

January 19, 2025

Hello Kinawa Families,

This week looks like it will be a very cold week for weather. Please be reminded that our policy is: as long as “the feel temperature” is greater than zero degrees we provide the students an option to go outside at lunch recess. Students always have the option to stay inside and play in the gymnasium or cafeteria during lunch recess as well. If your child plans to go outside, please make sure they have appropriate gear.

Please be reminded that there will be **NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 20th** as we observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

UPCOMING DATES

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

February 12: Student Count Day

February 13: Kinawa/Chippewa Science Night

February 14: No School- Presidents Day Weekend

February 17: No School- Presidents Day Weekend

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](#)

[Science Night Flyer](#)

Below you will find information regarding Science Projects

[Projects](#)

[Flyer](#)

OKEMOS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS WINTER GALA

Please consider joining us at the Okemos Athletic Boosters Winter Gala on February 7th

[Winter Gala](#)

RAISING RESILIENT WOLVES EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Please consider joining us for our Raising Resilient Wolves Educational Series. The focus will be on Wellness Strategies for Student Success. Our first session will be on Tuesday, January 28th from 7pm - 8pm in the Kinawa Auditorium.

[Raising Resilient Wolves Flyer](#)

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

Time is running out to purchase a yearbook for the 2024/2025 school year! If you want a yearbook and have not yet purchased it, please use the link below.

Link to buy a 2024/2025 Yearbook

- [Buy a Yearbook](#)

KINAWA MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

"Mrs. Bellamy is excited to announce that she will be offering another session of her musical theater workshop this winter!

On Wednesday starting in February and running consistently through March up until spring break. We will be focusing on the basics of musical theater - singing, dancing, acting, staging, etc. and it is open to all Kinawa students regardless of their enrollment in a music class during school. The content will be different from the last session so students are encouraged to sign up again if they enjoyed the first session, and any new students are more than welcome as nothing is sequential from the one in the fall.

The session will be on Wednesdays after school from 3:45-4:30 pm and will be held in the Kinawa Auditorium.

****Missed sessions by students or due to school cancellations will NOT be refunded or rescheduled, and enrolled students are expected to be in the auditorium during the workshop.****

This workshop is open to all current Kinawa students, regardless of their enrollment in music during the school day!

Here is the link for enrollment- <https://www.okemosonline.com/CourseActivities.aspx?id=19> the cutoff for enrolling is the day that it begins Feb 5th simply click on the enrichment classes and then select Musical Theater Workshop to register."

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.

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.

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.

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

Steve Stierley