



# KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE" March 2024 [kingsleyschools.org](http://kingsleyschools.org)

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## MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPERIENCE CHALLENGE DAY



**"It's hard to truly come up with words to describe the experience."**

In February, hundreds of middle and high school students participated in Challenge Day, an extensive workshop focused on building a school culture of acceptance, empathy, and connection. Students were asked to be brave by being vulnerable and willing to share their stories and listen to others.

"I have participated in several Challenge Days throughout my career and not one Challenge Day is the same. However, it never fails to make a positive impact on many of those in the room," said middle school counselor Olivia Bradford. "I could feel the passion in the students who truly want positive change throughout our district and community. This experience was unlike any other."

Challenge Day is an acclaimed workshop that has served thousands of schools and millions of students in the US and abroad. An impact survey on their website says 76% of students reported feeling "less lonely after participating" and 63% felt "better connected" to peers and adults.

"I think the experience showed the students that they are more alike than they are different," said KHS assistant principal Cody Wagatha.

*Thank you to everyone who showed up for each other on Challenge Day!*

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KINGSLEY, MI 49649

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# STAG SNAPSHOTS

## KHS Hosts Band District Solo & Ensemble

The Kingsley Band hosted 1,500 musicians from across Northwest Michigan for the District Solo & Ensemble competition. Kingsley students competed in 11 events, winning 14 first-division medals and 5 second-division medals. Results: Marimba Duet - Emma Belanger & Kaylin Mitchell - 1; Trumpet Solo - Levi Sterk - 2; Saxophone Trio - Tyler Kanakis, Natalie Sterk, Mara Van Wagner - 1; Trumpet Solo - Mary Bauer - 2; Bassoon Solo - Mara Van Wagner - 1; Euphonium Solo - Natalie Crawford - 2; Mixed Quartet - Jonny Gramza, Sideon Holland, Tyler Kanakis, Levi Sterk - 1; Percussion Solo - Morgan DeVries - 1; Double Reed Duet - Natalie Sterk, Mara Van Wagner - 1; Flute Duet - Alex Ottman, Crystine Whitbeck - 2; Saxophone Solo - Tyler Kanakis - 1



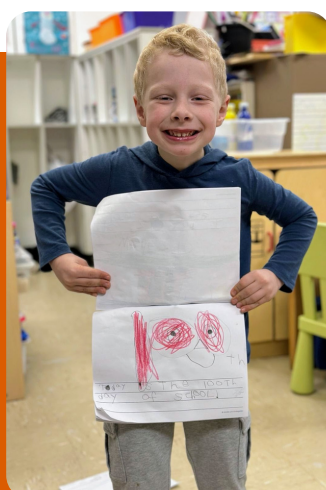
## 6th Grade "Influencers" Study Geography

Mrs. Trowbridge's students turned to "social media" to share messages that answered an important question: How does geography affect trade? Students flooded the newly established platform "Stagagram" to inform the public about the many advantages (and disadvantages) some places have when it comes to production and global trade. The activity received tons of likes, and the shares are sure to continue! #geographyrules



## Kingsley Elementary Hosts Literacy Night

On February 6, Kingsley Elementary welcomed hundreds of parents and students to Literacy Night, setting a new attendance record for the annual event! Parents rotated through several workshops hosted by teachers to learn about how to support their children as they learn to read and evolve into critical thinkers. Students, meanwhile, had their own fun in the cafeteria making crafts, reading stories, and hanging out with their friends.



## 100 Days Smarter!

Kingsley Kindergarteners celebrated the 100th day of school with themed stations that involved lots of counting. In Ms. Rose's art class, they created portraits of their 100-year-old selves and wrote prompts about what they might be like when they reach that age.

## Fourth Graders Journey to Ellis Island



Fourth graders traveled back in time during our second annual Ellis Island Day! In this extensive simulation, students, dressed as travelers from the 1900s, carried babies and luggage as they passed through checkpoints, health screenings, customs, and various obstacles in hopes of coming to America.

This activity marked the end of their Human Geography unit, where students learned that 40% of Americans can trace their lineage back to the famous "immigration station."

## Sophomores Visit Career Tech Center



On February 1, tenth grade students visited the Career Tech Center in Traverse City to explore the hands-on learning experiences available for juniors and seniors. CTC offers 22 free programs in high-skill, high-demand, and high-wage career fields such as agriscience, early education, welding, culinary arts, and more. During their visit, students explored three programs of their choosing and met instructors and current students. Students interested in applying for CTC must submit an application before April 15, 2024. Reach out to Mrs. Heitmeyer if you have any questions! [lheimeyer@kingsleyschools.org](mailto:lheimeyer@kingsleyschools.org).

## WHAT'S ON THE WALL?

Here's what's on display in Mrs. Sue Graham's Kingsley High School Art Department!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for **Art Attack 2024!**

April 25 | 6:30-8:30PM  
Kingsley Branch Library

You're invited to our annual celebration of our student artists from KHS. Art Attack will feature a juried show of art of all kinds, including pencil drawings, paintings, and various kinds of sculpture.

This year's judge is KHS grad Katie Travis. Students will have the opportunity to win monetary prizes, sponsored by the Kingsley Friends of the Library.

Join us for a night of art and celebration! Light refreshments will be provided.

Thank you to our sponsors, the Kingsley Friends of the Library!

**BRAVO!**



# STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Eli Graves:** Eli is a senior on the varsity boys basketball team and led all scorers with 20 points in Kingsley's 66-34 win over Buckley. Eli is averaging 16 points, four rebounds, and two steals per game for the Stags. Eli also excels at football and baseball while carrying a 3.85 grade point average.



**Emily Bott:** Emily is a sophomore on the Kingsley varsity wrestling team and has had an outstanding season so far for the Stags. This past Saturday, Emily won the 140-lb weight class at the Midland Invitational. Emily was also excels at volleyball and track at Kingsley while carrying a 3.98 grade point average.

# HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

### ALLA's

Katelynn Abend  
Zayden Achard  
Anna Bauer  
Daniel Bauer  
Korbin Bedford  
Tessa Beeman  
Corbin Bender  
Sayla Bender  
Katelyn Bennett  
Bode Bielas  
Serafina Boonstra  
Caleb Bott  
Emily Bott  
Shylo Brickley  
Lily Brosier  
Delaney Case  
Amelia Clair  
Breanna Clark  
Isaiah Cosgrove  
Hannah Crawford  
Natalie Crawford  
Hanna Curtis  
Cali Curtiss  
Alivia Dear  
Tyren Delk  
Morgan DeVries  
Delaney Dontz  
Katee Duynslager  
Logan Face  
Morgan Faunce  
Alex Figueroa  
Brian George  
Mason Glazier  
Colton Goethals  
Ava Gomez  
Marisa Graham  
Keagen Hengesbach  
Aiden Hunt  
Levi Johnson  
Jaydyn Kratky  
Paige Lenon  
Grace Lewis  
Wyatt MacArthur  
Braden Marsh  
Aizlyn McKinley  
Grace Merchant  
Kylee Merrill  
Jenna Middleton  
Zachary Middleton  
Ian Mitchell  
Kali Nicolaisan  
Egan Nolf  
Kole Osborn  
Isabella Paroskie  
William Pelloski  
Nathan Peters  
Jenna Peterson  
Macy Pierce  
Sydney Postal  
Olivia Reamer  
Emilee Robinson  
Kaleo Schaub  
Isabelle Seitz

### Jaden Sinkes

Oliver Stein  
Natalie Sterk  
Hannah Strang  
Trenton Sweat  
Christopher Taylor  
Audrey Town  
Mara VanWagner  
Madelyn Wares  
Kaylee Weber  
Christiann Whims  
Cristine Whitbeck  
Darlene Wilcoxon  
Haley Wilson  
Alina Wood  
Sarah Wooer  
Braxton Zenner

### B's or Better

Madlyn Abend  
Andrew Angell  
Hunter Arnold  
Liam Atwood  
Patrick Bartelmay  
Mary Bauer  
Cameron Bedrick  
Emma Belanger  
Jared Bender  
Barrett Bielas  
Chase Bott  
Chloe Bott  
Anna Boyd  
Lucas Buning  
Larry Burkett  
Elliot Cassell  
Adalene Chambers  
Madelyn Chappel  
Bailey Charter  
Maranda  
Christianson  
Rory Coleman  
Vicente Coronado  
Sydney Davis  
Sydney DeWeese  
Brandi Diller  
Tyler Dontz  
Gregory Drevs  
Landon Durkin  
Julius Enslay  
Kaylee Escheck  
Alexandra Fasel  
Keegan Finch  
Jacob Fishman  
Trinity Forro  
Norah Galton  
Oliver Geisert  
Andrew George  
Maximus Goethals  
Eli Graves  
Leah Graziano  
Benjamin Green  
Aizlyn Hager

### Alyssa Hamilton

Ellory Hansen  
Molly Hansen  
Henry Harrand  
Nicholas Hartgerink  
Mariah Hartley  
Delylah Hency-Holland  
Keagen Hengesbach  
Layla Hickerson  
Nolan Hodges  
Sideon Holland  
Olivia Hunt  
Sarah Johnson  
Tyler Kanakis  
Lauren Kibilko  
Roan Kirkpatrick-Johnson  
Matthew Klabunde  
Grant Kolbusz  
Logan Kreiser  
Aubrey Lerczak  
Gavin Lewis  
Noah Mayer  
Treston Means  
Gavyn Merchant  
Alaina Mitchell  
Elijah Mitchell  
Kaylin Mitchell  
Eleanor Moran  
Ty Morgan  
Lilliana Mullin  
Bryson Neugent  
Kolsen Orton  
Laney Osborn  
Adrianna Parker  
Brooklyn Patton  
James Pearson  
Jonathan Pearson  
Carson Porter  
Jaydyn Proffer  
Tess Reimer  
Myah Reuther  
Ryan Roelofs  
Carson Root  
Ellie Roussety  
Gabiella Sanford  
Kelsey Saxton  
Avery Schichtel  
Troy Schmuckal  
Tristen Schneidt  
Madison Schroeder  
Caylen Selkirk  
Brody Sherwood

### Vada Sias

Landon Skrzypczak  
Ellie Sockol  
Mya Solem  
Rhiannen Sprague  
Levi Sterk  
Alena Stewart  
Jameson Stewart  
Andrew Strang  
Annika Strang  
Trevor Susan  
Grace Taylor  
Eloise Thomas  
Ava Thon  
AdeLynn Town  
Allison Treacy  
Tristan Tryban  
Aubury Tulppo  
Valerie Tulppo  
Blaine VanPelt  
Jacob  
Vongkhamchanh  
Lilly Wagner  
Ryleigh Weber  
Andrew Wegrzyn  
Brooke  
Westenbarger  
David Whims  
Jonathan Whims  
Adam Wilcoxon  
Christian Wilson  
Brody Wolf  
Carolyn Wolf  
Haleigh Wolffis  
Skylar Workman  
Austin Wyskochil  
Elizabeth  
Luke Zinke

### National Technical Honors Society

#### Inductees:

Hunter Arnold  
Trinity Austin  
Grace Beeman  
Chloe Bott  
Hanna Curtis  
Marisa Graham  
Nathan Peters  
Alena Stewart  
Christopher Taylor  
Blaine VanPelt  
Cristine Whitbeck

# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



**Kingsley Powerlifting Finishes Second Overall at Manistee Regional Competition.** James Pearson finished first and Landon Skrzypczak third in the 165 class. David Whims finished first in the 123 class. Jon Whims finished second in the 132 class. Kolsen Orton finished second in the 155 class. Karl Wagner finished third in the SHW class. Emma Johnson finished third in the 148 women's class. The team finished second overall. Great job, Stags!



## Sign up for Kingsley Trap Shooting's Spring League!

Do you enjoy shooting a shotgun? Do you want to improve your ability to hit a flying target? If yes, this is for you! The Kingsley Trap Team is looking for new and returning athletes to register now.

Athletes supply their own shotgun, and ammunition, and cover the cost of targets. Sponsorships may be available. The State Championship Shoot is held in Mason, Michigan on June 16th (not mandatory, but hoping to get qualifiers again this year!)

Registration is open to all students in grades 6 -12 who are 12 years old or older. Registration is \$40 and open until March 25th. Athletes must have completed Michigan Hunter Safety or other approved firearm safety course to be able to participate.

The National Championship is also held in Mason, July 10-14 (again, not mandatory).

**For more information or to request a registration code: email head coach, Cecil Nye at [nyestrarange@gmail.com](mailto:nyestrarange@gmail.com) or assistant coach, Justin Wolf at [justin.wolf10@gmail.com](mailto:justin.wolf10@gmail.com).**

Team shooting will be held Sunday at 1:00PM at Nye's Trap Range beginning March 31st and continuing for 9 weeks.

# MASB Presents Strategic Plan Results to School Board



After months of community input sessions, planning retreats, and internal meetings, the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) presented results from the district's Strategic Planning process to the school board on February 12.

The process, launched in October 2023, aimed to gather stakeholder feedback to inform and align the district's goals, mission statement, and areas of improvement.

More than 400 community members responded to the online Strategic Plan survey, and 29 dedicated participants contributed to in-person discussions and meetings.

Penny McWilliams from the MASB identified focus areas and drafted a mission statement and district vision.

The five focus areas are: Academics & Programs, Learning Environment & Culture, Communications & Community Engagement, Operations & Finance, and Personnel.

The Board decided to review her final report and will vote on its approval at the March board meeting. Stay tuned for more updates regarding next steps and implementation.

## Meet Our New Special Ed. Teachers!



### Kyle Smith, KMS Special Education

Mr. Smith was born and raised in Kingsley. He joined KAS as a teacher this year but has been part of the district's staff for the past several years as a KHS football coach.

"It's been great coming back to my hometown. I think you have a lot of teachers...who realize that Kingsley is a great school district and they want to keep that going. There's a lot of buy-in from the community to support the schools, and that drives us forward."



### Peggy Brennan, KHS/KMS Special Education

Mrs. Brennan has been a teacher for 25 years. She briefly left the world of education last year to become a flight attendant, and has found her way back into the classroom at KAS. She spends her mornings at the high school and afternoons at KMS teaching Life Skills.

"I teach folks from the age of 9 to 19! I love hanging out with this young set of friends, it's so fun," she said. "Kingsley has been lovely. The students and the staff are really great. I mean, I've really enjoyed my time here."

## 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:

**Regular Meeting | 3/11 6:00PM**

To find the full board schedule or to read agendas, board policies, and meeting minutes, visit [www.kingsleyschools.org](http://www.kingsleyschools.org).

You may email the board at [schoolboard@kingsleyschools.org](mailto:schoolboard@kingsleyschools.org).

## KMS Journalism Interviews



**Ms. Emily Nelson & Student Ryla Tengdin**

### What grade are you in or do you teach?

EN: I teach 7th grade English or English language arts.  
RT: 8th grade

### What are your interests and/or hobbies?

EN: I love to read bake or cook and recently I have been getting into golf.  
RT: I do volleyball, travel volleyball with Northern Shockers, and I also ride horses.

### What do you love about Kingsley?

EN: I love how small our community is, that I know my students by name, and that I have such supportive team members  
RT: I like that they include fun electives like Sustainable Science and that the teachers are really nice.

### What's one fun fact about you?

EN: I have a cat and her name is Wanda and she is named after the superhero, but people believe she is named after Wanda from *Fairly Odd Parents*.  
RT: In July, I am going to Kentucky for pony club championships with my horse.

### What is a dream or goal you have?

EN: One of my goals is to go back to school and get my master's degree in reading intervention.  
RT: I want to be able to do eventing with my horses and also that I'll be able to get to the big leagues with her.

### What is one thing you want the community to know about you?

EN: I want the Kingsley community to know that I love to be involved so I go to sports events and if we have a musical or play I will go to it to support my kiddos.  
RT: I ride horses and I ride right down the road from my house and I can jump 2'3 with my horse bareback.



By Lori Heitmeyer  
Academic Counselor  
Kingsley High School  
lheitmeyer@kingsleyschools.org

**Dear Kingsley Parents,  
Guardians, and Students,**

Lots is going on in the KHS  
Counseling Department! Check  
out what's coming up:

### Spring Testing

Spring testing is right  
around the corner.

Please avoid making  
appointments during the  
following testing times:

SAT/PSAT Testing  
(Freshman-Juniors)

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

MSTEP: Juniors Only

Wednesday, April 10,  
2024

Workstep: Juniors Only

Thursday, April 11,  
2024

AP Lit & Comp Exam

Wednesday, May 8 |  
8:00AM

AP Calculus Exam

Monday, May 13 |  
8:00AM

### PSAT Prep

Any student in grades  
9-12 is encouraged to  
attend the PSAT Math  
Practice Review and  
Study session on  
Sunday, March 10 from  
3:00-4:30PM in the  
Kingsley High School  
Library. This is a free  
class. Please bring a  
laptop.

### Graduation

The class of 2024  
graduation will be held  
on Friday, June 7, 2024  
at 7:00PM in the high  
school gymnasium. If  
you have any questions  
regarding cap/gown  
orders, please reach out  
to Sheelah Walter at  
231-263-5262, x4103.

## 2024 Scholarships



Exciting news! 2024 Local  
scholarship applications are now  
available.

The Academic Counseling page  
on our website has several  
Scholarship links and resources.

To view, scan the QR code  
below or go to our website, click  
schools > High School >  
Academic Counseling.

Seniors - Please keep a close  
eye on the Class of 2024 Google  
Classroom as this will be  
updated on a daily basis. Be  
sure to pay attention to the  
deadlines as each scholarship  
will have different due dates.  
Parents are welcome to join the  
Google Classroom and the code  
is: keq6uu7



Scan to view counseling &  
scholarship resources

## 2024-25 Preschool

### **GSRP: Free State Funded Preschool**

To apply for a GSRP slot parents will need to email Kristin Goethals at [kgoethals@kingsleyschools.org](mailto:kgoethals@kingsleyschools.org) or go to [NMCAA.net](http://NMCAA.net) to set up an appointment and indicate Kingsley Preschool Program as their first choice of schools. The appointments are done in collaboration with NMCAA for Kingsley GSRP and Hannah Headstart slots. The GSRP slots are for students who are four years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. GSRP slots will be offered to qualifying at risk families based on a series of risk factors including low family income. Families qualifying for GSRP after their appointment will be asked to designate a first choice and second choice of program locations. Students may also be offered a Hannah Headstart slot if they qualify. The state qualifies students through June and acceptance letters are mailed at that time. Hours of operation are 8:30-3:15 Monday through Thursday with the option to add a paid day on Friday. (Limited spots) ALL students who will be 4 need to complete this application due to the state language around possible universal preschool for next year.

### **Tuition Preschool**

The tuition based program is open to any family whose child is 30 months of age up to school age, and is potty trained. There are no income qualifiers to be accepted into the program, and the cost is \$33 per day (for the 2023-24 year, **subject to change**). The \$33 per day includes lunch, a morning snack, and an afternoon snack. Program options include Tuesday/Thursday, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, or Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday. Space is limited. Filling out a preregistration form does **NOT** guarantee enrollment. Letters will be mailed in May verifying acceptance. Hours of operation are 7:45 am to 3:45 pm.

Please complete the form below and return it to:

Kingsley Elementary School Attn: Kristin Goethals  
311 Clark St.  
Kingsley, MI 49649

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Names \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Tuition Paperwork mailed in April. \*GSRP: [NMCAA.net](http://NMCAA.net), Early Childhood Tab, Application, Pre-Application

Please note your preferred preschool method.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuition Schedule: \_\_\_\_\_ (days of week)

\_\_\_\_\_ GSRP (State Funded Free Preschool for Monday through Thursday, Friday add on available)



# NOW HIRING

## HIGH SCHOOL LEAD COOK

✓ Weekends & Holidays Off!

✓ Work with Kids!

**Hiring Immediately. Apply Today!**

[www.careers.compassgroupcareers.com](http://www.careers.compassgroupcareers.com)



# Coffee Chats

with Superintendent  
**Joshua T. Rothwell**

Every third Thursday of the Month 8:30AM-9:30AM at the Kingsley Branch Library

**Next Coffee Chat:**  
**Thursday, March 21**

All are welcome!



## Kingsley Kindergarten Roundup 2024-2025

If you have a child that will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2024, and you plan to enroll your child in Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, please complete the form below and mail to Kingsley Elementary School, Attn: Erin Lefler, 311 Clark Street, Kingsley, MI 49649.

**Join us for Kindergarten Round Up!**

June 17 th & 18th , 8:30AM – 2:30PM

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Names \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_