC 2024 graduates Sidney Mack, Ava Ortiz, Leah Girouard, Camille Sommers, Clementine Urness and Elle Beebe; LN 2024 graduates Emmett Rademacher, Tomokai Timmer, John Maxson, Noah Allen and Samuel Bistrek; and Phoenix 2024 graduates Stacy Vargas-Garcia, Abwe Majaliwa, Donatie Majaliwa, Sami Daoud and Bilali Selemani.



Atlas Brooks and Emilee Rudlaff represent the National Honor Society well at the Kalamazoo Central graduation.



Tiara Boyd strikes a happy pose as she waits for the start of the Phoenix graduation.



ernandez, Ruby Berg, Chloe Rathbun, er.



2024 Phoenix graduates gather to celebrate, from left; Erik Salazar-Martinez, Jovanny Mosqueda, Mayte Rodriguez-Duarte, Andre Pena Perez, Aaron Gallardo, and Cesar Calderon.



Chief of Security



Emelia Bertch was perhaps the most colorful Phoenix graduate.



Eduardo Ricardo and Carter Gonzalez are ready for the Loy Norrix 2024 commencement.



JaVon Wilson proudly displays his honors at the Kalamazoo Central 2024 commencement.

Loy Norrix High School 2024 Graduates

Abate, Ava Rosemarie
 Achenbach, Max Karis
 Aguilar Rivera, Oswaldo
 Albachard, Issene Mahamat
 Albertson, Liam James
 Alhamwi, Sidra Bassam
 Ali, Muhammad Zain
 Allen, Noah Amir
 Almufti, Jasim Daniel
 Alvarado, Neiyang Angeli
 Alvarez, Mayalena Nicole
 Anderson, Isaiah Alan
 Atkins Woodard, Jackson Lamar
 Atkinson, Isaac Allan
 Atkinson, Simon Allan
 Balden, Ezra Samuel Carter
 Baldwin, Gage Aiden Matthew
 Bankhead, A'Tianna Antionette
 Banks, Daniel Jermaine
 Barber, AaRika Jeanette Lanaee Alise
 Bardo, Audrey Savannah
 Barrett, Oscar Ringle
 Belknap, Ava Marie
 Bell, Marcell Lynnwebb
 Belson, Kyle Henry
 Berg, Ruby MaKena
 Berlin, Maxwell Joseph
 Bernstein, Krystiana Bre
 Bettison, Brooke Lorraine
 Bistrek, Samuel E
 Bloodworth, Malik Lasalle
 Bol, Bridgette Ann
 Bowers, Ahlexius Sue-Anne
 Bradley, McKenna Haley
 Brockman, Colton Clinton
 Burns, A'Mya Nashae
 Burse, Elyssa Grace
 Caldwell, Kamryn Drew
 Carr, DaNolan James
 Carrier, Thomas Glenn
 Carson, Tierra Ranae
 Carter, Cormondre Charles-Lee
 Casey-Higgins, Keira Angel
 Castro, Arelly Evelyn
 Cervantes-Rosillo, Emily
 Chapin, Maddox Ryan
 Chapman, Vivienne Ione
 Ciokajlo, Sophia Rose
 Clark, Maximus Michael
 Clark, Ohmaz Jefferson
 Clemente, Odessa Persephone
 Cole, Prayla Pearl
 Coleman, Chauncy Morris
 Conolly, Hunter Michael

Cortez Gomez, Bily Trabis
 Cross, Nia Marie
 Cruz Antonio, Itzel Mayeily
 Davis, Braeden Daniel
 Davis, Chloe Elizabeth
 Davis, Samuel William
 Dawson, Te'ya Nevaeh Lee
 DeAnda, Sophia Lynn
 Delzer, Christian Alexander
 DeMorrow, Lucianna Renee
 Dodge, A.J.
 Dolan, John J
 Doren, Emma Kathleen
 Dorko, Chase Joseph
 Doubleblestein, Catherine Rose
 Douma, Jansen Jay
 Dubois, Megan Joy
 Duffy, Nora Therese
 Dunigan, Anysiah Key'ara
 Dunning, Lauren Grace
 Eggleston, Amaya Jaelynn
 Essink, Isabella Ruth
 Etter, Seth Damien-Michael
 Evans, Amira Delise
 Evans, TyRay Vaness
 Evergreen, Byce Namaste
 Ewing, Daniel DePrez
 Figueroa, Isabella Lily
 Flores-Nunez, Jordan
 Fonseca-Jersild, Maya Cate
 Fooy, David Dominick
 Frankart, Lucas Andrew
 Frazier, Myles Jahdai
 Freeman, Sierra Alize'
 Fries, Brayden Michael Raymond
 Fuerst, Annabelle Halsey
 Garcia, Amy Jaqueline
 Garcia, Kelly Wendolyn
 Garcia, Stephanie Ashley
 Glas, Natalie Lynn
 Gombosi, Morgann Blaire
 Gombosi, Nolan Thomas
 Gone', Aliandra Marie
 Gonzalez, Alize-Jauda Marie
 Gonzalez, Carter David
 Gougam, Amelia Shiraz Nessrine
 Graham, Samuel Talmadge
 Gunn, Kasandra Lynn
 Guthrie, Grace Marie
 Guy, Malik Karega
 Haider, Jawad
 Hall, Ethan Lang
 Hanks, Chloe Aniyah
 Harrison, Jaelyn Eve
 Hassler, Zachariah Hunter Benjamin



Loy Norrix students enter Wings Event Center for commencement.

Hayes, Naliyah Unique
 Hayworth, Austin Louis
 Hearn, Micco Alexander
 Hemmer, Isaac Townes
 Hernandez, Valentin Alvani
 Hiscock, Zachary Alexander
 Hobson, Aries Nassere Dottsion
 Hobson, Imani Joy
 Hodshire, Nathan Wayneong
 Hodson, Zaiden Charles
 Hogan, Canaan Zachery
 Holm, Nina Patel
 Holtz, Abigail Elizabeth
 Houslander, Alexander Joshua
 Huckabee, Clara Kamene
 Huerta, Xavier
 Huff, Emma Mae
 Huntley, Cedric Lamont
 Isacksen, Amelia Kathryn
 Isidoro-Martinez, Neyda
 Jackson, Amalia Ann
 Jackson, Amir Mikel
 Jackson, Caleb E
 Jackson, DaRius Kahlige
 Jackson, McKenzie Alexa
 James, A.J.
 James, Charles Galdina
 Jamieson, Jack Thomas
 Jefferies, Franklin Stein
 Jennings, Jamiah Chanelle Antionette
 Jimenez-Mujica, Jobany

Johnson, Justin Omarr
 Johnson, Micah Jamall
 Johnson, Whysper Desire
 Ketchum, Riley Marie
 Kinsler, Wilkenson Reed
 Kipp, Alexander James
 Kleber, Reznor Wilson
 Kolasinski, Alex
 Kutzko, Charles Daniel Paulson
 Lago, Bailey Leigh
 Lamar, Tamia Jean-Marie
 Langerveld, Lucy Kate
 Lark, Lenayah A
 Leake, Ahlycea Mae
 Lee, Sahnaya Machelly-Yvonne
 Leese, Candra Lynn
 Lewis, Kailyn Randi
 Liggins, Keyshawn Dontrell
 Lignan, Alexander Rearden
 Lo, Dady Mamadou
 Lockett, Kennedy Zaniah Caprice
 Loiselle, Ethan Rodolphe
 Loken, Mallory Kate
 Loncharte, Margaret Marie
 Long, Kiano James
 Lopez, Bryan Joel
 Lukwaro, Zawadi Aron
 Luna, Angel
 Mahamat, Assene
 Mahar, Grace Ella
 Mancinas-Soto, Daniel
 Mansberger, Milo Jefferson

Marcial, Dominic Tomas
 Marcinkowski, Brianna Nickole
 Markland, Mathiu Alexander
 Martinez Maldonado, Tristan Xavier
 Martinez, Doris Vania
 Matheny, Cleah Cincere
 Maxson, John Henry
 Mazei-Puing, Sofia Alisz
 McBride, Isaiah Wayne
 McCants, Clarence Latravion
 McCrea, Keiara Marie
 McKibbin, Ethan Noel
 Mejia-Guerra, Brandon
 Meskil, Meadow Orchid
 Mickel, Marley Ameliabelle Lee
 Miller, Cameron Jade
 Mims, Noah Malachi
 Mintz, Gideon Atugah
 Moghrabi, Rami
 Moncrief, Nia Simone
 Mongeau-Harris, Jada Lane
 Moon, Beckett Wilde
 Moore, Mariona Enette
 Morales-Amates, Emely Lisandra
 Morata, Natalie Athena
 Muanda, Alphine Nzinga
 Murphy, Alason Lindsay
 Murphy, William Walden
 Newsome, Arman Edgar
 Newton, Cash Walter

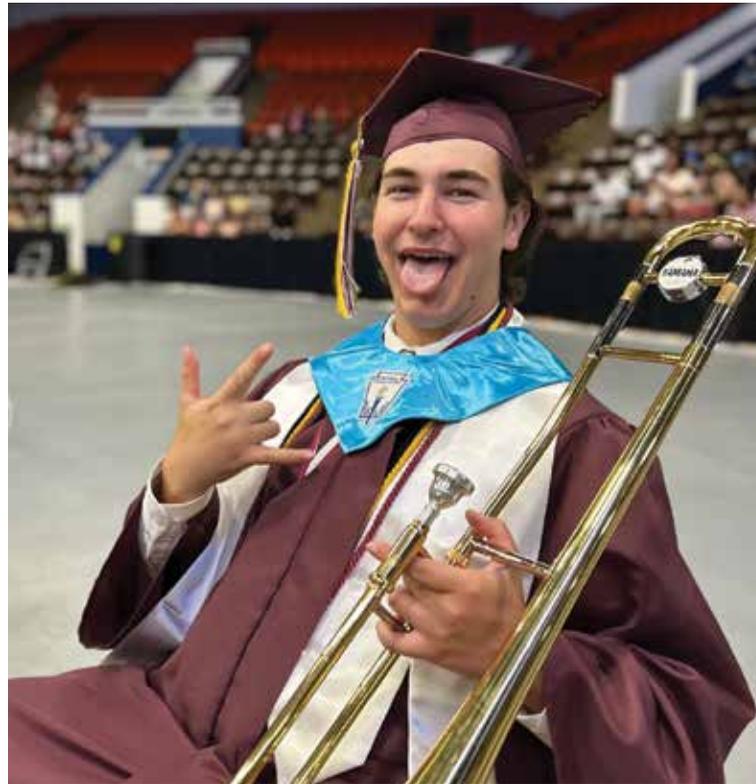
Nilsson, Riley Caelinn
 Noble, Jaykwon Rahiem
 Nonato, Cristian
 Nuyen, McKenzie Renee
 Nwokenta, Ezinna
 Partee, Jordyn Olyvia
 Perez-Castro, Celeste
 Perrin, Natalia Antonia Rose
 Perry, Kaya Mahalia
 Pickett, Ella Marie
 Pinto, Arturo
 Pirochta, Owen Kenneth
 Porco, Emily Theresa
 Potts, Nicholas Eric
 Preston, Michael James
 Primer, Danielle Kamari
 Pritchett, Jordan
 Prolo, Gavin Spencer
 Prolo, Rachel Renee
 Pulliam, Naomi Tyia
 Qaderi, Rahim
 Rademacher, Emmett Joseph
 Ramirez-Asbeury, Fernando Jose
 Ramos, Emma Evangeline
 Ramsdell, Isabella Marie
 Randle, Rylan Hudson
 Ransom, Annalise Maple May
 Rathbun, Chloe Augustine
 Raymundo, Litzy
 Reeves, Zoe Alta
 Reyes-Armijo, Jazmin Edith
 Reyes-Soto, Stephanie
 Reyes, Magali Judith
 Rhodes, Issac Dean
 Ricardo-Ramirez, Isabel
 Ricardo, Eduardo R
 Rivera, Aaron Uriel
 Robinson, Jasmine Shiree
 Rodriguez, Benjamin Joshua
 Rose, Everett William
 Ross, Ender Christopher
 Russell, Johnathon William Charles
 Salazar, Selena
 Sanchez-Adunas, Kimberly Surelvis
 Sandifer, Talahn James Hale
 Santiago Cruz, Isai Horeb
 Santos-Pye, Isabella Rose
 Schabes, Abbygail Marie
 Schabes, Alyssa Jane
 Schrader, Shiloh Ashbury
 Schultheiss, Tye
 Sedore, Alexandra Jean
 Selemanni, Henry
 Semane, Soulymane

Shaina, Julienne
 Shaker, Sundus Hamza
 Shear, Andrew Michael
 Slater-Reese, Donesha Ashley
 Smith, Jay'Nyah A
 Smith, Kaliah Kay
 Smith, Morgan Renee
 Snyder, Joshua Giovanni
 Stangl, Ella Catherine
 Strom, Brandon Joseph
 Strong-Morse, McLevy Robin
 Suarez, Katherine Elise
 Tanveer, Zainab
 Teal, Aaron Morgan
 Tellez, Nomi Gael
 Terzino, Ellen Grace
 Teske, Polly Rose
 Thomas, Austin Jay
 Thomas, Charlii Joice
 Thomas, Nateya Rewbin
 Thompson, London Marie
 Thompson, Sienna Harmony
 Timmer, Tomokai Toyoda
 Torres-Lopez, Adan
 Torres, Fransisco Alejandro
 Treadwell, Brian Christopher
 Tule, Hector
 Tuley, Alexandra Suzanne
 Tyler, Sam
 Velo, Josephine Elizabeth
 Verne, Miriam A
 Vigiletti-Germain, Gabriel Perry
 Walker, Geremu William
 Ward, Aliah Chantae
 Watts, Trevor Maxwell
 Webster, Brooklyn Jai
 Wedge, Alana Nicole
 Westervelt, Kallista
 Westrick, Hana Helena
 White, N'quay Von Nicholas
 White, Tenaja Tamara
 Wiessner, Lauren Elizabeth
 Williams, Ethan Henry
 Williams, Shi'onnia Nicol Ann
 Wilson, Jazlynae Alleena
 Winchester, Cyrus John
 Windsor, Charlotte Adele
 Wireman, Brooke June
 Wood, Amelia Sue
 Woodard, Shiare Angelia Marie
 Worthy, Sade Noelle
 Wrzesinski, Sophia Irene
 Yarber, Bravione Lynntrell
 Zajac, Aidan Michael
 Zmick-Furno, Hannah Jo

Kalamazoo Central High School 2024 Graduates

Abbott, Ayden Chevon
 Akhidenor, Alex Ehijie
 Al Hariri, Omar Mohammed Khir
 Alhasan, Hala Emad
 Allen, Kaylee Bree
 AlNajjar, Soube'e
 Alsaedi, Hazim Hatem H.
 Anderson, Clarise Denise
 Anderson, Eddie Isaiah
 Andrick, Jaelyn Aiyana
 Atkinson, Clark Jacob
 Awad, Omar M
 Axtell, Payton Jack
 Ayotte, Ethan Lewis
 Baareman, Alexis Mae
 Bade, Stuart Wingate
 Baiyewu, Renee Omonike
 Bakhuyzen, Rebecca Annaliese
 Barnes, Ava Lyric
 Barr, Brody William
 Barrett, Asher Stewart
 Beebe, Elle Christie Irene
 Bell, Martez Jermonnie
 Bennett, Samiyah Marisa Marie
 Berrospi, Esteban Joseph
 Berry, Janiya Ashia
 Bickel, Deidre Rochelle
 Biddle, Kaden Wesley
 Binning, Ella Kathryn
 Biskie, Ransom David
 Blake, Nia Savannah
 Blink, Amber Lynn
 Bol, Allison Catherine
 Boussom, Jude Allan
 Boyd, Mekhi Edward
 Brack, Natalie Katelyn
 Bragg, Amardre
 Braxton, Latay'vion Marcell
 Brooks, Mackenzie Elizabeth
 Brooks, Stella Marie
 Brown, Cohran Ezeria
 Brown, Corinthian Hezekia
 Brown, Kennedy Madison
 Brown, La'Trayvion Deontae
 Bult, Bretton Thomas
 Burcroff, Hannah Grace
 Bush, Akeelah K
 Butler-Goodyke, Bella Grace
 Byler, Isaac David
 Cajero, Christopher
 Calvin, Demarquey J
 Campbell, Benjamin Corde'
 Cane, Jasper Stephan
 Carter, Zjane' M.D.
 Castaneda, Amy Samantha

Castaneda, Camila
 Castillo-Castaneda, Emiliano
 Cermak, Dannica
 Chaudhry, Yasmeen Aaliyah
 Clark, Nariah
 Clay, Aniyah Tamara
 Cohoon, Amelia Ryann
 Cole, Jason Lee
 Coleman, T'mon La'kwan
 Collins, Jada Danielle
 Cook, Nicholas Wade
 Cottick, Liberty Jo
 Crum, Anna Elizabeth
 Davis, Avre'auna Shereese
 Davis, Taylor R
 DeLeeuw, Drake David
 DeLeeuw, Jonah Kirk
 Dhanaraj, Sean Poling
 Diaz-Chalas, Ramil Jaret
 Dillard, Tayla Carolease
 Donaldson, Raeshon Anthony
 Dunigan, Jamiere Makaio
 Dunigan, Layosha Zara
 Durr, Ceyontay Darnell
 Ellenberger, Owen Fisher Ireland
 Ellis, Sebastian Wayne-Lashawn
 Evans, Abigail Elizabeth
 Evans, Ar'Marrion Odonis
 Evans, Nathaniel John
 Eversole, Amery Kathryn
 Faber, Isabelle
 Faworski, Bonham Meussling
 Felmeden, Nathan Alan
 Figueroa, Jose Isaac
 Finjap, Marion Dada
 Flegal, Allison Sue
 Foster, Jonathan E
 Fraaza, Elleghia
 Frank, Natalie Nashay
 Furcron, Maurice N
 Gaines, Na'Quariah Gene
 Gardner, Aija M
 Ghazal, Nora
 Gheen, Chase Webster
 Gill, Kemaury
 Gillish, Caitlin Rose
 Girouard, Leah Ann
 Glenn, Armand Edward
 Glenn, Daveion Shannon
 Goding-Gary, Bryce Bataan
 Gonzalez, Jesus Eduardo
 Gould, Chaise Lee
 Green-Underwood, Chevaye Michelle



KC band member Payton Axtell adds his signature humor to the graduation festivities.

Green, Calvin Earl
 Gross, Kathleen Frances
 Hager, Leelah Grace
 Hahn-Scott, Lily
 Haidari, Ali Reza
 Hamby, Sadaya Evengela
 Haneckow, Nathan Tyler
 Hanson, Madison Lei
 Hardy, Rannelle
 Haskell, Devin Marcus
 Haskins, Ella Elizabeth
 Hauser, Saige Ainsley
 Hawkes, Isaiah Joseph
 Hawkins, Zion Allen
 Henderson, Cody L
 Hendrix, Thurston William
 Herwick, Esai Daniel Tijerina
 Hess, Joseph-Lucy Timothy
 Hirwa, Caleb Enock
 Hodgkins, Rebekah Claire
 Hollin, Desire Milan
 Holloway, Na'Jiyah Aneesha-Zeyanna
 Howard, Jade Lynette
 Howard, Sydney M
 Hudson, Kennedy Alexis
 Hunsinger, James Amari Joyce

Hunsinger, Lucas
 Hurtado-Ramirez, Brenda Esmeralda
 Irankunda, Justin
 Ishimwe, Christian
 Jaber, Alya Damous
 Jaber, Khadra Majed
 James, Amareil
 Jeronimo-Cabrera, Reynaldo
 Johansen, Tiann Josine
 Johnson, Janiya Marie
 Johnson, Levi Samuel
 Johnson, Na'Omi Latrise
 Jones, Cooke'e Rebecca
 Jones, Elaysha Ta'Niya Cha'Reille
 Jones, Jerah Nicole
 Jones, Micah Sivad
 Jones, Sienna Shyanne
 Kelley, Kenneth Sherman
 King, Andrew James
 Kirk, Zachrey Thomas
 Kloosterman, Michael Alessandro
 Kostrzewa, Amenech Nora Marie Boto
 Kragt, Perrin Paul
 Kucharzyk, Catherine Ava

Kuhnert, Lucas Ronald
 Kwei, Jayden
 Lamphiear, Emily Catheryn-Isabelle
 Laster, Ayla Stephanie
 Lewis, Derrick Ronelle Shawn
 Lockett, Jamier Dupree
 Lopez, Lizbet Marie
 Lueckert, Aidan Lee
 Luwela, Mulenda
 Macharia, Devin Austin
 Mack, Sidney Theresa
 Maneke, Allyson Grace
 Marion, Rohan David
 Mariscal, Joseph Damien
 Marlowe, David Lee
 Matthews, Mya Camille Nicole
 Maxwell, Jasia Lisa-Ann
 McCants, Corey Lamont
 McLean, Mya Paige
 McNees, Emma Riley
 Mena, Calisse Delma
 Mengi, Grace Baraka
 Mepyans, Anna Heather
 Mick, Alana Shea
 Mileski, Abigail Rose

Miller, Kaitlyn Marie
 Miller, Nevaeh Aryanna
 Mitchell, Sarah Marie
 Moak, Angelina Marie
 Mohmand, Aliah LaVanway
 Moore, NaKirra Grace
 Murillo, Ivan
 Murphy, Kenneth Cordell
 Murray, DeKent
 Nabors, Trinity Lily
 Nash, Alexandra Louise
 Ngena, Mauwa
 Nichols, David Terry
 Olagbemi, Oluwaseun O
 Ortiz, Ava Grace
 Osuki, Neifo Dion
 Ott, Teague
 Outlaw, Amyzia Ajanye
 Overbeek, Christian Mason
 Palm, Jaymee
 Palmitessa, Lukas Daniel
 Parker-Vincent, Jayla Ann
 Parker, Kian Jackson
 Paulik, Anthony Joseph
 Payten, Marcus Jaundall
 Perkins, Kaitlin Johana-Marie
 Petrowsky, Michael James
 Phillips, Caleb David
 Phillips, Kadence McKenzie
 Pritchett, Talis
 Pullins, Jason James
 Purnell, Jharvis
 Raab, Rip Connor
 Raines, Jacari
 Rasool, Reem Ammad
 Reese, Kaleah Michelle
 Robinson, Brent Douglas William
 Rolland, Yahemiah Yisrael
 Rook, Autumn Jean
 Rudlaff, Aiden Robert
 Rudlaff, Emilee Lynn
 Rustamova, Roziya
 Ruth, Murisa
 Sabato, Ngabo
 Salahudin Al-Gharib, Rashid Abdur-Rahim
 Sanders, King-Nasir Elijah
 Sanusi, Rayyan
 Scheenstra, Ethan Joseph
 Scheinker, Olivia Judith
 Schwartz, Ruby Eloise
 Scott, Ny'shawn Lamark
 Shelton, LaDanien George Campos
 Sims, Lauren Rachelle

Slack, Daytona Marie
 Smith, Da'Vionna
 Smith, Georgia Lorraine
 Smith, Mariah Sanah
 Smith, Samiyah Lanae
 Smith, Tyvohn Latavian
 Snell, Le'Aujanique N
 Sommers, Camille Lauren
 Spoelstra, Elliot Thomas
 Stafford, Roxane Jolene
 Start, Ava Lindsey
 Stravers-Smith, Jayden
 Streeter, Brandon Dean
 Streeter, Matthew Michael
 Sullivan, Isaac Benjamin
 Symko, Ethan Thomas
 Tarsha, Ghayth Ahmad
 Tatara, Wallace John
 Tayara, Abdullah
 Tayara, Omar
 Thokar Tamang, Pratik
 Thomas, Paris Elise
 Thuringer, James Wallace
 Toliver, Bashir Rashad
 Torres Ventura, Melanie
 Torres, Jose Arturo
 Turner, Kaniya Taliyah
 Urness, Clementine Elizabeth Keiser
 VanDam, Robert Cole
 Vargas-Montoya, Estefany
 Vasquez, Marissa
 Vega, Alessandro Yoandry
 Velasco-Garcia, Coral Frances
 Verma, Ritika
 Vincent, Savannah Sue
 Ware, Ryan Elijah
 Washington, Duwan Isiah
 Watson, Shaniya Marie Evon
 Webster, Devin Demetrius
 Webster, Ian Daedelus
 White, Arlandus Rene
 Wilborn, She'Ron Amir
 Williams, Adonnas Reese
 Williams, Brian Giorgio
 Williams, Jayda Kilynmarie
 Williams, Jehshanti T
 Williams, Victoria Lynn Marie
 Willis, Airyanna Shaelyn-Marie
 Willoughby, Sean Phillip
 Wilson, Andre Michael
 Wilson, JaVon Ezra-Lemont
 Winters, Carter Edward
 Zabib, Tasnim Ahmad

Micco Hearn: Overcoming the Challenges of Covid to Thrive

MICCO HEARN was the quintessential Covid kid.

The end of eighth grade, schools closed and he was happy to be at home. When school did resume, it was online. He chose the self-paced school model, which required him to set the pace for his own learning.

“It seemed easy at first,” he said. “You had to read the textbooks and answer questions.”

But soon, he’d start reading and then get distracted, thinking about other things. And then the tests didn’t go so well. That led to frustration, and as he fell behind, he started to focus on only one class a trimester.

Not surprisingly — except maybe to Micco — when it came to the end of his freshman year he had earned a whopping two credits for the entire year.

“I was a little worried. I thought I did more than that,” he says with the shake of his head and a wry smile.

His counselor assured him that he had not done more than that — but she also gave him a ray of hope. If he applied himself to his classes when they returned to in-person learning and committed to taking summer



Micco Hearn, Loy Norrix 2024

classes, he could still graduate on time.

Doing well wasn’t hard when attending classes in real life, he said. “It was refreshing to work in person again. It was nice to have a teacher actually teaching you. Also, it was nice to have other people in class.”

Hearn said that Covid didn’t affect him socially. A gamer, he was able to stay in contact with friends through online gaming. Returning to school, gaming became an even bigger part of his social life, when he became a member of the Loy Norrix E-Sports team playing Super Smash Bros. competitively. The team took fourth place in the state last year.

“It’s nice to put my skills to use and to get recognition for it,” he said.

At Loy Norrix, he wasn’t content to stay

MICCO’S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

“High school isn’t as scary as you think it will be. The teachers made it really nice.”

within the realm of video games. He also participated in the Loy Norrix Rock Climbing club and found a surprising home in the choir room. Choir was placed on his schedule and, “I got scared immediately. I didn’t want to sing in front of people at all.” He thought about changing his schedule but found he liked it — and he especially liked choir teacher Marisa Berg.

“She’s a great teacher, really fun,” he said. “She’s like a school mom to me.”

He also appreciated AP English teacher Brianna English, who he said really knew the curriculum and did everything she could to ensure her students would succeed.

Hearn is the son of LaShonda Goodwin and Osceola Hearn. He attended Prairie Ridge Elementary School and Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. He plans to attend Western Michigan University in the fall.

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Micco Hearn competes in Super Smash Bros. as part of the Norrix e-sports team.

Eddie Anderson IV: Working to Create a Climate for Change

EDDIE ANDERSON is concerned about the environment, but especially about how environmental issues and climate change are impacting the African American community.

Anderson, 17, recently graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School and will be attending Howard University in the fall on a full-ride scholarship through the Karsh STEM Program. Although he considered going to Stanford University, ultimately he decided to attend a school where he could feel comfortable as a Black scholar and develop the skills and confidence to further his career.

Anderson, 17, is the son of Alexis Plair and Eddie Anderson III. As a Kalamazoo Central student for the last four years, he has focused on science and environmental interests — although also finding time to play saxophone in marching, concert and jazz bands; serving as president of DECA, an extracurricular that focuses on business skills; trying the robotics and engineering Career & Technical Education program; joining the French and multicultural clubs, and participating in volunteer work such as the NHS's Black Community Awareness Committee.

“At Central I joined the KC Earth Changers (KCEC) my sophomore year,” he said. “I was already planning to go into something focused on the environment, like engineering or environmental sciences. I think that really pushed me to choose chemical engineering after my internship with the American Chemical Society, because it’s a cross between different systems of engineering.”

This year he served as a co-leader of KCEC and helped implement recycling bins at the school and worked to create a butterfly garden at LaCrone Park.

Growing up, he always felt connected to the environment.

“Being outside made me a calmer person and more connected to the earth in general,” Anderson said. “Seeing issues with climate change and how it affects the Black community disproportionately made me want to fight climate change and bring awareness of these issues to the Black community.”

“I feel like a lot of issues in our community are overlooked and not really told to the people that



Kalamazoo Central graduate Eddie Anderson IV played saxophone in marching, concert, and jazz bands.



Eddie Anderson IV will attend Howard University in the fall. The 2024 Kalamazoo Central graduate will be pursuing chemical engineering.

are being most affected.”

One of the KCEC activities he participated in last year was a lobbying session at the U.S. Capitol.

“That was a cool experience,” he said. “It got me to see the legislative side of things because I’m more focused on the science and engineering. It made me realize that without proper legislation there wouldn’t be too much of a change.”

And, while he will be working on the problem from a chemical engineering perspective, he is also prepared to work on the communication about the issue

EDDIE’S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

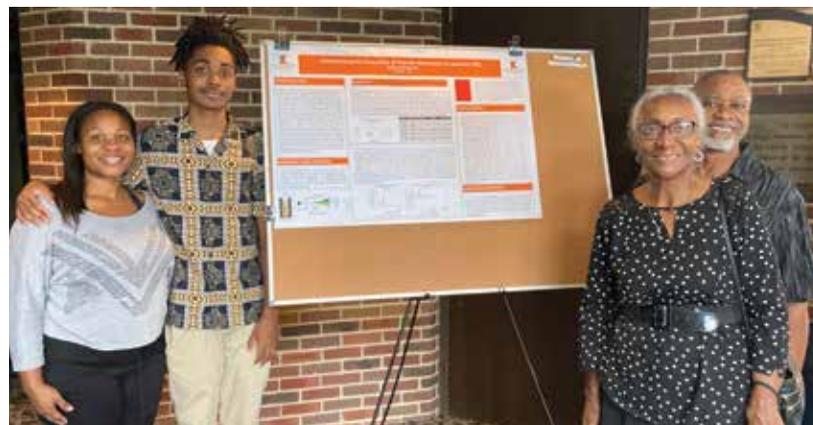
“Definitely look forward to your future. Try mapping out some of your years with classes and course credits. Choose electives that focus on what you may want to do in the future. If you’re not sure, explore different classes. Don’t just take classes your friends are taking. Try to step out of your shell. Speak up in class. Socialize and definitely join clubs. Athletics are great, but try to join some academic clubs as well.”



— with older adults and his peers.

“I do feel like more of the older generation may be less prone to listen, but this year I got to work with a group called Ardea International,” which is dedicated to helping businesses understand their responsibilities to address sustainability in business practices as well as human rights. “We did a lot of protests and got involved in the community.”

“I think our generation realizes they’re allowed to care and to bring up the topic and issues. I feel they’re opening their eyes and thinking about how actions and support can help with environmental sustainability.”



Kalamazoo Central student Eddie Anderson with his mother Alexis Plair and his grandparents Patricia and Alexander Plair along side his presentation as part of the American Chemical Society SEED program for young scientists.

Braeden Davis: Discovering Himself By Transforming Into Others

YOU MIGHT know Braeden Davis by any number of personas: Good-natured cowboy, empathetic law school teaching assistant; playwright extraordinaire; heart-broken beast; raucous twins (boy and girl).

Those are just a few of the roles he's tackled as a young actor in Kalamazoo. Now, he's ready for his next big role: musical theater college student at the University of Michigan, starting next fall. He won the spot in the U of M program through a highly competitive audition process.

But, he is used to competing. He's won numerous awards in forensics, including several Best in State prizes. Earlier this month, he won a Sutton Foster Award for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role in a high school production for his role of Curly in Loy Norrix's recent production of "Oklahoma!" As the winner, he is traveling to New York City to compete in the National High School Musical Theater Awards, known as the Jimmy Awards.

Davis is the son of Julie and Asa Davis. He attended Winchell Elementary and Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts.

Davis, who recently graduated from Loy Norrix High School, appeared in the Norrix productions of "Theory of Relativity," "Something Rotten," "And Then There Were None," "Legally Blonde," "Almost Maine," and "Oklahoma!" He also built an impressive resume of performances at the Barn Theatre, Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium, Centerstage Theatre, and the Kindleberger Arts Summer Festival.

The performing arts were the focus of his high



Braeden Davis, Loy Norrix 2024, as Curly in "Oklahoma!"



Braeden Davis played Emmett in Norrix's production of "Legally Blonde."

BRAEDEN'S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

“Really pay attention to what you actually enjoy, not what you think would provide the highest financial outcome or what you think would make someone else happy. Really find what brings you joy because I guarantee there is some sort of spot for you in the world doing that.”



the obvious part. You learn this role and you research it and put it into action. Over the eight-week rehearsal process you find what works for that role.”

But there's more. “In terms of social growth and personal growth, you grow really close with your cast mates. You learn about them and how to work with other people. You learn about yourself, what your mannerisms are and how you approach something. It can be rigorous because you put yourself into it,” he said.

“You can learn so much about your work ethic. You learn how to take direction, and even if you're not going to do theater, it's a really good quality to have.”

When he wasn't doing shows, he was still performing. His other major activity was forensics, where he participated in events such as multiples, storytelling and duos. When he wasn't taking to the stage as a performer in forensics, he was serving as captain to help coach other students and help them find pieces to perform. He took his coaching and directing skills to the stage, serving as assistant director on “Almost, Maine.”

He loves the collaborative nature of that work, but he also uses it as an opportunity to expand his skills as a performer. “When you watch other people, you find different things to critique yourself on,” he said.

school career, and he doesn't regret a moment of it.

“Pretty much late September through December we have an eight-week rehearsal process which ends when we put on a show, and in January and February we put on a play.”

He loves the rehearsal process and what it teaches him.

“Doing a show is the most growth I've ever experienced in a three- to eight-week period,” Davis said. “There's growth as a performer. That's

Jashawn James: Teacher Support and Perseverance Lead to Success

SOMETIMES the path to success is not straight, and in that case it takes a deep sense of commitment and perseverance to make it to the end.

And, the right guidance, to find success.

For Jashawn James, who graduated this year, finding a home in the Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP), helped him find the inner direction and strength to make it to the graduation finish line.

James struggled at Loy Norrix High School for several years, repeating one grade multiple times.

“A lot of that came from me not wanting to go to school, me not wanting to sit in class all day, every day, me not wanting to do my work,” he said. “I was just very unmotivated.”

His mother suggested that he try KILP, which had been successful for his sister. The hybrid program with online modules and heavy teacher support turned out to be the right place for him.

Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center 2024 KPS Graduates

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who completed their studies at their home high schools as well as the advanced math and science curriculum at the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

LOY NORRIX

Vivienne Chapman

College: Michigan Technological University

Byce Evergreen

College: University of Michigan

Dominick Fooy

College: Kalamazoo College

Reznor Kleber

College: Michigan Technological University

Maggie Loncharte

College: Northern Michigan University

Alexandra Sedore

College: University of Michigan

Ella Stangl

College: University of Michigan

Brandon Strom

College: Kalamazoo College

Kate Suarez

College: Kalamazoo College

Aaron Teal

College: University of Michigan

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL

Sean Dhanaraj

College: Western Michigan University

Chaise Gold

College: Western Michigan University

Isaiah Hawkes

College: Michigan State University

Rohan Marion

College: Michigan State University

Lukas Palmitessa

College: Michigan Technological University



Jashawn James celebrated his graduation with his sister Monisha Clark.

“Unlike other schools where the teachers give you work and tell you that you have to do it, KILP gives you the work but the teachers are there 24/7 if you need help or guidance with any type of class,” he said.

James said he really appreciated that openness, especially from teachers Matthew Gorton and Richard Hamann.

“They really helped me graduate,” James said. “Mr. Hamann is a very cool teacher. If I had any questions, I could text his phone. A lot of teachers don’t give you

JASHAWN’S ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

“There is always going to be something in life that you feel like you can’t do or you can’t overcome, but it’s all about perseverance and having the will and motivation to do it. You have to just keep going. If you keep striking at something, eventually it’s going to break and you’re going to reach your goal.”



their personal numbers. We could talk about anything — everything, really.”

The support at KILP, plus his own growing maturity helped him find the determination to graduate. He worked throughout his high school career and is now employed in construction, but he hopes to enroll in Kalamazoo Valley Community College in the fall.

James is father to son Kaizen, who turns 1 in June. His son also was a powerful motivating force.

“He made me want to be better, to do better, to be an example to look up to. I wanted to be able to say, ‘I got my education so you need to get yours.’”

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KRESA Outstanding Achievement Award Winners

KALAMAZOO RESA (KRESA) honored more than 100 outstanding students at the 38th annual Outstanding Achievement Awards in April.

Honorees selected by the Kalamazoo RESA Foundation and Career Connect were chosen from among more than 3,000 individuals participating in over 30 high school programs, including Career & Technical Education (CTE), Education for the Arts (EFA), Early/Middle College (EMC), and Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) career development programs. KRESA also recognized children of KRESA employees who have prioritized educational excellence.

- **Career & Technical Education (CTE)** equips students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and hands-on training necessary to succeed in well-paying, high-demand careers.

- **Education for the Arts (EFA)** strives to enhance arts education for all students in Kalamazoo County, making dance, music, theater, literary, media and visual arts an essential part of a comprehensive education.

- **Early/Middle College (EMC)** is an innovative program that gives students the opportunity to earn an associate degree or certificate with an additional year of high school.

- **Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) Today**, YOU helps individuals complete their educations, find employment and thrive in the community by becoming critical thinkers, problem solvers, graduates and leaders.

“To be honored at today’s ceremony is an incredible accomplishment,” said KRESA Superintendent Dr. Dedrick Martin during his opening remarks, “and each honoree, their families, educators, and coaches should be proud of this esteemed recognition.”

Martin also acknowledged the collaborative efforts between many partners, including public and nonpublic school districts, Kalamazoo RESA, the Kalamazoo RESA Foundation, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Western Michigan University, and more than 350 local industry partners engaging in KRESA’s work.

The 2024 Career Connect Community Partner of the Year Award was presented to Newell Brands for their partnership in support of KRESA’s programming and specifically their collaboration with Career Connect’s newly launched Discovery Lab. The award was presented by Sarah Mansberger, executive director of Career Connect Secondary Programs, and accepted by Savannah Walters, senior industrial designer, and Lea Stewart, senior manager of Industrial Design.

Alumni speakers included:

- Steven Anderson, Disney/Marvel Studios, EFA Alumni (video presentation)
- Chef Kalea Barnes, CEO and owner of Parisian Dream Desserts, CTE Alumni Culinary Arts
- Kyle Mleczewski, KRESA Technology Support Specialist, EMC Alumni

Congratulations to the following Kalamazoo Public Schools’ 2024 KRESA Outstanding Achievement Awards recipients:

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL

- Isaiah Hawkes**, Children of KRESA Scholarship
- Asher Barrett**, CTE Marketing
- Liberty Cottick**, CTE Health Science
- Drake DeLeeuw**, CTE Accounting
- Elleghia Fraaza**, CTE Health Science
- Jade Howard**, CTE Art & Design Career Skills
- Olivia Scheinker**, CTE Conservation Biology
- Isaac Sullivan**, Early/Middle College (EMC)
- Wallace Tataara**, CTE Electronics & Robotics
- Ritika Verma**, CTE Electronics & Robotics

LOY NORRIX

- McKenna Bradley**, Children of KRESA Staff scholar
- Mallory Loken**, Children of KRESA Staff scholar
- Ezra Balden**, CTE Information Technology
- Braeden Davis**, EFA Advanced Musical Theatre
- Amelia Isacksen**, CTE Conservation Biology
- Bruna Machado dos Santos**, CTE Business, Mgmt. & Administration
- Clarence McCants**, CTE Automotive Technology
- Eduardo Ricardo**, CTE Welding
- Isabella Santos-Pye**, CTE Art & Design Career Skills
- Shiloh Schrader**, CTE Teacher Academy
- Alexandra Sedore**, CTE Health Science
- Ellen Terzino**, EFA Advanced Musical Theatre
- Nateya Thomas**, CTE Business, Mgmt. & Administration
- Aliah Ward**, CTE Business, Mgmt. & Administration



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Phoenix High School 2024 Graduates

Abdul Samad, Abdul Rahman Hosam
 Ahmad, Zeinab A.
 Armstead, Jazzmyn Alexis
 Arteaga, Cruz
 Ashford, Michelle Yolanda
 Baker, Jordan Faye
 Bates, Benjamin Owen
 Bates, Daimecia Dalinda
 Bates, Tiphonie Teaisha
 Batton, Quran Torme
 Bauer, Olivia Helen
 Bell, Khamiyah Marie
 Benjamin, Kurvon Quintel
 Bennett, Da'mierriay
 Bertch, Emelia Elizabeth
 Blakley, Mahanna Cora
 Boyd, Tiara Sincer
 Bradford, Phynix Xavier
 Brandon, Jaiden Ahmir
 Braxton, LeAndre Tocques
 Brayboy, Xikaria Maileen Jena
 Calbert, Marquan Treandus
 Calderon, Cesar Alonso
 Capps, Alyssa Nichole
 Castaneda, David Edwin
 Coleman, Mekell
 Daoud, Sami Albager
 Davis, Jamarion Key'Shawn
 Edmonson, Denzell Devonn
 Edmonson, Rochelle
 Sunshine

Elliott, Troy James
 Ferrell, Nicholas Earl
 Ford, Miyah Elise
 Frazier, Glenn
 Fry, J'von Antonio
 Gaines, Escobar Tiemon
 Gallardo, Aaron M.
 Garcia, Ruby
 Garcia Helena, Yojari Maria
 Garten, Justin Lee
 Glover, Zavian Tyree
 Harris, Gabriela Faith
 Harris, Yamiah Yatiece
 Kalann
 Hebben-Bagge, Griffin
 Michael
 Hernandez, Nickolas Gabriel
 Hill, Jay'anna Itayshia
 Hines, Aaliyah Lasha
 Hite, Jacob Michael
 Holloway, Tamyra DaChelle
 Hubbard, Ceonna Corey
 Ihoraho, Mugiraneza
 Jackson, Tamango Herbert
 Jeronimo-Cabrera, Rodrigo
 Johnson, Jeremiah Taeshaun
 Johnson, Lamarion
 Kizer-Moore, Rebekah
 Shiloh
 Lal, Priya Lenae
 Lapins, Austin Riley
 Lawson, Robrenae Junassia
 Lewis, Kaleece



Jahzara Parker (standing), J'von Fry, Khamiyah Bell, Gabrielle Mays-VanLoo (kneeling) have a little fun before graduation.

Ligon, Ke'yon Ka'Ron
 Logan, Emonee Naomi

Lugo Cota, Johana
 Guadalupe

Majaliwa, Abwe
 Majaliwa, Donatie
 Marure-Melchor, Dayton G.
 Matthews, Ky'Marion
 Mays-VanLoo, Gabrielle Ann
 McDaniels, Nyla Arionna
 McKinney, Angel A'Leigh
 Mejia-Hernandez, Carlos
 Ernesto
 Melendez-Maldonado,
 Manuel E.
 Meles, Rahwa
 Miller, Travis Darnell
 Mitchell, Andre Lemar
 Mobarez, Salar
 Moore, Gracelyn Nycol
 Mosqueda, Jovanny
 Muniz, Rufino Jr.
 Nathan, Sherry Marie
 Nkurunziza, Jimmy
 Oviedo, Manuel Tomas
 Parker, Jahzara Rashim
 Pena Perez, Andre Omar
 Perkins, Monta Lee

Perry, Kanani Latrice
 Pimpleton, Karion Tracy
 Popp, Trenton Walter
 Eugene
 Pratt-Pope, Tion Marque
 Reece, Anika Snow
 Reed, Teona Tamera
 Reynolds, D'zhante
 Chrishawn
 Rodriguez-Duarte, Mayte
 Salas, Yesenia Nataly
 Salazar-Martinez, Erik
 Scott, Du'Shone Cartier
 Selemani, Bilali
 Shahi, Bahram
 Sherrill, Makayla Raylen
 Smith, Christian Ja'Shon
 Lavell
 Smith, Genesis Michelle
 Smith, Shaun Isaiah
 Starks, Kimber Lei
 Sterling, D'quarrion
 Suhail Alkhateeb, Tariq
 Riyadh
 Taylor, Lawrence Thomas
 Thomas, Azaria Makayla
 Thomas, Eddie
 Thompson, Shurone
 Deshawn
 Townsend, De'shiona Aarion
 Momandi, Bibi Amina
 Tucker, Simaria Aniya Ann
 Vargas-Garcia, Stacy Perla
 Vega, Sage Alesha
 Viola, Hendels B.
 Walker, Te'Airra Chanterria
 Warren, Antwione Lavell
 Washington, Kamara
 Weatherspoon, Arlisa
 White, Brooklin Monique
 White, Jeremiah Jamal
 Whitney, Lacota Lyn Bud
 Wilkins, Ashiyah Chyair
 Williams, Arionna
 Winston, Gerry Lionel
 Wright, Amsie Deshon
 Young, Da'monica Joy

Excellence in Education Honors 12 KPS Graduates in 2024

TWELVE Kalamazoo Public Schools seniors were honored by the Kalamazoo RESA Excellence in Education program this year. Students are selected by a team of representatives from area school districts, KRESA and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Honorees must maintain at least a 3.7 GPA for the first seven semesters of high school. Each school selects the top two percent of their highest performing seniors for the honor.

Launched in 1986, the Kalamazoo County Excellence in Education program has recognized high achieving seniors in the Kalamazoo Area. Students receive a \$1,200 scholarship and they also choose a favorite teacher to be recognized as well. All were honored at a reception in April.

The program is funded through a permanent endowment at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

This year's KPS honorees were:



Bridgette Bol

Loy Norrix High School
Parents: Julie and Chris Bol
College: University of Michigan
Major: Creative Writing and Literature
Significant Educator: Pamela Cook



Jude Bousom

Kalamazoo Central High School, KRESA Career Connect, KVCC
Parents: Jason and Rachel Bousom
College: University of Michigan
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Significant Educator: Joshua Gottlieb



Odessa Clemente

Loy Norrix
Parents: Kirsten and Michael Clemente
College: University of Michigan
Major: Chemistry
Significant Educator: Jamie Weaver



Liberty Cottick

Kalamazoo Central, KRESA Career Connect, KVCC
Parents: Amy Jennings and Clint Cottick
College: Grand Valley State University
Major: Biomedical Science
Significant Educator: Shay Wintz



Isabella Essink

Loy Norrix
Parents: Lisa and Daniel Frazier
College: University of Michigan
Major: Neuroscience
Significant Educator: Jason Wagner



Abigail Evans

Kalamazoo Central
Parents: Gordon and Juliann Evans
College: Undecided
Major: Engineering
Significant Educator: William Santilli



Aliah Mohmand

Kalamazoo Central
Parents: Sheri LaVanway Mohmand and Kadir Mohmand
College: Undecided
Major: History and Business
Significant Educator: Shay Wintz



Zoe Reeves

Loy Norrix
Parents: Molly and Matt Reeves
College: Albion College
Major: Pre-Med
Significant Educator: Sean Bergan



Aiden Rudlaff

Kalamazoo Central
Parents: Jennifer and Nikki Rudlaff
College: Grand Valley State University
Major: Engineering
Significant Educator: Jovaughn Carver



Emilee Rudlaff

Kalamazoo Central
Parents: Jennifer and Nikki Rudlaff
College: Wayne State University
Major: Nursing
Significant Educator: Rex Hafer



Aaron Teal

Loy Norrix and KAMSC
Parents: Alex and Rebecca Teal
College: University of Michigan
Major: Engineering
Significant Educator: Michael Sinclair



Nateya Thomas

Loy Norrix and KVCC
Parents: Amelia and Brandon Hubbard
College: Grand Valley State University
Major: Biology
Significant Educator: Atiba Ward

KPS Math Coaches Awarded Excellence in Education Educator Incentive Grant

AS PART OF Excellence in Education, KRESA also awards Educator Incentive Grants to Kalamazoo County teachers. The awards are matched by district funds.

KPS math coaches applied for an Excellence in Education Grant to attend the National Council for

Supervisors of Mathematics National Conference.

This year's conference theme is "Breaking Barriers" and will focus on ideas, tools, and strategies to promote equitable math instruction for all students. The math coaches look forward to engaging in this powerful work and networking with others

across the country who focus on ensuring equity in mathematics for all students.

The KPS staff attending the conference are Kristen Miller, Laura Flenorl, Kelly Houseal, Tonjia Hodgson, Maren Tillman, Julie Woods and Monica Violante.

KPS Meet Up and Eat Up Begins June 24

KALAMAZOO Public Schools announces the beginning of the Summer Food Service Program for children. Free meals will be made available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to 26 years old who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a state or local public educational agency.

The meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. The only stipulation to the free meals is that the meal be eaten on site.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
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email: Program.Intake@usda.gov

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Meals will be provided at sites listed below. **All sites are closed on July 4th and 5th.** Breakfast and lunch times are subject to change. Meals are free to all children 18 and younger. No application or proof of income is required. Meals must be eaten on site. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Date	Location	Breakfast	Lunch
6/24-8/8	Mayors' Riverfront Park, 251 Mills St.	9:15-9:45 M-F	12:15-12:45 M-F
6/24-8/8	Rockwell Park, 1106 Trimble St.	9:15-9:45 M-F	12:15-12:45 M-F
6/24-8/1	Greenwood Elementary, 3501 Moreland St.	8:15-9:00 M-Th	11:00-12:00 M-Th
6/24-8/1	Linden Grove, 4241 Aboretum Pkwy.	7:45-8:15 M-Th	10:45-12:00 M-Th
6/24-8/1	Arcadia Elementary, 932 Boswell Lane	8:15-9:00 M-Th	11:00-12:30 M-Th
6/24-8/8	YMCA, 1001 W. Maple St.	8:45-9:30 M-F	N/A
6/24-8/8	Maple Middle School, 922 W. Maple St.	8:30-9:00 M-Th	11:45-12:45 M-F
6/24-8/8	Pre-K International, 11 Mills St.	8:00-9:00 M-F	11:30-12:30 M-F
6/24-8/8	Y.O.U., 422 E. South St.	7:30-8:00 M-Th	11:45-12:15 M-TU
6/24-8/8	Tabernacle Church of God, 3210 Virginia Ave.	9:30-10:00 M-F	12:00-12:30 M-F
6/24-8/8	Upjohn Park, 1018 Walter St.	9:15-9:45 M-F	12:15-12:45 M-F
6/24-8/8	New Village Park, 2500 St. Albans Way	9:15-10:15 M-F	12:15-1:15 M-F
6/24-8/8	Interfaith, 1037 Interfaith Blvd.	9:30-10:00 M-F	1:30-2:00 M-F
6/24-8/8	Stones Church, 1225 W. Paterson St.	8:15-9:15 M-F	11:30-12:30 M-F
6/24-8/8	Salvation Army, 1700 S. Burdick St.	9:00-9:30 M-F	12:00-12:30 M-F
6/24-8/2	Lincoln Elementary, 912 N. Burdick St.	8:00-8:30 M-F	11:30-12:30 M-F
6/24-8/8	Southside Park, 2156 Race St	9:15-10:00 M-F	12:15-1:00 M-F
6/24-8/1	King Westwood, 1100 Nichols Road	8:15-9:00 M-Th	10:00-12:30 M-Th
6/24-8/8	All Things Possible, 2000 W. Michigan Ave.	9:30-10:00 M-F	12:00-12:30 M-F
6/24-8/1	Milwood Elementary School, 3400 Lovers Lane	8:15-9:00 M-Th	10:00-12:30 M-Th
6/24-8/1	Phoenix High School, 1411 Oakland Dr.	7:45-8:15 M-Th	12:00-1:30 M-TH
6/24-8/8	Eastside Sunrise Plaza, 1628 East Main St.	N/A	12:30-1:15 M-Th
6/24-8/8	Northeastern Boys and Girls Club, 2433 Gertrude St.	N/A	1:00-1:30 M-F
6/24-8/8	CEC, 714 S. Westnedge Ave.	N/A	12:00-12:45 M-F
6/24-8/8	Mobile Site Fox Ridge Apts., 1320 Fox Ridge Dr.	N/A	11:00-11:45 M-F
6/24-8/8	LaCrone Park, 535 W. Paterson St.	9:15-9:45 M-F	12:15-12:45 M-F
6/24-8/8	Milwood United Church, 3919 Portage St.	N/A	12:00-12:30 M-F



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Congratulations 2024 Award Recipients



The CIS Champs Celebration is an annual event where individuals and our partners are honored for their contributions to creating an engaged community where every child fulfills their promise.

SLD Read

Champ Award recipient

Jen DeWaele

CIS Staff Recognition

Jay Yelton III and James Liggins Jr.

Gulnar Husain Volunteer Award recipients

Charles Parker

Diether Haenicke Promise of Excellence Award recipient



Charles Parker



James Liggins Jr. and Jay Yelton III



Jen DeWaele and James Devers (CIS Executive Director)



SLD Read Awardees

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Learn more about CIS of Kalamazoo and the 17th Annual Champs Celebration at <https://ciskalamazoo.org/events/champs>

SENIOR



JUNIOR



SOPHOMORE



FRESHMAN

