

Kalamazoo Public Schools

EXCELSIOR

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Bright Smiles, Big Backpacks: Back-to-School 2026!

(SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8-9)

A Record-
Size **Band**
Camp From
a Bird's-Eye
View
pg. 3



Meet KILP and
KPS Virtual's
New Principal,
Kelly DeVisser
pg. 10



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It Takes a Solid Team to Win Big

A Message from the Superintendent

Dr. Darrin Slade



I DON'T know about you, but I'm still thinking about this summer's World Cup. I had not watched soccer before, but I was really inspired by it.

Just like Spain's winning team, KPS has achieved remarkable success: improved outcomes at every grade level on M-STEP ELA and Math, improved middle and high school M-STEP Science and Social Studies, the highest Advanced Placement scores and participation in district history, as well as the highest graduation rates in district history. That's in addition to our improving attendance and student behavior district-wide.

We often refer to groups of em-

ployees as teams. It is valid because it takes everyone to contribute to the success KPS has experienced. Success doesn't rest on the shoulders of singular players. It takes outstanding work in every role.

In the World Cup, players like France's Kylian Mbappé, Argentina's Lionel Messi, and Norway's Erling Haaland were superstar players and received a lot of media attention. However, there are scores of people behind the scenes who do their jobs outside of the spotlight but are an integral part of the team's success.

When you celebrate success, it's important to take a moment to thank the people who do the daily work to achieve monumental accomplishments.

KPS has many superstars contributing to our district's daily operations and focused on student safety

and success. We have over 1400 employees working together to make a positive impact. As an example of the quiet superstars behind the scenes, I'd like to highlight three individuals.

Miss Vickie Hassiel is one of our superstar bus drivers. She has been with the district since 2015 and currently drives for Loy Norrix, Woodward and El Sol. She spent the summer attending community events, talking with people about becoming a bus driver, and serving as an ambassador for the district.

Curt Johnson is the campus safety officer at the Community Education Center (CEC) which houses KAMSC, KILP, the KPS virtual program, and the offices for the Facilities and Technology Departments. He always has a warm greeting for everyone entering the building and is seen as a valued member of the community.

It is often said that school secretaries run their schools. Principals acknowledge their incredible value and the partnership. Northglade Montessori's Cyndi DeYoung keeps many plates spinning in the air at the same time and always has a smile on her face. In addition to her school-year role, Ms. DeYoung works as the elementary summer school secretary.

These three employees are just a few examples of KPS superstars. If you know someone working for the district as a custodian, secretary, food service worker, paraprofessional, Montessori teaching assistant, bus driver, campus safety officer, or in any other support role, please take a moment to thank them for their contributions.

The entire KPS team is needed to row the boat together, just like the viral Viking Row from this summer's World Cup.

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A Record-Size Band Camp From a Bird's-Eye View

BAND CAMP looked a little different for students at Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix this year. Directors and other marching staff got a bird's-eye view of the field from new towers installed on designated marching fields at each high school. The towers were purchased as part of the 2022 bond. They provide two different lookout levels and have a locked door on the bottom level.

"We're able to get up higher, which allows us to provide better feedback for our students and instruction," said Ryan Kasperski, Kalamazoo Central Band Director and District Lead Music Teacher. "The shade is nice too."

Previously, band directors had to resort to their own creativity for a higher vantage point at rehearsal sites, often creatively using old scaffolding and other construction donations.

"It's really nice to have this permanent structure here," said Aaron Mirakovits, Loy Norrix Band Director. "It gives the band a real home, it's not just trying to fit its way in amongst athletics."

It's good timing too, as more students are taking part in KPS's band program. Mirakovits says this year he has more than 100 students, and he believes it's the largest marching band in Loy Norrix's 65-year history. He says the support from feeder schools, Milwood Magnet and Maple Street, has been important in growing the program.

Band camp attendees are excited about the growing number, too.

"With the bigger band, it's like, more fun ... to hear all the different sounds coming from every different instrument," said Ruby Santiago, a Loy Norrix



Ryan Kasperski, Kalamazoo Central Band Director, gets a safer overhead look at the new marching field.

11th grader. "I like it."

This year, Loy Norrix's show is called "Royalty" and features selections from *The Dark Knight* 1998 soundtrack, including "Let's Go Crazy" by Prince, and "Kings & Queens" by Ava Max. It features the Batman and Prince logos on the field, of course.

Kalamazoo Central's show features some familiar hits as well. Their show is called "Unbroken" and includes "Creep" by Radiohead, "Believer" by Imagine Dragons, "Fix You" by Coldplay, and ends with "Golden" from the movie "K-Pop Demon Hunters".

For Kalamazoo Central's marching band, the new tower also includes a new designated rehearsal spot. Previously, the group used a front parking lot for rehearsals. Kasperski says that while practicing in the lot helped with accuracy as students learned their blocking and the lot didn't require maintenance, it also provided challenges when other events were happening on campus and when drivers did not realize the lot



The Loy Norrix Marching Band practices hitting marks as Band Director Aaron Mirakovits gives feedback from the new field tower.

was occupied and tried to drive through it.

The new spot is closer to the band room, located by the tennis courts behind the building which saves students a lot of time going from the band room to the field, instead of having to walk across campus to get to their rehearsal spot.

While students shared they're definitely excited about the new space, it's their teammates who keep them coming back each year.

"I like the people here; the people here are so nice. And I like that marching band is so rewarding," shared Tralyn Warrenshanks, Kalamazoo Central 10th grader. "Because it's a lot of work, mentally and physically draining, but once you put in all that hard work, it makes it so much better."

You can catch the hard work from Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix's marching bands this fall at home football games and at several marching band competitions.



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ARTISTS' CORNER

Gregg Stevens, Visual Arts Educator at Loy Norrix High School, creates art varied by media, technique and subject.

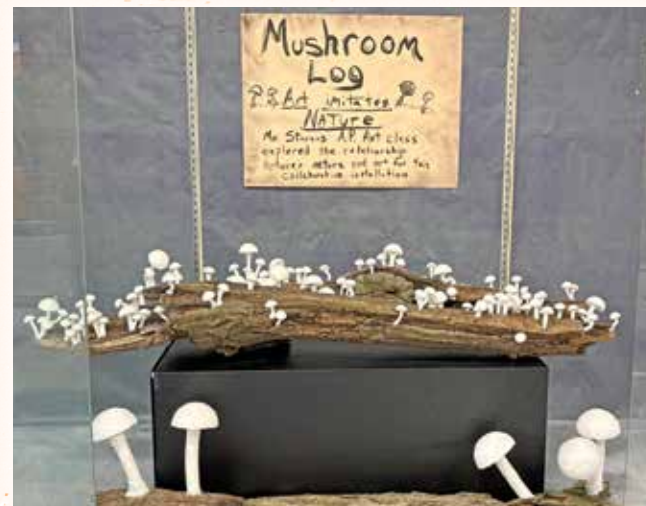
"While I still make ceramic pieces, lately I've been committing more of my time to watercolor and using foraged, natural materials. If there were one over-arching theme for me and my art, it would probably be nature," Stevens shared. "I believe that art imitates nature and I

like exploring that niche. I find that creating is elemental to the human condition and the process of making as a way to connect to a deeper truth."

His AP Art students created a sculpture that took inspiration from the relationship between nature and art, as well, called "Mushroom Log".



From left to right: Oscar Lucas, Ash Ferguson, Esther Barrett, and Iris Erskine.



"Mushroom Log: Art Imitates Nature" created collaboratively by Mr. Stevens' AP Art Class, Spring 2026.

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Recipe

from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells

Josh Kerby,
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Butternut Squash and Blackbean Papusas

Fall in Love with Homemade Papusas

DON'T LET their artisan look fool you — pupusas are shockingly easy to make at home. We took the traditional cheese-and-pork-stuffed favorite and gave the masa dough a seasonal Autumn twist. Meal prep tip: Shape a large batch and freeze them raw so a hot, gooey dinner is always just minutes away.

For the Filling:

1.5 cup butternut squash, peeled and cut into small 1-inch cubes
1 cup black beans
2 tsp olive oil for roasting.
½ tsp cumin
¼ tsp smoked paprika
Pinch of cinnamon

1.5 cups cheese, shredded mozzarella or Monterey Jack cheese
1 tsp jalapeño, finely minced (optional)

For the Masa Dough:

3 cups masa harina
2 ¾ cup cold water
1 tsp kosher salt



Make the Filling

1. Preheat your oven to 400°F.
2. Toss the butternut squash cubes with olive oil, salt, cumin, paprika, and cinnamon.
3. Spread onto a baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes until tender and caramelized.
4. Remove from the oven, let cool slightly. Mash the roasted squash in a bowl with the black beans and shredded cheese.
5. Add garlic powder and salt to taste. Let the mixture cool completely.

Prepare the Masa Dough

1. Whisk together the masa and salt in a large bowl.
2. Gradually pour in the cold water.
3. Knead with your hands for 2–3 minutes until it reaches a smooth, Play-Doh-like consistency. If it cracks, knead in a splash more of water.
4. Divide and roll the dough into 12 to 15 golf-ball-sized rounds.

Assemble the Pupusas

1. Lightly oil your hands with a neutral oil to keep the dough from sticking.
2. In your hand, press a dough ball flat into a disc about ¼-inch thick.
3. Place a generous tablespoon of the butternut squash and cheese mixture right in the center.
4. Cup your hand and pull the edges of the dough up around the filling, pinching the top to fully seal it like a dumpling.
5. Gently pat the ball back and forth between your hands to flatten it back down into a 4-to-5-inch circle.

Griddle to Golden Perfection

1. Heat a heavy skillet or cast-iron griddle over medium-high heat with a light brush of oil.
2. Cook the pupusas for 5 to 6 minutes per side.
3. They are ready when they develop beautiful dark brown spots, puff up slightly, and cheese begins to ooze from the edges.
4. Serve with traditional simple pickled cabbage slaw (curtido), sour cream, and cilantro!

Winchell Teacher Named MCTE Elementary English Teacher of the Year

THE MICHIGAN Council of Teachers of English (MCTE) named Winchell Elementary School teacher Katie Riva their Elementary English Teacher of the Year for the 2026-27 school year.

In their announcement of the award, the MCTE



Katie Riva, Winchell Elementary School

highlighted Mrs. Riva’s ability to create a classroom where “literacy is more than a foundation for academic success.” They say she helps students understand themselves, connect with others, and make sense of the world around them. Her nomination letters also highlighted her inclusive literary environment, student-centered instruction, and her emphasis on inspiring young writers to see themselves as authors.

“For me, teaching is incredibly rewarding – I live for the ‘light-bulb’ moments and seeing mastery in action,” Mrs. Riva told MCTE.

They also highlighted Mrs. Riva’s collaboration with Western Michigan University that brought 24 teachers-in-training to her classroom, and allowed them to gain hands-on classroom experience and mentoring. She said her students also benefited from the extra literacy instruction.

The MCTE has been around since 1922. The group says it helps offer professional development opportunities to English language arts and English education professors, in grade school and college, throughout Michigan.

Mrs. Riva will be celebrated in March 2027 at the MCTE Spring Conference.

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Linden Grove Principal Mike Hughes helps students find where they start their day.



Students at Lincoln Elementary are ready for a great school year.



Winchell fourth graders Gus Nave and Finnly DeGroot.



KDPS Asst. Chief Victor Green, Blaec Arevalo, and Kelly Lerversee of CIS serve as first day greeters at Woods Lake.



Senior



8th-grade Web Leaders at Maple Street help make sure 6th graders feel welcomed to middle school.



A quick photo before the first bell at Edison.



Ready for learning at Kalamazoo Central!



Asier Smith helps students find their teachers at Woods Lake.

ON THE COVER:

Spring Valley principal Heather Misner with (left to right) Cassins Phillips, Armani Walker, Loyalty Stafford, and Legaci Stafford.

Za'Mya and mom Lebor Jackson at Hillside.



Looking cool for the first day at Spring Valley.



All smiles for these Linden Grove 6th graders' first day of middle school!



Students at Kalamazoo Central gather to celebrate "Senior Sunrise."

Innovation and Adaptation: Meeting KILP and KPS Virtual’s New Principal

STUDENTS at Kalamazoo Innovative Learning Program (KILP) and in the KPS Virtual Program are starting the new school year with a new principal, and she’s a familiar face in the district. Sally DeVisser has been with KPS for 16 years, previously as assistant principal at Hillside Middle and a social studies teacher at KPS’s former Middle School Alternative Learning Program (ALP).

Education is in DeVisser’s DNA, following in the footsteps of her aunt and grandmother. After graduating from Western Michigan University, she taught upper elementary and middle school at a small Christian school in Kalamazoo for five years. She then transferred to KPS and spent nine years with ALP, which she says opened her eyes to the power of relationships and alternative education.

“I loved finding creative ways to make social studies relevant for students who needed extra academic and behavioral support,” DeVisser shared about her years as a teacher at ALP.

What makes KILP and Kalamazoo’s Virtual Learning Program so special?

These programs provide an opportunity for students who need something more than the traditional classroom. KILP is unique in that it allows students who are behind to propel themselves forward and still receive their high school diploma to take advantage of The Kalamazoo Promise. KPS Virtual provides our students the opportunity to learn virtually yet still have synchronous classes taught by KPS teachers using the KPS curriculum. Staff at both programs wrap their



Sally DeVisser



DeVisser talks with KILP students during the first week of the new school year.

arms around students and provide the support they need to be successful in school.

What has made you stay with KPS for 16 years?

I love the people who make up KPS, from our students and families to the colleagues and community members who support our work. This summer, as I packed my items from my Hillside office and then unpacked them in my new office, I was reminded of all those who have poured into me. I found notes and drawings from former students, parents, and colleagues. Some made me laugh, and some made me cry, yet they were all reminders of the power of relationships and how that can change the trajectory of someone’s life. There were many in this district who saw something in me before I saw it in myself and pushed me to continue growing as an educator.

What are you most excited for in your new role?

I love a challenge! I see moving into a principalship as the next step in my journey as an educator. As

educators, you’ll often hear us talking about how we want our students to be lifelong learners. This is a way for me to exemplify what I want for my students! I am looking forward to welcoming staff and students back to the school year and learning together!

What inspired you to become a school administrator?

Tamica Frison (now assistant principal at Linden Grove Middle), my principal at ALP. I can honestly say that without her, I would still be teaching and be completely happy doing it! For many years, I was adamant that I was not going into administration. Ms. Frison provided me opportunities to shadow her, pilot initiatives, and lead professional development, all of which built my abilities as an administrator and ignited my passion for administration.

Do you have any advice for students as they start a new school year?

First, try new things. If there’s a club or sport or group you want to join, do it. Get out of your comfort zone because that is where we grow.

Secondly, stay organized. Figure out what works for you. I like a paper planner. I keep track of due dates, meetings, and my to do list in my planner. Without it, I feel off all day and am not as productive. Finally, don’t be afraid to ask for help. We all need it at some point! This district is full of the most amazing people who show up every day for kids. We’re here to help.

(continued on page 11)

FALL

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KILP and KPS Virtual’s New Principal (continued from page 10)

What are some fun facts you’d like students and families to know about you?

I am a wife and mother. My husband and I have been married for 21 years. We have two sons who are 15 and 17. I love learning about different cul-

tures and how other people live whether it be through travel or reading. My favorite genre is historical fiction. One of my goals this year is to read 25 books and so far I have read 14. My favorite color is pink. I have lived in this area my entire life. I was

on the front page of the Kalamazoo Gazette twice before age 10!



Learn more about the KILP program at kilp.kalamazoopublicschools.com

On The Move in KPS: New Administration Appointments



Tracy Chappell has been named Interim Assistant Principal at Milwood Magnet School. Chappell has been a science and math teacher at Milwood Magnet School for 11 years. Before that, she was a science teacher with the Alternative Learning Program for five years.



Christian Manley has been named Interim Assistant Principal at Hillside Middle School. She joins KPS from Battle Creek STEM Innovation Middle School, where she served as principal for four years. This is a return to KPS for Manley; she served as a teacher at Lincoln International Studies School for seven years.



Aaron Mason has been named Interim Principal at Washington Writers’ Academy. It’s actually a return to the school, as he taught fourth and fifth grade there for 10 years. He’s moving to the new role after serving as assistant principal at King-Westwood Elementary for three years.



Thomas McPherson was appointed Assistant Principal at Prairie Ridge Elementary School in January of the 2025-26 school year. Previously, he served eight years at Battle Creek Endeavor Academy as the first Dean of Students and Head Principal. He also was a School Director in Memphis, Tennessee; a teacher in New Orleans; and a Teach for America Corps Member in New York.



Dr. Amira Mogaji has been named Interim Principal at Indian Prairie Elementary School. She served as principal at Washington Writers’ Academy for the 2025-26 school year and spent eight years as Principal at Northglade Montessori Magnet School.



Tammo Nelson has been named Interim Principal at Milwood Elementary School. She previously served as Principal at Indian Prairie and Assistant Principal at Winchell. Before that, she was with Saginaw Public Schools for 15 years.



April Rocco is Loy Norrix’s new Assistant Principal and Athletic Director. She has 27 years of experience with Kalamazoo Public Schools, most recently as Assistant Athletic Director and teacher at Loy Norrix, as well as serving as a teacher at Washington Writers’ Academy and Milwood Magnet School.



Brandy Stiver has been named Interim Principal at Milwood Magnet School. She previously served as Assistant Principal at the school. She has been with KPS for 27 years, serving as a teacher, a Saturday School principal, and an Assistant Athletic Director.



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“This Is My Home”: KPS Graduates Return as Teachers

THIS YEAR, as new teachers begin their first full school year with Kalamazoo Public Schools, three of them share something in common: they’re KPS grads themselves.

“I already knew from the beginning I wanted to be back in KPS,” said Riley Ballinger, Loy Norrix English teacher and Kalamazoo Central Class of 2019. “I grew up here and this is my energy, my place.”

In fact, she says, returning to a KPS classroom almost feels like coming home.

“Mr. [Chris] Aguinaga, our principal, was my social studies teacher in sixth grade,” she shared. “I feel pretty supported because I know everybody.”

Jacob Seager, math teacher at Kalamazoo Central and Class of 2018, shares that sentiment, too.

“Oh, I love it,” he shared. “It’s just kind of picked right up where I left off from being a student here. Those relationships are going to continue to grow as [my former teachers] help me out with my first year of teaching and, you know, help me get my sea legs.”

For Spencer Chamberlain, English and journalism teacher at Loy Norrix, Class of 2004, it’s been a bit more time since he last walked the halls of his alma mater.

“I was gone 20 years, you know, but I realized coming back ... these streets run through my veins,” Chamberlain shared. “This is my home. I’ve lived in four different states, but nothing is like Kalamazoo.”

Ballinger, Seager, and Chamberlain have something else in common: they all know that growing up and finding what you want to do isn’t a one-size-fits-all experience.



Riley Ballinger



Jacob Seager



Spencer Chamberlain

“A lot of kids don’t know what they want to do, right?” said Seager. “I think seeing someone and getting to understand my journey to where I finally found my passion is something they can relate to.”

In fact, when Seager graduated from KPS, he didn’t think he’d end up in education. He headed to Hope College to play football. After an illness in the family brought him back to Kalamazoo, he did some soul-searching, trying to determine what he wanted from a career. He tried banking, considered becoming a chiropractor, and spent time working in research. It wasn’t until he returned to Kalamazoo Central to coach for the wrestling team that it really clicked.

“At that point in time, I kind of was like, I have to figure out how to get into education,” Seager said. “I found that passion in coaching and just ran with it.”

Chamberlain’s return to KPS caught him by surprise, too. He had moved back to Kalamazoo after about two decades away, and was filling in as a substitute at his former school.

“I popped in on Mr. [Joe] Kitzman, who I had as a ninth-grade English teacher,” Chamberlain said. “I’m like, ‘Hey, how’s it going? I moved back to town. I’ve been teaching for a while, and I just wanted to say what’s up, because you were a pretty big influence on me.’”

(continued on page 13)

Nerds unite for a day of gaming,
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KPS Graduates Return as Teachers (continued from page 12)

Chamberlain's post-high school journey took him across the country multiple times. After taking some classes at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, he moved to Arizona where he started his teaching career. Then to Massachusetts. Then Atlanta, Georgia, where he worked in the film industry for a little more than a year. When a writers' strike halted productions, he and his family came back to Michigan.

During that substitute teaching job, he says, Mr. Kitzman told him his former journalism teacher and advisor of Loy Norrix's student newspaper Knight Life, Tisha Pankop, had retired the school year before, and the job was open. The rest is history.

"It's surreal," Chamberlain said in regards to being back at Loy Norrix. "It's pretty crazy. There are still like, three teachers here that I had as a student and my oldest [child] is going to be going here this school year, and they have two of those teachers."

Ballinger, however, had a feeling she'd end up back at KPS. She began considering the idea of being a teacher her junior year at Kalamazoo Central, inspired by someone she looked up to.

"When one of my former teachers, Mr. [Christopher] Bullmer ... passed away, that's when I decided to be a teacher," she shared. "I wanted to be like him."

Her journey took her to Adrian College to play softball before she decided she liked being closer to home and transferred to Western Michigan University's accelerated master's program. Her first teaching job was in Vicksburg, but she was glad when she saw a job posting in the area where she grew up. Ballinger says being around her former educators has helped her a lot with finding her footing as a new teacher.

"I'm just happy to be here. It's nice to be teaching alongside my old teachers and having that guidance," she explained. "It makes me feel better because I know the way they teach, and I want to teach like them ... I'm like, 'What was that lesson, like 10 years ago that you did? I want to try that.' Knowing that those are the type of people that are in the district makes me feel a lot better about having the support from everyone."

Seager hopes to pass on lessons from his journey and the support he's received to the next generation.

"Knowing that I had to go through those same

struggles of figuring out my identity of who I'm going to be and how I'm going to get there, and had a lot of hardships and struggles along the way," Seager said, "I think that will help build a connection with [students] so they know they're not alone in 'I don't know what I want to do.'"

A similar message from Chamberlain as he prepares to help students find a path after high school: they shouldn't think there's only one direction post-graduation.

"One thing I really push is like, 'if this isn't for you, don't force yourself into this. Find a way,'" he said.

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KAMSC Is Celebrating 40 Years!

CELEBRATE 40 years of excellence at the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center with an unforgettable evening, Investing in Innovation. The special anniversary event brings together alumni, supporters, and community members to honor four decades of inspiring STEM education across Kalamazoo County. Guests will enjoy an open house and guided tour of the center, hors d'oeuvres,

and a silent auction, all leading up to a program in Chenery Auditorium that takes attendees on a journey reflecting the decades. As a fundraiser for the center, the evening offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on its impact while investing in the future of innovative learning. Get ready to be part of something extraordinary at the KAMSC 40th Anniversary event!



i For more information visit kamsc.org or scan the QR code above.

BOO!

TO THE FLU!

Flu Vaccine Clinic and Outdoor Trunk or Treat

Thursday,
Oct. 22 4-6pm

311 E. Alcott
Bring an insurance card
and ID for vaccines



KALAMAZOO
COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Health & Community Services Department

Care you can count on.



HEALTH SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Adult Medicine
- Behavioral Medicine
- Dental Care
- Internal Medicine
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Occupational Therapy
- On-site Pharmacies
- Pediatrics
- Physical Therapy
- Substance Use Disorder
- Lab Tests & Screenings
- Vaccines



Visit fhckzoo.com or call **269.349.2641**
to schedule an appointment today.

117 W. Paterson St. | 505 E. Alcott St. | 1308 N. Burdick St.
Same-day scheduling offered at all locations.
Walk-ins available on a first-come, first-served basis.



FAMILYHEALTH
center

*Family Health Center ensures that all members
of our community have access to quality,
comprehensive, patient-centered health care.*

PLAN FOR IT.



Think homeownership is out of reach? KNHS Homebuyer Education Classes can help you create a path forward.

PREPARE FOR IT.

Strengthen your credit and finances
with KNHS Financial Readiness
Workshops.



PROTECT IT.



Keep your home and family safer
with KNHS FREE Lead Paint Hazard
Removal Program.

A Better Home Starts Here.



KNHS.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



EVENT SATURDAY, OCT. 3 | 11 A.M. - 3 P.M. | FREE

DOLL & ACTION FIGURE SHOWCASE

Chat with Battle Creek Area Doll Club of Michigan during their collections showcase. See collections from modern to antique and from around the world. *The Doll & Action Figure Showcase is informational only, and no dolls or action figures will be for sale during the event.*



EVENT SATURDAYS IN OCT. & FRI., OCT. 30 | NOON - 3 P.M.

LABORATORY MAYHEM | FREE

Spooky happenings in the Innovation Lab include crafts and experiments for kids age 5+. For more information, visit kalamazoomuseum.org.

EVENT THURSDAY, OCT. 15 | 6 - 8:30 P.M. | FREE

COMMUNITY GARDEN KALAMAZOO WITH WRITER CAMILLE DUNGY



Enjoy a gathering of area community gardens, garden resources, the Kalamazoo Seed Collaborative and more. Author of "Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden" Camille Dungy will speak starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free and first come, first served.

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, these drop-in lectures are held at Kalamazoo Valley Community College's **Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building**, 418 Walnut St., downtown Kalamazoo. View a list of the topics at valleyhub.kvcc.edu/events.



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

Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for details. ***NOTE: Free Planetarium show, "Elements in Orbit," on Saturday, Oct. 17, for Chemistry Day. No public shows Oct. 20 - 24.**

EVENT FRIDAY, OCT. 30 & SATURDAY, OCT. 31 | FREE

MUSEUM MAYHEM FOR PRE-K

Enjoy Halloween-themed fun! Festivities kick off with storytime on **Friday, Oct. 30 at 11:30 a.m.** Then, **Saturday, Oct. 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**, expect free planetarium mini-shows, hands-on activities, colorful chemistry demonstrations and more!



EVENT FRIDAY, OCT. 16 | 1:30 - 2:30 P.M. | FREE

ILLUSTRATED MUSE(INGS)

Step into an afternoon of creation with a gathering of artists creating in real time. It's a space where melody meets mark making, rhythm inspires gesture, and the room becomes a living sketchbook.



EVENT SATURDAY, OCT. 17 | NOON - 4 P.M. | FREE

CHEMISTRY DAY 2026

Explore the chemistry of construction materials and tools through fun activities led by real-life chemistry professionals and enthusiasts. Can you build with chemistry? Come and find out!



NEW EXHIBIT SEPT. 26, 2026 - JAN 1, 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.*



ONE WORLD, ONE SKY | 11 A.M. SAT. | 30 MIN. | GRADES 3 & UP

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

MAGIC TREE HOUSE: SPACE MISSION | 1 P.M. SUN. | 35 MIN. | GRADES 3 & 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

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