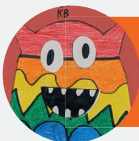


KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE" | April 2026 Edition

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KINGSLEY HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES TOP 10 STUDENTS IN CLASS OF 2026



By Chris Rapes
KHS Principal
crapes@kingsleyschools.org

On behalf of Kingsley High School, I am extremely excited to announce, and congratulate, the Top 10 students in our Class of 2026:

- Anna Bauer
- Braden Marsh
- Sarah Wooer
- Paige Lenon
- Colton Goethals
- Emilee Robinson
- Katelyn Benett
- Emily Bott
- Corbin Bender
- Mary Bauer

It is a distinct honor for our students earning this award. These students have demonstrated their commitment to educational excellence during their time in Kingsley High School. These students pushed themselves in all of their classes, including advanced classes and programs.

They will be recognized during their commencement ceremony in June, with special recognition given to Valedictorian Anna Bauer and Salutatorian Braden Marsh.

I had the pleasure of interviewing both students to hear about their future plans, and reflections on their time at KHS. Read on to see more.

Congratulations to our Top 10 and Class of 2026!

The Top 10 list reflects the school's seniors with the highest grade point averages at the end of the first semester.



Valedictorian Anna Bauer

What are your future plans?

I am deciding between attending the University of Michigan, Notre Dame, or University of Alabama. I would pursue Engineering at U of M or Notre Dame. I would study engineering or law at the University of Alabama.

What are your greatest accomplishments?

My greatest accomplishment in school is being the first National Merit Finalist because it's extremely selective and represents less than 1% of the top seniors. Outside of school, my greatest accomplishment was earning my pilot's license.

What will you miss most about KHS?

I will miss the sense of closeness from such a small town. Kingsley has felt like a home more than a school.

What advice do you have for freshmen?

I wish people would have told me that you will be surrounded by others who are less motivated, and will criticize/undermine your goals. That will hurt, but don't let it stop you. Why settle when you can be the best version of yourself? You need to be willing to put in the work and do things that others aren't willing to do in order to reach your goals. You need to put yourself out there. The more opportunities you take, the more doors that are opened to you. It expands your horizon and puts you in a position to surround yourself with others who will further advance your thinking.

Final Thoughts:

I would like to thank Ms. Olenchek. She was the big driving force to step in and support me. She has been a big help, not just for me, but for many other students planning out their future. Thank you to Mrs. Lewis. I love math and Mrs. Lewis is the reason why. She is passionate about her teaching. She builds

connections, is supportive, helps, and genuinely cares about her students. Thank you to the entire Kingsley community for the consistency through, not only the hard times, but through all of the accomplishments. I would not be pursuing the things that I am pursuing without such a strong foundation behind me.

Salutatorian Braden Marsh

What are your future plans?

I'm between US Coast Guard Academy or Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. I'd plan to study Marine and Environmental Sciences at the Coast Guard Academy along with being on the baseball or sailing team, since everyone in the academy must play a sport. If I choose Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, I'd study to become an Air Traffic Controller and participate in ROTC on a scholarship.

What are your greatest accomplishments?

Being a Command Master

Chief in our NJROTC program and receiving three congressional nominations to the service academy. Being in NJROTC has given me military experience, experiencing the rigidity of the military, and how I fit into it. Outside of school - joining the Traverse City Coast Guard Auxiliary is my greatest accomplishment because it has given me coast guard and military experience and how those values align with my character.

What will you miss most about KHS?

I will miss having class times with friends. I know I will meet and make new friends, but class time with my current friends and baseball is what I'll miss about KHS.

What advice do you have for freshmen?

Find out what you want to do and stick with it. Make yourself the best person you can to be fit for that job.

Congratulations, Anna and Braden!



REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN!

If you have a child that will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2026, and you plan to enroll your child in Kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year, please complete the form below and return it to:

Kingsley Elementary School
Attn: Erin Lefler
311 Clark Street
Kingsley, MI 49649

Kindergarten Roundup will be June 16 & 17 from 8:30AM-2:30PM. You will receive a reminder postcard about this in May.

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 # _____



NOW HIRING

BUS DRIVERS

\$1500 BONUS

- \$23.25 PER HOUR
- AM & PM ROUTES AVAILABLE
- FREE TRAINING
- FREE CDL + CERTIFICATION



Scan the QR code to learn more or apply now.

applitrack.com/kingsley/onlineapp



Andrew Angell



Slade Annis



Julia Barnes



Anna Bauer



Daniel Bauer



Mary Bauer



Mylee Beauchamp



Corbin Bender



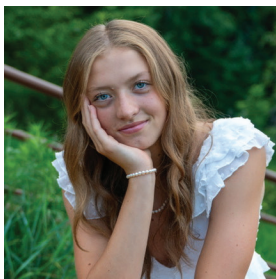
Katelyn Bennett



Isabella Bickle



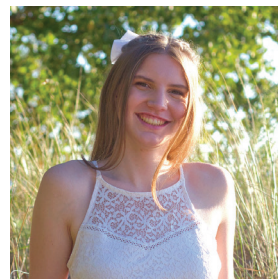
Olivia Bobon



Emily Bott



Tirzah Canfield



Rory Coleman



Isaiah Cosgrove



Cali Curtiss



Tyler Dontz



Xzander Drazin



Gregory Dreves



Alexander Drury



Caleb Dundas



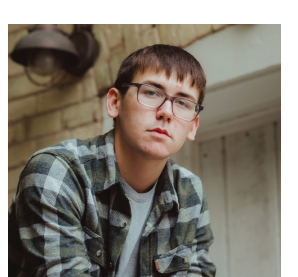
Augustus Easterwood



Monica Echavarria



Dylan Ekins



Julius Ensley



Kaylee Escheck



Tyler Everham



Alexandra Fasel



Alex Figueroa



Dylan Gallivan



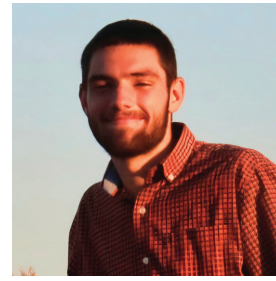
Eathon Gary



Colton Goethals



Jonathon Gramza



Rowan Grant-O'Mara



Nathaniel Green



Aidyn Harrison



Sideon Holland



Aiden Hunt



Olivia Hunt



Payton Kalbfleisch



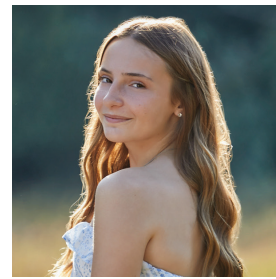
Adeline King



Roan Kirkpatrick-Johnson



Chase Kizer



Jaydyn Kratky



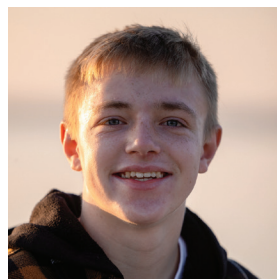
Paige Lenon



Kylie LeVasseur



Gavin Lewis



Braden Marsh



Genevieve Massey



Elijah Mitchell



Logan Molby



Lilliana Mullin



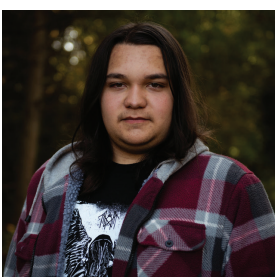
Kali Nicolaison



Emma Nolf



Jesse Otto



Andrew Pangonis



Adrianna Parker



Conner Peaslee



Jordan Peaslee



Carson Porter



Sydney Postal



Jacob Richards-D'Water



Emilee Robinson



Ryan Roelofs



Sophia Runstrom



Kaylee Schaub



Emma Schichtel



Madison Schroeder



Isabelle Seitz



Tristyn Soper



Rhiannen Sprague



Levi Sterk



Annika Strang



Lillian StremLOW



Blaine Summerfield



Trenton Sweat



Sabrina Sypniewski



AdeLynn Town



Audrey Town



Trenton Traylor



Allison Treacy



Philemon VanDussen



Karl Wagner



Andrew Wegrzyn



Ryan Welke



Gracin Werner



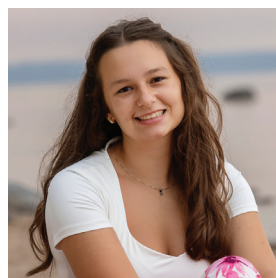
Carolyn Wolf



Haleigh Wolffis



Oliver Woody



Sarah Wooer



Lexi Zionskowski

Musicians Compete at Festival



Congratulations to our Middle School Concert Band & High School Symphony Band members for earning straight 1's, the highest rating, across the board at MSBOA



The Kingsley Choirs traveled to Traverse City West for a wonderful day of Festival.

Support our Music Programs this Spring!

- MS Band Concert: 5/7 at 7:00PM at KMS
- HS Band Concert: 5/12 7:00PM at KHS
- KAS Choir Concert: 5/20 at 7:00PM at KHS

KMS Logo Contest



Congratulations to Kalliope Kolndorfer, the winner of the annual middle school logo design contest! The winning design will be made into a t-shirt for them to wear, as well as stickers that the community can buy to support the PTO, which funds school activities and initiatives. This contest capped off teacher Tiffany Eichler's digital art unit using Canva!

Preschool Application Now Available for 2026-2027



4-year-olds will Apply for GSRP: Free State Funded Preschool

To apply for a GSRP slot, parents will need to email Kristin Goethals at kgoethals@kingsleyschools.org or go to 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 1st 2026. GSRP slots will first be offered to qualifying at-risk families based on a series of risk factors including low family income and then to other families.

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. ALL students who will be four need to complete this application due to the state language around universal preschool.



3-year-olds will Apply for 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, and will first be filled with three-year-olds.

There are no income qualifiers to be accepted into the program, and the cost is \$36 per day (for the 2025-26 year, subject to change). The \$36 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.

If three-year-olds don't fill all the spaces we will fill in with four-year-olds. Filling out a pre-registration form does NOT guarantee enrollment. Letters will be mailed in May verifying acceptance. Hours of operation are 7:45 am to 3:45 pm.

Fill out and mail the below form 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, Early Childhood Tab, Application, Pre-Application

• Please note your preferred preschool method.

• _____ 3-year-old Tuition Schedule: _____ (days of week)

• _____ 4-year-old GSRP (State Funded Free Preschool) Circle One: **M-F (limited)** or **Mon- Thurs.**



Stags Compete at State Finals

Congratulations to State Finalist wrestlers Isaiah Cosgrove, Colton Goethals, who placed 6th at 215lbs and Colten Sherman, who placed 8th at 120lbs; and to Kingsley Powerlifters Makayla Birgy, who earned State runner-up, and to Audrey Town, who took 5th place at their State Finals.

Meet KMS Science's Burrito the Bearded Dragon!



Introducing the newest resident of the KMS science department...Burrito the Bearded Dragon!

The eighth grade's curriculum recently switched to life sciences, and Ms. Smith has been working hard to integrate new additions into her classroom.

When Pet Supplies Plus TC heard about the effort, they stepped up to sponsor Burrito by providing ongoing support including food and habitat supplies. "Having classroom pets is a great way to introduce connection with animals, stress relief, and how to care for them," says owner Tiffany Lundquist, pictured above with manager Sawyer Musser. ***Thank you for supporting Middle School Life Sciences!***

Mitch Miggenburg Named Athletic Director of the Year



The Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) has named KAS' Mitch Miggenburg the Region 2 Athletic Director of the Year.

"The success reflects the strong culture he has helped build. Most importantly, he ensures our students grow as competitors, teammates, and leaders," says Superintendent Joshua T. Rothwell.

Kingsley's recent athletic accomplishments include a 2025 Girls Volleyball State Championship and Runner-Up finish for the Varsity Football team, several State Final appearances in cross country, wrestling, and rugby, and new track and field State records.

"This recognition is a reflection of the unwavering commitment and support of our school board and administration, and would not be possible without the tireless effort of our outstanding coaches and student-athletes who work year-round to uphold the rich tradition of athletics in our community. I'm grateful to be part of a program where their devotion, and the strong support of our community, continue to make education-based athletics a meaningful experience for Kingsley student-athletes," he said.

Mr. Miggenburg has served in Kingsley since 2014. The district's earned the Traverse City Record-Eagle Athletic School of the Year award and the Northwest Conference All-Sports Award five times.

He is a member of the MIAAA and NIAAA and serves as Secretary of the Northern Shores Conference.

Walking Safety Reminder

As we navigate Michigan's everchanging weather, here are some important reminders about getting to and from school safely:

Utilize crosswalks, avoid crossing at non-intersections, put your device away before making a crossing, look both ways before crossing a street, wear high visibility clothing while walking in low light, stay aware of your surroundings, follow traffic laws, and walk with a friend.



2026 Commencement

Friday, June 5, 2026 at 7:00PM
Kingsley High School Gymnasium
No Tickets Required for Admission.
Community Welcome.



DONATIONS NEEDED!
The KHS Naval JROTC has been invited to Washington, DC to march in the National Memorial Day Parade. Help us send every cadet to honor those who served!



The Kingsley Transportation Department's fleet of 17 buses recently received a 100% score during the yearly Michigan State Police Inspection.

"Kudos need to be paid to our head mechanic, Randy Buckmaster," said transportation director Erik Nieman. "His preventive maintenance schedule is one of the best I have ever seen!"

Kingsley Elementary Artists Place in Top 100 of Statewide Competition

We are so excited to announce that four Kingsley elementary students' artworks have been ranked in the top 100 pieces in the Michigan Art Education Association's annual state show!

More than 200 pieces were submitted from across the state, and four out of five pieces that Kingsley art teacher Hannah Langley submitted were accepted.

Congratulations to:

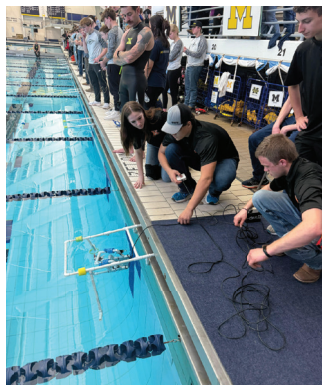
- Boaz Alpers - Top 18
- Maggie Rothwell - Top 100
- Sylvia Sedlacek - Top 100
- Avery Bott - Top 100

Maggie and Sylvia's pieces have also been chosen to be displayed at the Michigan Department of Education building in Lansing for the next year. Way to go!

"I am so proud of my students for receiving these great honors at the state level!" said teacher Hannah Langley. "Maggie and Sylvia's pieces will be on display inspiring our leaders of government for the next year! I am so excited!"

Artwork: top left, Boaz Alpers; top right, Maggie Rothwell; bottom left, Sylvia Sedlacek; bottom right, Avery Bott.

KHS Naval JROTC Competes at SeaPerch Competition



Kingsley's Naval JROTC program recently competed in an underwater robotics competition at the University of Michigan.

At the SeaPerch Regional Championship, 35 teams from across the state tested their engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in various scoring events.

Kingsley cadets designed, constructed, and tested three underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) while also completing and submitting a detailed technical design report outlining their engineering process and vehicle capabilities.

"The greatest success of the season was the leadership development demonstrated by the cadets," said Gunnery Sergeant Mathew Barr. **Way to go, Cadets!**

