



SEARS

Community

Kenilworth School District 38 - Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Mark your calendar with these upcoming important dates.

Mr. Jeff Rosen Announced as 5th-8th Grade Assistant Principal

The Kenilworth School District 38 Board of Education is pleased to announce that Mr. Jeff Rosen has been named the new Assistant Principal of The Joseph Sears School. In his new role, Mr. Rosen will support staff, students, and families in Grades 5-8, helping to guide our upper school community through the critical middle years.

Mr. Rosen is a long-standing member of the Sears faculty, having taught at the school for over 18 years, primarily Social Studies in Grades 6 and 7. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Rosen has served in multiple roles as a leader for the seventh-grade and social studies teams. As such, he has played a pivotal role in advancing academic programs and strengthening our school culture. Mr. Rosen has also developed positive, respectful relationships with Sears students and looks forward to continuing to help them grow and develop as student leaders of the school. Known for his integrity, steady leadership, and student-centered approach, Mr. Rosen is deeply respected by students, families, and colleagues alike. His commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive learning environment makes him an excellent addition to our administrative team, and we are excited for him to bring his talents and leadership to this new role.

The Joseph Sears School is moving forward with a model that employs two Assistant Principals in order to better support the developmental needs of our students across all grade levels.

With this transition:

- Mr. Geoffrey Perlman will serve as Assistant Principal for Grades JK-4.
- Mr. Jeff Rosen will serve as Assistant Principal for Grades 5-8.

"We are excited to welcome Mr. Rosen to the administrative team. As an almost 20-year veteran teacher of Sears, he will offer a unique perspective and help move the organization forward," Superintendent Kate Donegan said.

"I have been able to work with and learn from so many outstanding students, educators, administrators, and parents during my time as a teacher here at Sears. I am grateful for the opportunity to move into this new role of Assistant Principal, and look forward to welcoming families back to school in August," Rosen said.

The Joseph Sears School and Board of Education would like to thank the staff, Kenilworth Police Department, Kenilworth Park District, and the Joseph Sears School Parents' Volunteer Association for participating in our interview process and helping us select this fantastic candidate.



I am grateful for the opportunity to move into this new role of Assistant Principal, and look forward to welcoming families back to school in August.

- **JULY 28**
First Day of Summer School
- **AUGUST 7**
Board of Education Building & Finance Committee Meeting
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- **AUGUST 14**
Last Day of Summer School
- **AUGUST 19**
Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- **AUGUST 28**
First Day of School
8:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- **AUGUST 28**
JK Back to School Information Session
9:00 - 9:45 a.m.
- **AUGUST 28, 29, SEPTEMBER 2**
JK Meet & Greet
- **SEPTEMBER 1**
Labor Day
(No School)

VISIT THE WEBSITE

www.kenilworth38.org



The Joseph Sears School Recognized by Project Lead The Way

The Joseph Sears School has been recognized as a 2024-25 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School. This honor is given to a select number of middle schools across the U.S. for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through PLTW Gateway, a Grade 5-8 STEM curriculum. PLTW is a national nonprofit organization that creates an innovative technology curriculum and empowers students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills for future careers.

"This award is recognition of the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, Allison Drew, Margo Parkes, and our Chief Operating Officer, Nate McBride. Project Lead the Way is an exceptional program that allows our students to have hands-on experiences while gaining important skills such as communication, creativity, and collaboration," Superintendent Kate Donegan said.

To be eligible for the designation, The Joseph Sears School had to meet a variety of criteria, such as the percentage of students participating in PLTW, the percentage of students who participate in more than one PLTW unit, the number of PLTW units offered, and efforts to ensure access to PLTW courses. At Sears, students in grades 5-8 participate in PLTW programs through their innovative technology classes. These courses introduce students to a variety of engineering and technology concepts. Applying these concepts, students engage in activities including building an ankle foot orthosis that could be used by an individual with cerebral palsy, programming their own apps, designing and creating with 3D printers, and getting hands-on with automation and robotics.

Research shows that the middle grades play a pivotal role in influencing high school, college, and career success. During this transitional time, it is crucial to provide students with access to relevant, engaging, and real-world learning experiences that expose the range of career paths and possibilities available to them. Whether designing an automated robotics system or exploring aerospace by creating designs and prototypes, PLTW Gateway students engage in critical and creative thinking, build teamwork skills, and develop confidence in STEM subjects.

"We are proud to honor The Joseph Sears School for their commitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences through PLTW programs," said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. "This achievement celebrates their dedication to student achievement and their focus on empowering students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in school and a wide range of post-secondary opportunities."

The Joseph Sears School is part of a community comprised of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a commitment to providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW's Distinguished Program Recognition, visit pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition.

PLTW
DISTINGUISHED
GATEWAY SCHOOL

2024-25



JOSEPH SEARS

SAVE THE DATE

OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 18, 2025 - 10:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.



Save the Date: Fall Open House - October 18 - 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

You are cordially invited to join us on Saturday, October 18, for a very special Fall Open House as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year and look ahead to the bright future of Kenilworth School District 38.

This event marks an important milestone for our community, the completion of our Master Facilities Plan, and the grand opening of the newly reimagined spaces at The Joseph Sears School. Visitors will be able to enjoy the return of our fine art collection and explore new additions such as The Joseph Sears School Legacy Room, created in conjunction with the Kenilworth Historical Society. We welcome students, families, staff, alumni, and friends to come together for this meaningful occasion.

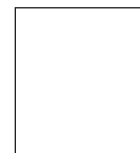
Explore the spaces we have built, reconnect with one another, and help us launch this exciting new chapter with pride and joy. We cannot wait to see you there!



The Joseph Sears School

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Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services

Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal

Mr. Geoffrey Perlman, JK-4 Assistant Principal

Mr. Jeff Rosen, 5-8 Assistant Principal

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE JOSEPH SEARS SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025!

On behalf of the entire District 38 school community, we would like to congratulate and extend our best wishes to The Joseph Sears School Class of 2025. We wish you the best as you move on to the next chapter of your educational journey. Once a Panther, always a Panther!

