

September 29, 2024

Hello Kinawa Families,

Fall Parent Teacher Conferences are in one week! 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 is live and sign ups are currently happening.**

This Friday, October 4th, is a ½ day of school for our students and is also Picture Retake Day.

UPCOMING DATES

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 **is currently open and closes on Monday, October 7th at 5:00pm.** Please be sure to schedule your conference at:

[MY CONFERENCE TIME](#)

PHASE ADVISORY BOARD VACANCIES

[Phase Advisory Board Information](#)

[Phase Board Application](#)

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.

NEW WOOF PACK APPAREL

The Okemos WoofPack has a new line of apparel through Fabricated Customs. If you are interested in purchasing Woofpack gear, please click on the link below. Proceeds support the Okemos Woof Pack program.

[Woofpack Gear](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE KINAWA PARENT GROUP

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope your kids enjoyed Keep Kinawa Moving as much as we did! A big thank you to our dedicated staff and volunteers for helping us manage the 750 students—it truly made a difference. A video and pictures are attached, take a look at the fun we had.

We're a little over **halfway to our goal of \$22,500**, and we're keeping the donation site open for the next two weeks. Meeting this goal is essential for our budget and will allow us to continue providing the same level of financial support to our school as in previous years.

Thank you for your continued support!
Kinawa Parent Group

Donation Link: <https://tinyurl.com/47rv54sr>

2024 KKM Flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/67upw6h8>

2024 KKM Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QebwYDCJTmg>

2024 KKM Photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17e5p7XkwfUZdnruPjqvODLmHV71Y_xd3?usp=sharing

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.

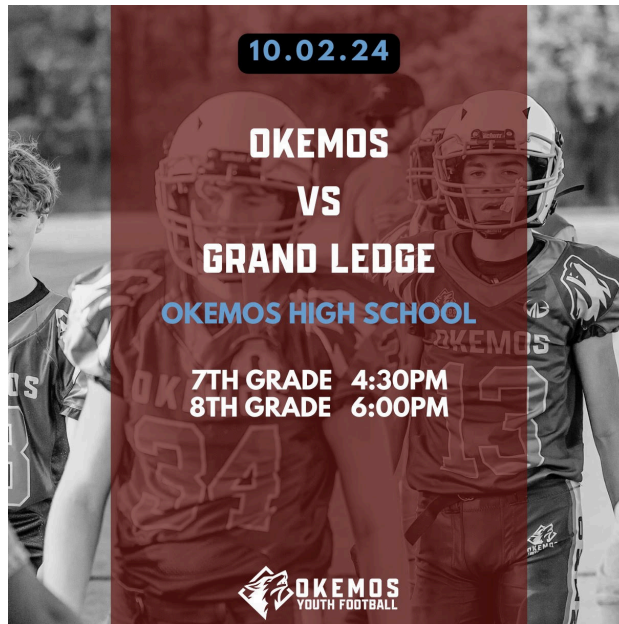
OKEMOS YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM

Just a quick shout out from our Okemos Youth football program ... **We are trying to fill the stands for our 7th and 8th grade last home game of the season!!!**

- Okemos vs Grand Ledge
- Wednesday, Oct. 2nd.

- OHS football stadium
- 4:30 - 7th grade
- 6:00 - 8th grade

Would love to show these junior Wolves all of our Okemos support



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>

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 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 if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Please email me at steven.stierley@okemosk12.net or call me at 517-706-4700 with questions or concerns.

Steve Stierley