

February 16, 2025

Hello Kinawa Families,

It was wonderful to see so many families and students at Science Night this past Thursday. It was truly an amazing event. Thank you to the Kinawa Parent Group, our Science Night Coordinators, and all the vendors and students for your roles in making this happen.

It's hard to believe but Spring Parent Teacher Conferences are coming soon. Conferences will be held on Wednesday, March 12th and Thursday, March 13th. More information will be coming soon.

There will be No School on Monday, February 17th as we observe Presidents Day

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

UPCOMING DATES

February 17: No School- Presidents Day Weekend

March 7: ½ day of school. School dismisses at 11:55am

March 12: Parent Teacher Conferences 5pm - 8pm

March 13: ½ day of school for students

March 13: Parent Teacher Conferences 1pm - 4pm and 5pm - 8pm

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

DEADLINE TO PURCHASE A YEARBOOK IS FEBRUARY 21, 2025

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](#)

RAMADAN

From March 1-31, many students may be observing Ramadan, a month of fasting from sunrise to sunset. For those who participate, this can be a physically and mentally challenging time, especially during lunch periods. To support our students, we'd like to offer the library as an alternate space during lunch for anyone who would prefer to be away from food. As with any religious observance, participation varies by family and individual, so we encourage understanding, flexibility, and respect for all students during this time.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

A poster for a spaghetti dinner. It features a plate of spaghetti with a fork lifting some strands. The background is dark with musical notes and a treble clef. The text 'ON SALE NOW' is in yellow, 'OKEMOS MUSIC PATRONS' is in red and white, and 'Spaghetti Dinner' is in a large, elegant script. The date '7 MAR 2025' is in yellow, and the time 'Fri. 4:30 - 7:30 PM' and location 'Okemos High School' are in white. A QR code is in the bottom left, and a note about ticket purchase is at the bottom.

ON SALE NOW

OKEMOS
MUSIC PATRONS

*Spaghetti
Dinner*


**7 MAR
2025**

Fri. 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Okemos High School

Purchase tickets from any Okemos Band, Choir, or Orchestra student

OKEMOS YOUTH FOOTBALL SKILLS CAMP

A poster for the Okemos Football Winter Skills Camp. It features a football player in a helmet and uniform, running with the ball. Above the player is a red and white wolf head logo. The text 'OKEMOS FOOTBALL WINTER SKILLS CAMP' is in large, bold, red letters. Below this, in a white box, are the details: 'GRADES 2-6', 'OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL', 'SUNDAYS - 2/23*, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16', '5:00-6:15PM', and '*CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL ON 2/23'. A paragraph describes the camp as a non-contact learning opportunity. At the bottom, it says 'ALL LEVELS WELCOME' and 'REGISTER AT WWW.OKEMOSONLINE.COM | \$65 (INCLUDES CAMP T-SHIRT)'. The Okemos Youth Football logo and 'STRENGTH IN THE PACK' are at the very bottom.




**OKEMOS FOOTBALL
WINTER SKILLS CAMP**

**GRADES 2-6
OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL
SUNDAYS - 2/23*, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16
5:00-6:15PM
*CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL ON 2/23**

OKEMOS YOUTH FOOTBALL HAS PARTNERED WITH OHS VARSITY FOOTBALL COACH EFE SCOTT-EMUAKPOR AND HIS STAFF FOR OUR 2024 WINTER SKILLS CAMP. THIS IS A NON-CONTACT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOCUSING ON STANCE AND POSITION, BLOCKING, AND BALL HANDLING.

ALL LEVELS WELCOME

REGISTER AT WWW.OKEMOSONLINE.COM | \$65 (INCLUDES CAMP T-SHIRT)


STRENGTH IN THE PACK

OKEMOS LACROSSE CLUB

The Okemos Lacrosse Club is having Winter Clinics for all girl players. Join us on Sunday evenings from 5 - 7 pm in the main gym at Chippewa to get in some extra lacrosse practice or try it out for the first time! No equipment or experience is needed and there is no cost to try it. The suggested donation for returning players is \$5 per clinic or \$25 for all clinics in January, February, and March. Check out [this flyer](#) for more details. Come be part of the fast moving sport in Okemos!

KINAWA COMMUNITY GARDEN INFORMATION

Come join us in the Kinawa Community Garden this year!

Several years ago, Montessori teachers and families constructed a hoop house and raised garden beds behind the tennis courts at Kinawa Middle School. A dedicated group of parent volunteers revitalized the facility in 2016 for use as a community garden for Okemos Public Schools. The Kinawa Community Garden (KCG) now has 35 community garden plots in raised beds (including 10 hoop house beds which afford year-round gardening), a well-fenced perimeter, weather-responsive irrigation, herbs, berries, perennials, a composting system, and art installations!

Applications for 2025 are now open! After plots are assigned to our returning members, **applications completed by 5pm on Feb 22** are selected at random. Although we usually have a waitlist at this point, we continue to accept applications; remaining plots (if any) are then assigned as first-come, first-served. Hoop house plots can be used starting early March! The application has additional information.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/qx9XGKwc9kf6Xfqt7>

Questions? kinawagarden@gmail.com

Cultivating community,

Laura Freidhoff, Erica Boyan, Stacy Tapscott & Amira Vojic

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McCRACKEN BASKETBALL CAMP

[McCracken Basketball Camp](#)

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