

October 6, 2024

Hello Kinawa Families,

Parent Teacher Conferences are this week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If you have not signed up for conferences please remember to do so by Monday, October 7th at 5pm. Please understand that you **will not** be able to sign up for conferences after 5pm on Monday, October 7th. Please do so before if you are interested.

Please continue to talk to your child about school and ask them to show you what they have been doing in their Google Classrooms and their powerschool accounts. It's always best to have no surprises at conferences.

Please see the announcement below regarding **Fall Parent Teacher Conferences**.

UPCOMING DATES

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

November 1: No School Professional Development Day for all Okemos Staff

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. Pre-orders close October 10th at 8pm.

[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

ELE'S GROUP INFORMATION

Hello families.

Kinawa counselors have partnered with [Ele's Place](#), a support center for grieving youth and teens, for several years now. With this partnership, a trained grief counselor runs an 8 week grief group, during the school day, with eligible Kinawa students and a counselor. This year, our group will run in the fall, during the months of October and November. During your student's October 9th Base class, teachers will make an announcement about an Ele's Group survey made available on the counseling Google Classroom pages. Teachers will let students know that this survey is optional. If your student expresses interest in this opportunity, you will be contacted. If you would like to discuss the potential for your student to participate in this group, please contact the grade level counselor by **Friday, October 11th**. This step is not necessary but we welcome any conversation.

Tessa Marks- 5th grade counselor- tessa.marks@okemosk12.net-
Google Classroom code uikwu3e

Emily Edger- 6th grade counselor- emily.edger@okemosk12.net-
Google Classroom code: 3637bsx

MATH CIRCLE ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be **No Math Circle on Tuesday, October 8th due to Parent Teacher Conferences**. Please check the Math Circle Google Classroom for more information.

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

WOW! That's Engineering is an event designed to expose young women* in grades 6-8 to the world of engineering through fun hands-on activities. Those attending the event will have the opportunity to gain a hands-on look at the different fields of engineering from a new perspective. All activities will be led by current MSU students studying engineering. The goal of this event is to show young women how diverse the field of engineering is and the different paths it can take them on.

The event will be held at the MSU Engineering Building on Saturday, November 9th, 2024 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. The event is free to all participants and a free snack, lunch and t-shirt will be provided! Space is limited to the first 80 participants, and the deadline to apply is Wednesday, October 16th.

Attached is a flyer with all the necessary information about the event, and the link to sign up online.

Here's the link to sign up:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wow-thats-engineering-tickets-1014595441277>

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CURRICULUM ANNOUNCEMENT

Reproductive Health Curriculum

Each year all Kinawa students are taught a unit on Reproductive Health within the trimester of their scheduled Physical Education class. In preparation for the delivery of this curriculum, please review the following reproductive health information which includes an opt-out form for those interested in that option for your child.

[5th Grade Reproductive Health Information](#)

[6th Grade Reproductive Health Information](#)

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