



# KINGSLEY CONNECTION

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

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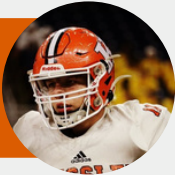
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## STAG WRESTLERS SEEK "REDEMPTION"



**Kingsley Wrestling is back!** After falling short of last year's team goal, the team hopes to rebound with their team slogan of "Redemption" as the main focus.

During the 2022-23 season, there were ten individual state qualifiers and three all-state placers. This season the Stags return five qualifiers as well as Gavyn Merchant, who placed second all-state.

**The team would love support this season, especially at these upcoming home meets:**

- 1/3/2024: HOME vs Manton, Lake City
- 1/25/2024: HOME vs Whitehall

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## Kingsley Choir Spreads Cheer



This season, choir director Andy Evans and his ensemble have been busy spreading holiday cheer throughout the community!

The middle and high school choirs performed in a joint concert with the band and his singers also went caroling through Kingsley. He took his middle school group to The Lighthouse Rehabilitation Center for a Christmas sing-along which delighted all of the residents.

## High Schoolers Continue Work Tours

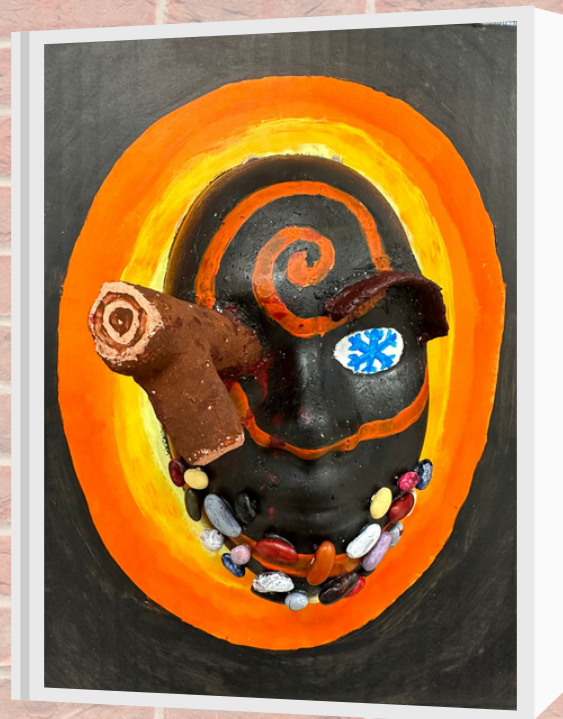


This year, at-risk high school counselor Brittany Feldhake has taken her students on industry tours to explore post-graduate careers. In December, nine students visited Springfield Roofing to learn about the job and try out some of the tools of the trade.

Earlier in the semester, Mrs. Feldhake took students to Munson, 20Fathoms, Brickyard Towing, and Serra Motors to explore careers across industries; from healthcare, to nonprofits, automotive, and more!

## WHAT'S ON THE WALL?

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



**BRAVO!**



# 6th Graders Spearhead Middle School Journalism Effort



*Addison Middaugh and Ta'Shaun Pryce interview fifth grader Tyler Russell for one of their feature stories.*

Extra, extra! Welcome to an extra special section of the Kingsley Connection newsletters. Sixth graders Addison Middaugh and Ta'Shaun Pryce are our newest contributors!

This semester, the aspiring journalists have been working on stories focusing on the students and staff of Kingsley Middle School.

"One day I was sitting on the bus, really bored, and then I thought of maybe making a Kingsley newspaper," said Addison.

Addison asked her friend Ta'Shaun if he would be interested in helping. He enthusiastically agreed!

They reached out to middle school counselor

Olivia Bradford with the idea. With Mrs. Bradford's guidance, they came up with the idea to do feature stories on the people in the building.

So far, they have finished two Q&A style features.

"Our goal for this newspaper is to interview as many people as we can and get lots of points of view," said Ta'Shaun.

Read on for their first feature stories!



## Q&A with student Tyler Russell

Q: What grade are you in or do you teach?  
A: 5th grade

Q: What are your interests and/or hobbies?  
A: Soccer, video games, and playing with my baby brother.

Q: What do you love about Kingsley?  
A: There's a lot of stuff, the colors that there's a lot of people in the grades.

Q: What's one fun fact about you?  
A: I have 4 brothers.

Q: What is a dream or goal you have?  
A: To be like a professional sports player probably soccer or baseball

Q: What is one thing you want the community to know about you?  
A: In soccer, I'm like the best goalie on the team.



## Q&A with Mrs. Kendra Bell

Q: What grade are you in or do you teach?  
A: 5th grade science.

Q: What are your interests and/or hobbies?  
A: I like to hike, bike, read, and then hang out with family.

Q: What do you love about Kingsley?  
A: I love the small-town feel. I grew up in a town much smaller than Kingsley and I just like the way the community looks out for each other.

Q: What's one fun fact about you?  
A: I would have to say I backpacked over 60 miles carrying everything I needed on my back!

Q: What is a dream or goal you have?  
A: I would like to write a children's book.

Q: What is one thing you want the community to know about you?  
A: I think to me it is fun to have former students come in with their children so I am teaching the second generation.



## Spring Testing at Kingsley High School

*Please avoid scheduling appointments during these times.*

**SAT/PSAT Testing**  
(Freshman-Juniors)  
Tuesday, April 9

**AP Lit & Comp. Exam**  
Wednesday, May 8 | 8:00AM

**MSTEP: Juniors Only**  
Wednesday, April 10

**AP Calculus Exam**  
Monday, May 13 | 8:00AM

**Workstep: Juniors Only**  
Thursday, April 11



# HELP WANTED

**We're Hiring,  
Scan the QR code to  
check out our current  
openings!**

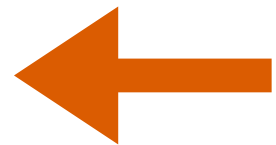
*Work in a district of excellence.  
Live in a community of  
unspoiled beauty!*



**Kingsley High School Robotics  
Team Seeking Volunteers for  
2023-2024 Competition Season**



**Sign up to  
volunteer with  
Robotics!**



## Class of 2024 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.



# Letter from the Superintendent



every student feels valued, heard, and supported.

## Community Engagement

Strong community ties are the foundation of a successful school district. We are committed to fostering open communication and collaboration between schools, parents, and the community. Please be on the lookout for upcoming meetings and events where we will collaborate with our community. Specifically, I will be partnering with the Kingsley Branch Library for a monthly coffee chat with the community. I will announce additional details about this monthly meeting once they are solidified.

## Building for the Future

As we move forward, the Board of Education is excited about our work surrounding strategic planning. A large group of board members, staff, parents, and community members recently spent an entire Saturday working together to establish the foundation for Kingsley's strategic plan. Once we put our thoughts together into an established document, this plan will be shared with our community. A big thanks to the Michigan Association of School Boards for leading this discussion.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to each member of our school community. Your support, dedication, and passion for education are the keys to our students' success.

It is truly a great day to be a Stag!

**-Joshua T. Rothwell  
Superintendent, Kingsley Area  
Schools**

Dear Kingsley Community,

As we move into the winter season, I am excited to share some exciting updates that will shape our district in the coming months.

## Celebrating Achievements

Before we delve into the future, let's take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and educators. The past year has been a testament to the dedication of our school community. From academic achievements to extracurricular successes, our students continue to shine, making us very proud. And, don't forget about those state championship football players and coaches!

## Focus on Mental Health and Wellness

Recognizing the importance of mental health and wellness, we are expanding our efforts to create a supportive and nurturing environment for all students. This includes increased access to counseling services, workshops on stress management, and initiatives to promote a positive school culture. Together, we will create an atmosphere where

## Connect with Kingsley Area Schools



FOLLOW US ON  
**FACEBOOK & 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:

#### **Regular Meeting | 1/8 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)

# STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

## ➔ Eli Graves



Eli led the Stags to a Division 6 State Championship at Ford Field rushing for 210 yards on 33 carries and with four touchdowns and three 2-point conversions tying an MHSAA Record with 30 points himself in the championship game. On the season, Eli rushed for 1,965 yards and 24 touchdowns and had 468 yards receiving and 5 touchdowns. He also returned two kicks for touchdowns for the Stags. Eli also excels at basketball and baseball at Kingsley while carrying a 3.83 grade point average.

## ➔ James Pearson



James is a senior lineman on the varsity football team. James had a solid game at Ford Field anchoring the offensive line that allowed the Stags to rush for 331 yards and four touchdowns as the Stags won the Division 6 State Championship over Almont. James was also selected as a Northern Michigan Football Conference Legends Division All-Conference Lineman in 2023 while carrying a 3.45 grade point average.

## ➔ Emilee Robinson



Emilee is a sophomore on the varsity basketball team this winter and had a great Northwest Conference opener versus Buckley, leading all scorers with 21 points as the Stags defeated the Bears 64-29. Emilee also runs track at Kingsley while carrying a 3.97 grade point average.

## ➔ Tyler Unterbrink



Tyler is a junior on the varsity wrestling team and has had an outstanding start to the wrestling season with a 7-1 overall record, and a runner-up finish at the Joe Loren Invitational at Chippewa Hills in the 157-pound weight class. Tyler also excels in soccer at Kingsley.



**For Kingsley Athletics scores, schedules, and more visit our website, [kingsleystags.com](http://kingsleystags.com)**

# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

## Congratulations to our Kingsley Stags on a successful fall season!

**Tim Wooser - Football**  
Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Division 6 Coach of the Year

**Max Goethals - Football**  
Defensive Player of the Year Division 6 - All State; all conference legends division linebacker

**Eli Graves - Football**  
Offensive Player of the Year Division 6 - All State, all conference legends division running back & returner

**Jon Whims - Football**  
All-conference legends division defensive back

**James Pearson - Football**  
All-conference legends division defensive line

**Gavyn Merchant - Football**  
All-conference legends division quarterback

**Noah Scribner - Football**  
All-conference legends division offensive line

**Caleb Bott - Football**  
All-conference legends division offensive line

**Skylar Workman - Football**  
All-conference legends division special mention

**Bode Bielas - Football**  
All-conference legends division honorable mention

**Grace Lewis - Volleyball**  
Northwest Conference 1st team

**Sarah Wooser - Volleyball**  
Northwest conference 1st team

**Jenna Middleton - Volleyball**  
Northwest conference 2nd team

**Olivia Reamer - Volleyball**  
Northwest conference 2nd team

**Branden Stock - Cross Country**  
Northwest conference 1st team

**Braxton Zenner - Cross Country**  
Northwest conference 2nd team

**Sayla Bender - Cross Country**  
Northwest conference 2nd team

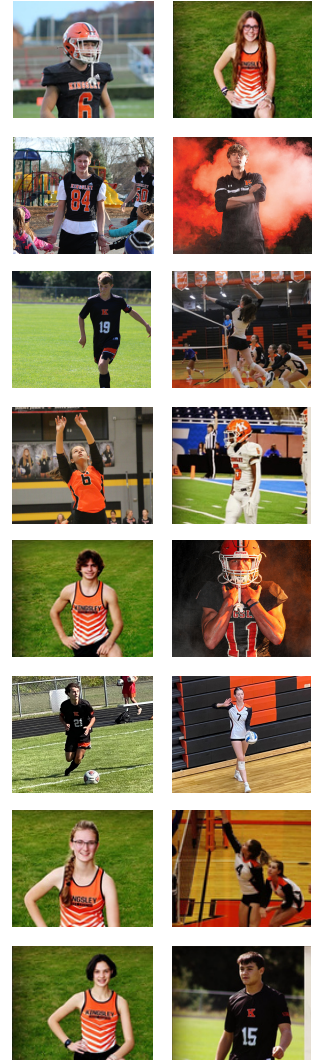
**Natalie Sterk - Cross Country**  
Northwest conference 2nd team

**Mara VanWagner - Cross Country**  
Northwest conference Honorable Mention

**Korbin Bedford - Soccer**  
Northwest conference 1st team

**Tyler Unterbrink - Soccer**  
Northwest conference 1st team

**Ian Mitchell - Soccer**  
Northwest conference honorable mention



**Way to go, Stags!**



**For the Village.** The entire community came together on Friday, December 1, to celebrate the Varsity football team's State Championship title. The celebration included a medal ceremony, speeches from players and coaching staff, and more. The *Record-Eagle* announced Eli Graves as their football player of the year, and awarded the whole team with Jimmy John's giftcards.

# STAG SNAPSHOTS

## National Honor Society Saves Lives

The National Honor Society helped save 39 lives at their blood drive! 15 donors, including 7 first-timers, donated 13 pints of blood in December. The next blood drive will be Friday, February 16 at KHS.



## Elementary Singers Dazzle at Holiday Performance

Kingsley kindergarteners and first graders dazzled a standing-room-only crowd at their Christmas concert featuring dance, singing, and poetry! Bravo to our students and music teacher Vicky Pack.



## Varsity Wrestlers Visit Elementary P.E. Class

Kingsley Wrestling stopped by physical education to teach elementary schoolers the fundamentals of the sport ahead of the start of the winter season. Did you know? Kingsley offers Youth Wrestling for students in grades K-8! Thank you to middle school coach Jason Grahn and Varsity wrestlers Isaiah Cosgrove and Gavyn Merchant for donating their time to our youngsters!



## Teacher Feature: Meet Kingsley's Second Grade Team!

**Kingsley's second grade team has undeniable star power. You can sense a palpable love for their students and each other. The team includes veteran educators as well as two new teachers, Mr. Patrick Muth and Ms. Olivia Akerly who both joined the second grade team this year.**

"Our team has changed a lot. We're really thankful to be back to having five sections and we have two new team members this year and it's amazing. I love how much our team loves the kids." said Mrs. Katie Rothwell.

"This is the best team I've ever had," added Mrs. Caroline Hetherington. "I don't think people understand how lucky we are to get along so well. We've all got our strengths, we've all got our weaknesses, but we are so cohesive and supportive and just trusting and respectful to each other,"

The team of five has a collective 50+ years of teaching experience and several lifetimes of connections in Kingsley. Mr. Muth and Mrs. Rothwell both grew up here and now work with their former teachers.

"As a new teacher, this has been the most amazing team that I could have possibly have," said Mr. Muth. "If I have any questions, they're always there to help me learn and point me in the right direction."

Together, the team leverages their experiences and relationships to create impactful learning experiences for their students.

Read on for a roundtable discussion with the second grade team!

Q: What makes a second grader a second grader?

Caroline Hetherington: They're fun. They're loving. They're becoming a little more independent.

Katie Rothwell: Most of them still think we're pretty awesome.

Aimee Ball: Absolutely. If you need a good boost, draw a picture because they're going to think you're the most wonderful artist ever.

Katie Rothwell: Yes, or a good singer.

Patrick Muth: I've found different results.

[All laugh]

Olivia Akerly: I think I love that they're really coming into their competence. They're becoming more confident in who they are and what they like while building up their friends.

### What are the second grade learning targets?

Caroline Hetherington: This is a really huge year for building all their foundations. They need to know their addition and subtraction facts and be fluent because third graders are going to roll right into multiplication. They're also learning to read and they should be able to later transition to reading to learn.

Katie Rothwell: A lot of comprehension skills are gained in second grade.

Aimee Ball: They're also beginning to really thoroughly be able to put their thoughts on paper in cohesive complete sentences.

Q: What are your social and emotional goals for second graders?

Patrick Muth: Independence.

Katie Rothwell: We've been using Move This World materials and social/emotional learning programs and I'm really focusing on identifying your emotions because we all have them. It's okay to have them, but then being able to regulate them, like, what are you going to do if you're really excited or if you feel bad?

Olivia Akerly: That's a big thing I'm focusing on too especially in the classroom, and a lot for recess time. Like what can you do like if you and your friend are fighting? You can't just scream at each other you have to have problem-solving solutions. With Move This World, we're using actual strategies and showing them how they work and when they can use them.

Caroline Hetherington: They learn so much independence and self-regulation and responsibility, maturity, and respect. And I know they're only eight, but the maturity from the beginning of the year to the end of the year is pretty drastic.

### What do you want the community to know?



**This is such a pivotal year. The importance of the foundational skills that we're building and that help at home is so beneficial. We do as much as we can here. But just encouraging and supporting your child at home is it can be life-changing. -Caroline Hetherington**

Patrick Muth: Everything is a reading opportunity. Not just a book!

Aimee Ball: Teaching them responsibility and really enforcing it at home is so important. For example, when we go out to a restaurant, our own children order. Stuff like that.

Katie Rothwell: I would also want the community to know that I 100% know that this group of people is always doing what's best for the kids. I think that's why we like each other so much: we have the confidence in each other that we're all doing the best we can every day.