

Kalamazoo Public Schools

EXCELSIOR

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College Visits Reveal Opportunities

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Spelling
Bee Champ
Josiah Loehrke
is a good
speller and a
good friend

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Middle school
Careers in Tech
students tour
WMed Innovation
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Esports facility

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Pushing Students to Explore Different Pathways to Success

A Message from the Superintendent

Dr. Darrin Slade



KALAMAZOO Public Schools is looking toward the future.

When we're in the thick of another school year, looking at state testing, planning for graduations, anticipating the end-of-year activities, it is easy to get caught up in this particular moment and its challenges and celebrations.

But, a school district is never operating in just one moment. Every success we build today has the goal of pushing students toward future success. We are not just helping students build skills and success today, but we are helping them to envision how the knowledge and skills they develop in elementary school, middle school and high school might serve them in the future.

For some of our students, there are

plans firmly established in their minds. Some have always had a dream school in mind after high school graduation, or they have long envisioned themselves following a parent's footsteps in a career, or they have aspired to some other success for which they have carefully planned a path forward.

That next step and the future are not so clear for other students. It's not surprising. It is daunting to plan for the future. It can be especially overwhelming when you consider how many careers exist today that didn't exist 20 years ago.

At Kalamazoo Public Schools, we work to help students look forward and to think about the future. Much of that work comes under the direction of Dr. Tracy Miller, who is our coordinator of Postsecondary Pathways, Instruction, and Student Services. While you might think that her work focuses solely on our older students, she actually helps build a scaffolding of career exploration and skill assessment that students engage in starting in elementary school.

In this Excelsior, you can read about three opportunities students have to explore their future educational and career options.

The Linden Grove and Milwood Magnet School Tech Clubs encourage some of our middle school students to explore high tech careers such as coding and engineering. Those students recently visited the Western Michigan University Esports facility and toured the WMed Innovation Center.

You can also learn about the completion of the Career Connect Campus, the new Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency's new centralized Career & Technical Education center on Sprinkle Road. This facility will provide students with extraordinary opportunities to receive hands-on training in some of the most in-demand trades in Kalamazoo County.

Students will be able to learn about work in health care, construction, design, automotive technology, and other trades, not simply from books but by collaborating with students from across the county

in real-life work settings with access to the latest technology.

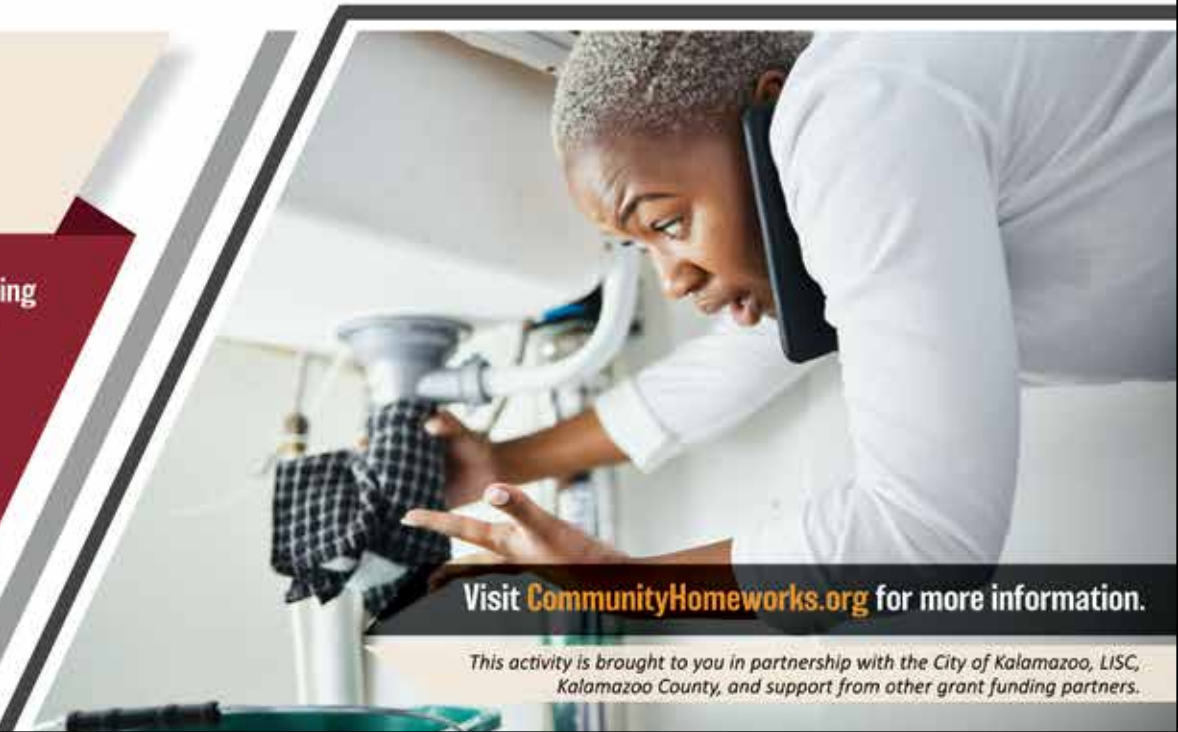
Finally, you can also read how seventh- and ninth-grade students visited Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University, respectively, for college exploration days. While some students have no trouble envisioning what they will do in higher education, other students struggle to see themselves attending college at all. These visits, which are called Cougars Rising at Kalamazoo Valley and Bronco Buds at WMU, put our students on college campuses with older students as role models to show them the excitement and possibilities open to them in higher education.

What does the future hold for our students? We do not know for sure, but we do know that it is imperative that we give them every opportunity to see the possibilities that await them. We can help them dream about the future — and we can give them the skills and knowledge to make those dreams a reality.

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World-class Career & Technical Education (CTE) center opening in the Fall of 2025.

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KALAMAZOO RESA

Career Connect

Spelling Bee Champ Josiah Loehrke Is a Good Speller and a Good Friend

EL SOL Elementary School fifth grader Josiah Loehrke will represent Kalamazoo County at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Maryland in May.

Josiah won the honor after he was named the winner of the 2025 Kalamazoo Regional Spelling Bee on March 15. The spelling bee was held at Linden Grove Middle School and was sponsored by the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive.

Josiah bested 25 other spellers in a competition that went 11 rounds. His winning word was “equivalent.”

“It was super exciting, and I was surprised to win,” he said. “So many people reached out to congratulate me, and that felt so good.”

He seems pretty cool and collected for a fifth grader, but he said he definitely felt nervous during the competition.

“I was crossing my fingers before every round that I would not get out, and the only times I was nervous was at the start of the competition or if I got a hard word that I didn’t know if I could spell,”

Josiah said. “The further I got into the competition, the more confidence in myself I had.

“I dealt with stress by taking a breath and calming down. I was trying to think positive. If I didn’t know how to spell a word and I felt nervous, I would ask the judge for information about the word that I didn’t really need to know, so I could take a breath, calm down, and think about the spelling of the word.”

He told the Kalamazoo Gazette that practice for the competition consisted mostly of using a spelling bee app on his mom’s phone and studying before bed. He’s continuing to do that for at least an hour a day and trying to work his way through the entire Scripps spelling list before the national competition.



Josiah Loehrke

MLive noted that not only was Josiah a good speller, but that he was a good sport, who offered words of encouragement to those around him. He said he knew everyone else was feeling the same pressure that he was experiencing.

“Last year, I lost my school spelling bee, and I know how it feels to misspell a word,” he said. “It’s not a good feeling to lose, so I wanted to cheer up the people who got out. It’s very important to be a good friend and a kind person. Win or lose, everyone is trying their best.”

Milwood Elementary School fifth grader Penelope Bayer was runner-up in the Kalamazoo bee, which is open to fourth through eighth grade students throughout Kalamazoo County.

Winners of the individual KPS school spelling bees were:

Arcadia Elementary School — Osama Zuhour, Adam Campbell
Edison Academy — Sophie Romo, Fabior Naurellio
El Sol Elementary — Josiah Loehrke, Adrian Ramirez Lopez
King-Westwood Elementary School — Kaja Lewis, Lana Sheeran
Lincoln International Studies School — Nivek Tolbert, Aysia Dixon
Linden Grove Middle School — Neela Parthasarathy, Eugene Anderson
Maple Street Magnet School For The Arts — Monroe Harrison
Milwood Elementary School — Maya Mellinger, Penelope Bayer



Milwood Magnet School — Jonah Antoniotti, Sophia Shinh, Benjamin Wright
Northeastern Elementary School — Ar’rielle Spencer, Delsin Hoeve
Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School — Mayim Olbrot, Casey Duguay
Spring Valley Center for Exploration — Eve Bongers, Eloheeka Adewale
Washington Writers’ Academy — Melanie McLachlan-Taylor, Eli Velez
Winchell Elementary School — Harold Nicholson, Evelyn DiTaranto
Woods Lake Elementary — Savannah Kelley, Loretta Lloyd
Woodward School — Sabre Garnett, Hope Sanhou



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Dr. Darrin Slade

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Inquiries by students and/or their parents/guardians should be directed to:

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All other inquiries should be directed to:

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District Directory at :

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Recipe**from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells**

Josh Kerby,
executive chef

Kirsten Strong,
registered dietitian
nutritionist

Sparkling Strawberry-Mint Lemonade

T IRED of the same old sips? Imagine a drink that awakens your senses with a fresh, playful fizz. This vibrant lemonade creation, infused with seasonal delights, is just the ticket! As spring unfolds in Michigan, the air at your local farmers market is likely to be filled with the sweet scent of ripe strawberries and the invigorating aroma of fresh mint. The best part of the recipe? You're the master mixer, controlling the sweetness to your liking.

**MACERATED STRAWBERRIES****Ingredients**

½ cup fresh strawberries, sliced
1 teaspoon sugar

Directions

Mix the sugar and strawberries to evenly distribute the ingredients. Cover and let sit for a minimum of 30 minutes or as long as overnight in the refrigerator. Stir occasionally.

**SPARKLING STRAWBERRY-MINT
LEMONADE**

(makes about 9 cups)

Ingredients

½ cup fresh mint, stemmed
4 cups prepared lemonade
½ cup macerated strawberries
4 cups sparkling water
Lemon wedges or wheels for
garnish (optional)

Directions

Blend the mint, strawberries, and lemonade in a blender until the mint fully blends into tiny pieces. You want the mint about the same size as dried parsley flakes. Fill a glass with ice. Add the strawberry-mint mixture half way and fill to the top of the glass with sparkling water. Stir and enjoy! Add more or less sparkling water or strawberry mixture to control the sweetness.

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KC Mock Trial Team Wins State Competition, Heads to National Tournament

THE KALAMAZOO Central Mock Trial Team won the Michigan High School Mock Trial State Finals and claimed the state championship at the competition held March 21 and 22 in Lansing. The team will represent the state at the national tournament in Phoenix on May 8-10.

This year’s team members are:

- Jacob Evens (Junior)
- Morgan Harmon (Senior)
- Galilea Hernandez-Hernandez (Freshman)
- Isabelle Martinez Maldonado (Senior)
- Lillian Mielke (Senior)
- Atreyu Muha (Senior)
- Samuel Noakes (Freshman)
- Elianna Oram (Sophomore)
- Nova Oram (Senior)
- Trellina Presley (Senior)
- Katherine Risley (Senior)

Students worked with a dedicated group of coaches:

- Lead Coach: Francis P. Bilancio
Attorney Coaches: Rachael Viñales, Matthew Zwart,
(continued on page 7)



The Kalamazoo Central High School 2025 Mock Trial team won the state championship and is heading to nationals. Members are, front row, left to right, Isabelle Martinez Maldonado, Kate Risley, Nova Oram, and Galilea Hernandez-Hernandez. In the back row, left to right, are: Atreyu Muha, Lillian Mielke, Jacob Evens, Trellina Presley, Samuel Noakes, Elliana Oram, and Morgan Harmon.



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July 7 - 10 | July 14 - 17 | July 21 - 24, 28
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August 4 - 7 | August 11 - 14 | August 18 - 22
8:30 - 11:45 a.m. or 12:30 - 3:45 p.m.
Anna Whitten Hall on the Arcadia Commons Campus

Mock Trial *(continued from page 6)*

Joseph Hohler III, Jaime Nelson, Reh A. Starks, Mary Anne Simmering

The Kalamazoo Central High School Mock Trial Team was founded in 1986 by retired coach Mikell Thurston Griffith. The team has won over 20 state championships. When competing on the national stage, they won the national championship in 1996, and they won second in the nation 2006-2009 and in 2018.

This year the students took on a fictional criminal case involving the murder of an actor during a mock duel during a theater production.

During competition, teams of students argue cases before panels of judges. One judge presides over the trial, while the rest sit as the jury. The Michigan competition begins with a regional level with 70 teams, with 12 teams proceeding to the state competition.

The Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament is organized and conducted by the Michigan Center for Civic Education. The MCCE designed the program to reenact much of what might take place in trial courts. High school students take on the roles of attorneys and witnesses and compete against other schools in real courtrooms in front of real judges and lawyers. But while the students take on roles, there is no set script. As in a debate, participants must adjust to the strategies employed by the opposing side. In general, mock trials draw upon historical events, trials of contemporary interest, school or classroom situations, or hypothetical and entertaining fact patterns.

John T. Berry, executive director of the State Bar of Michigan, said mock trial helps students develop reasoning, public speaking, and performance under pressure skills and describes the activity as: “[a] unique opportunity for young people to learn about the legal system, while at the same time practicing cooperative learning, critical thinking, and having positive interactions with adults. Participating in Mock Trial will certainly give a young person interested in a future legal career the chance to experience the challenges of the courtroom first hand.”

“
... mock trial helps students develop reasoning, public speaking, and performance under pressure skills ...
”

John T. Berry
Michigan State Bar
Executive Director

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Students Explore College Opportunities Through Bronco Buds, Cougars Rising

KALAMAZOO Public Schools seventh and ninth graders recently visited Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University, respectively, to experience campus life and to build an understanding of the transition from high school to higher education.

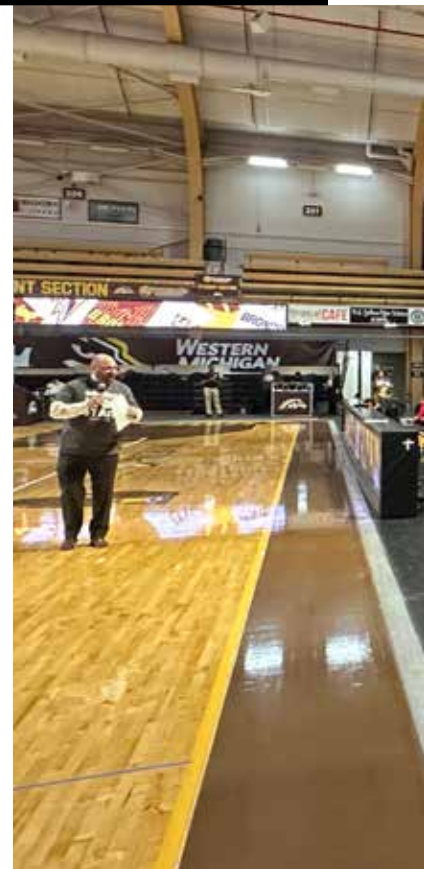
The WMU visits were a revitalization of the Bronco Buds campus visits that took place for years prior to the Covid pandemic, while the Cougars Rising program at Kalamazoo Valley is a new experiential college experience that KPS offers students.

During the visits KPS students met college students and interacted with faculty members and admissions and financial aid staff, while learning about topics such as areas of study, academic resources and extracurricular activities.

“These visits foster connections between students and colleges and show students how they should be preparing academically, behaviorally, and mentally for future career and college pathways,”



Hillside seventh graders visit the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Texas Township Campus as part of the Cougars Rising, college exploration program. Kevin Lavender, interim director of Early/Middle College, dual enrollment, youth pipeline and camps at Kalamazoo Valley, welcomes students before their tours.



Hillside Middle School seventh grader Iviona Daniels gives a preliminary test spin of her mini turbine at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Students attending Cougars Rising had the opportunity to learn about turbines from the Wind Turbine Technician Academy instructors.



ON THE COVER: Cover cutline: Kalamazoo Central students offer up a “W” when they visit Western Michigan University for Bronco Buds. The students are, clockwise from the top left, Dagoberto Castro, Ethan Alvarez, Nam Pham, Carlos Dominguez, and Issac Rodriguez Duarte.

Phoenix and Kalamazoo Central freshmen listen to Western Michigan University Provost Chris Cheatham welcome them to Read Fieldhouse and the WMU campus for the Bronco Buds program.



Western Michigan University cheerleaders welcome Kalamazoo Central freshmen Zaeanna Murphy-Ryan and Kamya Tillman on campus for Bronco Buds.



Professor Dr. Dae Kim explains the various types of canes used by those with visual impairments to Kalamazoo Central students Avery Routhier, Anna DeYoung, and Niyale Pritchett.

said Dr. Tracy Miller, the KPS coordinator of Postsecondary Pathways, Instruction and Student Services. “These types of experiential learning opportunities help students make informed decisions about their futures and envision what college life would look like.”

Kalamazoo Valley hosted KPS seventh graders for Cougars Rising at its Texas Township Campus. Students enjoyed tours led by college students, while learning about extracurriculars and trades programs at the school. They also participated in hands-on activities building model wind turbines with Wind Turbine Technician Academy instructors and creating flip books with college students in the Applied Arts and Media Technologies program.

They also were introduced to the concept of Early/Middle College, the program that allows students to earn their high school diploma and an associate’s degree or two-year certificate simultaneously.

“This is a great opportunity for the college to work closely with both Kalamazoo Public Schools and Western Michigan University and support students earlier in their educational journey,” said Kevin Lavender, Kalamazoo Valley interim director of Early/Middle College, dual enrollment, youth pipeline and

(continued on page 10)

Students Explore College Opportunities *(continued from page 9)*

campus. “We want to expose and educate area youth about the benefits of dual enrollment and Early/Middle College before they get to high school.”

WMU took the high school freshmen on tours of its main campus. The visits started with a pep rally in Read Fieldhouse, with students dividing into groups for visits with various colleges and programs depending on the students’ areas of interest, such as arts, aviation, health or business. Students who toured the College of Health and Human Services had the chance to participate in hands-on activities to learn about holistic health and the blind and low-vision rehabilitation services.

“The Bronco Buds Program provides not just an opportunity for all Kalamazoo Public Schools ninth graders to visit Western Michigan University’s campus but also for students to engage with our various colleges, programs and departments,” said Dr. Erika Carr, director of the Office of Pre-College Programming at Western. “

“It is our hope that each student who visits our campus will see themselves as college-bound and as a future Bronco,” she said. “However, regardless

of future plans, they will know after their visit with us that Western is a place that will always welcome and support them. We are so very grateful for our

partnership with Kalamazoo Public Schools and the Kalamazoo Promise, and we are honored to have these KPS ninth graders on our campus.”



Administrative Assistant Cristina Milostan explains some of the work that staff does with clients in the WMU Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies in the College of Health and Human Services. She shows Kalamazoo Central students Talaya Greene, Nadia Martin, Anna DeYoung, and Avery Routhier an example of a 3-D printed map for blind or low vision clients.

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KRESA Plans Opening Celebration for Career Connect Campus

THE PUBLIC can get its first peek inside the new Kalamazoo RESA Career & Technical Education Center in May.

The Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency’s new 101,655-square-foot Career Connect Campus Grand Opening Celebration will be held from 4–7 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the new building located at 3500 Vanrick Drive (next to Wings Event Center).

When it officially opens in the fall, the building will offer high school students a state-of-the-art facility in which they can explore some of the most high-demand areas of employment in a setting designed to replicate real-world, working environments such as advanced healthcare labs, construction workshops, and manufacturing spaces.

The center will also include a greenhouse, weld-

ing yard, transportation yard, construction yard, outdoor event space, and an industry event space. While the school will be open only to high school students during the day, in the evening hours, plans are to allow access to the community for programs such as employability and skills training for adults.

“More than 400 KPS students have decided to start building their careers at the new Career Connect Campus this upcoming fall in several of the Career & Technical Education (CTE) pathways,” said Dr. Tracy Miller, the Kalamazoo Public Schools coordinator of Postsecondary Pathways, Instruction, and Student Services. “These innovative career pathways are in high-growth and high-wage industries such as healthcare, culinary arts, information technology, and skilled and professional trades.

“KPS is truly excited for the student lives that will be transformed and futures that will be impacted by Career Connect. This will give our students the skills they need to provide local employers with a thriving, educated, and skilled workforce, thus helping create a stronger Kalamazoo community.”

The center is set to serve more than 1,300 high school students when it launches. The CTE program also will continue to offer some CTE experiences at remote locations around the county.

“The space is stunning, and the labs are equipped with the latest cutting-edge technology,” said Eric Stewart, KRESA’s assistant superintendent for Career and Talent Development. “However, the most important aspect is the teachers. We have an amazing team

(continued on page 13)



The KRESA Career Connect Campus will hold an open house on May 22.



The new center will include an outdoor plaza.



The campus will have 17 instructional studios.



The center will serve about 1,300 students each year.



The center will have 66 staff members.

FACT SHEET

- Enrollment:** Students sign up with their local school counselor.
- Building Cost:** The CCC building has been funded through an anonymous \$100 million gift.
- Operational Costs:** Funded through the countywide CTE millage (passed in 2019), state and federal grants, and local school districts.
- Student Capacity:** 1,300+ students at opening.
- Square Footage:** 167,000+ sq ft.
- Instructional Labs:** 22 labs + 1 greenhouse.
- Lab Equipment:** 1,265 pieces of lab equipment, excluding hand tools (as of last count).
- Instructional Studios:** 17 studios.
- Courses Offered:** 21 courses offered twice per day.
- Industry Recognized Credentials:** 25 planned (and growing).
- Staff:** 66 staff members.
- Advisory Committees:** 19 committees with 238 advisors.
- Conference Spaces:** 3 dedicated large conference spaces + 1 industry meeting space

Career Connect Campus (continued from page 12)

of educators with deep expertise in their fields. The students will love learning from them and will gain a wealth of knowledge about their chosen careers.”

Since the 1980s, KRESA organized its career and technical education program through Education For Employment, which was spread throughout various locations at high schools and real-life employment sites such as Bronson Methodist Hospital. But when former KRESA Superintendent Dave Campbell made the pitch for the new center, he noted that many counties have centralized career centers, including Kent, Ottawa, Muskegon, and Allegan.

Stewart said the new center will enhance the capacity for countywide CTE programs by centralizing the campus. The central location will reduce transportation barriers for students and will allow for more collaboration among the different programs. For example, the agricultural program may be able to grow produce that can be used by the CTE culinary students.

“This campus is designed to be a game-changer for our community,” Stewart said. “It will provide students with cutting-edge tools, real-world experiences and connections to local employers that will help

prepare them for the workforce of tomorrow.”

Miller said research indicates that students who take CTE courses are stronger college students and well positioned for certifications and advanced degrees.

“Our mindset has to shift from an ‘either college or CTE’ mindset to one where students can pursue all of these pathways at different points in their life and career journey,” she said. “I speak from experience from having been a CTE student in high school who participated in job training, earned certifications, and who also attended college and earned advanced degrees.”

The new center is launching with broad community support. KRESA and Southwest Michigan First have been talking about developing a new direction for career and technical education in the county for years, even before KRESA won support for a 20-year operational millage for CTE in 2019.

Then, in October 2021, Southwest Michigan First announced it had secured an anonymous commitment of \$100 million for the construction of a new career and technical education center. Also in 2021, Catalyst Development LLC donated the land for the

project to KRESA for \$0.

CTE will be significantly expanding its program of offerings, Stewart said. New programs will include design, supply chain, heavy equipment maintenance, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, pharmacy tech, and medical lab sciences.

“We have also refreshed the curriculum and updated equipment for many of our existing programs,” he said. “Our commitment to staying current with labor market needs means the space is designed to adapt to new programs as industry demands evolve.”



**Career Connect Campus
Grand Opening Celebration**
Location: 3500 Vanrick Dr.
(Next to Wings Event Center)
Date: Thursday, May 22
Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

KRESA CTE website: <https://www.kresa.org/cte>
Flyover construction videos: <https://gowightman.com/projects/kresa-career-technical-education-campus>

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- Metro Connect
- Travel Training

Visit us at Kmetro.com for information on transportation options to increase student access to educational opportunities throughout the community!

....LET'S GO METRO!



ARTISTS' CORNER

El Sol Elementary School art teacher **Danelle Drake's** kindergarten students learned about the art of Jasper Johns, an American contemporary artist who often uses numbers and letters in his artwork.

Students created a grid and used oil pastels to write

a letter or number in each box. Students then used watercolor paint to outline the shape of the letter or number. Finally, students used markers to add more details to their letters and numbers. They were able to add glitter to their favorite letters.



Ailyn Hidrogo Toca



Dariel Mejia Solis



Lanna Lindahl



Matheo Bujanos



First Saturday at the Kalamazoo Public Library

Family

Saturday, May 3 | 11:30 am–1 pm | NACD
Join us for First Saturday at the NACD (612 N. Park St.) to meet author Antwan Eady and celebrate spring!

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

Teen

May 3 | 1–3 pm | CEN/Teen Studio
Watch Star Wars, while enjoying crafts and snacks!

Learn more at kpl.gov



Kalamazoo
Public Library
kpl.gov

Middle School Careers in Tech Students Tour WMed Innovation Center, WMU Esports Facilities

STUDENTS from Linden Grove Middle School and Milwood Magnet School toured the WMed Innovation Center and Western Michigan University Esports facilities as part of the Careers in Tech lunch programs at their schools.

The Innovation Center, which is part of the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, is an incubator for companies working on new life science, technology and engineering ventures. Students heard a career presentation

from a chemist from Videka, a local company that creates lean, innovative pet food protection solutions extracted from nature.

During the tour, students also enjoyed lunch at the WMU Valley Dining Center, experienced campus life and toured the university's Esports arena, where they learned about careers in gaming and got hands-on experience with professional equipment.

The Careers in Tech students meet weekly to study coding, robotics, and 3D printing and to gain insight into potential career paths in technology. Students work on developing a deeper understanding of the intersection between technology, education, and career possibilities.

Counselors Nora Snead, Steven Spybrook, Josh Krueger, and Instructional Technologist Jake Sanford coordinate the program with support from Kalamazoo RESA's Career Connect Career Counselor Lorri Batsie. The Careers in Tech program is funded through KRESA Career Connect Career Champions and Kalamazoo Public Schools.



Milwood Magnet School and Linden Grove Middle School students visited the WMed Innovation Center as part of a Careers in Tech field trip.



Careers in Tech students spend their lunch period learning about high-tech careers and skills.



Linden and Milwood students enjoyed their time at the WMU Esports training facility.

Bag of Books SALE

June 7 | 10 am - 3:30 pm

Central Library: 315 S. Rose St.
3rd Floor, Van Deusen Room

Thousands of books for all ages!

\$4 PER BAG

50¢ PER ITEM

kpl.gov/friends

(269) 553-7820

Cash only.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



FREE EVENT WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS | MAY 31 - AUG. 30 | FREE

RAIN GARDEN TOURS

These family-friendly tours will last about 20 to 25 minutes. Each tour will provide insights into the importance of rain gardens in urban settings and how simple landscaping changes can have a significant positive impact on the environment. (No tours Wednesday, June 4.)



EXHIBIT NOW - AUG. 31 | FREE

THE ART OF ADVERTISING



Highlighting nostalgic signs and advertisements from local businesses from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, "The Art of Advertising" offers up an eclectic mix of advertising paraphernalia from bygone eras.

EXHIBIT NOW - AUG. 31 | FREE

COLORFUL COLLECTIONS

This new exhibit features items from the permanent collection of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum displayed in a rainbow of hues. Delve into the color spectrum like never before as you enjoy some of the brightest and boldest examples from the KVM's collection.



NEW EXHIBIT MAY 17 - AUG. 31 | FREE

WALLACE & GROMIT AND SHAUN THE SHEEP: SHEAR GENIUS!

Step into the environments of Wallace & Gromit and Shaun the Sheep to explore their contraptions, antics and escapades through dramatic play and interactive opportunities.

Wallace & Gromit™ and Shaun the Sheep™: Shear Genius! was created by Minnesota Children's Museum and Ardman Animations™ Limited © 2025



UPCOMING EVENT

THURSDAYS, JUNE 19 - JULY 24 | 1 - 3 p.m. | FREE

SUMMER BREAK: INVENTIVE ADVENTURES

Embark on a whimsical journey with Shaun the Sheep and Wallace & Gromit with summer break events packed with fun, creativity and laughter, bringing the beloved characters to life through engaging activities and interactive exhibits.

PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE | APRIL SHOWS | \$3 PER PERSON

Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for details.

We Are Guardians | 11 a.m. Sat. | 25 min. | Grades K & up

Satellites reveal how interconnected Earth's ecosystems are, helping us understand the impact of human activities on climate change and the delicate balance of our planet's environment.

Perfect Little Planet | 1 p.m. Sun. | 35 min. |

Grades K & up

Discover our solar system through a different set of eyes – an alien family from another star system.



The Sky Above Us | 2 p.m. Sat. & Sun. | 35 min. | Grades 4 & up

Learn about some of the "celestial wonders" that can be seen overhead in Michigan in this live, season-focused program.

HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday | Noon - 4 p.m.

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Note: Some areas of the museum may be closed due to exhibit changes, staffing needs, special programs or collections care. We thank you for your patience.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.



230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo
kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7990