

Kalamazoo Public Schools

EXCELSIOR

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Sports Help Students Win at School, Life

(PHOTOS ON PAGES 8-11)

Photo courtesy of Herb Todd

First day of school photos.
pg. 3



LN graduate **Anna Nordmoe** is flying high with music, engineering degrees.
pg. 12



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Come for the Game; Cheer for the Athletes

I LOVE sports.

I'm a frequent spectator and huge fan of some teams (the Ravens, Orioles, Chiefs, Lakers and Steelers) that may not be too popular around here. I am after all a native of Maryland and a long-time Missouri transplant. But I am also learning to become a Lions fan and recently attended one of their games for the first time.

A Message from the Superintendent



Dr. Darrin Slade

There is something thrilling about watching a great game no matter who your team is.

It's not the blow out games that are the most exciting — but those games where you can see the teams battle back and forth. The push and pull, the talent and skill energize you and makes you cheer — or groan — louder.

You might always be rooting for your team, but when you see the other team pull out some magic to take the score the other way, you can't help but be amazed by the hard work and strategy that goes into keeping the fight alive.

You can see that same grit, determination and talent on our high school sports fields and courts and pools.

The thrill is just as palpable — but perhaps in different ways — for high school and middle school teams.

Student athletes put their all into their games. They don't do it for expensive championship rings. They aren't going to be playing in bowl games with famous entertainers at the end of a season. They don't have endorsements and million dollar contracts on the line. There is something more pure in their competitions to best their opponents.

If you haven't been to a game in a while, I encourage you to check out what our teams are doing. Throughout the year, you can watch football, tennis, swimming, soccer, volleyball, cross country, basketball, golf, baseball, softball, wrestling and a host of other sports.

You can find games listed on our district website calendar, but you can also find complete high school schedules at www.maroongiants.bigteams.com/main/calendar or www.lknights.com/.

As you'll read elsewhere in the *Excelsior*, a lot goes

into our athletic program. It is designed not only to give student athletes the opportunity to excel in the sports, but to also learn discipline, grit, a strong work ethic, the value of practice, how to lead and how to follow, how to win and how to lose with dignity.

Athletics allow students to build connections within their schools with fellow students, coaches, teachers and other staff. The student body is enriched by sharing in the pride that comes from watching their classmates battle in the name of the school, learning the alma mater, celebrating wins, and consoling each other after losses.

There is one way that you can help make our sports program stronger this year — and that is if you come out to cheer for our student athletes. If you have a free night, come check out a game — any game really — because all of our athletes deserve your support. These are young people doing the right thing, participating in a positive activity, learning about sportsmanship and strategy, going for the "W" with all they have.

Our young people pour their hearts into their games. And, win or lose, that is something to cheer about.

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First Day Smiles Abound

THE FIRST DAY of school is always one of the best days of the year, with smiles seen on everyone's face. It was a beautiful, sunny day as students gathered with friends to wait for the school doors to open.



David Marcelino Salazar, William DeLano, and Kar'mon Coleman reconnect at Milwood Magnet.



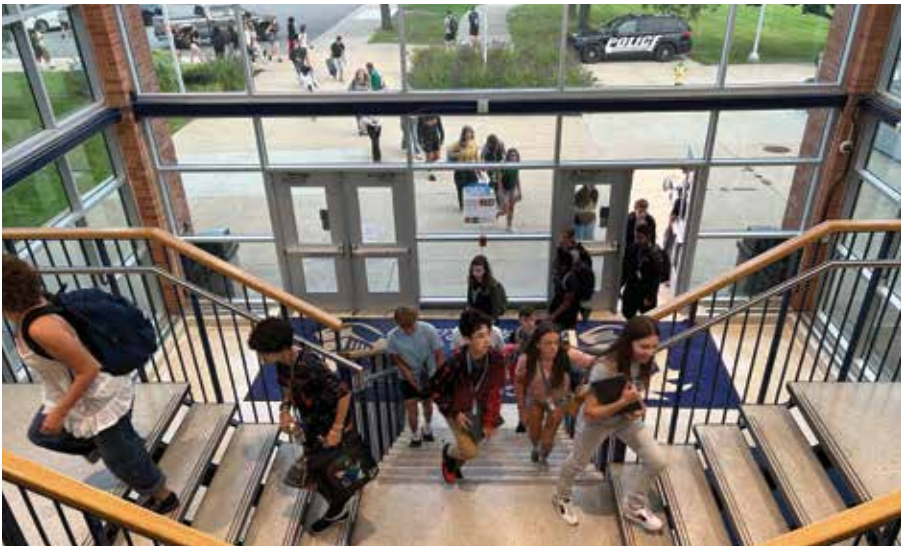
Front Row: Brian Matthews, Jasmyn McSurley Eubanks, Myella Pointdexter, Calina Williams. Back Row: Bryson Pratt, Emmett Johns, Johnathan Breeding, Karoline Beverly, Edgar (Leo) Gomez, Natalie Martinez pose with principal Ebony Sikaundi at Greenwood.



Iranzi Amina and Manzi Bright are the first in line to enter Parkwood-Upjohn on the first day of school.



Maple Street WEB leaders are ready to help younger students. From left: Marcella Thomas, Malaika Sow, Richelle Jn Baptiste, Liam Ailes, Remi Morcus, and Rosie VanDenBerg.



Students stream into the Loy Norrix tower on the first day of school.



Benny and Kennedy Lozier have their smiles ready for the first day of school at Parkwood-Upjohn.



Isabella Gomez strikes a pose at Milwood Elementary.



Phelip Williams is all smiles as he waits for the start of school at Woodward.



Brothers Oliver and Elliott Anderson arrive for the first day at Loy Norrix High School.

Events of Note

A selection of some of the upcoming public arts performances in KPS.

DATE	DAY	TIME	GROUP	PERFORMER	EVENT	LOCATION
Oct. 4	Friday	5-10 pm	Loy Norrix HS	Marching Band	Home Football Game Performance	Loy Norrix HS Stadium
Oct. 11	Friday	5-10 pm	Kalamazoo Central HS	Marching Band	Home Football Game Performance	Kalamazoo Central HS Stadium
Oct. 11	Friday	1:50 pm	Maple MS	6th Grade Choir	6th Grade Choir Performance	Maple MS Cafeteria
Oct. 15	Tuesday	4:30-6:30 pm	Kalamazoo Central HS	Dance	Dance Performances	Kalamazoo Central HS
Oc. 18	Friday	5-10 pm	Loy Norrix HS	Marching Band	Home Football Game Performance	Loy Norrix HS Stadium
Oct. 24	Thursday	7 pm	All Middle & High Schools	6th-12th Grade Choirs	KPS Choral Fall Fest	Chenery Auditorium
Oct. 25	Friday	5-10 pm	Kalamazoo Central HS	Marching Band	Home Football Game Performance	Kalamazoo Central HS Stadium
Oct. 29	Tuesday	7 pm	Kalamazoo Central & Hillside	Orchestra	Halloween Concert	Hillside Gym
Oct. 30	Wednesday		KJSO	KJSO	Performance	Chenery Auditorium
Nov. 1	Friday	7 pm	Maple Street MS	Maple Theater	Maple Street Fall Play	Maple St Cafeteria
Nov. 2	Saturday	3 pm	Maple Street MS	Maple Theater	Maple Street Fall Play	Maple St Cafeteria
Nov. 3	Sunday	3 pm	Maple Street MS	Maple Theater	Maple Street Fall Play	Maple St Cafeteria



Nate Anderson for

Kalamazoo Public School Board

Nate is the parent to three KPS students, a middle schooler and two high schoolers. He has spent over 20 years woking in human resources and consulting, and has numerous education and youth mentoring experiences. Nate has been an active public school advocate in SW MI, fighting against attacks that undermine the integrity of public education.

To join a neighborhood listening session, please email info@nateanderson.org to be added to our planning list

Nate is a champion for public schools,
a collaborative partner and committed to excellence in KPS!

Paid for by Nate Anderson for KPS - PO Box 21 Kalamazoo, MI 49009

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Dr. Darrin Slade

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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.

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

(269) 337-0180

All other inquiries should be directed to:

Director of**Human Resources**

Kalamazoo Public Schools

1220 Howard St.

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District Directory at :

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com**Recipe****from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells****Kirsten Strong, registered dietician nutritionist****Samuel Dunn, executive chef****Buffalo Cauliflower Dip**

THROW a curveball (or should I say, a doublepass) at your next football watch party or tailgate with this vegetarian version of Buffalo Chicken Dip. That's right, no chicken, no problem! This Buffalo Cauliflower Dip is not difficult to make, and it really gives off those fall vibes. It's pretty addictive, so be prepared to have ingredients on hand for a back-up batch.

**INGREDIENTS**

1 medium cauliflower head, cut into bite-size pieces (about 4 cups)

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

½ cup buffalo-style hot sauce (such as Frank's RedHot)

4 ounces cream cheese, softened and cut into cubes

¼ cup sour cream

2 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, shredded (about ½ cup)

1 ounce blue cheese, crumbled (about ¼ cup)

1 tablespoon thinly sliced scallions or chives
Celery sticks, carrot sticks, potato chips, tortilla chips, or baguette slices, for serving

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Toss cauliflower and olive oil in a 9-inch cast-iron skillet. Cover with a lid or aluminum foil, and cook over high to steam, about 5 minutes. Uncover and cook over medium-high, stirring occasionally, until cauliflower is fork-tender and caramelized in spots, about 10 minutes.

2. Stir in butter. Once melted, stir in hot sauce; cook, stirring often, until sauce has reduced by half, about 3 minutes.

3. Remove from heat. Stir in cream cheese and sour cream until fully combined. Sprinkle cheddar cheese on top, and bake in preheated oven until bubbly and slightly browned, about 10 minutes.

4. Sprinkle with blue cheese and scallions. Serve with celery sticks, carrot sticks, potato chips, tortilla chips, baguette slices, or other dippers of your choice.

Yield: 4-5 cups**PRESENTS****Coronation
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Dr. Todd

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- IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS AND SAFETY

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ATYP Seeking Students for 2025-26 School Year

ALTHOUGH it may seem like academic skills are the key to success in the Academically Talented Youth Program, it's actually something more basic: Grit.

Students have to be willing to work through the basics of things like time management, learning to prioritize tasks, and accepting criticism to be truly successful in the program — which gives students the opportunity to complete four years of high school language arts and/or math in just two years beginning in middle school.

The program, which has been in operation for 42 years and has served more than 3,000 students in the region, is currently recruiting for 2025-26 school year. Middle school students may apply through a portfolio process or by receiving a qualifying score on either the SAT or the ACT. Information about qualifying scores can be found on the website at wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/qualifying. The program also offers an AP Computer Science class as well as summer camps. Families are encouraged to visit www.wmich.edu/precollege/atyp for more information.

ATYP Director Kelly Schultz said she hesitates to tell students a specific qualifying score for ATYP. In-



Linden Grove students Jahnvi Marion and Maya VanHeest try to use a compass and a simple straight edge to draw an equilateral triangle.

stead, she encourages any student interested in the program to go ahead and take one of the tests as a personal challenge and to have fun with it.

The most successful ATYP students have an in-

nate understanding of the material and natural curiosity, but mostly the students have to want the challenge, Schultz said. It is a lot of work — but no more demanding than say the work needed to compete on a top-level travel sports team.

Enrollment numbers for ATYP have been down from a pre-Covid high of about 215 students. That reflects academic achievement, but it also reflects a reduced interest in tackling the challenges in ATYP.

“Kids did hard. They did Covid school. They didn’t like hard,” Schultz said. “They think it’s going to be like that.”

Covid made it difficult not just for the kids but for their families as well, said Nan Janecke, the ATYP coordinator. The first six weeks of ATYP can be especially nerve-racking for students who are extremely bright — but who have never been challenged with the amount of work or the intensity of work presented in ATYP.

“Parents see their kids get upset and they’re like, ‘No,’” Janecke said. Students and families have to commit to sticking out at least the first six weeks of ATYP, to understand and get into the flow of the program.

Schultz and Janecke say they know that the students who qualify and can learn to manage the demands of the program are rewarded. They are kept engaged with challenging material with a cohort of like-minded peers, and they develop valuable skills.

“The comment we hear the most from kids who stick it out is that college was so much less intimidating or difficult, because of this experience,” Schultz said. “Alumni say it’s not because they had the content, but because they learned to work hard.”

Students are recommended to the program by their home districts. Those students receive letters to attend informational sessions, but the meetings are open to any family interested in ATYP.

If accepted, starting in seventh or eighth grade, students come to the campus of Western Michigan University for one to two afternoons a week for ATYP classes.

An informational meeting is planned for 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10 at WMU, but other meetings will be held at area school districts throughout the fall.

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A complete list of meetings and more information is posted on the website
www.wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/qualifying

KPS Launches Curiosity Labs to Supplement A/T Program

KALAMAZOO Public Schools' Academically Talented programs launched more than 35 years ago, designed to meet the needs of all students who might need enhanced learning experiences.

"We are pushing kids to keep growing even when they are already at grade level," said Dr. Lindsay Noakes, coordinator of assessment, research and evaluation for KPS. "The challenges often tend to be work/study habits and perseverance through hard tasks, because they are used to understanding things easily the first time."

Delivery of the program varies depending on school, room in the building and the number of students. But in general, the meet once per week for 60 to 90 minutes per class in English Language Arts and mathematics.

The assignments are nearly all project-based, Noakes said. For example, fifth-grade ELA students this year will be participating in the National History Day project.

"Our focus is on developing what we would call 'higher order thinking skills' such as inquiry and research, problem solving and strategic thinking," she said. A/T classwork should be completed in place of regular work they miss while attending A/T classes.

Students qualify for A/T programs by obtaining consistently high test scores and through teacher recommendations — with test scores being weighted more heavily.

But, Noakes said, the program has long been looking for ways to ensure the program and its resources are equitably distributed among all students in the district.

This year to address some of those concerns, the program will expand to include Curiosity Labs, which will be available at Lincoln, Edison, Northeastern, Washington and Woodward elementary schools. Students will be selected for the program based on teacher and principal recommendations as well as test scores, with a higher emphasis placed on recommendations from staff, she said. Students still have to be achieving above grade level to be considered for the program.

"It is designed for students with curious minds and a passion for learning," but who may not yet have the test scores to qualify for A/T, Noakes said. "We're trying to nurture their desire and passion for learning. They can do a year of Curiosity Lab, and if they are successful they can continue with Explorers and Innovators, the next levels in KPS's A/T program."

This new exploration class will be "infused with visual and fine arts to engage students," Noakes said.

"Through the curriculum they will be looking deeper into grade level content and be encouraged to ask questions to enrich their own learning"

All of the instructors have gone through the Lincoln Center Institute's Aesthetic Education training available through Kalamazoo RESA.

If a child does not qualify for A/T, Noakes said, don't worry. She encouraged parents who are seeking additional enrichment to talk to their child's classroom teacher.

"Each building offers opportunities for extension and enrichment within their regular courses," she said.

Elect Incumbent Juanita Yvonne Payton



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- Strong Academic Foundation for every student
- Increase Non-Traditional pathways to ensure success at post-secondary levels
- Diversity, equity and inclusion at all levels
- Maintaining a safe and orderly environment for students and staff
- Work cooperatively with parents and members of the community to benefit the academic and social growth of all students

TOP PRIORITY: ENSURE HIGH LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL STUDENTS

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Teaching Athletes to Win at the Game of Life

ATHLETICS are a definite win.

That win has little to do with games or scores but everything to do with what sports add to students' lives, how they can motivate academic achievement, the way they teach responsibility, and their role in building community.

Dr. Jeff Boggan, principal of Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, said he takes a pretty old fashioned view of sports: "When students have an opportunity to participate in sports, it helps with structure, discipline, and their health — and not just their physical health but their mental and emotional health too. And, from a life skills perspective, it helps them learn how to be part of a team."

Kalamazoo Public Schools middle schools offer about half a dozen athletic opportunities for students but Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix high schools offer more than two dozen sports that engage hundreds of students each trimester. This fall alone, athletic directors at Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix estimate 300-400 students at each school

will be participating in sports. Phoenix High School fields a half dozen sports throughout the year.

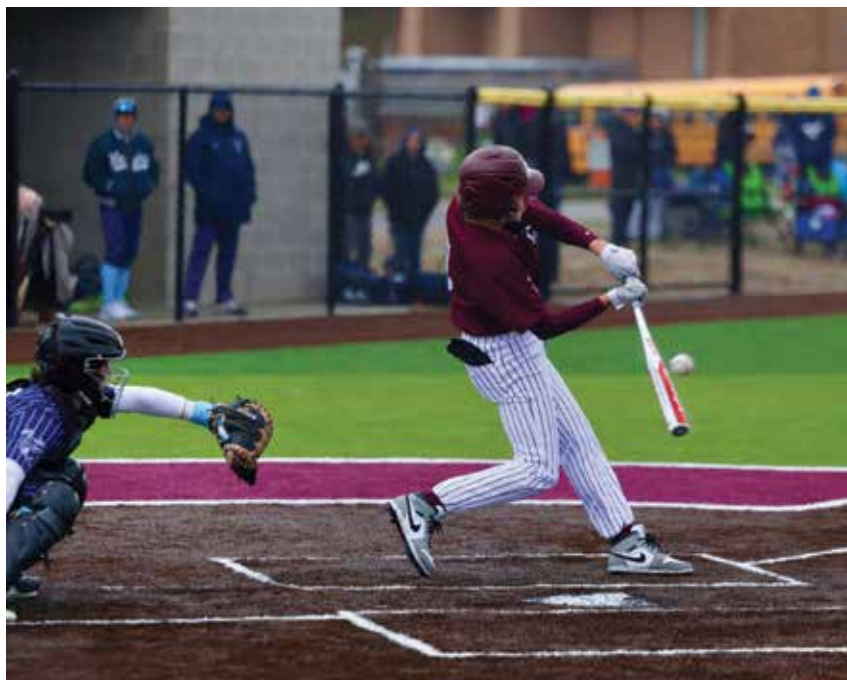
"Athletics keep some students attached to school," said Andrew Laboe, the assistant principal and athletic director for Loy Norrix High School. "It provides another set of eyes focusing on them and encouraging them to improve and maintain their academics and social connections. Sports keep a lot of kids engaged in school."

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations, a survey by Varsity Spirit of more than 1,000 high school athletes, parents and principals found that student athletes reported better academic achievement, greater civic engagement and a stronger feeling of connection to their schools.

A study from the University of Kansas found that interscholastic athletic participation is often associated with better academic outcomes. The study found that athletes had higher percentages of school attendance, graduation rates, and test scores.

The study said sports do not make students smarter, but that athletics provide valuable lessons about skills such as time management and handling expectations. When those lessons are combined with academic requirements to play — students gain insight into the value of persistence and discipline. The authors said athletic participation should be encouraged for all students, especially

Kalamazoo Central's Aiden Luckett takes a swing against Loy Norrix on KC's new Jeter Fields.





Special thanks to Herb Todd for his dynamic photos of KPS student athletes.

Loy Norrix's #5 London Thompson tries to take the ball past Kalamazoo Central's Jayla Parker-Vincent during the March 2024 district tournament.

ON THE COVER:

Kalamazoo Central quarterback Kam Woods carries the ball against Jenison in the 2024 football opener.



Loy Norrix's Chloe Hanks gives it her all in the high jump in a contest at Kalamazoo Central.

for those among high-risk populations.

Participating in sports certainly provides academic motivation for many students, said Greg Straka, assistant principal and athletic director at Kalamazoo Central. In KPS, student athletes must pass at least 5 of 6 classes in the current and previous trimesters to compete.

Straka can think of a lot of students like the football player last year who kept his grades up during football season, sloughed off after football season, then worked hard in the spring so he would be eligible to play in the fall.

"That sounds like a negative because he went backwards after football," Straka said. "But this is a kid who would have gone backwards three trimesters without football."

Laboe has similar stories. Last year, a student kept his grades high to play football, but became ineligible around Thanksgiving and wasn't able to play basketball, and then pulled things together in time to be able to run track in the spring.

The schools take eligibility seriously. For some student athletes, keeping grades up is not a problem, but for others, teachers, athletic directors and coaches keep a close eye on things. Grade checks are made on Monday mornings.

(continued on page 10)

Teaching Athletes (cont. from pg. 9)

It's a team effort on the part of staff to keep kids eligible, Laboe said. Teachers realize as much as anyone how important it is for students to stay eligible and to keep playing, he said.

"Normally, it's just a case of missing a couple of assignments. It gets harder as you get deeper into the trimester. If we can keep them on it from the beginning, we have a good chance of showing them how to be successful," Laboe said.

It's the idea of the carrot, Boggan said. For some kids, the carrot, the reason for being at school, is being at the top of their class academically; for others, it's playing in the orchestra; and for some kids, it's playing sports.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS ON THE FIELD AND OFF

But beyond providing academic motivation for students, athletics provide many other benefits for students — and the school community in general.

All of those interactions between students and coaches, assistant coaches, athletic directors, trainers and other sports staff can have a real impact on students.



KC's Daviya McCoy races past the camera at a spring track meet.

"The No. 1 thing we're trying to accomplish with high school athletics is to give kids an avenue for involvement," said Straka. "Studies show that the more involvement kids have in school, the more successful they are because they take pride and ownership in where they are."

Boggan said he's appreciative of the work that coaches do to support students and make them feel connected to their schools.

In addition to forming tight-knit bonds with their coaches, students gain a tremendous amount from the relational work that goes into creating a team.

"It's developing friendships with others that last for years to come," Laboe said. "I think that's what's most important. If someone has a positive story to tell about playing a sport, that's usually the story. Kids are looking for a safe place and a good experience. It's important that they're able to walk away and say these girls or these boys are my friends now. They have another social group at school."

In this day and age of social media and virtual relationships, there is still something incredibly powerful about a school community coming together to celebrate student athletes giving it their all on the field or court.

"I'm thankful when I think about families coming out to support their children," Boggan said. "They come in the gym, grab some popcorn and a Coke. (continued on page 11)



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Teaching Athletes (cont. from pg. 10)

They're there supporting their children. It's really cool. Our families do a nice job."

At the opening game for the 2024 football season, Straka said he probably had 150 kids in the student section.

"They're as important as the people on the field. They feed off of each other," he said. "What I love about Friday night football is you see the whole school and the whole community come together and everyone is supporting what we're trying to accomplish."

At Loy Norrix, another part of community building is teaching student athletes that they are part of the larger community. For the last several years, the school's athletic department has emphasized community service, with athletes often working to fulfill at least 1,000 hours of community service each year.

"We just want the athletes to be thankful for what they have," Laboe said. "A lot of money goes into athletics. A lot of people in the community come to their games, a lot of people sponsor the school or a dinner or buy a banner. We need to give back. We want to be a good, positive light in Kalamazoo.

"They need to know that what you need to do to enjoy life and to be successful is to help others."

LEARNING TO PLAY THE GAME OF LIFE

Athletics are the perfect vehicle for all kinds of life lessons like that, Straka said. If giving kids a way to be involved is Straka's first goal for his school's athletic program, the second goal is to prepare them for life.

Win or lose, there's always a lesson to take away from a game, Straka said. It might be about drive or competition. It might be about getting out of their heads and focusing on bouncing back from a defeat. What he wants is for kids to take the determination and drive that they display in their games and apply it to all areas of their lives.

"We want to teach them character building," Straka said. "We're giving them life lessons that you don't get things handed to you. You have to put in the work. Kids really have to understand that in order to be successful, you have to work as hard as the person you're competing against."

Today, many students expect instant gratification, instant success in life — but that's not how the game is played, he said. It's not about this one game or this one season — it's about developing the skills that are going to matter next year, or 10 years from now.

"Athletics teaches kids that if you make a mistake, it's not the end of the world," he said. "You learn from

that. You bounce back from that. You improve from your mistakes, and you keep moving forward."

Boggan loves what athletics can instill in students. The stick-to-itiveness of it, team work, learning how to take feedback, learning how to bounce back.

"I think sports just provides a whole host of things

for our children," he said. "It gives children the opportunity to learn about themselves and a lot about life that they are able to take with them when they get older. Maybe they'll play high school sports, maybe they'll play college sports. Maybe they won't. But they can take those skills with them all their lives."



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 Early Childhood Literacy and strong reading curriculum

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 Advocacy for school funding at the State and Federal level



Vote Carol McGlinn Tuesday November 5

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF CAROL MCGLINN, 3532 OLD COLONY RD, KALAMAZOO, MI, 49008

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com • October 2024 • Excelsior 11

Anna Nordmoe Flying High with Music, Engineering Degrees

Life hasn't turned out like Anna Xing-Xing Nordmoe expected in high school. And, that's been great.

When she started playing violin, one might have expected her to have landed in a symphony orchestra. But, as a freelance violinist, the 2016 Loy Norrix High School grad, has performed with Ed Sheeran, Lauryn Hill, Michael Bublé, and Andrea Bocelli. She's performed on Broadway in "Hadestown" and "Lempicka," and in Madison Square Garden.

Those are just gigs that she's performed standing upright — she's also developed an aerial silks circus act where she performs on violin while she's hanging upside down.

And, in her spare time, she's a full-time product manager for Amazon's Alexa Smart Home team.

Nordmoe attended Kalamazoo Public Schools from second grade on, going to Chime and Prairie Ridge elementary schools, as well as Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts and Loy Norrix. She also attended the Academically Talented Youth Program at Western Michigan University and the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center.

Since a young age, her life has been divided between the arts and sciences. Her parents, Eric and Lily Nordmoe, teach math at Kalamazoo College and she says she practically grew up in the KCollege math department, attending the Kitchen Math Lecture series as early as elementary school.

"Although ATYP and KAMSC did help accelerate my math skills, I think what really made the difference was the time my mom and dad spent with me at home teaching me and making sure I understood everything I was learning," Nordmoe said. "Aside from my parents' influence, I enjoyed that math was straight-forward and made sense in such a structured way."

Violin was a completely different story, she said.

"I enjoyed playing violin as a kid because it was always something I was naturally good at," she said. "I went through a period of time when I hated playing violin (most of elementary school and into middle school) because everyone else was hanging out with their friends and I was never allowed to until I finished practicing violin."

Her parents had a healthy respect for the art, she said, but she also doesn't think they envisioned where the music would lead.

"What really changed my music trajectory was attending the Indiana University String Summer Academy in 2012," she said. "There, I was able to see older



Anna Xing-Xing Nordmoe, Loy Norrix 2016, performed at Carnegie Hall with singer-songwriter Ben Rector.

kids who were really serious about music, and how fun it could be to make music with your friends. As I grew up, I continued to see that music, if I was good enough, could afford me incredible opportunities that other people didn't have access to and it became my passport to seeing the world.

"Music has filled my soul and continues to nourish me and push me in so many ways; I can't imagine going a day without music as it is ingrained into every ounce of my being."

Nordmoe said she was lucky to have grown up in



Anna Xing-Xing Nordmoe, Loy Norrix 2016, performs with Teatro Zinzanni.

Kalamazoo. She had incredible mentors, most notably Sandra Shaw, who led band and orchestra at Loy Norrix. Her counselor Rebecca Learner helped her arrange her schedule so she could graduate early. The Kalamazoo Promise made a huge difference. She was able to get an incredible, world-class education at the University of Michigan without worrying about the financial implications.

Kalamazoo is a unique city that offers so many opportunities for students to challenge themselves,

(continued on page 13)

Anna Nordmoe *(continued from page 12)*

she said. “I didn’t appreciate this enough while I was growing up. KPS was such a great place to be because it is so diverse and really gives students an invaluable world view.”

After she graduated from Loy Norrix, she attended the University of Michigan to study violin and industrial and operations engineering. She later earned a master’s degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music for violin.

Nordmoe says she loves her work as a freelance musician, but it is not an easy existence. The work is

not consistent and finding success requires mental toughness and constant hustle.

“The toughest thing for me is not having consistency and therefore sometimes feeling directionless, but I have made it a daily ritual to remind myself that growth and the path of a freelancer is non-linear and that in itself can be really beautiful even though it can feel very scary,” she said.

The engineering side of her is a great planner and strategizer, so she applied that to launching her music career. She networked with teachers and mentors

and reached out to all the NYC musicians she could think of as she was starting, making sure to put herself in every situation that provided exposure to the world she wanted to inhabit.

“I believe that people can make their own luck,” Nordmoe said. “I think having good people around you and having supportive friends can make the tough moments a lot more bearable. Being a freelancer is really hard and uncertain, but having people that raise you up and encourage you can make all the difference.”



Nordmoe with fellow Norrix graduate Jorjah Kwame Fleming. She performed in his solo show at 54 Below in the old Studio 54 nightclub.



Anna Xing-Xing Nordmoe performed with pop star Ed Sheeran, third from the right, in Seattle in August 2023.



Outside of “Lempicka,” her second Broadway show.



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ARTISTS' CORNER

On the first days of art classes at **Winchell Elementary**, students learned to make their mark. Art teachers Chrissy Brege and Mandy Clearwaters read the book, "The Dot" by Peter H.

Reynolds while students designed their own unique dot to dot to showcase on the school's front entry bulletin board which states, "Just make your mark and see where it takes you."



Winchell students pose in front of a dot-filled board in the school's front entry.



Zoe Minard, 5th grade



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Si necesita ayuda para pagar su factura de agua o alcantarillado, hay ayuda disponible. Para obtener información en español, el llame al 311 o al (269) 337-8000.

WWW.PROTECTYOURWATER.NET



The City of Kalamazoo is making critical investments in our water and wastewater systems. These investments are funded by all of us through the rates that we pay. Rates in Kalamazoo are still low relative to other communities, but we understand rising costs may create a hardship for some households. Financial and other help options are listed below.

Payment Plans & Due Date Extensions are available. Call 311 or (269) 337-8000 for help.

The Community Action Agency of SW Michigan can help low-income households pay overdue bills. Call 211 or 1-877-422-2726 for more information.

Consumers Energy offers a free home analysis that can help customers save money by reducing energy and water usage. Call 1-888-316-8014 for more information.

www.kalamazoocity.org/Residents/Water-Sewer-Service/Help-with-Utility-Bills

City of Kalamazoo
241 W South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

MiCareerQuest Community Night Returns with Activities for the Entire Family

KALAMAZOO RESA's Career Connect program is excited to announce the return of MiCareerQuest Community Night, an interactive career exploration event where the public can engage with professionals and explore various high-demand careers.

Scheduled from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Oct. 22 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St., this free event is open to all ages and offers hands-on activities that provide insight into a wide range of professions in the region, including information technology, health sciences and manufacturing.

MiCareerQuest Community Night is an extension of MiCareerQuest Southwest, an annual event that hosts more than 4,500 eighth graders from Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties. It is the largest interactive career exploration event in the region.

The event boasts more than 100 booths, each showcasing different careers with more than 50 local employers. Spanish, French, Arabic and ASL interpreters will be available, and the venue is ac-

cessible to those with disabilities. Guests can tour the KRESA Career Connect Discovery Lab and participate in free giveaways.



For more information, please contact kathy.spackman@kresa.org.

MiCareerQuest SOUTHWEST Community Night

Get Career Connected
60,000 sq feet of hands-on learning to explore careers and engage with the community!

Tuesday, October 22, 2024
3:30-7:00 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

All recent Michigan high school graduates can earn a skills certificate or degree **TUITION FREE** with the NEW Community College Guarantee

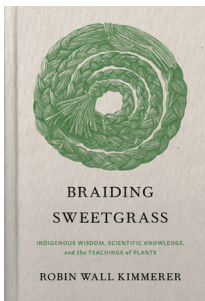
WINTER REGISTRATION OPENS OCT. 7
CLASSES BEGIN JAN. 13

COMMUNITY COLLEGE GUARANTEE

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



EVENT SATURDAY, NOV. 2 | FREE

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSION

Join Kalamazoo Public Library at the museum to share your thoughts about the incredible book *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. She will speak at Kalamazoo Valley Community College on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

EVENT OCT. 11 - 13 | 1 P.M. | FREE

KALAMAZOO REFUGEE FILM FESTIVAL

This Kalamazoo Refugee Resource Collaborative partnership showcases the stories of people forced to flee, through film. Three films will be shown, one each day. Following each film, a panel discussion will be led by refugee and stateless individuals who are now part of our own greater Kalamazoo community.

FREE PLANETARIUM SHORTS

OCT. 26 & 31 | On the hour from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Ooky Spooky | Grades 2 & up | 20 min.

This family-friendly show includes four Halloween music favorites. Each song in this light show is synchronized with full-dome graphics to create an experience that is fun and entertaining.



EVENT FREE

SATURDAY, OCT. 5 | 11 A.M. & 1 P.M.

LIVE MUSIC FOR SILENT CLASSICS in partnership with the Connecting Chords Music Festival

Performing original soundtracks to silent films, the six-piece ensemble *Silent But Deadly* will return to the 2024 Connecting Chords Music Festival at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. The performances will include a mix of original and compiled film scores created specially for four period silent shorts.



EVENT OCT. 19 | Noon - 4 P.M. | FREE

CHEMISTRY DAY

Exciting hands-on experiments and captivating demonstrations will educate and entertain learners of all ages and abilities. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society present "Photography and Imaging: Picture Perfect Chemistry."

PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER SHOWS | \$3 PER PERSON

Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for details.

Note: No planetarium shows Oct. 19 - 20.

SATURDAYS

Spooky Space | 11 a.m. | 23 min. | Grades 1 & up

Ghostly nebulae, vampiric black holes and the unseen invisible universe come alive in the planetarium. Explore cosmic counterparts of Halloween characters in this immersive digital dome show.

The Sky Above Us | 2 p.m. | 35 min. | Grades 4 & up

Discover the "celestial wonders" that can be seen overhead in Michigan, from constellations to planets and meteor showers.

SUNDAYS

Magic Treehouse: Space Mission | 1 p.m. | 30 min. | Grades 3 & up

Travel with siblings Jack and Annie in their magic treehouse as they discover a note that asks them to answer a series of six questions about space.

Living in Balance | 2 p.m. | 25 min. | Grades 5 & up

Living in Balance highlights Anishinaabe stories of constellations and moons in relation to contemporary insights about environmental changes.

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