

September 22, 2024

Hello Kinawa Families,

Our students had a wonderful time during our annual Keep Kinawa Moving event. It was a great opportunity to showcase team building, collaboration, and all around fun and movement. Thank you for all your support and volunteering to make this event successful. If you haven't already and are interested, there is still time to donate. Funds raised from this event will help provide opportunities for clubs, scholarships, and innovative experiences in the classroom.

Fall Parent Teacher Conferences are in two weeks! This year's conferences will be held over Google Meet on October 8th, October 9th, and October 10th. Please see the information below. **The sign up link will go live Monday, September 23rd at 6pm.**

**Reminder of No School Monday, September 23rd for students!**

### UPCOMING DATES

**September 23:** No School for students - Professional Development Day for Staff

**September 26:** Safe Tech/Safe Kids Presentation at Chippewa Library

**October 2:** State of Michigan Student Count Day

**October 4:** ½ day of school for students Records Day for staff

**October 4:** Picture Retake Day

**October 8:** Fall Parent Teacher Conferences from 5pm - 8pm

**October 9:** Fall Parent Teacher Conferences from 5pm - 8pm

**October 10:** ½ day of school for students - PM Parent Teacher Conferences for Staff

**October 10:** Fall Parent Teacher Conferences for 1pm - 4pm

**October 11:** No School for Staff or Students

### FALL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

As parent/guardian teacher conferences are quickly approaching it is extremely important to be checking in each day with your child and having conversations regarding school. A good approach to this is scheduling a time with your child one to two times per week to review their academic progress through PowerSchool.

The past two years we have found a high number of participation rates by hosting conferences through Google Meet. Therefore, the Okemos Public Schools will proceed with this model for the 2024 Fall Conferences.

To utilize your scheduled conference time to its fullest potential, please make note of the following guidelines:

- We request that you not schedule conferences with Academic Extension, Technology, Drama and Public Speaking, or Life Skills classes as these courses are taught by core teachers.
- Conferences are scheduled to discuss your student's academic progress or social emotional progress.
- To honor everyone's time, conferences will start and end as scheduled. We have asked staff to end sessions on time in order to meet with their next parent/guardian.
- Per our school policy involving virtual meetings, please have your camera on at all

times so staff are aware of who they are speaking with during the conference.

- Videoing/recording the conference or taking pictures of the screen are prohibited.
- Staff will use the "waiting room" during Zoom sessions. Please be sure the name you register with for the conference matches the name you use for the Zoom call, so staff will know to let you into the conference.

**Opportunities for a virtual conference via Zoom will take place on:**

- **Tuesday, October 8th, from 5pm - 8pm**
- **Wednesday, October 9th, from 5pm - 8pm**
- **Thursday, October 10th, from 1pm - 4pm**

The Google Meet link will be emailed to the address you use to register for conferences. Please only take one time slot per student/household, per teacher/class.

Registration for conferences **opens on Monday, September 23rd at 6pm** and **closes on Monday, October 7th at 5:00pm**. Please be sure to schedule your conference at:

### [MY CONFERENCE TIME](#)

#### **SAFE TECH/SAFE KIDS PRESENTATION**

Please join us for a Safe Tech/Safe Kids presentation on September 26th at 6:30pm in the Chippewa Middle School Library.

[Safe Tech/Safe Kids Flyer](#)

#### **ACCESS TO PRAYER SPACES**

For many of our students, prayer and meditation are a part of everyday life. Reflection rooms provide a quiet, private space for OPS students to pray, meditate or sit in silent reflection. The reflection room at Kinawa is located in the main office conference room. To use this room, students should speak with Mr. Stierley or Mrs. Roland.

#### **MATH CIRCLE ANNOUNCEMENT**

##### **Kinawa/Chippewa Mathematical Circle**

*Mathematical Circles are a form of education enrichment and outreach that bring mathematicians and mathematical scientists into direct contact with middle and high school students. These students, and sometimes their teachers, meet with mathematical professionals in an informal setting, after school or on weekends, to work on interesting problems or topics in mathematics. The goal is to get the students excited about mathematics by providing a setting that encourages them to become passionate about mathematics. Kinawa/Chippewa Mathematical Circle will be highly interactive, with the learning proceeding through games, stories, or hands-on activities. Athletes have sports teams that deepen their involvement with sports; math circles can play a similar role for kids who like to think about math. One thing all math circles have in common is that the students enjoy learning mathematics, and the circle gives them a social context in which to do so.*

The Kinawa/Chippewa Math Circle is open to all students in grades 5-8, and we will meet on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Mrs. Murembya's room 303 at Kinawa. This year's math circle is being led by Professor Rajesh Kulkarni from MSU and Mrs. Murembya. Students don't need to sign up in advance, or even attend every week; they may just show up. Our first meeting for the 2024-25 school year will be on **Tuesday, October 1st at 5:30 p.m.** Students should bring paper, a pencil, and their love of mathematics. **At the first meeting, we will give you information about where students should access handouts (in advance) to bring with them to all future meetings.** If you have questions, please contact Marian Murembya at [marian.murembya@okemosk12.net](mailto:marian.murembya@okemosk12.net).

## SCIENCE OLYMPIAD AT KINAWA

Kinawa Science Olympiad:

The application form is linked [here](#) for those students interested.

There are limited spots available, so completing the form does not automatically mean admission to the team. The form will close on Sunday, September 22, at 6:00pm. We will let you know if you have been accepted via email on Wednesday, October 2nd. If accepted, there is a \$50 fee for each participating team member that must be paid by October 23rd.

## KINAWA ART CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

### ART CLUB INFO AND PERMISSION SLIP

Hello parents! If your child is interested in being part of the art club this school year, please take a minute to read the following information and fill out the permission slip included. Permission slips are due by Monday, September 30th.

[Art Club information and permission slip](#)

## HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

[Halloween Trunk or Treat Flyer](#) for Okemos Public Schools

Additionally the Safe Haven Assisted Living Facility on Jolly Road will be hosting a Trunk or Treat on Sunday October 27 from 1pm - 3pm. Residents will be passing out candy and have a Hot Cocoa and Hot Cider Bar with donuts for all.

## KINAWA PARENT GROUP INFORMATION

[Kinawa Parent Group Flyer](#)

## KINAWA YEARBOOK ORDER

If you are interested in ordering your child a Kinawa Yearbook, Josten's has provided an opportunity to pre-order them now. Please understand yearbooks will not be ready prior to the spring.

Yearbook sales only link: <https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A03854700>

## WATERCOLOR CLUB INFORMATION

Hello Families,

My name is Stefanie Solce, Kinawa's Self-contained Autism Teacher. Watercolor painting is one of my passions and I am looking forward to offering another year of Watercolor Club. Art is a wonderful way to relieve stress, express creativity, and offers an opportunity to socialize with peers in a safe space.

Watercolor Club meets on Thursdays after school, 3:45PM-5:00PM for 6 sessions each. Each session your child will complete a new watercolor project, learn new techniques, and have lots of fun! Please see the [Watercolor Flyer](#) for sign up information.

Sincerely,  
Stefanie Solce

## FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Kinawa participates in the Weekend Survival Kits program which provides GROCERIES OVER THE WEEKEND, so families can focus more on other necessities.

Weekend Survival Kits provides supplemental kits of food to children at school every other Friday so they can have nutritious food during the weekend.

If you are a family that struggles with food insecurity, you are eligible to receive food kits at NO COST. Please contact counselor **Emily Edger**, [emily.edger@okemosk12.net](mailto:emily.edger@okemosk12.net) or (517) 706-4707 to register. If you have multiple children, you are eligible to receive multiple kits. All names will remain confidential.

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

Kinawa is currently looking for any individual who would be interested in being a lunchroom supervisor at Kinawa. These positions would be a great opportunity to interact with our students and staff. The position would be as many days as you would like a week between the hours of 11am - 1:30pm each day. Please contact [steven.stierley@okemosk12.net](mailto:steven.stierley@okemosk12.net) if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Finally, throughout the school year I will also be posting information on the Kinawa Twitter page @KinawaPrincipal for anyone who would be interested in following.

I look forward to a wonderful school year.

Please email me at [steven.stierley@okemosk12.net](mailto:steven.stierley@okemosk12.net) or call me at 517-706-4700 with questions or concerns.

Steve Stierley