

January 5, 2025

Hello Kinawa Families,

Happy New Year! I hope each of you were able to spend time with the individuals you love most and found a little time to relax over break. We are very excited to welcome our students back into the building tomorrow, January 6, 2025. We ask for your assistance in making sure your child's devices are fully charged and ready for instruction on Monday.

Below you will find information pertaining to upcoming events at Kinawa.

UPCOMING DATES

January 6: School resumes

January 17: ½ day of School K-12

January 20: No School -Martin Luther King Jr. Day

CELL PHONE AND SMART WATCHES POLICY REMINDER

We ask that you please take a moment to review and remind your child of the Cell Phone and Smartwatch policy.

“Cell phones and other communication devices are to be turned off and placed in the locker upon entering the building. They are not to be used during the school day unless a teacher has given permission for use in their classroom. They may be used after school for purposes of contacting parents for pick up. If a staff member hears the phone or a student is seen using the phone, the staff member will confiscate the device and turn it into the office.”

Unfortunately, smartwatches and cell phones are becoming a major distraction for our students. If you need to contact your child during the school day, please call the office. Furthermore, if your child needs to contact you throughout the school day, we require them to use the office phone as well. Students caught playing on their smart watches or cell phones will have them confiscated and will require a parent to pick them up at the end of the day.

Thank you for your help with this matter.

SCIENCE NIGHT IS FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Hi friends from Kinawa Schools! We are excited to offer Science Night on February 13, 2025 and are hoping to get as much participation as possible. We would love to have you on our Science Committee team:

[Volunteer Form](#)

FIREARM SAFETY LOCKS INFORMATION

One of the District's top priorities is to provide students and staff with a safe educational environment, which includes an environment free from gun violence. Your proactive efforts in securing firearms and ammunition are vital to keep children safe.

An Amendment to the state Firearms Act, effective February 2024, makes it a crime to improperly store or leave a firearm unattended in the home when someone knows or reasonably should know a minor is, or is likely to be, on the premises. Any unattended firearms must be unloaded and locked with a locking device or stored in a locked box or container. For more information please visit [Health and Human Services Firearm Safety](#).

Each of our schools have a limited amount of firearm locks available in the office to help our families comply with the law and to keep our students safe. For more information, please contact your building's main office, the Administration Building at 517-706-5002, or the [Director of Safety and Security](#). We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance firearm safety measures at home.

For more important safety resources, including how to report a safety concern, please visit our [Safety and Security page](#) on the district website.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If your child is going to be absent from school we ask that you let the school know. The easiest way to do this is to fill out this [Reporting an Absence form](#). School staff check it daily and are able to update your child's attendance through it.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Link to buy a 2024/2025 Yearbook

- [Buy a Yearbook](#)

Community Photos Upload -

Do you have pictures from Keep Kinawa Moving? From the 5th or 6th grade field trip? Athletic events? Please consider uploading them and they may be put in this year's yearbook.

- [Community Photos](#)

Photo Guidelines for Community Photos

- All content is reviewed by yearbook staff. Anything inappropriate will be deleted.
- Don't use photos with filters, logos or hand gestures.
- Don't use screenshots - they are low resolution and not print quality.
- Don't use watermarked photos - get them from the source.

HANDICAP PARKING SPACES

Unfortunately we have noticed multiple individuals pulling into our handicap parking spaces during pick up and drop off times. Very often individuals using these designated parking spaces do not have proper permits to use these parking spaces. The result is that individuals who need to use these spaces, who have proper permits, are not able to do so.

Starting this week individuals parking in these spaces without a proper permit may be ticketed by the Meridian Township Police Department.

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](#)

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