

Kalamazoo Public Schools

EXCELSIOR

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September 2026 - Volume 30, Issue 2

Making Summer Count: Learning, Growing and Connecting

Logging
On for an
Informed
School Year:
A Look at
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A Team
Effort: Getting
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School Safely
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OCTOBER 15, 2026**



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GOLF RESORT

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Augusta, MI 49012

**GRADES
8TH-11TH**



GULL LAKE VIEW
GOLF RESORT



SWING TODAY. SUCCEED TOMORROW.

Like Riding a Bike: Keeping Momentum to Start the School Year

THIS SUMMER, I had the opportunity to rent a bike and ride around the perimeter of Mackinac Island. It was my first time really riding a bike in years, and while the eight-

A Message from the Superintendent



Dr. Darrin Slade

mile trek was a little difficult at times, it was also refreshing, rejuvenating, and fun. As I rode around the island, I noticed how happy the young people and adults I passed were. In my opinion, that's what summer break is all about: togetherness and joy.

I hope that our students and staff members have the same types of memories and experiences from this summer. We want every member of our school family to return to school and work refreshed and rejuvenated. We want all of our students to reach their fullest academic potential this school year. As a district, we will make sure staff are hired and trained, and that the equipment students need to

learn and succeed is in place as students return to classrooms. Parents can also take steps to ensure every child starts off on the right foot.

Setting a standard for good attendance at the start of the school year is important. Absenteeism in the first month can often set the stage for poor attendance throughout the school year. As we shared in the spring, every school in the district again reported improved overall attendance rates and reduced chronic absenteeism rates. This is great news, and I am proud of the commitment families and staff have made to prioritize attendance.

It is also important to build a routine to make sure students arrive at school on time. We know there are circumstances when a child may miss the bus or have an appointment during the school day, but any time away from school is missed learning. Improving overall attendance and reducing tardies are district goals this year.

An important part of staying refreshed throughout the school year is getting enough sleep. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends 9-12 hours of sleep for children ages 6-12 and 8-10 hours for children 13 and older. The CDC recommends setting a regular bedtime and setting a digital/tech curfew at least 30-60 minutes before bed. Using the computer, playing video games, or staying on a cell phone makes it harder to wind down and transition to rest.

A hobby can help keep students engaged, too. There are so many options for Kalamazoo Public Schools students to get involved, and the new school year is a great time to find a new activity. From athletics to taking the stage in music or theater to joining the robotics team, extracurricular activities not only help students find community but can also improve attendance and grades. It also builds leadership, teamwork, time-management, problem-solving, and decision-making skills.

Stay informed, celebrate wins, and reach out to your child's school with any questions or for support. Parents and school staff working together is linked to better behavior, better grades, and more social skills. One way to stay informed is to check grades, attendance, and test results in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. We all do a better job when we know someone is in our corner, interested in what we're doing and cheering us on. Even if you are not a student's primary caregiver, you can be that person for the student in your life.

As your superintendent, I look forward to showing up for our students and staff in this new school year. We have a lot to celebrate and are focused on continuing our upward path. With our Strategic Plan as our guide, our top priority will continue to be improving student achievement in all areas and maintaining safe and orderly learning environments.

Have a great 2026-27 school year, KPS!



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City of Kalamazoo
241 W South St
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

If you're struggling to pay your water bill, we can help.

The City of Kalamazoo is making critical investments in our water and wastewater systems. These investments are funded by all of us through the rates we pay. Rates in Kalamazoo remain low compared to other communities, but we understand that rising costs may create hardships for some households. Financial and other aid options are listed below.

Payment plans and due date extensions are available. Call 311 or (269) 337-8000 for help. The Community Action Agency of Southwest Michigan can help low-income households pay overdue bills. Call 211 or 1-877-422-2726 for more information.

Consumers Energy offers a free home analysis that can help customers save money by reducing energy and water consumption. Call 1-888-316-8014 for more information.

www.kalamazoocity.org/UtilityHelp

Si necesita ayuda para pagar su factura de agua o alcantarillado, hay ayuda disponible. Para obtener información en español, llame al 311 o al 269 337-8000.



HYDRANT FLUSHING STARTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

We flush hydrants in the spring and fall to force naturally occurring mineral deposits out of the water system. Flushing is also an opportunity to make sure components in the system are working properly.

- **Flushing does not affect the safety of the water system.**
- Tap water may temporarily appear cloudy right after flushing as minerals are stirred up, but this isn't harmful. Run your water in a bathtub or utility sink until it runs clear again.
- If you have scheduled construction during hydrant flushing or have questions related to the program, please call 311 or (269) 337-8000.
- Most flushing will take place at night between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. If necessary, daytime flushing will occur between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Avoid doing laundry immediately after flushing as some fabrics could become discolored.

View a larger interactive map at
kalamazoocity.org/HydrantFlushing

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(269) 383-4433

NOTICE

Kalamazoo Public Schools welcomes all students and staff of any religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability.

The District will not tolerate or condone any act of bias or discrimination toward any person on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, gender identification, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, and disability in any of its activities, hiring practices, programs or services.

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

**Director of School Improvement,
Title I and Assessments**
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0180

All other inquiries should be directed to:

**Director of
Human Resources**
Kalamazoo Public Schools
1220 Howard St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0177

District Directory at:
www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

Recipe

from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells

Josh Kerby,
executive chef



Kirsten Strong,
registered dietitian
nutritionist

Blueberry Panzanella Salad

(Panzanella = classic Italian bread salad)

IF YOU'RE looking for a dish that captures late summer in every bite, this is it. Think crunchy toasted bread soaked in a tangy basil-honey dressing, balanced by sweet blueberries and juicy, savory tomatoes. It's light, refreshing, and surprisingly filling but if you're feeling extra hungry you could add grilled chicken to the mix! Keep an eye out at your local farmer's markets because September in Michigan means you can probably still snag all three main ingredients (blueberries, tomatoes, and basil) fresh from the source!



INGREDIENTS

(Yields 6 servings)

2 pounds mixed ripe
tomatoes, cut into
bite-size pieces

1 pint blueberries
1 avocado, diced
2 teaspoons kosher
salt, plus more for
seasoning

3/4 pound ciabatta or
rustic sourdough
bread, cut into 1½-
inch cubes (about
6 cups bread cubes)
1 cup fresh mozzarella
cheese
1 cup extra-virgin olive
oil, divided

1 small shallot
2 medium cloves garlic,
peeled
2 tbsp honey
2 cups fresh basil
1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
1/2 tsp salt
Freshly ground black
pepper to taste

PREPARATION

1. Place chopped tomatoes in a colander set over a bowl (to collect juice) and season with 2 teaspoons kosher salt. Toss to coat. Set aside at room temperature to drain, tossing occasionally. Drain for a minimum of 15 minutes (you will use drained tomato juice later).

2. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350°F and adjust rack to center position. In a large bowl, toss bread cubes with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Transfer to a rimmed baking sheet. Bake about 15 minutes, until crisp and firm but not browned. Remove from oven and let cool.

3. Place colander with tomatoes in the sink. Add shallot, garlic, honey, basil, vinegar, salt, and tomato juice from step 1 to a blender. Blend well. Then, while blending, drizzle in your olive oil. If you cannot add while the blender is on, whisk in your olive oil. Season dressing to taste with salt and pepper.

4. Combine toasted bread, tomatoes, mozzarella, avocado, blueberries, and dressing in a large bowl. Toss everything to coat and season with salt and pepper. Let rest 30 minutes before serving, tossing occasionally until the dressing is absorbed by the bread. Enjoy!

VOTE BY NOVEMBER 3RD FOR

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for Kalamazoo Public School Board

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PAID FOR BY Committee to Elect Mariah Bryant | 123 E Maple St. Kalamazoo, MI 49001



Loy Norrix Grad Earns National Recognition for Study on Bees

Courtesy: Andy Brown, Kalamazoo College

ALOY NORRIX graduate brought home a big honor at the 2026 meeting of the Great Lakes Chapter of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) while representing Kalamazoo College.

Annalise Bol, Loy Norrix Class of '22, received the conference's award for Best Undergraduate Talk. She presented findings from research she conducted with Assistant Professor of Biology Clara Stulgross examining how heat waves affect blue orchard bees, a native solitary bee species that plays an important role in agricultural pollination.

"Two hundred to 300 of these blue orchard bees can do the same work in an acre of almond trees as two hives of honeybees," Bol said. "Two hives is about 90,000 honeybees, so these bees are efficient pollinators."

Her project explored whether heat stress during the bees' larval stage hurts their future ability to



Bol receives rewards from former ESA Great Lakes past-Chair Andrea Corbett for earning Best Undergraduate Talk honors at the ESA ecology conference.

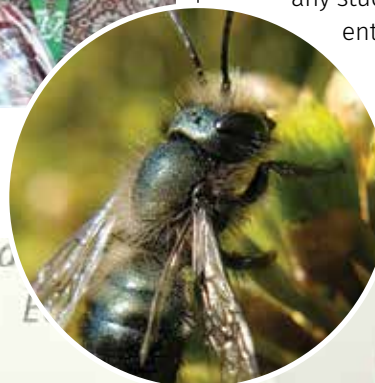
reproduce. Bol said her findings offered some encouraging news amid broader climate concerns.

"We found some interesting evidence that the bees aren't being affected by heat waves in the way that we studied them," she said. "It's rare to find good news when you're working with climate-change science."

Bol said the conference gave her valuable experience presenting research ahead of K's Diebold SIP Symposium for the Department of Biology, and she connected with ecologists from across the Great Lakes region, including participants from the United States and Canada.

"It was just a super fun experience," Bol said. "If any students have the opportunity to go present their work, they should just do it."

Next up, now that she's graduated from Kalamazoo College, Bol plans to pursue a master's degree in animal behavior at Stockholm University in Stockholm, Sweden.



Annaliese Bol (from left), Mia Crites, Hailey Yoder and Professor of Biology Binney Girdler from Kalamazoo College attend the Ecological Society of America Great Lakes Chapter Conference in Cleveland.

Grab Your Gold Card!

SEPTEMBER is a good time to pick up your Gold Card if you're interested in cheering on Kalamazoo Public Schools at regular-season home athletic events for free!

To be eligible for a Gold Card, you must be a resident of the KPS school district and be 62 years or older. The passes are not honored at hockey matches, invitational, play-off games, or tournaments.

Cards are available at the KPS Administration Building, 1220 Howard St., during regular business hours. Visitors must present identification, such as a driver's license, to verify their age and residency in order to obtain a card. The cards are non-transferable and do not expire.

Scan the QR codes to check out the calendars for high school athletic events online.



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Logging On for an Informed School Year: A Look at PowerSchool

IT MAY HAVE been a few months since many parents have touched **PowerSchool** Parent Portal or maybe you're a parent using it for the first time.

PowerSchool is a website and phone app used to access your student's schedule, grades, and attendance. It's also used to fill out school forms and communicate with your child's teacher.

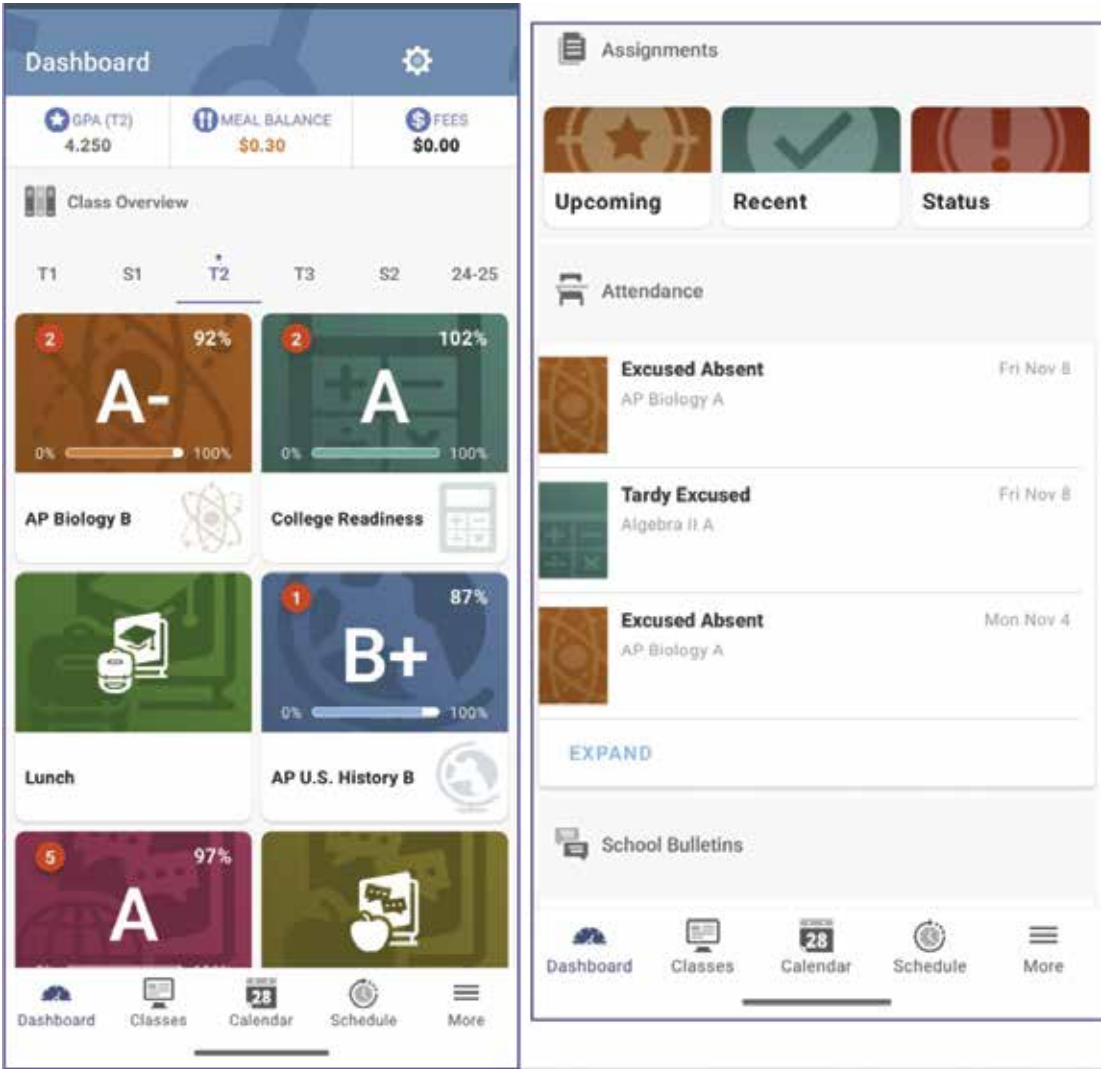
It's easy to log in:

- Find the app in the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store.
- Enter our district code: KXRB.
- Select "I'm a parent" when prompted.
- Use the email address KPS has on file for you. If it's your first time logging in, you will be prompted to reset your password.

Once you're logged in, you'll see the dashboard showing Classes, Assignments, Attendance, and School Bulletins.

Trouble logging in?

- Check your spam folder.
- Double check you're using the correct email address.
- Contact the main office at your child's school.



Logging in: See Classes, Assignments, and Attendance.

YOUR LIBRARY CARD IS A GOOD PLACE TO START.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month.

Read something new.
Watch something new.
Try something new

Get your card at kpl.gov/getcarded.

A library card for Kalamazoo Public Library. The card has a colorful, abstract background with blue, green, and yellow patterns. The Kalamazoo Public Library logo, which consists of a stylized 'K' in a circle, is on the left. To the right of the logo, the text "Kalamazoo Public Library" is written in a serif font, and "kpl.gov" is written below it in a smaller sans-serif font.



MAKE A VOTING PLAN FOR NOVEMBER 3RD



- 1. CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION AND/OR REGISTER TO VOTE
- 2. LEARN ABOUT EARLY VOTING OPTIONS
- 3. EXPLORE YOUR DAY-OF VOTING OPTIONS
- 4. RESEARCH CANDIDATES
- 5. SHARE YOUR PLANS!



Make your voting plan at VOTE411.org



The Kalamazoo Promise wishes you a successful school year!



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Growing Skills & Summer Fun

Summer break doesn't mean a break from learning for Kalamazoo Public Schools. Students were busy this summer building skills in creative (and fun) ways.

THE LEMONADE STAND is a warm-weather staple, and it also gave students enrolled in the Kalamazoo Public Schools summer program a chance to grow some entrepreneurial skills and learn money management. Lemonade Day is a partnership with the KRESA Career Connect Team. Students at Milwood Elementary designed their own brands and posters, and served up the summertime favorite drink to their classmates and the community.



OF COURSE, bouncy houses were a highlight for many students this summer with a visit from the Maranda Park Party Recess. Elementary students at Milwood and Greenwood got to spend some time outside shooting hoops, getting some air on bounce houses, and enjoying a picnic lunch prepared by KPS Food Services featuring locally sourced produce. The WOOD-TV-sponsored event travels around West Michigan school districts and teams up with community partners to provide a fun afternoon for students each summer.



Growing Skills & Summer Fun *(continued from page 11)*

A PROUD moment this summer for students participating in the Rise Up program which focuses on student support, was celebrating their achievements with their family at a special barbecue event at Linden Grove.





KPS employees and community partners served as guest readers at Woods Lake's summer program at the annual Bagels and Books event coordinated by Communities in Schools.



A Team Effort: Getting Students to School Safely

BACK TO SCHOOL means the yellow buses are back in full force on the road.

Whether you have a child in school in your home or not, there's a lot that goes into making riding the bus the safest option to getting them to class.

All year long, mechanics at the KPS Transportation Department make sure buses are in the best shape they can be. In total, the district operates 115 school buses and last year those buses drove 1.4 million miles.

The State of Michigan also surprises transportation departments across the state once a year with an inspection. Teams get a one-day heads-up.

"Underneath the bus, front to rear ... everything
(continued on page 15)

“
A few extra
seconds of
patience can
prevent a
tragedy. No
destination is
worth risking a
child's life.
”



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A Team Effort (continued from page 14)

has to work. Every light, no cut seats, everything has to be within specs,” said Mike Smith, Maintenance Foreman. “We’ve got 100% on that numerous times in the past few years and that’s pretty hard to do.” That includes last year.

To start the school year, bus drivers ask students to arrive at the bus stop around 15 minutes early if they can and for patience as families and drivers across the district get used to a new routine.

You can do your part, too.

School Resource Officer John Maney II, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, shared some of the most common mistakes police see drivers make during the school year. His list includes:

- Speeding through school zones
- Using cell phones while driving
- Failing to stop for school buses with their red lights flashing
- Not yielding to students in crosswalks

“A few extra seconds of patience can prevent a tragedy,” said Officer Maney. “No destination is worth risking a child’s life.”

In the state of Michigan, passing a stopped school bus can result in a fine between \$100–\$500 and potentially up to 100 hours of community service at a school. All KPS school buses are equipped with outside cameras to help hold violators accountable and increase awareness.

Officer Maney also shared important reminders for students to start the school year:

- If you’re on a bike or scooter, wear a helmet and obey traffic laws.
- Take off your headphones and put away your phone if you’re crossing the street.
- Always use a designated crosswalk.
- Wait until the bus has completely stopped before approaching.
- Stay several feet away from road while waiting to cross.
- Never cross in front of or behind a bus until the driver signals it’s safe.



School Resource Officer John Maney II



While the Transportation Department says it is starting off the school year with adequate staffing, they’re always looking for new bus drivers. You can check out those jobs at kpsjobs.com.

RE-ELECT

Patti SHOLLER-BARBER

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

PRIORITIES

- WORK TO MAINTAIN SAFE, SECURE SCHOOLS
- PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN TO COME TO SCHOOL WITH QUALITY PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCES
- CONTINUED IMPROVING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN KPS AT ALL LEVELS
- CONTINUED RISING GRADUATION RATES
- ENHANCE ALL COMMUNICATION TO OPTIMIZE STUDENT WELL-BEING AND SUPPORT

VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE

- BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS
- 14 YEARS AS BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT
- PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER 32 YEARS
- MEMBER OF MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

VOTE FOR IMPACT

- EXPANDED STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- PASSED CRITICAL SCHOOL BONDS
- MODERNIZING BUILDING SECURITY AND CAMPUS SAFETY
- TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES IN ALL BUILDINGS
- OPENED THE LOY NORRIX HEALTH CENTER

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VOTE NOV. 3

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Kalamazoo Public Schools Annual Notifications

Personal Curriculum

The personal curriculum (PC) is a process to modify specific Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) high school credit requirements and/or content expectations based on a student's unique learning needs and post-secondary goals. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the MMC requirements and students who need to individualize MMC requirements to earn a high school diploma.

A personal curriculum may be requested by:

- A parent or guardian of a student for whom a personal curriculum is sought
- A student if the student is of the age of majority or an emancipated minor

- A teacher who is currently teaching the student who currently teaches in, or whose expertise is in, a subject area proposed to be modified by the PC, or who is determined by the principal to have qualifications otherwise relevant to developing a PC
- A school counselor or school employee qualified to act in a counseling role.

If the request for a PC is made by the student's parent or legal guardian or by the student, if the student is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the school district shall develop a PC for the student pursuant to the parameters outlined in 380.1278b(5).

Fall Semester Starts Sept. 9

Apply at kvcc.edu/apply

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community college

ADVISORY TO ALL PARENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Kalamazoo Public Schools has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program. Inherent with this are the District's efforts to reduce the use of chemical pesticide(s) as much as possible. While it may occasionally be necessary to apply a pesticide, they will only be used as a last resort.

You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school buildings and grounds. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you can be

provided notice following any such application. To receive notification, please complete the following information and submit to your child's school.

Should you have any questions or concerns about pest management within your child's school, please feel free to contact Karen Jackson, Director of Facilities Management, at (269) 337-0400. Thank you for helping us with this matter.

To receive notification, please fill out the following form and return it to your child's school.

PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION REQUEST • 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Name of School: _____

Student's (Child's) Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Please Check One:

- ☐ I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment **inside** of the building.
- ☐ I wish to be notified prior to a scheduled pesticide treatment on the **outside** grounds of the school.
- ☐ Both of the above.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Please report any change of schools or address to Karen Jackson at (269) 337-0400.

Important AHERA Notice

All Kalamazoo Public Schools Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response (AHERA) Management Plans are available for review by parents/guardians and employees of Kalamazoo Public Schools. They may be reviewed by:

1. Contacting individual buildings, where each Plan is located in the administrative office and may be reviewed there during school hours, or
2. Contacting Karen Jackson, at the Office of Facilities Management, 600 W. Vine Street, (269) 337-0400.

The district has completed six-month periodic surveillance, as required under the AHERA guidelines, which reassessed all areas of known or assumed asbestos materials to determine if a change has taken place. The results of the inspections have been added to the current AHERA Management Plans.

COMMUNITY

Arts

AWARDS 26

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS OCTOBER 5TH.

Do you know someone who is a leader in the arts, volunteers their time in the arts, or is a talented youth with a promising future in the arts? Or perhaps you know of a local business that consistently supports or advocates for our local arts scene? If so please nominate them for a 2026 Community Arts Award!

View all of the award categories and make your nomination on the CAA page on our website:

KalamazooArts.org/2026caa/



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kpl.gov/friends | 269-553-7820

2026-2027 School Calendar

Kalamazoo Public Schools

August 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					

September 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			

October 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

November 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					

December 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		

January 2027

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.
Middle Schools: 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.
KC & LN: 7:30 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.
Half-day dismissal: 10:40 a.m.
Phoenix: 7:25 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Half-day dismissal: 10:15 a.m.

2026-27 Semesters

Semester 1: Aug. 31-Jan. 22
Semester 2: Jan. 25-June 11

Visit kalamazoopublicschools.com
for a complete calendar

August 31

K-12 & K-ECSE students; half day

Sept. 1

K-12 full day; county programs begin

Sept. 4

K-12 no school; schools open for enrollment

Sept. 7

Labor Day; all buildings closed

Sept. 8

PreK ECSE first day

Sept. 14

PEEP first day

Oct. 20

PreK-12; no students (district PD)

Oct. 29

9-12 half day; records day

Oct. 30

PreK-12 half day; records day

Oct. 30

No county programs

Nov. 4

9-12 half day

Nov. 5

K-8 half day

Nov. 6

K-5 half day

Nov. 13

PreK-5 no students

Nov. 25

PreK-12 no school; no county programs

Nov. 26-27

Thanksgiving Break; all buildings closed

Dec. 9

PreK-12 no students (district PD)

Dec. 21 - Jan 1

Winter Break

Jan. 19, 20 & 21

9-12 half day; exam days

Jan. 22

PreK-12 no school; records day

Jan. 22

No county programs

Feb. 1

PreK-12 no students (district PD)

Feb. 24

Elementary Literacy Night

Feb. 26

PreK-12 no school; mid-winter break

March 3

PEEP/Kindergarten Orientation

March 18

PreK-12 no students (district PD)

March 19

PreK-12 no school; records day

March 23

6-8 half day

March 23 & 24

High school conferences

March 25

K-5 half day

March 26

PreK-12 no school; no county programs

March 29 - April 2

Spring Break

May 28

Last day PEEP and graduating seniors

May 31

Memorial Day; all buildings closed

June 1

KAMSC senior recognition

June 2

Loy Norrix graduation (7 p.m. @ WEC)

June 3

Kalamazoo Central graduation (7 p.m. @ WEC)

June 4

Phoenix graduation (7 p.m. @ Chenery)

June 4

PreK ECSE last day of instruction

June 9

KILP graduation (7 p.m. @ Chenery)

June 9

9-11 half day; hs exam days

June 10 & 11

K-11 half day; hs exam days

June 14

Adult Education graduation (7 p.m. @ Chenery)

No school

Half day (check grade levels)

February 2027

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 2027

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 2027

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 2027

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					

June 2027

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 2027

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. 14, Jan. 7, March 11, May 13
Half days:
Oct. 28-30, Jan. 21, March 17, June 11
Full days:
Nov. 4, Jan. 19 & 20, June 9 & 10
Special dates: PEEP
First day Sept. 14; last day May 28
No school on May 14 or elem. half days
Special dates: PreK ECSE
First day Sept. 8; last day June 4
No school on elementary half days

08/010/26

18 Excelsior • September 2026 • www.kalamazoopublicschools.com

CELEBRATE THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH A **FRESH START**

Food Safety Tips for Packed Lunches:

- ✓ Wash hands before preparing lunches
- ✓ Wash all fresh produce thoroughly before packing
- ✓ Use an insulated lunch box
- ✓ Use cold packs or frozen drinks to keep cold food cold
- ✓ Use an insulated container for warm items
- ✓ Clean and sanitize lunchboxes regularly



KALAMAZOO
COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Health & Community Services Department



269-373-5200



311 E. Alcott St.



YOUR HOME COULD BE HARMING YOUR CHILD.

KNHS offers **FREE Lead Paint Hazard Removal** for eligible City of Kalamazoo residents — including inspection, repairs, and safety testing.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Learn more & see if you qualify at:



KNHS.org

How lead exposure affects Children's Health:

HEARING
LOSS

Reduced

IQ

**Learning
Disabilities**

DECREASED
BONE & MUSCLE GROWTH

**BEHAVIORAL
PROBLEMS**

kidney
impairment

**SPEECH
DELAYS**



**This Program Ends
December 1, 2026.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



EXHIBIT NOW - SEPT. 6 | FREE

LAST CHANCE! DINOSAUR EXPLORER

Journey through the wildest, wackiest and most wondrous dinosaurs to examine how the human body works through the lens of these creatures. NOTE: Free timed entry tickets are required for Dinosaur Explorer. Details and tickets are available at kalamazoomuseum.org/exhibits/dinosaur-explorer.

This exhibition is created and produced by Imagine Exhibitions Inc.



EVENT FRIDAY, SEPT. 18 | 5 - 7 P.M. | FREE

KVCC 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The museum will be open with special evening activities for adults and kids. Next door, there will be food, music and more to celebrate the 60th year of Kalamazoo Valley Community College.



NEW EXHIBIT SEPT. 26, 2026 - JAN. 3, 2027 | FREE

TOYTOPIA

Learn about the origins of toys, who made them, and why they are fun and dear to us. Photo opportunities include a Monopoly car token big enough to sit in and the world's largest Etch-A-Sketch, standing at 8 feet high. Real working video arcade games from the 1970s and 80s are available for play. There's also a life-size dollhouse!

Toytopia was created by Stage 9 Design and is distributed by Exhibits Development Group.



EVENT SATURDAY, SEPT. 26 | FREE

HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Free planetarium shows at 11 a.m. (in Spanish), 1 p.m. (in English) and 2 p.m. (in Spanish). The Innovation Lab will be open with special hands-on Paper City activities highlighting Hispanic paper arts noon to 3 p.m. And more! Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for details.

EVENT TUESDAYS, SEPT. 15 - NOV. 17 | 6:30 - 7:30 P.M. | FREE

THE HONORABLE HARVEST LECTURE SERIES - FALL 2026



Enjoy weekly talks examining ways we can restore the tenets of reciprocity with the natural world as a community and as individuals. In partnership with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, this drop-in lecture series is held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building, 418 Walnut St., downtown Kalamazoo.

PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE | SEPT. SHOWS | \$3 PER PERSON

Visit kalamazoomuseum.org/planetarium for details. NOTE: Hispanic Heritage Celebration held Sept. 26 with FREE shows — some in Spanish, and some in English!

EARTH, MOON & SUN | 11 A.M. SAT.
28 MIN. | GRADES 3 & UP

EXPEDITION SOLAR SYSTEM | 1 P.M. SAT.
35 MIN. | ALL AGES

PERFECT LITTLE PLANET | 1 P.M. SUN.
35 MIN. | GRADES K & UP

THE SKY ABOVE US | 2 P.M. TUES. - SUN.
35 MIN. | GRADES 4 & UP



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

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

SPECIAL NOTICE: The museum will open at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

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