



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE"

August 2025

kingsleyschools.org



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KINGSLEY NJROTC CADETS EXCEL AT ARMY CHALLENGE CAMP



By GySgt. Mathew Barr
NJROTC Instructor
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knows how to drill, knows their knowledge, why can't all of our kids be like that? And they are all first years with eighth graders? They are making us look bad!"

Kingsley cadets attended the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge at Fort Custer June 22-27. The kids hit the ground running on day one, waking up at 0430, and racking out 2000.

The commander in charge of Army JROTC in Michigan, Colonel Peters, invited us back next year saying "your cadets are so polite, professional, hardworking and encouraging, we want Kingsley back next year."

The Army threw a curve ball this year by splitting up the schools. There were 340 cadets training, and they were broken into companies.

I received nonstop compliments and praise from the Army staff who were working the obstacles and events.

Kingsley set the bar high at camp! I walked into a conversation the first night at chow (dinner) where one Army instructor asked the other,

Several of our kids were put into the leadership roles at camp. Even some of our incoming ninth graders! And they stepped up immediately.

"Why are all these Navy kids 'outstanding'?! Every single one of them is a go getter,

Congratulations to all of our cadets, and to those who earned special recognition! Read more on page 6.



BUS DRIVERS WANTED



\$1500 BONUS!

details on page 3



By Joshua T. Rothwell
Superintendent
jrothwell@kingsleyschools.org

Hello Kingsley families,

I hope this communication finds you enjoying the last few weeks of summer. It certainly has gone by extremely fast! I worked quite a lot this summer but found time to enjoy my family including trips to an Indiana Fever game and some time on the shores of Lake Huron.

Our staff is extremely excited to get our students back in our classrooms. Custodians and maintenance have been hard at work all summer getting our classrooms ready for the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.

We have a handful of new staff members whom you will meet during our school open houses on August 26.

Additionally, I would like to introduce Mike Forro as our Maintenance Director and Erik Nieman as our Transportation Director. These gentlemen have been working diligently in their new positions to prep their departments for the new school year.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school office if you have questions about the upcoming year or would like to register a new student at Kingsley Area Schools.

It's a great day to be a STAG!

KAS Establishes Forestry Commission to Brainstorm Ways to Utilize School Land

Did you know? Kingsley Area Schools owns 815 acres of forested property, containing a multitude of natural features and wildlife species! KAS established a forestry commission in April. Their first task was to hire a forester to make an assessment, write a management plan, and provide ideas for use.

The Forestry Commission hired Daniel Schillinger with Schillinger Forestry, LLC. Our next steps are to meet with the forester once initial field work is complete and discuss goals that would make sense for each property.

The diversity within and between the properties allow us to make goals that can provide a wide range of services to our students, including education, recreation, public use, and even research.

For example, the property on Sparling has the potential to create a cross country track or an obstacle course. Another example comes out of the 1998 Forest Management plan which talks about having a nature center on the property on Garfield road.

In fact, the high school's logging class completed a building that could be used as a nature center. The amazing biodiversity of the Garfield property creates a perfect space to host a nature center focused on student education.

We are excited to continue working on this!

Kingsley High School Alum Max Goethals Helps Team USA Win Gold at U19 Championship



The class of 2024's Max Goethals is doing big things!

This summer, he was selected to the U19 Men's National Rugby Team, and competed at the 2025 Americas North Championship in Querétaro, Mexico.

Max helped Team USA beat Jamaica 48-8 to win the championship.

Stateside, his family and friends gathered at Locals Lake Leelanau to watch the thrilling final match and cheer him on.

The tournament is the premier U19 rugby competition across North America and the Caribbean, and "offers young athletes the opportunity to compete in challenging rugby environments and represent their country on the international stage," according to a statement from USA Rugby.

It also plays a critical role in Team USA's long-term

strategy to elevate American rugby on the world stage.

Team USA's Moonshot 2031 initiative aims to develop homegrown talent and build a team capable of reaching the semifinals of the 2031 Rugby World Cup, which will be hosted in the United States for the first time.

Max earned his spot on the U19 team along with players from all over the country.

Max graduated Kingsley High School in 2024 after an illustrious career in academics and athletics.

He made the Top 10 list in his class for outstanding grades, good character, and leadership, and was named academic all-state in three sports, football, wrestling, and track & field. He also competed on the TC Alliance Rugby team.

In high school, he won a football and rugby state championship and competed at States for wrestling, too.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS: CHEER ON THE STAGS!



Varsity Football

(H) - Scrimmage 8/21 @10:00AM
(H) - vs Gaylord 9/5 @7:00PM



JV Football

(H) - Scrimmage 8/21 @1:00PM
(H) - vs Reed City 8/27 @6:00PM



Varsity Boys Soccer

(H) - vs Cheboygan 8/21 @5:00PM
(H) - vs Grayling 9/2 @5:00PM



Varsity Volleyball

(H) - Kingsley Quad 8/27 @5:00PM
(H) - vs Charlevoix 9/4 @7:00PM



JV Volleyball

(H) - Kingsley Tri 8/21 @5:00PM
(H) - Kingsley Quad 8/26 @5:00PM



Varsity/MS Cross Country

(H) - Kingsley Invite 9/16 @4:00PM

**VIEW FULL SCHEDULE AT
KINGSLEYSCHOOLS.ORG/ATHLETICS**

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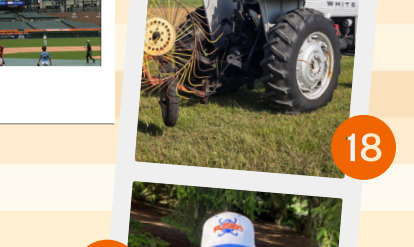
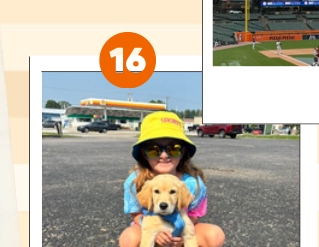
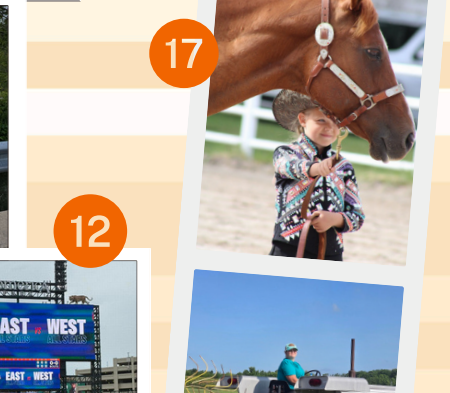
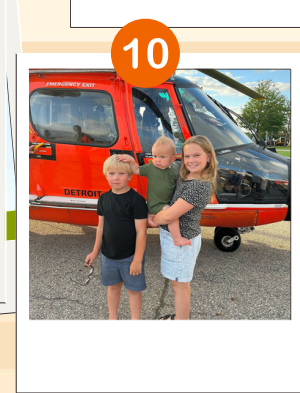
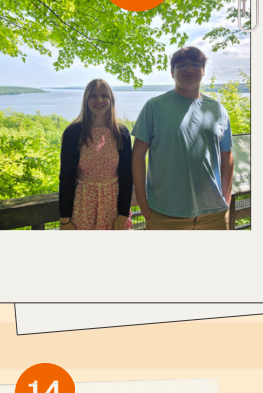
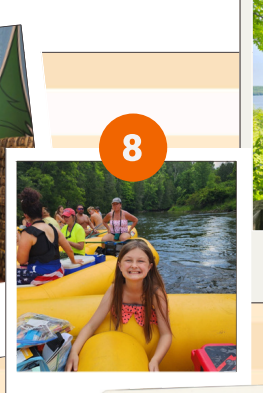
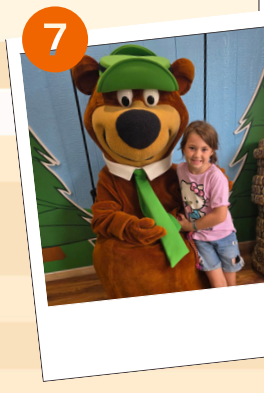
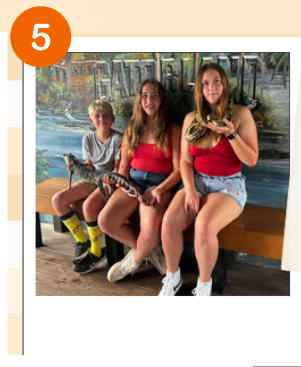
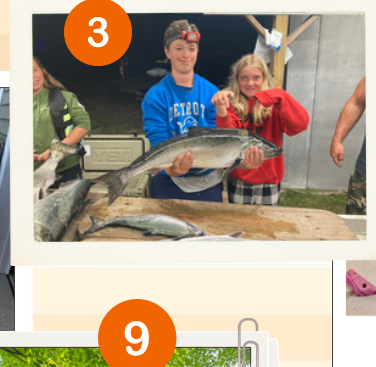
KAS SEEKING PROFESSIONALS & BUSINESS PARTNERS

We're looking for workers and professionals for a school advisory committee to help us align our programs, curriculums, and offerings to prepare students for the "real world."

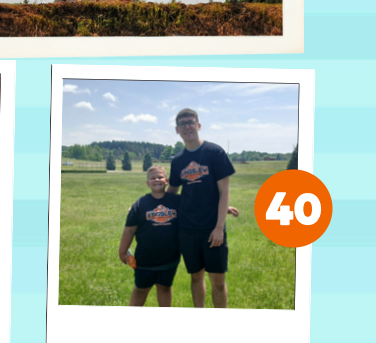
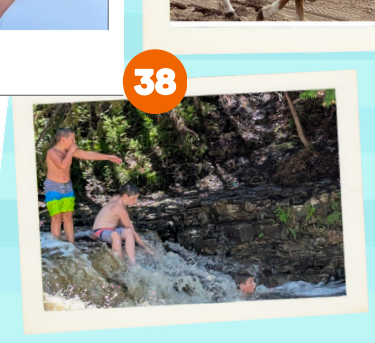
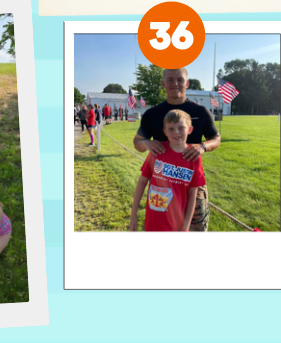
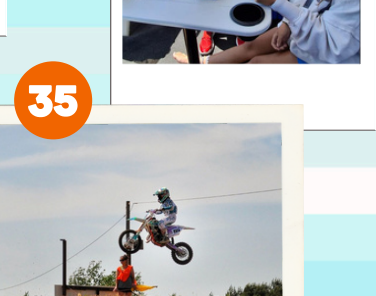
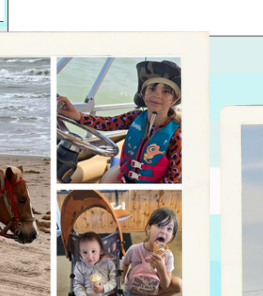
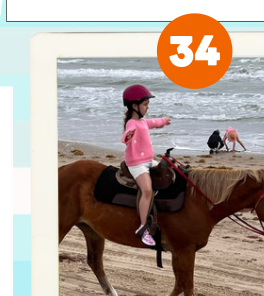
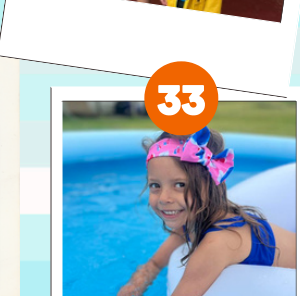
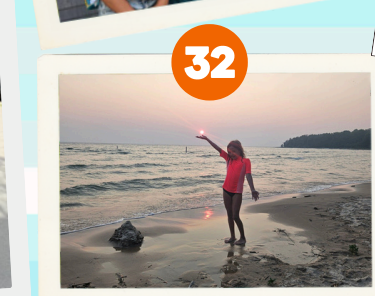
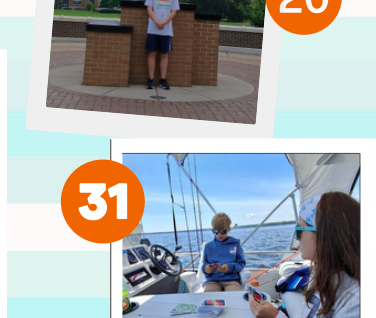
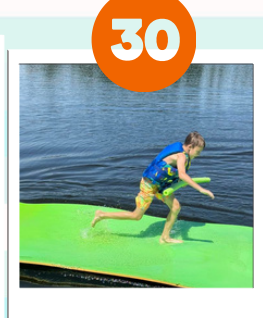
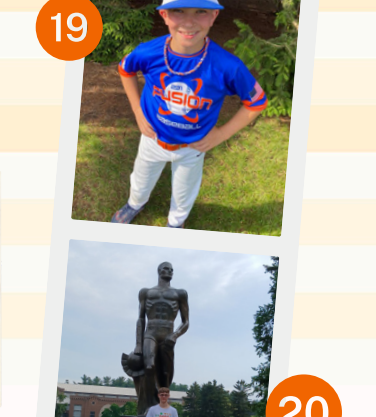
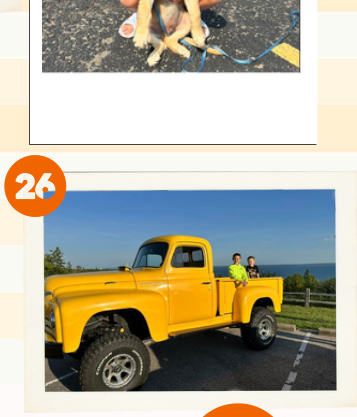
The goal is to have all six of Michigan's career zones represented, plus some experts on the "soft skills" to meet with a team of educators on a regular basis.

We also need volunteers to speak at career events and to host industry tours and work-experiences.

Interested? Email Lori Nolf at lnolf@kingsleyschools.org



“What did you do this summer?”



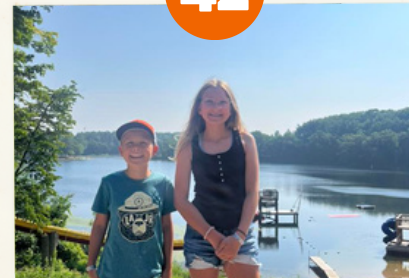
What did you do this summer?

1. Kylee Collier visited Mount Rushmore. - *Maria Collier*
2. Claire had a lemonade stand! Young entrepreneur in the making. - *Madison Yeo*
3. Caught the biggest fish of their lives! - *Jake Thomas*
4. Delaney went rock climbing at Elev8 gym. - *Brittany Bovee*
5. Reed, Reese, and Reagan went to Gatorland in Orlando. - *Kate Wilson*
6. Molly and Evan in Hawaii. - *Amy Schichtel*
7. Bailey went camping at Jellystone Park! - *Caitlin Riley*
8. Maddy has been floating down the river! - *Heather Gifford*
9. Rory and Alex Coleman in Christmas, Michigan. - *Whitney Hahnenberg*
10. Norah and Wyatt Stevens with little brother Walker at open ramp during Cherry Festival. - *Kaleigh Ayn*
11. Stark kids at Tahquamenon River. - *Jessica Stark*
12. Lucy Graves watched her dad coach in the Michigan High School East West All-Star baseball game. - *Aerin Graves*
13. Savannah and Sophia Sisk went strawberry picking. - *Kimberly Lynn Sisk*
14. Adison Baldinger and her Travel Softball Team, Rally Northern Michigan, won the NSA State Championship this summer! - *Jenasie Grace*
15. Football camp cousins. - *Andrea Bedrick*
16. Audrey Jarrold got a new puppy named Max. - *Meredith Jarrold*
17. Penelope Coger had horse show fun. - *Melinda Corrine*
18. Carley Bancroft raking hay. - *Keri R Bancroft*
19. Madden played in multiple baseball tournaments. - *Sarah Morrow*
20. Zayden Achard spent two days at Michigan State University attending an intro veterinary medicine camp. - *Jill Achard*
21. Ava Kimball went to the Cherry Festival airshow on the campus of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. - *Lindsey Smith Kimball*
22. Went troll hunting in the UP. - *Jessica McCauley*
23. Soalla and Julian had a lemonade stand! - *Laura Fierens*
24. Had water balloon fights every chance they got! - *Amanda Hentschel*
25. Izzy sewed a rag quilt to enter at Northwestern Michigan Fair. - *Tammara Sanchez*
26. Maxwell and Mason Bott at Saint Ignace car show! - *Sue Bott*
27. Hazel and Leo Carpenter went to Disney the day after school got out to meet Stitch. - *Paige Carpenter*
28. Weston and Briar Washburn toured an iron ore mine in the UP! - *Gabrielle Washburn*
29. Wyatt, Liam & Ethan Draper spending time down south with their Nana and Aunt. - *Mamabear Draper*
30. Just a small part of Devon's summer. - *David Van Maren*
31. Tessa and Alex Gray playing UNO on the boat in the UP. - *Nicole Gray*
32. Brielle Goethals at our family cabin. - *Karen Goethals*
33. Lydia playing in the pool even after hours at the beach LOL. - *Heather Marie*
34. Bodhi went on so many amazing adventures! A family walk, driving a boat in the Gulf of Mexico, horse back riding on S. Padre Island, TX. - *Candace Merrill*
35. Eva Gifford has been training off season to stay in shape for Snocross. - *Heather Gifford*
36. Jensen ran the kids fun run at the Hansen Memorial 5K. #54 - *RuthAnn Harrigan*
37. Photo submitted by *Paige Ames*
38. Garrett and Callen Merz at Ocqueoc Falls. - *Beverley Morse Merz*
39. Vivian Dreves with her little sister, Marcella, at the park! - *Amanda Mae*
40. Brothers at football camp! - *Emily Austin*
41. Kennadie and Maycie went to volleyball camp at Ferris State. - *Brittany Bovee*
42. Harper and Hunter Huttenga went to Lake Ann Camp. - *Melissa Huttenga*
43. Carter has spent lots of time at camp. - *Brianna Youker*
44. Addison busy with sports and raising Gigglesquid for fair. - *April Overla*
45. Sophia had a blast at the beach! - *Jennifer Audesey*

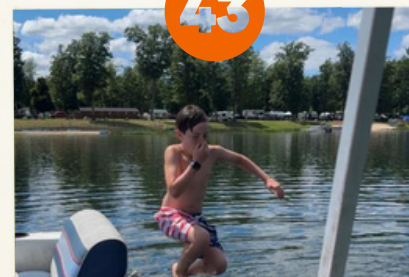
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Thanks for
submitting your
photos!

Naval Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps Cadets Spend Summer Training and Serving Community



Above: High school cadets served pancakes at The Rock on Kingsley Community Day. *Photo credit: The Rock on Facebook*



Above: Cadets carried the flag at Lake Leelanau's Fourth of July parade.



Kingsley Football Moves to New Radio Home

This upcoming football season, the Kingsley Stags football coverage will move to New Hot Country 96.7 The Bull. The broadcast will also be available online at www.hotcountrybull.com

Continued from front cover: Congratulations to our cadets who earned recognition at the Army camp:

- Levi Sterk carried the Naval Flag, Lizzy Widrig carried the Marine Corps flag during the ceremony.
- Cadet Ankney's team set the Camp Land Navigation record
- Cadet Kizer was the champion speed shooter for his company
- Cadet Mack won the plank challenge, beating 60 cadets
- Cadet Green broke the camp speed shooting record
- Cadet Bauer led her rafting team and setting the rafting record
- Cadet Valencia led her team through the Leaders Reaction Course not only being the only team to complete the course but with a Camp record time
- We had four cadets awarded at graduation for outstanding leadership above and beyond their peers. Those Cadets are...
 - Cadet Phipps, Cadet Unterbrink, Cadet Bond, Cadet Stalker.
 - Cadet Barr was recognized for most improved cadet.
 - They all deserve awards but each company is only allowed to give 2-3 awards so the fact that we have 5 kids getting awards speaks volumes!



Above: KHS students Isaiah Cosgrove and Lilliana Mullin recently attended the Naval Leadership Academy in Atterbury, Indiana. 110 cadets from 15 states attended the training which is mandatory for anyone who will lead their unit in the upcoming year. Cadet Mullin was awarded the Academic Achievement award for placing in the top ten students on the Academic Exam.



Congratulations to KHS senior and NJROTC cadet Anna Bauer, second from left, who has officially earned her private pilot's license! This summer, she spent eight weeks studying 12 hours a day at the ultra-elite Commander Naval Air Forces Flight Academy's program in North Carolina.

Anna was one of just ten students who earned a spot. She beat out thousands of applicants from across the country and international military bases and was the only cadet from Michigan. Way to go!

ADMIN UPDATES



By Kristin Goethals
Elementary Principal
kgoethals@kingsleyschools.org

Dear Families,

I hope you've all had a wonderful summer! My family has been busy making memories. My oldest son got engaged, another son had the amazing opportunity to play for the USA Men's Rugby U19 team, and another son started his college visits.

My younger kids were equally busy with rugby, softball, and camps! In between all the excitement, we spent plenty of time exploring beautiful Northern Michigan.

Now, it's time to shift our energy to the new school year, and I couldn't be more excited. I'm looking forward to seeing our students grow—especially as readers. This year, we're encouraging students to read regularly at home each week, and we'll be sharing books between home and school to make sure everyone has plenty of great stories to enjoy.

Over the summer, the elementary cafeteria got a fresh coat of paint, and several of our 4th-grade classrooms received brand-new carpet. **We're thrilled to welcome the following new faces to our team:**

Shanda Bender-4th Grade
Samantha Kubesh-1st Grade
Jenna Bouwmeester-Intervention
Caylie Grubaugh-GSRP Assistant
Josh Lovendusky-4/5 PE and Health
Abby Zimmerman-Kindergarten

Here are a few important reminders as we get closer to the first day:

- Teacher assignment letters will be mailed after August 18.
- If you don't receive your letter by Monday, August 25, contact the office.
- We won't be sharing teacher assignments over the phone before August 25.
- Mark your calendar for our District Open House: Tuesday, August 26, 6:30-8:00PM.
- Supplies are provided for K-5 students. If you would like to send something in for classrooms, consider Kleenex, Chlorox wipes, etc.

This year, my focus is on creating the best possible experience for every student. My goals include:

- Making sure classroom interventions meet the developmental needs of each child.
- Inspiring a love of reading and learning in every student.
- Strengthening our home-to-school partnerships
- Building a school culture where kindness, curiosity, and perseverance are part of every day.

I can't wait to see everyone soon and kick off another amazing school year. Let's make it the best one yet!



our KMS building and thank the maintenance, custodial, and third party crews who worked hard to get things ready for our students.

Please also join me in welcoming two new team members—Mrs. Tonya Roelofs, who will teach 7th-grade social studies, and Mr. Scott Morey, our new Industrial Arts teacher.

Open House for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year will be on Tuesday, August 26th from 5:30pm-7pm.

Here's to another great year of growth, connection, and STAG pride!



By Chris Rapes
High School Principal
crapes@kingsleyschools.org

As we look forward to what I believe will be a fantastic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on some of our recent successes that we'll continue to build upon.

We've seen higher pass rates, fewer discipline issues, rising test score averages (PSAT/SAT), the exciting addition of NJROTC, improved curriculums, ongoing achievements in fine arts and athletics, and more opportunities for our students through programs like NJROTC, scientific research, and our move to the Northern Shores Conference with events like Leadership Day, Art Day, Honor Band, and the Academic All Conference Ceremony.

All of this progress really speaks to the strong support of our families, the dedication of our students, and the hard work of our staff.

Looking ahead to this school year at KHS, we're excited to roll out a positive behavior intervention program.

We'll also be launching new Algebra and Spanish curriculums to better align with our middle school, continuing our after-school tutoring and math interventions, and maintaining SAT prep.

Minimizing distractions during class will also be a priority to keep everyone engaged.

There's also ongoing discussion about a possible statewide decision on personal devices. At KHS, students have access to a free school-issued Chromebook or can bring their own laptop. Because of this, cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and other personal devices are not allowed during class times whether in classrooms, hallways, the library, commons, or any other area. Our policy remains the same as over the past three years, resetting each semester:

-If a device is used inappropriately, it will be taken to the office and can be picked up at the end of the day by the student.

-Further inappropriate use results in a parent or guardian coming to retrieve the device.

-If necessary, a device may not be permitted in the building for the rest of the semester.

We're just a few short weeks away from when our building will be bustling with students and staff again. Keep an eye out for upcoming messages about the 9th grade/new to KHS orientation, Chromebook contracts and pickup, Project Graduation 2026 and senior parking lot painting. We're also excited to invite you to our District Open House on Tuesday, August 26th, from 5:30 to 7:00PM.

Wishing you a wonderful rest of your summer, and GO STAGS!!!!



By John Arnold
Middle School Principal
jarnold@kingsleyschools.org

Welcome Back!

After a summer full of camping adventures, boating on the lake, and cheering on dance and softball activities, I'm feeling recharged and ready for another incredible school year. I'm excited to welcome back our middle school students and see how they've grown.

At KMS, we continue to live out our STAG expectations by committing each day to support, respect, and lift one another up. Students and staff alike! As we start the new year, let's carry that spirit of encouragement and accountability into everything we do.

We are excited to be introducing new curriculum for this upcoming year in our science and Spanish departments. The building also saw a few updates over the summer with fresh paint in several areas and needed upgrades to the roof. We are proud of



Kingsley Dining Services Feeds Town

This summer, the Kingsley Area Schools Summer Meals program fed hundreds of students through free breakfast and lunch pickups; providing more than 5,500 free meals in the month of July alone. The initiative, in its second year, allowed any family with children 18 years old and younger access to the free meals - no questions asked.

Band Field Trips

Kingsley high school band members recently traveled to Illinois, where they explored iconic Chicago sites like The Bean and rode rollercoasters at Six Flags.



Splish Splash!

On Kingsley Community Day, KAS staff, including Superintendent Josh Rothwell (left) and teacher Tony Taylor (right) took turns in the dunk tank, getting dunked by students and neighbors!

Kingsley Teen Attends Boys State

Braden Marsh, far left, recently participated in a week-long government simulation called Boys State. The experience simulates the operation of state and local government while teaching teens about leadership and civic engagement.



Elementary Rocks Cherry Fest

Kingsley Elementary students rode in a "White Christmas in July" float for the Cherry Festival parades this year! Thank you to all of our sponsors and parents for your support! Photo credit: Danielle Graber

