

Future Panther Night

Kirkland Middle School (KiMS)

2026-2027



Welcome!



Niki Cassaro
Principal



Katie Chaubal
Associate
Principal



Sara Linehan
Dean of Students

Meet our Counselors



Jordan White

A - H



Janelle Cotogna

I - M



Beatrice Alacantar

N - Z



Coming together as one



Lakeview



Mark Twain



Peter Kirk

Future Panther Night Purpose

Welcome to the KiMS community!

Understand the values and pillars of
the school

Prepare for Fall (including
Registration)





Save the Date

Wednesday, August 26th

Schedule Pick-up & Self-Guided Tour
Event (Tentative)

Families walk their student's
schedule

Tuesday, August 31st

1st Day of School (Tentative)



join the middle
school PTSA

HOW AND WHY!

Gemma Aronchick & Ellie Peterson
KiMS PTSA Co-Presidents

Gemma + Ellie's top 3 reasons to join KiMS PTSA next year:

1

KiMS PTSA provides student & family supports

- Help support & build our school community
- Informed parents are happier parents...
- Join us to ensure students thrive (assist with basic needs and support fun stuff to do).

2

Well resourced teachers & staff are happier humans!

- Teachers & staff buy too much themselves - we help via classroom & supplemental grants available to all at KiMS.
- We organize fun activities and treats to honor staff 1/quarter + during appreciation week in May.

3

It's 1000% easier than elementary PTSA!

- Less schlepping; fewer events, and a handful of PTSA meetings you can choose to attend or not.
- Membership, donations and 1 volunteer sign-up in the fall. Then specific asks during the school year to make what we're doing come to life!



Let's stay in touch!



PRESIDENT@KIRKLANDPTSA.ORG



join us tonight!

 **FACEBOOK**
facebook.com/kimsptsa



INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/kimsptsa



KIMS PTSA
WEBSITE
kirklandmiddleptsa.org



Back to School:

- 25-26 School Supplies
- Join PTSA
- Annual Donation
- Volunteer status check with LWSD
- KIMS Daily Schedules
- 25-26 Athletics Info
- House System
- Attendance Info
- LWSD Volunteer Application

Important Dates:

Families with incoming 5th graders, please plan to attend Future Panther Night! Have an 8th grader? Future Kang Freshman night is coming too.

REGISTRATION FOR 2026-27!
Monday January 13 @ 6:30pm - Online informational session for parents/guardians

Social Media:

Join us on our social channels for real-time updates and quick news!

KiMS 101

- Mascot: Panthers
- School Colors: Purple & White
- School Values: The Panther Way
 - Kind, Respectful, & Responsible
- House System: 7 Houses tied to Panther Time
- “Off & Away” school - cell phones must be turned fully off and kept in backpacks during school hours

Life at KiMS

- 6 class periods every day with a 5 minute passing period
- 3 lunches (includes play time & no technology)
- 4 quarters & 2 semesters
 - Semester 1 - Quarters 1 & 2
 - Semester 2 - Quarters 3 & 4

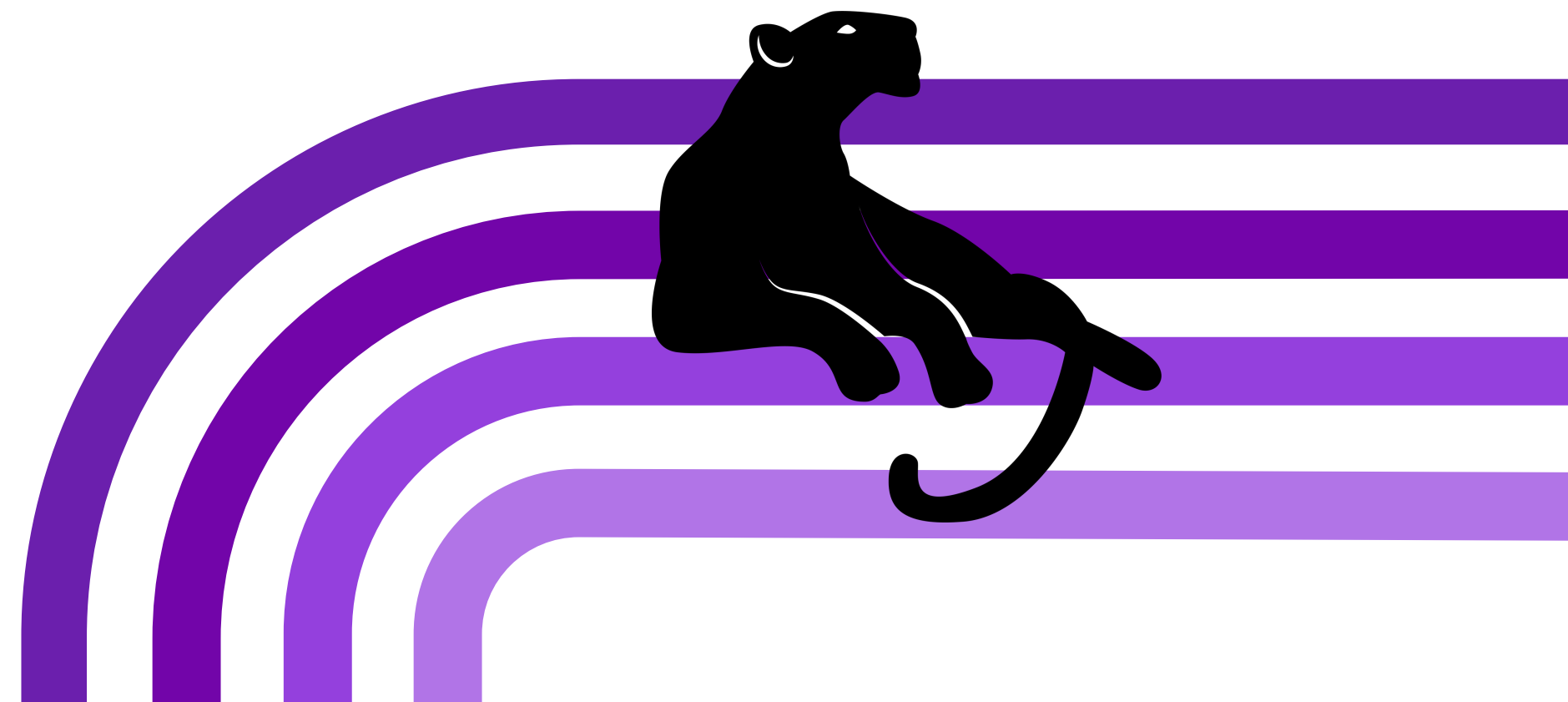
Panther Time & Academic Prep

Panther Time (PT)

- Meets once a week on Mondays (and much more frequently at the beginning of school)
- School announcements & activities
- Social/Emotional learning, games and activities

Academic Prep (AP)

- Meets 2-3 times a week, usually Tuesdays and Thursdays and occasionally on Fridays
- Intervention/choice time
- Sign up using FlexiSched



Bell Schedule

DAILY SCHEDULE

1st Period	7:50	-	8:40 (50 Min.)
2nd Period	8:45	-	9:35 (50 Min.)
PT / AP	9:40	-	10:10 (30 Min.)
3rd Period	10:15	-	11:05 (50 Min.)

"A" Lunch	11:05	-	11:35 (30 Min.)
"A" 4th Period	11:40	-	12:35 (55 Min.)

"B" 4th Period	11:10	-	11:35 (25 Min.)
"B" Lunch	11:35	-	12:05 (30 Min.)
"B" 4th Period	12:10	-	12:35 (25 Min.)

"C" 4th Period	11:10	-	12:05 (55 Min.)
"C" Lunch	12:05	-	12:35 (30 Min.)

5th Period	12:40	-	1:30 (50 Min.)
6th Period	1:35	-	2:25 (50 Min.)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

1st Period	7:50	-	8:30 (40 Min.)
2nd Period	8:35	-	9:10 (35 Min.)
3rd Period	9:15	-	9:50 (35 Min.)
6th Period	9:55	-	10:30 (35 Min.)

"A" Lunch	10:30	-	11:00 (30 Min.)
"A" 4th Period	11:05	-	11:40 (35 Min.)
Tech Time	11:40	-	12:00 (20 Min.)

"B" 4th Period	10:35	-	11:00 (25 Min.)
"B" Lunch	11:00	-	11:30 (30 Min.)
"B" 4th Period	11:35	-	11:45 (10 Min.)
Tech Time	11:45	-	12:00 (15 Min.)

"C" 4th Period	10:35	-	11:10 (35 Min.)
Tech Time	11:10	-	11:30 (20 Min.)
"C" Lunch	11:30	-	12:00 (30 Min.)

5th Period	12:05	-	12:40 (35 Min.)
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The Panther Way

KIND  RESPONSIBLE  RESPECTFUL



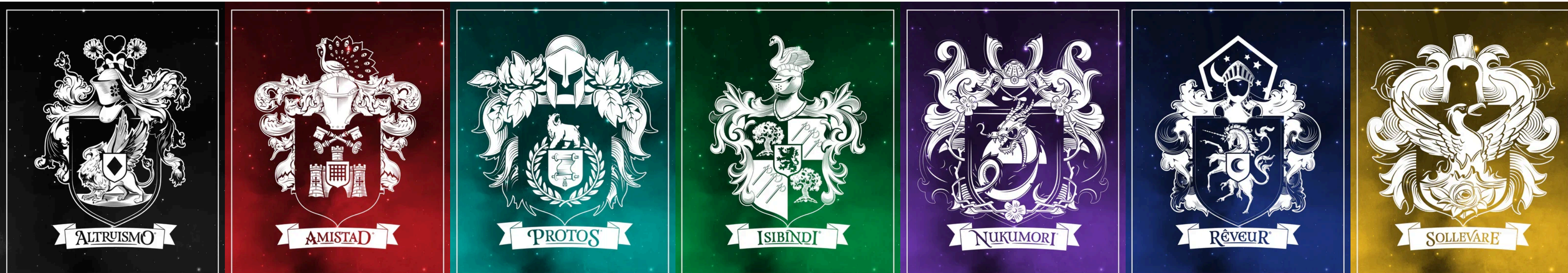
- Clear expectations for each school environment
- Supports a welcoming and inclusive school environment
- Reward Period every month
- Panther Way & Self-Efficacy Awards - Celebrate the positive
 - 36 awards each month (12 per grade level) for *living* the Panther Way and consistently showing self-efficacy

House System

All students and staff belong to one of our 7 Houses.

The House system:

- Promotes positive peer-to-peer relationships
- Creates a sense of belonging for all staff and students
- Fosters a sense of community
- Teaches students how to engage in healthy competition (there are a lot of competitions and prizes)!



Building Community & Celebrating Positive Behaviors

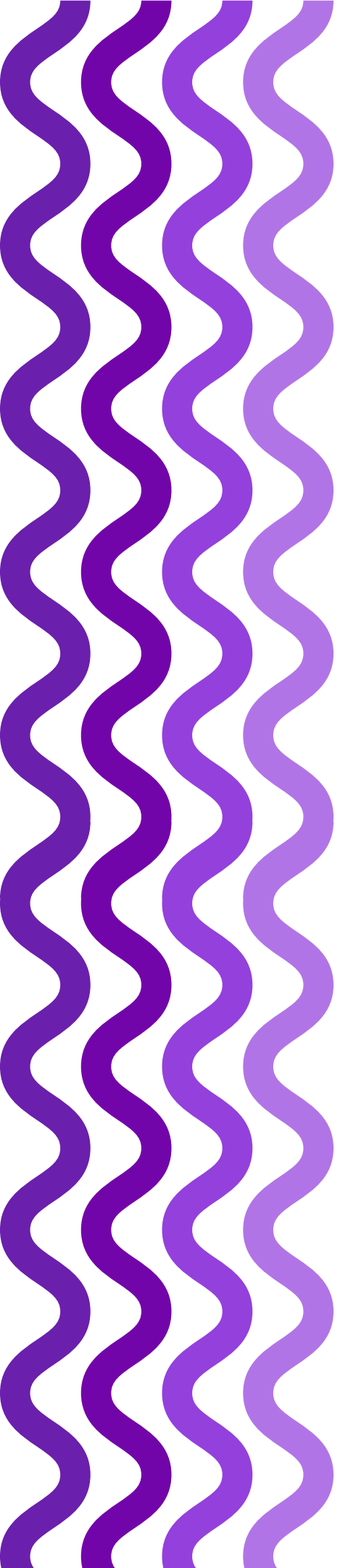
House Meetings

- Once a month, usually on Fridays
- All members of your house attend and participate
- House competitions and activities

Reward Periods

- Participate in reward days by earning Panther Cash
- Occur once a month, usually on Fridays
- AP sessions but FUN! Some examples: Games, arts & crafts, open gym, outside time, etc...





Grade 6 at KiMS

5 core classes + 2 semesters of electives

- Core classes: Math, Science, English, Social Studies, Physical Education (PE) & Health
 - Core classes are yearlong EXCEPT PE and Health, which are each a semester long
- Electives: 1 semester of Leadership + 1 semester of an elective of their choice **OR** 1 year-long music class

6th Grade Elective Options

- Yearlong Band**
- Yearlong Choir
- Yearlong Orchestra**
- Digital Music Production
- Guitar
- World Drumming
- Ukulele
- Drama
- Horticulture
- Speech & Debate
- Journalism + Yearbook
- Survival Science
- Peer Tutor (TC)
- 3D Art & Design
- Explore Art
- Creative Writing
- Intro to Mythology
- Intro to Marine Science
- Lifetime Fitness



Band I** & Orchestra I**

- Band I and Orchestra I are introductory experiences
 - No experience required
- Strong community focus + built it comradery
- Student leadership opportunities
- Team building focus
- Performance skills, grit, and resilience
- Field Trips (festivals, etc...)

Band Instruments:
Flute, Oboe, Clarinet,
Saxophone, Bassoon,
Trumpet, French Horn,
Trombone, Baritone, Tuba,
Percussion

Orchestra Instruments:
Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

*These courses can only be offered
if we have enough enrollment.*



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Yearlong Music

PERIOD	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
1	MATH	MATH
2	PE	HEALTH
3	SCIENCE	SCIENCE
4	SOCIAL STUDIES	SOCIAL STUDIES
5	BAND	BAND
6	ENGLISH	ENGLISH

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Semester-long electives

PERIOD	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
1	ENGLISH	ENGLISH
2	SCIENCE	SCIENCE
3	ART	LEADERSHIP
4	SOCIAL STUDIES	SOCIAL STUDIES
5	MATH	MATH
6	HEALTH	PE

KiMS Counseling Team

- Elective forms
 - Sent home with your student after the elementary visits
 - Detail elective choices
 - Use as a reference to submit online registration via MS Forms
 - Link to Registration MS Form will be sent tonight
 - **Due Date: Sunday, January 25th by 11:59 pm**
- Complete a form for every incoming 6th grader in your home





Clubs & Interest Groups

Battle of the Books

Builders Club

Table Top Games/Dungeons & Dragons

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)

Green Team

Influencers Crew (Motivation)

National Junior Honor Society

Pages for Pancakes

Panther Partners (Mentorship Program, by application)

Technology Student Association (TSA, 8th grade only)

Yearbook

+ Other interest groups

****Students can follow a process to start their own clubs or interest groups.****

Clubs meet before, during, and/or after school.



Sports

3 Competitive Sports Seasons

- 8 weeks each
- Traveling / competing against other schools
- Both try-out and non-tryout sports each season

6 Intramural Sessions

- 2 weeks (8 school days) each
- Competing with other KiMS students
- No traveling
- All non-tryout sports



Sports (continued)

Season 1 | Sept. 8 - Oct. 31

Boys Soccer
Girls Tennis
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Co-Ed Cross Country*

Season 2 | Feb. 17 - Apr. 10

Boys Badminton
Girls Badminton
Co-Ed Wrestling*

Season 3 | Apr. 20 - Jun. 16

Girls Soccer
Boys Tennis
Girls Volleyball
Co-Ed Track & Field*

Intramurals | 6 Sessions*

Session 1 – Badminton

Nov. 3 - Nov. 14

Session 2 – Floor Hockey

Nov. 17 - Dec. 2

Session 3 -- Basketball

Dec. 4 - Dec. 16

Session 4 -- Pickleball

Jan. 5 - Jan. 16

Session 5 – Volleyball or Run Club

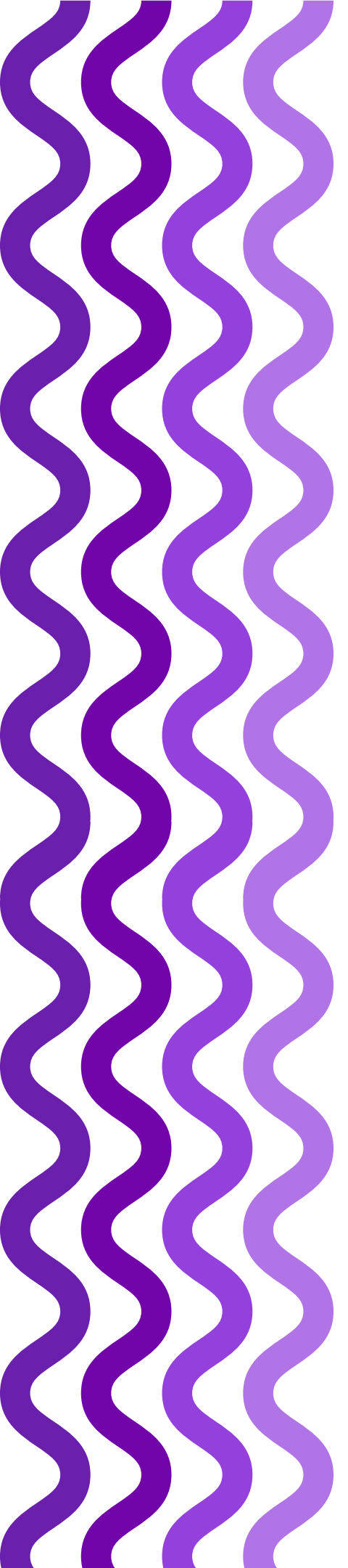
Jan. 20 - Jan. 30

Session 6 -- Badminton or Dance

Feb. 2 - Feb. 10

****Physicals are required every year prior to the start of the sports season.****

***Non-try-out sport**



School Events

Spirit Weeks

Monthly Reward Days

School Competitions

Gobble Off

Reindeer Games

March Madness

Movie Nights

School Dances

Annual end of the year Carnival (like field day)

Student Perspectives

What we like about
attending KiMS



Preparing For Fall

- Laptops & Planners provided for every student
 - All students expected to use the school provided planner
- Cell Phone Free School – “Off and Away All Day”
 - No cell phones from 7:50 – 2:25, including lunch & passing period
- No lockers (except for PE, athletics, & music)
- Uniforms required for PE (sold by KiMS) + PE lockers
- Lunch purchased with ID card or Student ID Number
- You will receive communications over summer about the schedule pick up day & the first day of school!

Proud
to be a
PANTHER



WELCOME
to the
PANTHER
FAMILY!

Let's check out KiMS!

- Walk the school & get a feel for it
- Chat with current students
- Meet other incoming 6th graders and families