

Kalamazoo Public Schools

EXCELSIOR

www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

December 2025 - Volume 28, Issue 11



Scientific Exploration with a Local Focus

(SEE STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGES 8-9)

Milwood, KC
Geek Out
with Author
Sarah Myer

pg. 6



Holiday Gift
Book Guide

pg. 11



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Holidays Benefit from Your Presence

A Message from the Superintendent

Dr. Darrin Slade



HAPPY HOLIDAYS to you and your family this December.

As you prepare for the holidays, I'd like to offer a suggestion for the perfect gift for anyone on your gift-giving list. It's a great gift because it is one-size fits all. It can be easily customized to meet the interests of anyone on your gift-giving list. You can make it as expensive — or inexpensive — as you'd like.

One of the things that has me thinking about this gift is the wonderful list of books that our Kalamazoo Public Schools librarians have developed — and which you can read on page 11 of this Excelsior. Our librarians have suggestions for all grade levels and a variety of genres including fiction, nonfic-

tion, poetry and graphic novels.

Books are a wonderful gift for anyone — but especially for our youngest students, because a book is really only one small part of the gift. The real gift is the time that you will spend sharing that book with the child in your life. It is the time you will spend dipping into the story before bed. It will be your willingness to put down your phone and pick up the book to immerse yourselves in the story. It will be turning off the television to listen to their questions, examine the pictures, and offer your best storytelling voices.

Time, I'd like to suggest, is the gift we can all give — and it is a gift that will be remembered long past this holiday season.

Sharing a story is only one way to offer the gift of time with a child. Giving them a board game is better when you take time to play together once a week. The new outfit for a tween

doesn't have to end when the box is opened — but it can be an invitation to do a photo shoot of them in the new outfit. The gift of a basketball can be made more meaningful, if you're the one teaching them how to play— or maybe attending a game with your young athlete.

Of course, I'm focusing on young people because I believe time and attention are among the greatest gifts we can bestow upon a young person. The present of presence.

Motivational speaker Josh Shipp is credited with suggesting that "every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story." That advice is supported by research from institutions such as Harvard University, whose Center on the Developing Child says, "Every child who winds up doing well has had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive adult."

Certainly time is the greatest gift

you can give a child, but it is without a doubt the most valuable gift you can offer anyone in your life. We humans have short memories. It was only a few years ago that we spent our holidays by ourselves, when the pandemic kept us separated from those we love and care about. To keep each other safe, we chatted via video, played online games with one another, and watched movies "together" while simultaneously streaming videos.

Maybe this year, the best gift you can give will be sharing a cup of coffee with a friend at your favorite coffee shop, hosting a board game night, or plunking down on the couch to have a movie marathon while sharing a bowl of popcorn. Maybe it's time to consider telling your loved ones that being with them is the greatest gift of all.

May this season be the best time of the year for you and yours. Happy Holidays!

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Dr. Darrin Slade

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Director of School Improvement, Title I and Assessments

Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
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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 chefKirsten Strong,
registered dietitian
nutritionist**Pumpkin Coconut Curry Macaroons with Chocolate and Pistachios**

KPS FOOD SERVICE entered Kalamazoo In Bloom's annual Pumpkin Soiree this year. This is a tasting competition featuring local chefs who prepare a pumpkin-inspired menu. The proceeds of the event support Kalamazoo In Bloom's annual work to beautify and maintain floral displays in places such as downtown Kalamazoo's Bronson Park and Portage's Library Lane.

Chef Josh Kerby and Chef Kirsten Strong (also the district's resident dietitian) teamed up and participated in the event. The recipe below is for Chef Josh's delicious pumpkin coconut curry macaroons. These are total crowd pleasers and a perfect holiday dessert!

**INGREDIENTS**

14 oz. sweetened coconut, shredded
½ cup sweetened condensed milk
½ cup pumpkin puree
2 eggs, at room temperature
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 tablespoon pumpkin spice
1 tablespoon curry powder

1 cup melted chocolate
1 cup crushed pistachios

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper.
2. Combine pumpkin puree, sweetened condensed milk, vanilla, spices, coconut and salt in a bowl.
3. Separate the eggs and reserve the yolks for another recipe.

Whip egg whites until they form stiff peaks.

4. Fold egg whites into coconut mixture, do not over mix.
5. Using a mini-ice cream scoop or two spoons, form heaping tablespoons of the mixture into mounds on the prepared baking sheets, spacing them about 1 inch apart.
6. Bake for 23 to 25 minutes, rotating the pans

from top to bottom and front to back, until the tops and edges are golden.

7. Let cool on the pans for a few minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
8. Melt chocolate. Dip the flat bottom of the cooled macaroon in chocolate and then immediately dip it in nuts so they stick. Let dry upside down until the chocolate hardens.

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STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO THE Arts

Geeking Out Leads Author to Adventures with Their Favorite Turtles

BEING A GEEK has paid off for author Sarah Myer. Myer, an Eisner-nominated comic artist, writer, and colorist, met with students at Milwood Magnet School and Kalamazoo Central High School in November during a visit coordinated by the Kalamazoo Public Library. They are the author and illustrator of the graphic memoir “Monstrous: A Transracial Adoption Story,” which was nominated for the L.A. Times Book Prize and the Will Eisner Comic Industry Awards for creative achievement in American comic books.

They spoke about their journey as an author and artist and how being true to your passions and interests can lead to unexpected opportunities.

Myer grew up in Maryland and fell in love with animation and art after first seeing the Disney movie “The Little Mermaid.” It inspired a dream of becoming a Disney animator, until they attended their first “con” or comic book convention.

“That’s where I learned there were people at anime and comic book conventions who were making money from their art,” Myer said.

They earned a bachelor’s degree in 2008 from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Myer worked for



Student Ethan Galea talks to author Sarah Myer after their talk at Milwood Magnet School.

several years on commissions while holding down an office job, but working full-time left very little time or energy for their creative endeavors. Eventually, they enrolled in graduate school at Savannah.

“Initially, I went into the animation program because I wanted to see what was new in the world of animation. That was when I discovered 100 percent, for sure, that I do not love working in 3D programs,” Myer said. “I knew that if I worked in animation, I wanted to work in storyboarding where I’m drawing”

After graduating, in addition to teaching, they had the opportunity to work on a Hello Kitty coloring book, which provided their first chance to work with intellectual property, or characters that already exist and are owned by a company. From there, an editor hired them to write and illustrate “Maker Comics: Create a Costume!”

“All of those years of me being a total nerd and wearing costumes and making them paid off,” Myer said. “That’s why I tell people to wear your heart on your sleeve. There were people in the field that were embarrassed to say they’d made cosplay costumes. I’m like whatever, there’s nothing wrong with it. Ever since then I’ve thought that really staying true to yourself can create these opportunities.”

The editor on that book then asked Myer to turn their master’s thesis on transracial adoption fig-

ures in comic books into the graphic memoir, “Monstrous,” which looked at their childhood growing up in a white family and how they developed their love of anime, cosplay, and drawing at the same time that they were dealing with bullying around race and sexuality.

In the book, Myer details their obsession with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and an editor reading the proofs of “Monstrous” noted that interest and tapped Myer to illustrate a variant cover of a TMNT comic.

“Flashforward to now and here are all of the Turtle issues that I’ve drawn covers and interior pages for,” Myer said, pointing to a list of at least two dozen titles. “It’s been crazy.”

Myer’s credits now include Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Saturday Morning Adventures; TMNT vs. Street Fighter; Darkwing Duck: Justice Ducks; and “Votes for Women; The Battle for the 19th Amendment.”

In addition to that work, Myer maintains another nerdy passion project, “Cheer Up, Michael,” a bit of fan fiction about a certain Disney mouse.

“I have a lot of fun doing that. I always write a disclaimer that I don’t make any money from it. I doubt that I’ll ever get any official approval on this, but I’ll consider myself lucky if I never get sued and they let me keep sharing it with people. It’s free to read. You never know where it might lead.”

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...LET'S GO METRO!

New El Sol Elementary To Serve Grades PreK-8

The Kalamazoo Public Schools Board of Education approved expanding El Sol Elementary School to include a middle school program after the construction of its new building.

El Sol, which currently serves kindergarten through fifth grade students and is located in the Vine neighborhood, will be moving to 1428 Baker Drive, the site of the former Bruckner Elementary School. The program will gradually add grades six through eight after the move.

Dr. Micole Dyson, assistant superintendent for elementary education, told board members on Nov. 6 there are several advantages to expanding the program.

“One benefit is to assist with students’ transition to middle school by supporting their academic, socio-emotional and behavior needs starting in Pre-K, while maintaining positive, caring and nurturing relationships with past teachers and administration,” Dyson said.

“By allowing students to continue a designated immersion track through eighth grade, they would be candidates for high school dual enrollment and can graduate with a minor in Spanish by 12th grade.”

Students who graduate with proficiency in English and Spanish would receive a Michigan Seal of Biliteracy certificate.

To accommodate grades PreK-8, a slightly larger building will be required than originally planned. The expanded plans will include, but are not limited to, additional classrooms, larger gym, media center and cafeteria. A team of El Sol and district staff, along with board members, the district architect and construction manager, have been working over the past several months to design the building.

The building is estimated to be approximately 83,000 square feet and will cost approximately \$54.4 million (encompassing the building and furnishings). The building is expected to be operational for the 2028-29 school year. The grade expansion will be implemented over a three-year period. With the school adding sixth graders for the 2029-30 school year, seventh graders for 2030-31, and finally, eighth graders in 2031-32.



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Northglade Students Visit Fort Custer to Study Michigan's Natural Features

NORTHGLADE Montessori Magnet School fourth and fifth graders traveled to Fort Custer Recreation Area in October to participate in the State of Michigan's Nature Awaits program.

This is Northglade's second year participating in Nature Awaits, which provides fourth graders the opportunity to explore Michigan's state parks. The program covers all costs and reimburses schools for transportation.

The trip was coordinated by teacher Katie Crigger for all three of Northglade's E2 classrooms, which are fourth and fifth grade splits. Although the program is designed for fourth graders, the state allowed Northglade's fifth graders to participate as well.

The school selected Fort Custer as its destination because it aligns with the fourth-grade science and social studies curricula. Students are studying the natural and physical characteristics of Michigan and the United States.

At Fort Custer, the students learned from Depart-

ment of Natural Resources conservation officers, who encouraged the students to "think like scientists."

Through hands-on exploration, students practiced making scientific observations of nature, thinking critically about what they observed, and using their senses to investigate the natural world. They also learned to distinguish between weather and climate, and explored the concepts of native versus invasive species.

The Northglade team of Crigger, Amy Callahan and Elizabeth Spreitzer, split their visits between Oct. 17 and Oct. 21.

Front to back; Michael Comensoli, Peter Hastings, and Liam Munger look at an activity book on a trip to Fort Custer.



Asha Lumbasi, center, and Kathryn Robertson examine some specimens, while Jaselle Ford, left, collects water samples.





Peter Hastings, left, and Liam Munger sift through dirt samples to look for wildlife samples.

ON THE COVER:
 Vincenzo Dedonato, Evan Sanchez, DeForest Lonberg, Joshua Singer, and Ayden Wade scan the horizon for wildlife at the Fort Custer Recreation Area.



Northglade's Ayden Wade is happy with his science finds at Fort Custer.



Weston Munger displays her nature finds.



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www.kalamazoo-city.org/UtilityHelp

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Katie Murdock
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Terri Luzenske
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and Indian Prairie
Elementaries



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LOWER ELEMENTARY

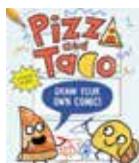


Counting Winter by Nancy White Carlstrom

One red fox walks
across the white

snow — quietly stalking winter. Two ravens croak and gurgle — raucously talking winter. Three snowshoe hares hop on big paws — silently tracking winter. Wherever you look, another creature is making its mark on the snow-covered season. Inspired by the author's years in Alaska, this lyrical, beautifully illustrated counting book celebrates the rhythms of the tundra.

Pizza and Taco: Draw Your Own Comic



by Stephen Shaskan
If you LOVE comic
books and graphic
novels, chances are
you like to draw
them, too, just like

Stephen Shaskan! For the first time, his foodie buddies Pizza and Taco will show readers all the elements of comics in their typical hilarious way, while also offering up activities, games, tutorials, and encouragement for readers to draw their own Pizza and Taco story. Parents will appreciate the literacy gains as kids learn about character, setting, and storytelling along with all the interactive activities and drawing fun!



Night Owl Night by Susan Edwards Richmond

Sova's mother is a
scientist who studies birds and their
migratory patterns. Each night she
goes into the woods to conduct re-

search, and finally Sova is old enough
to join her. Securing headlamps, Sova
and her mother head into the woods
to capture, measure, and release
saw-whet owls. Through the quiet
night, Sova learns about the patience,
persistence, and excitement that
comes with conservation efforts and
scientific research.

UPPER ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE

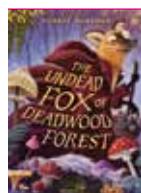
FICTION

Will's Race for Home by Jewell Parker Rhodes



Twelve-year-old Will
Samuels is eager to
prove himself when
his sharecropper
father brings home
a flyer announcing
the Oklahoma land
rush of 1889. He begs to accompany
him on the journey west to claim land
they can call their own. Will's eyes
are opened when the pair encounter
wild animals, ruffians, and racism and
meet up with a Black former Union
soldier who suffers scars from the
war. But every experience for Will is a
step forward towards growing up and
securing a better future for himself
and his family.

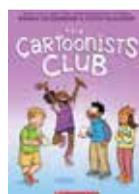
The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest



by Aubrey Hartman
Undead fox
Clare lives in the
Deadwood Forest,
where he works as
an Usher guiding
each dead soul on
to their afterlife. When Clare meets a
recently deceased badger named Gingersnipes, he can't seem to get her to

cross over, so he sets out to consult
the prophetic grouse, Hesterfowl, who
informs him that Gingersnipes is re-
placing him as the Usher. Devastated,
Clare sets out to change his fate, an
endeavor that forces him to confront
his own fears about death.

GRAPHIC NOVELS



The Cartoonists Club

by Raina Telgemeier
Makayla is bursting
with ideas but
doesn't know how
to make them into a
story. Howard loves
to draw, but he struggles to come up
with ideas, and his dad thinks comics
are a waste of time. Lynda constantly
draws in her sketchbook but keeps
focusing on what she feels are mis-
takes, and Art simply loves being cre-
ative and is excited to try something
new. They come together to form The
Cartoonists Club, where kids can learn
about making comics and use their
creativity and imagination for their
own storytelling adventures.



Rema Chronicles 2: Kingdom of Water by Amy Kim Kibuishi

Following the events
of *Realm of the Blue
Mist* (2022), Tabby
confronts family se-
crets. Still trapped in the land of Rema,
Tabby learns about the fall of the
royal family of Cerey, and the family's
lost history, which is tied to her own.
When the geists are hunted down, and
Philip is captured, Remy must expose
the secrets she's learned to save her
friend and all of Rema.

HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND

FICTION



Aisle Nine

by Ian X. Cho

It's the end of the
world, but Jasper
still has to work the
Black Friday sales
at his lousy, big box
store job. At the Here For You dis-
count mart, a clean-up on Aisle Nine
means a monster has come through
a portal to the underworld. If that
wasn't enough, he doesn't remember
what happened to his family, why his
crush is so angry at him, or anything
before the portals opened. *Aisle Nine*
is for anyone who likes stories of un-
likely heroes, or likes post-apocalyptic
stories with a bit of humor.



Needy Little Things

by Channelle
Desamours

Seventeen-year-old
Sariyah, who can
sense people's
immediate needs,
must use her ability to solve her
friend's mysterious disappearance
while dealing with family challenges
and avoiding the same danger that
befell her friend. A librarian favorite,
this is a great supernatural thriller.



Fake Skating by Lynn Painter

A heartfelt and ban-
ter-filled rom-com
about childhood
sweethearts whose
icy reunion in their
hockey-loving hometown unexpected-
ly thaws when they fake a roman-
tic relationship. *Strong Language*



The Golden Boy's Guide to Bipolar

by Sonora Reyes

Cesar Flores navi-
gates his bisexuality
and his new bipolar
diagnosis while also
dealing with Catholic guilt. Despite
making progress, he falls into a
mental episode after stopping his
medication. Can he learn self-accept-
ance and also accept the help of
family and friends?



Sunrise on the Reaping

by Suzanne Collins
(Prequel to original
Hunger Games
trilogy—movie
coming out in 2026.)

Set 24 years before Katniss' game,
this story takes place during the 50th
Hunger Games. The capitol requires
twice the usual number of tributes
and Haymitch Abernathy is one of
them. The dystopian story explores
themes of manipulation, control and
oppression. It also sheds light on re-
sistance — illustrating the challenges
and dangers faced by individuals
confronting tyranny.

NONFICTION

Future Millionaire: A Young Person's Step-by-Step Guide to Making Wealth Inevitable



by Rachel Rodgers

Far from a get-
rich-quick book,
at its core, *Future
Millionaire* is a
guide to adulthood.

Rodgers frames this as a millionaire
mindset, but it could be called a re-
sponsible mindset. In Part One: "Get
Ready," Rodgers gives practical tips
about making responsible decisions,
setting boundaries, and practicing
self-care. Part Two: "Get Money" is a
guide to personal finance for young
people starting their adult lives.
Future Millionaire is great for readers
who want to make the moves now to
be successful throughout their lives.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Song of a Blackbird



by Maria van
Lieshout

This beautiful graph-
ic novel follows two
timelines. The first,
in 2011 Amsterdam,
follows Annick who
discovers a family secret. The second,
in 1943 Amsterdam, tells the story of
Emma, who after witnessing Jewish
families getting deported to concen-
tration camps, is inspired to join the
Dutch Resistance. The art in this novel
is as compelling as the stories.

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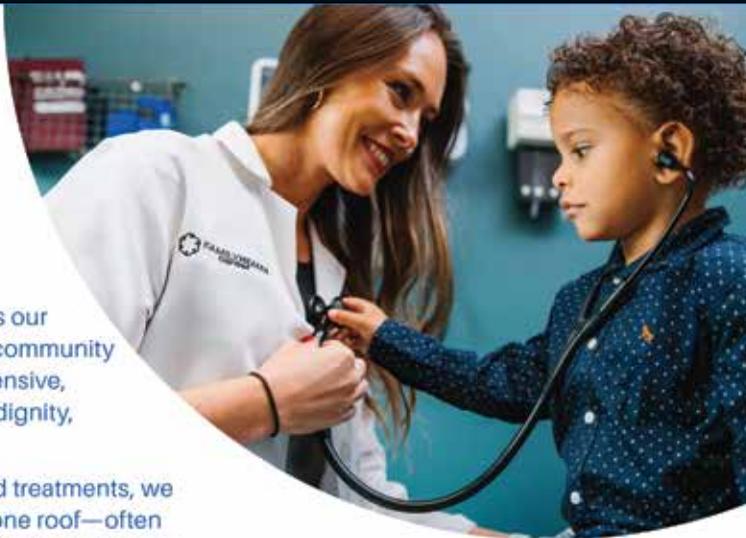
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Music by
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Email: info@kzoolf.org

Visit: www.kzoolf.org



ARTISTS' CORNER

Second graders in **Naomi Johnson's** art classes at **Lincoln International Studies School** have been studying lines and shapes. They used these art fundamentals to create family portraits of themselves with their family members.



Aya Parker



Mateo Valadez Alfaro



Skye Brown

For Teens

Wreath Making

4-5 pm

December 8 | EAS

December 12 | CEN/Teen Studio

December 15 | OSH/Comm. Room

December 17 | WSQ

Build and decorate your own wreath.

While supplies last.

DIY Ornaments

Saturday, December 20

1-3 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Come create an ornament with us! Decorate the Teen Room or take it with you.

While supplies last.

For Families

Gift-Making Workshop

Saturday, December 6

1-3 pm | CEN/Kids' Studio

Need the perfect gift for a special person? Come make something at one of our several stations.

Best for ages 5 and up; younger children can participate with help.

Noon Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31

11 am-12:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen

Celebrate the new year at this big glow-in-the-dark New Year's party! We'll have music, games, activities, and a countdown to noon.



Gift Book Sale!

Begins Friday, Nov 28

Continues while supplies last

Hundreds of gift quality, like-new books for all ages at a fraction of retail cost.



FRIENDS BOOKSTORE

Kalamazoo Public Library

Central Branch, Lower Level

Wed Noon-6pm, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10-4pm



SAVE THE DATE for our next
BAG OF BOOKS SALE
JANUARY 24, 2026!

315 S Rose St | 269-553-7820

2025-2026 School Calendar

Kalamazoo Public Schools

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Bell times

Elem. schools: 8:50 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.
Half-day dismissal: 12:00 p.m.
Edison, Lincoln & Woodward:
8:10 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.
Half-day dismissal: 11:20 a.m.
Secondary: 7:33 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.
Half-day dismissal: 10:40 a.m.
Linden Grove: 8:08 a.m. - 2:58 p.m.
Half-day dismissal: 11:19 a.m.
Phoenix: 7:25 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Half-day dismissal: 10:15 a.m.

Aug. 25	K-12 & K-ECSE students; half day
Aug. 26	K-12 full day; county programs begin
Aug. 29	K-12 no school; schools open for enrollment
Sept. 1	Labor Day; all buildings closed
Sept. 2	PreK ECSE first day
Sept. 8	PEEP first day
Oct. 22	PreK-12; no students (district PD)
Oct. 31	No county program
Oct. 31	PreK-12 half day; records day
Nov. 5	9-12 half day
Nov. 6	K-8 half day
Nov. 7	K-5 half day
Nov. 14	PreK-5 no students
Nov. 26	PreK-12 no school; no county programs
Nov. 27 & 28	Thanksgiving Break; all buildings closed
Dec. 10	PreK-12 no students (district PD)
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 20 - 22	9-12 half day; exam days
Jan. 23	PreK-12 no school; records day
Jan. 23	No county programs
Feb. 2	PreK-12 no students (district PD)
Feb. 25	Elementary Literacy Night
Feb. 27	PreK-12 no school; mid-winter break
March 4	PEEP/Kindergarten Orientation
March 19	PreK-12 no students (district PD)
March 20	PreK-12 no school; records day
March 24	6-8 half day
March 24 - 25	High school conferences
March 26	K-5 half day
March 27	PreK-12 no school; no county programs
March 30 - April 3	Spring Break
May 22	Last day PEEP and graduating seniors
May 25	Memorial Day; all buildings closed
May 26	KAMSC senior recognition
May 27	Loy Norrix graduation (7 p.m. @ WEC)
May 28	Kalamazoo Central graduation (7 p.m. @ WEC)
May 29	Phoenix graduation (7 p.m. @ Chenery)
May 29	PreK and ECSE last day of instruction
June 3	KILP graduation (7 p.m. @ Chenery)
June 3	9-11 half day; hs exam days
June 4 - 5	K-11 half day; hs exam days
June 8	Adult Education graduation (7 p.m. @ Chenery)
No school	Half day (check grade levels)

2025-26 Semesters

Semester 1: Aug. 25 - Jan. 23
Semester 2: Jan. 26 - June 5

Visit kalamazoopublicschools.com for a complete calendar

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Special dates: Phoenix High School

Parent-Teacher Conferences, 4-7 PM
Oct. 15, Jan. 8, March 12, May 14
Half days: Oct. 29, 30 & 31, Jan. 22 and March 18

Full days: Nov. 5, Jan. 20-21, Jun. 3-4

Special dates: PEEP

First day Sept. 8; last day May 22
No school on elementary half days

Special dates: PreK ECSE

First day Sept. 2; last day May 29
No school on elementary half days

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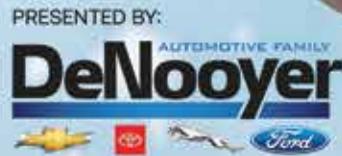
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Rock through the lights!



Thurs



Heroes & Princesses

Fri



Fireworks

Sun



Fundraisers

Dec 20-21



Craft Market

5-9pm • Select nights this holiday season • Nov 29-Jan 4

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



EXHIBIT NOW - JAN. 4, 2026 | FREE

DANCING WITH LIFE: MEXICAN MASKS



Explore the rich festival culture of Mexico through historic and contemporary masks. The exhibition centers around the work of the mask makers and dancers themselves through written and recorded interviews, including bilingual Spanish and English texts.

Dancing with Life: Mexican Masks was curated and organized by Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT NOW - JAN. 4, 2026 | FREE

"AM I AN AMERICAN OR AM I NOT?"



This traveling exhibition asks visitors to think about examples of unfair treatment from our country's past and present in order to protect the American promises of life, liberty and justice for all.

"Am I An American or Am I Not?" was developed by the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, Exhibit Envoy and AGH Arts Strategies.

EVENT FRIDAY, DEC. 5 | 6 P.M. & 7:15 P.M. | FREE

KALAMAZOO MANDOLIN AND GUITAR ORCHESTRA ART HOP



Experience the magic of the season with a live performance by the Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra at the December Art Hop, hosted by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

EVENT DEC. 20, 23, 27, 28, 2025 & JAN. 3, 2026 | 1 - 3 P.M. | FREE

WINTER BREAK - CREATIVE CULTURE

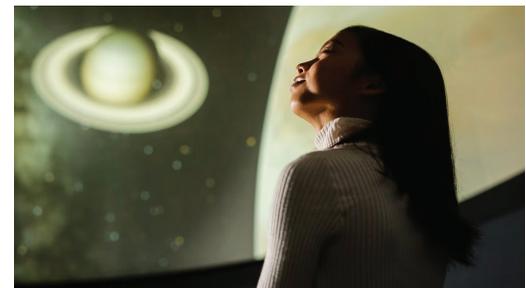


Join us at the museum this winter break for Creative Culture, a series of hands-on art activities for kids! Each program explores world traditions through creativity. Children will design masks, create textile-inspired art, tell stories through

symbols and imagine mythical creatures from around the globe. All activities are drop-in, family-friendly and free!

PLANETARIUM ANNOUNCEMENT | DEC. SHOWS | \$3 PER PERSON

The planetarium is expected to begin renovation in December. Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for the latest information on upcoming showtimes.



The Sky Above Us | 2 p.m. | Dec. 5-7 | 35 min. | Grades 4 & up Discover the "celestial wonders" that can be seen overhead in Michigan in this live, season-focused show.

We Are Guardians | 11 a.m. | Dec. 6 | 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.

Polaris: The Space Submarine | 1 p.m. | Dec. 7 | 29 min. | Grades 3 & up Follow the adventures of a penguin and polar bear who use the scientific method and build a spaceship to investigate ice, the seasons and the planets.

HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday | Noon - 4 p.m.
SPECIAL NOTICE: The museum will be closed Dec. 24 - 26 and Dec. 30 - Jan. 2.

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