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Left to right: Kingsley High School seniors Anna Bauer, Katelyn Bennett, and Ryan Welke.

ANNA BAUER BECOMES FIRST NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST IN SCHOOL HISTORY

KATELYN BENNETT, RYAN WELKE EARN COMMENDED STATUS

Three Kingsley High School seniors are setting a new academic standard.

Anna Bauer has made her mark on school history by becoming the first Stag to ever become a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, a designation that puts her in the top 1% of high schoolers nationwide.

More than 1.3 million students submitted an application to the program, and just 16,000 from across the country were selected as semifinalists after taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Students Katelynn Bennett and Ryan Welke scored in the top 2.6% of students, earning

them the prestigious "commended" status.

Of the 472 semifinalists chosen in Michigan, the vast majority represent schools in the Ann Arbor, Metro Detroit and Grand Rapids areas.

As a semifinalist, Anna now has the chance to compete for nearly 7,000 scholarships totaling \$26 million. 95% of semifinalists will achieve finalist standing, and half will win a scholarship.

Finalists will be announced in February and Merit Scholarships will be announced in the spring of 2026.

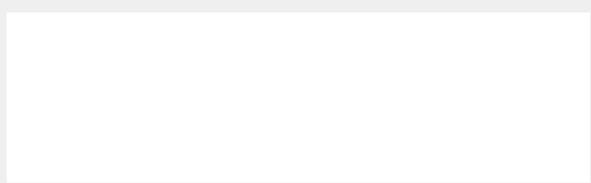
Congratulations, students!



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High Schoolers Enjoy their Harvest

Last Spring, Mr. Reo Hoffelt's KHS Wilderness Leadership class planted fruits and vegetables in a class garden. They returned this fall to an impressive zucchini harvest! They gave their veggies away to staff and community members, and some made some delicious zucchini bread - yummmmm!

Off to the Races!

The Mini Stags XC team is back in action. The program is open to students in ?????? what grades??? how long does the season run??



Summer Band Fun

This summer, band director Lance Dubay took some musicians to Illinois, where they toured Chicago and iconic sites like The Bean. They also visited the Field Museum and spent a day at Six Flags amusement park.



NJROTC Cadets Hit the Field

On a recent Physical Training day, Naval Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corp (NJROTC) cadets competed on an obstacle course that challenged them to run, crawl, throw, and lift things across the field. They even had to carry their classmates several yards to practice the "fireman's carry." This fall marks the unit's second school year. Already, the program has received regional recognition for the cadet's achievements, leadership, hard work, and discipline. The Kingsley unit is the only NJROTC in Michigan north of Flint.



Fourth Graders Step Back in Time

A short bus ride to Buckley unlocked a peek into what was life more than 200 years ago as Kingsley fourth graders explored the Buckley Old Engine Show fairgrounds. Students got to ride a 1918 steam train and saw live demonstrations of blacksmithing, milling, and other kinds of handiwork while learning about the 1800-1900s.



Making Music, Making Waves

The marching band had its camp in late July to learn the 2025 halftime show “West Side Story” which ties into the the English curriculum, where they read Romeo and Juliet.



By Lance Dubay | Kingsley Band Director | ldubay@kingsleyschools.org

This show features the tunes, “Maria”, “One Hand, One Heart” with trumpet soloist Carolyn Wolf, “Mambo”, “Somewhere”, and concludes with “Tonight.” Drum Majors for the 2025 Season are Mary Bauer, Nat Crawford, and Levi Sterk.

The marching band will perform at the Thirlby Marching Band Exhibition on Monday October 6 time TBD. In addition, the Marching Stags have been invited by Northern Michigan University to perform at the 2025 Marching Band Day on Saturday, October 25 in the Superior Dome.

Kingsley will join nearly 500 other musicians on the field at halftime of the NMU vs Michigan Tech Football game, and also participate in a “5th quarter” marching band exhibition with schools from across Northern Michigan and Wisconsin. Also over the summer, the Kingsley High School Symphony Band was formally invited by Michigan State Senator Ed McBroom to perform in Lansing at the State Capitol. The band will travel to Lansing on May 6. Senator McBroom will guest conduct the band.

KAS Partners with Trane Technologies to Optimize Energy Efficiency, Make Repairs



By Joshua T. Rothwell
Superintendent
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This school year, Kingsley Area Schools partnered with Trane Technologies to make much-needed infrastructural repairs and energy efficiency upgrades.

Through a nonvoted school bond, the district accessed more than \$3 million in capital for critical operational investments.

Over the next few years, Trane will repair and/or replace our schools' HVAC systems, plumbing, and boilers. They will also envelope doors and windows at all three school buildings to save energy and keep classrooms warmer in the winter and cooler in the spring and summer.

Finally, Trane will be switching all HVAC systems from pneumatic to electronic controls, which will allow for more accurate temperature monitoring, remote access, better energy efficiency, and improved precision.

This partnership aligns with our Strategic Plan priorities; operational improvements were identified as our number one district need.

These repairs and upgrades should be completed by the end of 2026.



Congratulations to Kingsley head volleyball coach Dave Hall, who hit 1200 wins in September at the Battle of the Bay volleyball tournament in Essexville.

Lance Dubay Wins MSBOA Teacher of the Year Award



In May of 2025, Kingsley band director Lance Dubay earned the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District II Teacher of the Year award and became a Top 16 candidate for State Teacher of the Year.

This is Mr. Dubay's fifth consecutive year being nominated. Kingsley Directors have been nominated three times in the past 20 years.

In addition, he was nominated for membership into the American School Band Director Association. Acceptance into this national organization requires documentation of continued success in teaching, and mastery of band instruction.

There are only 100 members of the organization in the Michigan Chapter.

In June, Mr. Dubay was inducted into the organization in a pinning ceremony in Lexington, Kentucky.

Mr. Dubay has created a legacy of excellence in the Kingsley band program. Most recently, his middle and high school programs earned straight first division ratings at District Festival in the Spring of 2025, with adjudicators noting their maturity in tone and technical precision.

That competition marked the 14th consecutive year the high school has qualified for State competition and the 16th consecutive year for the middle school.

Way to go, Mr. Dubay!



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GOOD WEATHER
MEANS GRILLING!

KINGSLEY HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Blood Drive

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH
8:30AM-1:30PM
VERSITI BLOOD BUS
HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT

SIGN UP TO DONATE

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2025-2026 Yearbooks are
available for pre-order at
YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM
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\$50 THROUGH 10/31
REGULAR PRICE \$60

Northwestern Michigan College | HOSTED BY NMC & NMU | NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

APPLYING TO COLLEGE 101

Monday, October 6, 6-7:30 PM

NMC Front Street Campus | Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center (TJNIC) Room 106/107

SAVE TIME & FRUSTRATION!

LET LOCAL EXPERTS GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS.

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- Application decisions: early, regular, rolling
- Transfer tips: agreements & Michigan Transfer Network
- Finding scholarships
- Key questions to ask college reps
- Insights from a student panel
- Prep for College Night or Transfer Fair

QUESTIONS? 231.995.1280 or bmonroe@nmc.edu

Northwestern Michigan College

COLLEGE NIGHT

Wednesday, October 8, 6-7:30 PM

NMC Front Street Campus | Timothy J. Nelson Innovation Center (TJNIC)

30+
Universities & Colleges

Pre-register for your StriveScan barcode @ StriveFair.com



KMS Travel Club Journeys Through Ireland and England



By Andrew Sias
KHS Teacher & Trip Leader
asias@kingsleyschools.org

Last June, the KMS Travel Club embarked on a journey across Ireland, Wales, and England. What began as an overseas trip quickly became something more: a collection of memories, friendships, and reflections that students and chaperones continue to carry with them.

Our crew included students Evy Anderson, Lucas Saxton, and Ava Gomez, and chaperone Max Anderson.

June 16 – Castles and Colleges

Our first day brought us straight into Ireland's rich history. At Trinity College, we were awestruck by the Long Room; lined with shelves containing thousands of books, many of them hundreds of years old. We then went on to **Christ Church Cathedral** and took a guided tour and heard the choir's voices reverberate within the lofty stone interior. Later, **Cahir Castle** impressed everyone with its towers and stone walls. By evening, we arrived at **Springfort Hall Country House Hotel** in County Cork and were welcomed with an incredible dinner.

June 17 – The Ring of Kerry

The next morning, we all enjoyed a horse car and carriage jaunt around Killarney National Park. At the **Kerry Bog Village Museum**, we stepped into Ireland's past. The **Ring of Kerry** revealed one breathtaking view after another. Later that afternoon we experienced a **sheepdog demonstration** that left us in awe. These highly intelligent animals are trained to respond to different whistle tone

commands and can round up a large herd in just a few minutes. Afterward, we saw a master shearer shave a sheep in short order.

June 18 – The Blarney Stone

The next morning, our group climbed the winding staircase where courage was tested at the Blarney Stone. Some leaned back to kiss the stone, others cheered their friends on. We had time to wander the well manicured grounds which included a garden of deadly plants, but some friendly ones too. We also toured the mansion of the descendants of the family that owned Blarney Castle. They still live there and maintain herds of sheep, cattle, and some horses.

June 19 – Dublin's Treasures

Back in Dublin, a guided tour brought us to **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, where Gothic arches soared overhead. At **EPIC: The Irish Emigration Museum**, interactive displays told the story of millions of Irish who shaped the world. That evening, we joined in a celebration of culture with a night of **Irish music and dance**.

June 20 – To Wales

Crossing the Irish Sea by ferry, we arrived in Wales. The towering walls of **Conwy Castle** stood as a powerful reminder of medieval life. Evy was struck by how people had actually lived in such castles: *"It's fascinating what they used for certain circumstances!"*

June 21 – Shakespeare's Stratford

Our day began just outside Stratford with a visit to where Shakespeare's wife grew up. The cottage's flower-filled gardens and striking sculptures brought literature to life.

From there, we continued into Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's hometown. We toured his childhood home, walking through the timbered house where he spent his early years, before exploring the streets of the town that shaped him.

We reached London and met a guide near The Tower of London for a Jack the Ripper tour. We had a late evening dinner at the Astronomer and took in the sights at Piccadilly Circus.

June 22 – London Highlights

Our final full day was packed. We had a guided tour of London and saw St. Paul's Church, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, and Big Ben. We toured Windsor Castle in the afternoon. They do not allow photos to be taken inside but the furnishings, artwork, armor, weapons, and other artifacts are completely stunning (and likely worth billions). We topped off the night with stageside seats at Royal Albert Hall.

London left a deep impression. Ava admitted, "I would've liked to have more time in London. It felt a little rushed since it was at the end of the trip and it's a really cool place." She loved, "riding through London in a taxi and getting to see all sorts of famous things throughout the city."

June 23 – Homeward Bound

The group boarded their flight home with souvenirs, photos, and countless stories.

Are you interested in joining the next trip? Contact me at asias@kingsleyschools.org

This trip was led by EF Tours which is not associated with Kingsley Area Schools.



Donations Needed to Keep Kingsley Woodshop Class Free for Students

Kingsley's middle and high school classes are in need of materials, supplies, and donations this school year to continue building their projects.

Currently, woodshop class is free for middle schoolers, but that may be in jeopardy due to reduced funding and rising costs for things like lumber.

New woodshop teacher Scott Morey is working towards exhibiting his students' work at the MITES state competition this spring, but he needs the community's help.

If you would like to support, Woodshop is now accepting...

- Lumber of any size, any quantity
 - Hard woods preferred
- Wood glue
- Finishes
- Hand saws
- Any hand tool
- Power hand drills
- Gift cards
 - Menards preferred
 - Home Depot
 - Lowe's

Please drop off donations at the office, or arrange drop-off with Mr. Morey by emailing smorey@kingsleyschools.org.

"Woodshop is such an important class -- we all know there's a huge deficit in the trades. Some may go into that field, but even if they're not, those skills are important in life, like when they become homeowners. It helps with critical thinking and problem solving. Thank you in advance for your support."

"Taco" the Chameleon Joins Middle School Science Lab as Class Pet



By Tiffany Smith
KMS Science Teacher
tsmith@kingsleyschools.org

I am excited to introduce our classroom pet, TACO, the veiled chameleon. Taco joined our class this year and has already become a favorite among students. He is not only fascinating to watch but also gives our students a hands-on way to connect science to real life. Taco is full of unique traits—he can move his eyes in two different directions at once, and his lightning-fast tongue can catch crickets quicker than a blink. Having him in the classroom sparks curiosity and excitement every day.

One of Taco's most remarkable features is his ability to change colors. While many believe chameleons do this to camouflage, Taco mostly shifts colors to show how he is feeling or to regulate his body temperature.

Another fun fact is that Taco loves to climb — his strong grip and special feet help him hold tightly to branches (and sometimes to a student's arm!)

Taco has quickly become a favorite in our classroom, and in one of the pictures you'll see Evan Schichtel holding him like a pro.

Stay tuned throughout the year, I will provide updates on Taco the chameleon, along with exciting news from the labs and activities happening in our classroom.



8th Graders Participate in NJROTC



Meet the rising stars of tomorrow — our dedicated 8th graders in Navy JROTC! These young cadets are already making waves as they train with discipline and determination in air rifle marksmanship, martial arts, and squad competitions.

Whether they're mastering precision shooting, sharpening their self-defense skills, or executing flawless team drills, these future leaders are building confidence and a strong sense of honor.

Their commitment to excellence is nothing short of inspiring — a true testament to the spirit of Navy JROTC.



Kingsley Food Service News



Thank you to the families that have completed their household application. The winners for the drawing of those forms submitted prior to September 7th are:

- Black Stone Grill- Genevieve Massey
- Yeti Cooler- Valentina Guillen Coronado
- Smoker/Grill- Maximus Pedroza
- Bluetooth Speaker- Madelynn Dotson

If you have NOT completed the form there is still time. Go to [Kingsley.familyportal.cloud](https://kingsley.familyportal.cloud) and select apply for benefits to complete.

Things to Come

Fun in the Cafeteria

- Oct 3rd Homecoming
- Oct 6th National Noodle Day
- Oct 7th National Taco Day
- Oct 8th Apple Crunch Day
- Oct 13th-17th National School Lunch

- Nov. 3rd National Sandwich Day
- Nov. 6th National Nacho Day
- Nov. 24th & 25th Cook's choice

2nd Tuesday of every month is Lucky tray day in the elementary building

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Check it out at <https://kingsley.nutrislice.com> or download the **Nutrislice App** on your Smart phone

JOIN OUR TEAM

Enjoy the Food Service Industry, but wish you had weekends and holidays off? We are currently looking for On call Sub Staff. Hours are Mon-Fri Apply Online at: [Indeed.com](https://indeed.com)

National School Lunch Week October 13th-17th Global Eats

Grab your passport as we travel around the globe to...
Oct 13th Caribbean
Oct 14th Mexico
Oct 15th China
Oct 16th India
Oct 17th Italy

Each cafeteria will have travel activities and opportunities to win prizes just for getting school lunch.

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SENIORS, JUNIORS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE INVITED

FALL POTLUCK

THE FUN IN FUNDING COLLEGE!

**MONDAY,
10-6-2025,
6:30-7:30 PM**

MEET IN THE LIBRARY!
THIS IS NOT FANCY! DON'T EXERT TOO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY! A BAG OF CHIPS, A BOX OF COOKIES, OR FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO MAKE US JEALOUS--BRING A CULINARY MASTERPIECE!

GET SOME SCHOLARSHIP AND FAFSA INFO FROM THE HEITMEYER AND OLENCEK TEAM!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



A FEW KINGSLEY FRESHMEN AND PRINCIPAL RAPERES DRESSED UP LIKE "DESPICABLE ME" FOR A RECENT FOOTBALL GAME



SUPPORT OUR STAGS!
SCAN THE QR CODE
ABOVE TO ACCESS
OUR FALL ATHLETICS
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S - Safe
T - Trustworthy
A - Acts Responsibly
G - Gives Respect

KINGSLEY AREA SCHOOLS IS TEACHING STUDENTS ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A S.T.A.G.! STUDENTS WHO EMBODY THE CHARACTER OF A STAG ARE REWARDED WITH VARIOUS INCENTIVES AS PART OF OUR NEW POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SYSTEM.

BE A S.T.A.G.!

