



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE" November 2023 kingsleyschools.org

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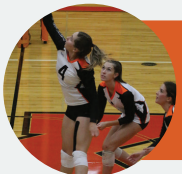
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KINGSLEY BANDS MARCHING TO SUCCESS



Photo credit: Wendy Gildenstern Brosier. Article by: Lance Dubay, Band Director

The bands at the middle school and high school have been very active to start the school year. The marching band performed a classic rock show at home football games, the Thirlby Marching Band Exhibition, and they also traveled to the Kenowa Hills Invitational in the Grand Rapids area.

At the competition, the band took 4th place in their classification earning 3rd place in music performance. This is a pretty significant accomplishment for the Marching Stags, as most of the bands on the competition circuit spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on just their marching programs. This was the second or third competition of the season for most of the bands, and our placement speaks volumes about what we are doing as a program.

Updates and announcements: Information about the band program's Christmas raffle will be distributed in early November. A reminder that the Band Boosters are open to all parents or people interested in helping the band program. Boosters meet in the high school band room on the second Thursday of each month.

The Kingsley Music Department Christmas concert will take place on December 13, 2023, in the KHS Gym. This will feature band and choir students in a collage-style concert for grades 5-12 (More info will come as we get closer to the event). Thanks for supporting the bands!

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Meet the Kingsley Facilities Team



It's hard to believe Kingsley Area Schools' facilities team is a two-man crew. Jim Moen and Jeff Veit each wear several hats; they're responsible for everything from plumbing to electrical work, turf management to painting, snow shoveling to making repairs, and everything in between. Their days start early, often solving problems before students even enter the building.

"There are new challenges every day. There's never a dull moment!" said Facilities Manager Jim Moen.

High Schoolers Take Industry Tours

KHS Counselor Brittany Feldhake took students on tours of 20Fathoms and Munson Healthcare. At 20Fathoms, they learned about nonprofits, starting businesses, and networking. At Munson, they toured the biomedical technology department as well as the radiology unit and lab.



Kingsley Elementary's Art Cart Puts Creativity on Wheels



Left: Teacher Hannah Rose with Mrs. Hoffman's class. Right: Students learn about pop art and Roy Lichtenstein's *Crying Girl* series.

"Even if they're not going to be an artist and they never pick up a pencil again after my class, that's totally okay. But they're going to be in tune with their visual brain and that is a skill that is useful in every discipline for the rest of their life." -Ms. Rose

Kingsley Elementary officially has an art class. Ms. Hannah Rose, a recent graduate of the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design, is the new teacher behind Art on a Cart, a mobile learning experience that brings art into every classroom.

"It's really exciting and really fun. These students have never had an art class before, so they're totally blank canvases if you will. They're like sponges because they've never been exposed to some of the information, techniques, and materials of the projects," said Ms. Rose.

On October 10, Ms. Rose visited Mrs. Hoffman's third graders to teach them about the Pop Art movement. Students colored sketchbooks inspired by Roy Lichtenstein's *Crying Girl* pieces.

"Normally, we talk a lot in the sketchbook time about the artists that made that piece," said Ms. Rose. "To my surprise, they really love learning about the art history, and things like how much the piece weighs, how much it was worth, and what it's made out of. Those are things that I never thought we would have discussions about."

"My overall goal is to get as much information in their heads as they will let me. I'm super passionate about teaching kids the value of art and design. I'm specifically super passionate about how those skills can be transformed and translated into anything and everything when they move on and go to middle school and high school."

Kaylee Weber Publishes First Novel, *Goodbye Justice*



Kingsley High School senior Kaylee Weber is a multi-hyphenate: she's a Cross Country runner, Drama Club member, and busy student balancing her extra-curriculars with an AP class load. Now, she has a new title to add to her name: published author.

Kaylee published her first novel, a mystery, *Goodbye Justice*, this fall. It's on sale now on Amazon and will be available at Barnes & Noble and other local bookstores soon.

The book, Kaylee says, was inspired by one she read in her freshman year English class.

"We read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and it immediately became my favorite book of all time," said Kaylee. "I was like, 'I feel like I could write a book like that'. And so I kind of did, and that's when I first started it was the spring of my freshman year."

With all of her classes and activities, she found it hard to find time to start and finish a book. But she found the space she needed during the pandemic.

"During COVID we had long lunch periods and I'd get bored because we had so much time. So I guess I was like

Goodbye Justice takes place in the early 1950's in a small, fictional town, in northern Georgia. It accounts the harrowing, controversial murders of residents of the town divided by railroad tracks and stricken with judgment. Recent law graduate, Mary Grey, as well as hot-shot prosecutor, David Bullbarrow, and Sheriff Martwain Dukes must work together to uncover the chilling truth that people aren't always as they seem."

"I'm just going to write a book.' That was the first one I ever finished. It was a huge confidence boost," said Kaylee.

Over the past four years, Kaylee has cranked out *Goodbye Justice* plus two sequels and a spin-off taking place in the 1950s and 60s. Right now, she's revisiting each book to do some re-writes.

"Now that I'm working on my second book, it's kind of hard because it's a mystery and there's a lot of really tiny details that I have to keep track of. It's very hard to not have the whole book planned out," said Kaylee. "I kind of just write and see what happens." "This has been the past four years of my life. It's finally out into the world and it's definitely very surreal."

In fourth grade, Kaylee's teacher told her that one day she'd be an author because she was always making up stories. Today, she aspires to be an author and high school English teacher.

"I think that the two work perfectly together. I have hundreds of book ideas that I want to write."

The senior plans to attend Central Michigan University next fall.



Goodbye Justice is on sale now. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to purchase!

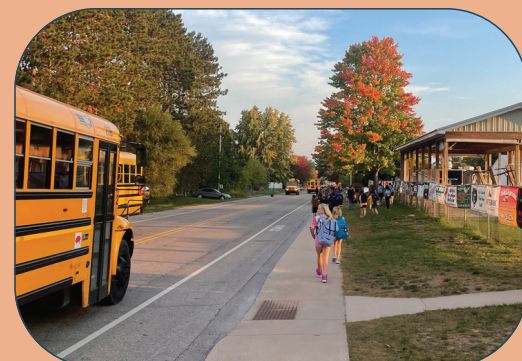
KHS Creative Writing Class Reimagines Classic Fairytales

This semester, Mrs. Kellie Little's Creative Writing Class re-wrote classic fairytales from new perspectives.

Students printed and illustrated their stories in special books that they shared with Mrs. Hoffman and Mrs. Hetherington's elementary students.



Students Celebrate International Walk to School



Kingsley celebrated International Walk to School Day on October 4! Bus riders were dropped off at the Football field and were joined by students that got rides from their parents. Local Sheriff Deputies and EMT's also joined us so we could all walk to school together.

Kingsley Choir Updates

- Our Winter Concert will be in the High School involving all the 5-12 Kingsley Bands and Choirs starting at 7:00PM on December 13.
- Choir students wanting to sing for MSVMA Solo and Ensemble must see Mr. Evans to select music by November 15. The cost is \$20 plus the cost of a piano accompanist.

It's College Prep Season!

Our Kingsley High School Counselors are here to help.

Check out our website for a variety of resources including:

- Counseling events
- FAFSA info
- Free college prep webinars
- Scholarship resources
- Upcoming free virtual financial aid presentations
- ...and more!

Scan below for more info.



Submit your Photos to the Yearbook!

Download the Yearbook Snap app and use code STAGS

iPhone

Android



NOW HIRING

for several positions. Visit kingsleyschools.org to learn more and apply.

Kingsley Area Schools Launches New Strategic Planning Process; Seeks Community Input

On October 17, the Kingsley Area Schools Board of Education and the Administration announced the launch of a new initiative to guide them through a three- to five-year Strategic Plan. The process will include community and staff input events, data collection, and other efforts to create a shared vision and goals for the future of the district and strategies to achieve them, all while using scarce public education resources in the most effective and efficient way.

Stakeholder feedback will be an important part of the planning process. Community members, parents, students, teachers and all district staff members will have the opportunity to give input on the strengths of the district, opportunities for improvement, barriers for implementation, and their vision for the district.

Stakeholder input, along with essential district data, provides the basis for the district to choose approximately five priority goals to be implemented over the next three to five years.

The benefits of the strategic planning process are many. Most notable are:

- Provides integrated, important input from community and staff
- Presents a succinct and graphical picture of the district's current status
- Sets focused strategic goals that identify target areas to improve student achievement
- Clearly delineates the role of the Board of Education and the superintendent/staff in strategic planning
- Uses data to set goals and make important decisions
- Helps identify areas to allocate increasingly scarce resources
- Aligns Board priorities with school improvement processes

Tony Temple, the Kingsley Area Schools Board of Education President stated, "As school board members, we have to make the best decisions in these challenging, changing times. It is essential we use data forecasting and stakeholder input to make decisions and set shared priorities for the future of our district."

Penny Kentish McWilliams, Ed.S., Consultant with the Michigan Association of School Boards, will work with Kingsley Area Schools for the next three months to complete the strategic plan. McWilliams said, Kingsley Area Schools and MASB have worked together to design a customized process that ensures broad stakeholder involvement and will result in an effective strategic plan implementation. We look forward to involving the community in this process."



Submit Your Input!

**Scan the QR code with
your phone's camera to
take the Strategic Plan
Survey.**

Connect with Kingsley Area Schools



**Follow us on Facebook
and Instagram for important
district updates, campus
photos, and stories.**

 **Kingsley Area Schools**

 **@kingsleyareaschools**



Board of Education

Our Board of Education meets monthly for regularly scheduled meetings at 6:00PM in the High School library. The public is welcome to attend.

If you need any special accommodations to attend a meeting please contact the Superintendent's office. Board minutes are available online or at the Superintendent's office located at 402 Fenton St., Kingsley, MI.

Upcoming meetings:

Finance Committee | 11/8 7:30AM @
Central Office

Regular Meeting | 11/13 6:00PM
MASB Strategic Planning Meeting 11/13
5:00PM @KHS

Regular Meeting | 12/11 6:00PM

To find the full board schedule or to read agendas, board policies, and meeting minutes, visit www.kingsleyschools.org. You may email the board at schoolboard@kingsleyschools.org.

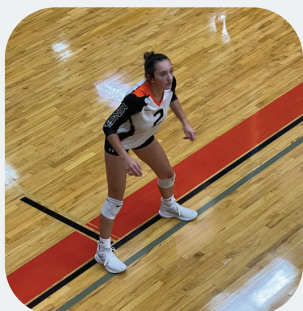
STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

→ Eli Graves - October 2



Eli is a senior running back on the varsity football team. Eli had a school record-breaking game versus St. Francis piling up 492 yards of total offense and six touchdowns in the 44-21 win over the Gladiators including a 90-yard and 99-yard kickoff return for touchdowns. Eli was selected as the Detroit Free Press AP High School Player of the Week. He also excels at basketball and baseball at Kingsley while carrying a 3.83 grade point

→ Eleanor Moran - October 9



Ellie is a senior on the varsity volleyball team. Ellie has been playing outstanding volleyball recording 47 digs while serving at 94%. She plays great defense and shows tremendous leadership on the floor. Ellie also excels in track & field at Kingsley while carrying a 3.4 grade point average.

→ Ian Mitchell - October 16



Ian is a freshman on the varsity soccer team. Ian had an outstanding game versus Shepherd scoring on a penalty kick and assisting Kingsley's other two goals as the Stags defeated Shepherd 3-1 in the District opener. Ian has shown excellent leadership as a freshman and currently has all A's for the first marking period.

→ Grace Lewis - October 24



Grace is a senior on the varsity volleyball team. Grace compiled 41 kills and 83 digs at Lake City and Leland. At Leland, Grace surpassed 1,200 career digs. Grace also excels at basketball and softball while carrying a 3.99 grade point average.



For Kingsley Athletics scores, schedules, and more visit our website, kingsleystags.com

Athletic Department Updates

KINGSLEY CROSS COUNTRY FINISHES STELLAR SEASON



Kingsley Cross Country competed in their final conference jamboree. Congratulations, runners: First team all-conference - Brandon Stock, Second team all-conference: Sayla Bender, Natalie Sterk, Braxton Zenner, Honorable mention all-conference: Kaylee Weber, Mara Van Wagner.



The KMS boys team took the Northwest Conference championship with Eric Stark and Colten Sherman finishing first team all-conference, and Josh Bender earning second team all-conference. On the **girls team**, Natalie Mitchell, Evelyn Bourion, and Zoey Street had strong seasons earning second team all-conference honors. At the MHSAA regional competition in Cadillac on Saturday, Eric Stark finished second in our region, with a career personal best of 11:28!



At the championship meet, the Kingsley Mini Stags top 5 boy and girl runners ran with the girls placing second overall and bringing home a trophy. Congratulations!

STAG SNAPSHOTS

Your Move, Deputy Roelofs!

“A lot of 8th graders enjoy playing chess during the lunch period, and Patrick Walter challenged Deputy Roelofs to an intense match!” - KMS Assistant Principal John Arnold



Fall Fun in Kingsley Schools

This season, first graders ventured to Pahl's Pumpkin Patch in Buckley, and second graders visited Olds' Farm. Students enjoyed wagon rides, picking their own pumpkins, exploring the corn maze, and eating fresh cider and donuts.



Left: At the middle school, students competed in the annual pumpkin carving contest and put their creations on display for the school to see on the Friday before Halloween.

KHS Staff Celebrates College Prep Month

Every Wednesday in October, our high school staff wore gear from the alma mater in honor of Michigan College Month, as students prepare for college admissions. Students are encouraged to reach out to counselor Lori Heitmeyer for questions regarding college prep. Email lheitmeyer@kingsleyschools.org.





Left to right: Jason Blyth, Angelique Estelle, Christopher Gaddy, Vince Markiewicz, Lesli Taylor, Tony Taylor.

Salute to Service: Recognizing Kingsley's Veterans on Staff

In honor of Veterans Day on November 11, we'd like to highlight the members of our Kingsley Area Schools staff who have served our nation.

Jason Blyth - First Grade Teacher

Branch: Navy and Coast Guard
Stationed in: Several places including Pensacola, FL, San Diego, CA, and Traverse City
Job: Aviation instructor, helicopter pilot
Years in the service: 1996-2017
Training: Received a Navy ROTC scholarship through Northwestern University

"Growing up in a Navy family, we've always been very country-forward and service-minded. Being in the military was a chance to serve this country in that way. I got to do a lot of unique things but it was for the purpose of defending our country. Even now teaching, I still look at it as a way to serve the country in the community by, hopefully, positively influencing the next generation," said Mr. Blyth.

Angelique Estelle - KHS Librarian

Branch: Army National Guard
Stationed in: Camp Grayling
1071st Maintenance Battalion
Job: Cook
Years in the service: 2003-2004
Training: Attended boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and received advanced individual training at Fort Lee in Virginia.

"We are a military family. My father and stepfather, several of my uncles, and two of my brothers have served. Being in the Military

awesome. It's something bigger than you. "It's humbling to be a part of something that big and that there's so much pride brought with it."

Christopher Gaddy, Eighth Grade Teacher

Branch: Army
Stationed in: Several places in the US and South Korea
Job: Forward observer for the field artillery
Years in the service: 1999-2003

I'm happy to have served, and I'm thankful for those who are currently serving now. It was like I was a link in the chain of service. I was happy to have done my part, and I know that that continues now. That legacy continues and I'm happy to have been a part of it."

Vince Markiewicz, Third Grade Teacher

Branch: Navy
Stationed in: Japan and the greater Pacific
Job: Gunner's mate, torpedoes team, small arms instructor, security's armor, 50 caliber mountain captain
Years in the service: 2007-2011

"The joke I always tell people is that I used to deal with small arms as an instructor, and now I'm instructing small arms," said Mr. Markiewicz. "It is fulfilling for me to know that I've done something for my country and that I've been able to give some years to help make our country what it is. I got to see a lot of new places and experience a lot of things I wouldn't have otherwise. I saw lots of countries and got some skills I might not have had in any other aspect."

Lesli Taylor, Math Interventionist & Bus Driver

Branch: Army
Stationed in: Kentucky, Iraq
Job: Aviation operations specialist
Years in the service: 2005 basic training
Training: Fort Jackson, South Carolina

"Being a Veteran just means being selfless and serving our country. It's kind of why my husband Tony and I ended up being a bus driver and substitute teacher; the community needed somebody, so we stepped up."

Tony Taylor, Bus Driver

Branch: Army
Stationed in: Kentucky, Kansas, Iraq, Afghanistan, West Virginia, South Korea, Alabama, Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo, Ukraine, and more
Job: Blackhawk Pilot and colonel
Years in the service: 1989-2018

"Being a Veteran means I served in the military. I was part of a bigger team. And I answered the call for whatever action that our country needed us to perform."

More Kingsley Veterans

Kingsley High School science teacher Nancy Olencheck is an Army veteran, and bus driver Mike Forro also served our country.

Thank you to all of our Kingsley staff members who served our country and

