



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE" September 2023 kingsleyschools.org

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JOSHUA ROTHWELL SELECTED AS NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF KINGSLEY AREA SCHOOLS



The Kingsley Area Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution to begin contract negotiations with Mr. Joshua Rothwell to serve as the district's Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Rothwell is currently the Superintendent of Schools for Forest Area Schools.

There were twenty-five applicants for the position. A first round of interviews was conducted with four candidates on August 14 and August 15, 2023. Two final candidates were brought back to the district for afternoon tours and open houses followed by final interviews on August 25, 2023.

Written feedback was collected from the public who attended the open house sessions. Written feedback was also collected from the public after each candidate's interview. The feedback from both the open house sessions as well as both interviews was reviewed by school board members prior to their deliberations.

While the board affirmed the strengths of both the final candidates, it was a motion to enter contract negotiations with Mr. Rothwell that received unanimous support from the board.

The board hopes to come to a contract agreement with Mr. Rothwell quickly. When the board meets to approve a contract with Mr. Rothwell, his hiring as the next Superintendent of Schools for Kingsley Area Schools will be official.

A start date for Mr. Rothwell to begin his new position will be a part of the contract negotiations. Jason Stowe will serve as Interim Superintendent through October 9, 2023.

The Michigan Association of School Boards assisted the Kingsley Area School District with its superintendent search process.

As of press time, no decision regarding employment of the superintendent will be final until the board approves a contract with Mr. Joshua Rothwell.

KINGSLEY SCHOOLS
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Bus Driver Shortage Prompts Changes to AM and PM Student Transportation



Due to the bus driver shortage, there are some changes being implemented to the transportation of your student for the 2023/24 school year.

AM Bussing

The CAT bus will run its normal route arriving at the middle school/elementary at 7:50 am.

Middle school and elementary students will unload from the bus and be taken to the Middle School, where they will be supervised. (High school students will remain on the bus).

At 7:54 am, the CAT Shuttle bus will arrive at Cherrywood Village to load. Students must be at the bus stop in a line ready to load in an orderly manner.

The bus will then depart and head to Pitter Patter and then the depot stop behind the KI.

After that, the bus will head to the high school to unload ALL High school students (both Cat and shuttle run).

Next, the bus will head to the middle school/elementary and unload the remaining students.

Students riding the shuttle will arrive at the middle/elementary schools in time to still get breakfast.

PM Bussing

At 3:15 pm, all shuttle students will board the CAT bus. Regular CAT bus students (elementary, middle, high school students) will be staged at their respective buildings under adult supervision until the shuttle run is complete.

At 3:30 pm, the bus will arrive at Cherrywood Village. Parents must be at the bus stop for its arrival. The bus will not be able to wait for late parents; please plan ahead. (Riding the bus is a privilege).

Next, the bus will stop at Pitter Patter and the depot stop behind the KI.

At 3:40 pm, the shuttle will return to the middle school to pick up all CAT bus students and run its normal route.

Thank You, Donors and Sponsors, for Supporting Project Graduation 2023!

The Project Graduation Committee Class of 2023 would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to the entire Kingsley Community who supported us this past year. We had a fun, safe, and substance-free evening planned for all the graduating seniors, full of events and prizes that are sure to have made their last day spent together memorable.

All of this was only possible because of your support and generosity through our fundraisers: Bake Sales, donation of returnable cans/bottles, Soup/Chili events, yard signs/koozies, Butter Braids, Little Caesars Pizza Kits, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Senior Highlight Sports Banners, and Dance Chaperones.

Thank you to the local businesses that assisted in making these fundraisers and our Grad night a success! To see the whole list of sponsors, visit the QR code below.



Sincerely,

Jen Johnson, President, Miranda Wysocki, Secretary, and Jennifer Robinson, Treasurer



Welcome Back to Kingsley Elementary, Stags!

The summer gets so lonely here without the staff and students and I am always so excited when you return. This summer, I spent lots of time with my own children. My oldest is heading off to college, and my other four are spread throughout the district. We also spent time trying to get our puppies to love the water. Scotch and Rusty were not as thrilled as we thought they should be.

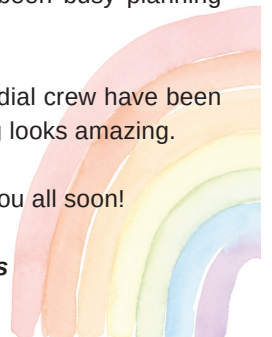
Our team at Kingsley is so happy to have some new faces in the building this next school year, and also a new program.

This year we are able to add an elementary art program for our students. Ms. Rose will be teaching this and she has been busy planning and prepping.

Our maintenance and custodial crew have been working hard and everything looks amazing.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

~Principal Kristin Goethals



WELCOME to the 2023-2024 school year here at Kingsley High School. I cannot express how excited I am for this new year and the great things ahead for our students and staff.

We have been very busy this summer preparing for this year. It has been a group effort of staff, administration, and our school board to be in such a good position heading into the year.

Here are some highlights heading into the new school year:

- **We are fully staffed!** We were able to fill every position that was posted here in the high school with awesome people. We are able to offer electives and classes that we were not able to offer last year, and can separate ourselves from students needing to take online classes. This also allows us to maintain effective class sizes and make a better learning environment for all students.



- **A focus this year will be eliminating phone use during class time.** Here at Kingsley, we focus on our future, not our phones. Students are free to use their phones before and after school, during passing times, and at lunch. Please help support our teachers and the learning process by not contacting your student during class times.

- **Updates to the Handbook:** Public comment was taken into consideration and our handbook has been updated in many areas. Our new handbook will be on our school website and we will also have copies in the high school office.

- **Free College Prep Workshops:** KHS continues to offer free college prep classes for junior and senior families. These start Sunday, August 27, and also run September 10, October 8, and October 15. [Click here for signup and more information.](#)

- **The SAT is moving to an all-digital testing format.** We will have our juniors take the practice SAT in October to experience this new format prior to taking the SAT in the spring of 2024.

- **Homecoming** is Friday, September 29 vs. Grayling and the dance is Saturday, September 30.

It is going to be a great year here at Kingsley High School!!!!

GO STAGS!!!

~Principal Chris Rapes



Meet Kingsley's New Assistant Principals

Last semester, Kingsley Area Schools' Administrative team identified the need for additional support at the middle and high school. The two-person leadership teams will allow both schools to invest more time in positive behavior measures, supporting teachers, and trying new things.



John Arnold: Assistant Middle School Principal

"I am excited to get in and mix it up with kids. I love engaging students and being that positive presence for them."

Mr. Arnold comes to the district with years of administrative, teaching, and coaching experience in various districts in Michigan, including Kalkaska most recently, as well as in Florida.

His role will be focused on creating a culture of positive behavior and facilitating parent communications.

"I'm going to be very visible in and around the building, just modeling and encouraging kids to use positive behavior, be good to each other, and be kind to each other."

Principal Heather Miller said the district administration team identified the need for additional support last semester.

"If a teacher writes a referral, or if students are having behavior struggles, John is going to be their number one person that they're going to be seeing," said Principal Miller.

Principal Miller will focus on teaching evaluations, providing instructional feedback, and supporting the teachers overall.

"My focus will shift more to being an instructional leader, which is what I was hired to do. I will help improve proficiency in our different core content areas," said Principal Miller.

Principal Miller says Mr. Arnold's best quality is his patience.

"He does a great job of sitting and listening to what's going on and thinking things through before jumping right into something. His patience is coupled with thoughtfulness so that he can help in the best way possible," said Principal Miller.

"He's down to earth, too. When he was here just for his interview and was walking the campus, the kids were naturally drawn to him. You know, he's 6'7" so he's definitely a presence! He's very relatable to kids and you could already see that the demeanor that he had with the kids was very positive."



Cody Wagatha: Assistant High School Principal

"I feel like Kingsley is one of the premier districts in Northern Michigan. I've wanted to work here for a long time."

Originally from Mesick, Mr. Wagatha's ties to the area and his specific interest in working in Kingsley made him stand out from other applicants, says Principal Chris Rapes.

"He wanted to come here. He said 'I want to come to Kingsley, I know I want to come to Kingsley, and I'm not looking anywhere else,'" said Principal Rapes. "We're getting somebody that's passionate to be here, and passionate to stay here."

Mr. Wagatha comes to KHS with nearly a decade of teaching experience at Pine River schools. He most recently worked at the middle school level and he's excited to return to working with high school students.

"At this age, their sense of humor is really developing and they're becoming who they're going to be. They're becoming young men and women and it's just fun to be a part of a big change," said Mr. Wagatha.

As assistant principal, he will be helping with teacher evaluations and supporting positive behavior initiatives.

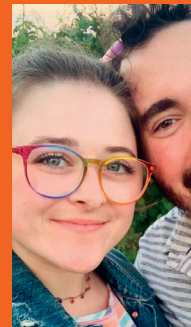
"I'm here to help kids and to support the teachers, to help them have what they need to do their job because I think we're in a really good spot to have a great year," said Mr. Wagatha.

"Cody is going to be an active part of the admin team. I don't view the assistant principal role here as an assistant, we are going to be co-administrators," said Principal Rapes.

Principal Rapes says he'd love to start a mentoring program in the school, and having a two-person admin team will allow him time to build it.

"We brought somebody in that's a great fit. He complements my weak areas. I hope that families know that his perspective makes us better," said Principal Rapes.

New Staff Spotlight



Olivia Akerly, Second Grade

Something surprising about me: I love lacrosse! I was a goalie for over 12 years at the varsity and collegiate level where I played year-round. I coached some at my high school alma mater as well while playing on the MSU club team. I hope to one day coach again to spread the love of this sport in northern MI!

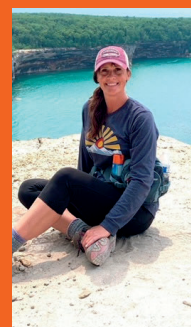
My favorite part of teaching: Second graders come in continuing to build upon their foundational skills and are ready to be challenged in their learning and independence.



Melinda Boudot, Assistant GSRP Preschool Teacher

My hobbies: I enjoy going on hikes, playing basketball, and spending time with my four kids and husband.

My favorite part of teaching: I love watching and seeing all the different personalities. Also watching how each student grows and learns throughout the year.



Laura Rowley, KHS Spanish & English Teacher

My favorite part of teaching: Learning Spanish myself as a teenager in a small town enhanced my life with meaningful travel, friendships, rewarding work, and even improved English skills. Seeing students attain these skills while enjoying the process is why I love teaching languages.

Something surprising about me: I have hiked the ancient Incan city of Machu Picchu, Peru. I dreamed of seeing it as a teenager in Spanish I class and worked hard to make it happen 26 years later.



A familiar face in a new role: Kathy Stein is now the Kingsley Elementary Behavior Coach!

"I have worked at Kingsley Area Schools for almost 10 years as a long-term substitute teacher. I live in Fife Lake with my family and I am a retired Delta Airlines flight attendant.

I look forward to helping our smallest students adjust to their new surroundings and helping our staff wherever needed."



Longtime educator Jason Stowe returns as Kingsley Interim Superintendent

He started on July 21 to help as Superintendent Reyburn transitioned to his new role in Fremont Schools. Mr. Stowe will serve until October 9, 2023.

"I am excited about coming back to Kingsley to help out with the transition. I will work with Mr. Reyburn to ensure a smooth transition," said Mr. Stowe.

"My job is to make sure that the staff has everything they need to be successful and make sure the start of school goes smoothly. Kingsley is a great place to be and I look forward to working with everyone again."



FIFTH GRADERS ATTEND ORIENTATION AT KINGSLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



Thank You, Sponsors, for supporting the first annual Kingsley Freshman Orientation!

- Burger King
- Culver's
- Playa Bowls
- Taco Bell
- J&S Hamburg South Airport
- Wendy's



FRESHMAN ORIENTATION 2023



STAFF ORIENTATION 2023



SUMMER BAND + CHOIR PERFORMANCES

High School Students! Sign Up for KHS' Free College Prep Workshops

Kingsley High School and Nextstep College & Career Planning are hosting a series of six free sessions for 9th-12 graders.

In the course, students will:

- Review their college plan
- Research colleges and review application requirements
- Learn what to ask for in a letter of recommendation
- Work on application essays
- Review the process for financial aid
- Identify scholarships

Mark your calendar for the dates below:

Sunday, September 10 | 3-4:30PM

- Organize and research college application requirements, visit tracker, scheduling classes

Sunday, September 24 | 3-4:30PM

- Letters of Recommendation, Transcript, Resume, Activities and Accomplishments

Sunday, October 8 | 3-4:30PM

- Choosing a College
- Fill out College Applications

Sunday, October 22 | 3-4:30PM

- CSS Profile, Expense Worksheet, College decision

**Weekday during October Conference Week
5:30-7:00PM**

- FAFSA

Sunday, December 3 | 3-4:30PM

- Writing the Personal Essay
- Where to find Scholarships, Scholarships Tracker



Scan the QR code to find more information and sign up.

GT Sherriff's Deputy Jason Roelofs joins Kingsley Area Schools as Resource Officer



Jason Roelofs has been a longtime fixture in Kingsley Area Schools. He's a parent to three Kingsley graduates and one current student, he's coached multiple teams over the years, and he's married to a Kingsley teacher.

This school year, he's taking on a new role in the district as the new School Resource Officer.

In mid-July, Grand Traverse County commissioners approved funding for the position, and Sherriff's Deputy Roelofs was hand-picked for the job.

"I'm excited to just be there for the kids," said Deputy Roelofs. "School safety will be my number one priority. But part of this job will not be law enforcement-related, it will be getting into classrooms, being a mentor, and being available for kids to talk to."

Deputy Roelofs will have an office at the high school but will rotate between all three schools.

"[He] will work to do all those things that a social worker is able to do. But then they also provide some of that school protection, some of the, you know, stiffening of a school because it's such a soft target," Superintendent Brad Reyburn said to 7&4 News in an interview.

"So it's really nice to have a person who can be the presence of helping with the social aspects of truancy and some of the social issues that our students are struggling with right now and then also being just that presence in the school that deters some negative activities."

Deputy Roelofs previously served as the School Resource Officer at KAS between 2006-2010, and he's excited to start and end his days at the school once again.

"I want the kids and parents to know that I have an open-door policy. If they have an issue and they want to talk, feel free to reach out to me," he said.

Deputy Roelofs has already started the transition to his new role and students will see him on their first day of school.

Connect with Kingsley Area Schools



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM
FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES,
DISTRICT NEWS, STUDENT
AND STAFF FEATURES AND
PHOTOS, AND MORE!

 Kingsley Area Schools

 @kingsleyareaschools



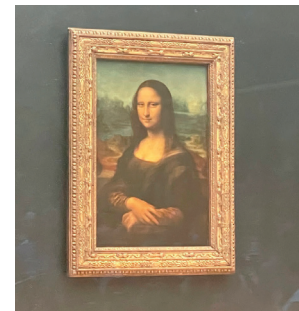
Board of Education

Our Board of Education meets monthly for regularly scheduled meetings at 7:00PM 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: September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11

To find the full board schedule or to read agendas, board policies, and meeting minutes, visit www.kingsleyschools.org. You may email the board at schoolboard@kingsleyschools.org.



Middle School Travel Club Visits London, Paris in Second Annual Summer Trip



By Andrew Sias
Kingsley Middle School Teacher
World History
asias@kingsleyschools.org

Please Note: This trip was organized through EF TOURS which is not associated with Kingsley Area Schools.

When a group of spirited middle school students embarked on a European adventure to London and Paris, they were not only met with iconic landmarks and cultural treasures, but also an exceptional tour director named Maciej. From the bustling streets of London to the romantic charm of Paris, this travel club's journey became an unforgettable experience of discovery, learning, and fun where history, art, and architecture came alive.



As we touched down at Heathrow Airport, excitement filled the air. Led by our expert tour director, we took an introductory walking tour of London. Our adventure began with the promise of days filled with history, art, food, and adventure.

London, UK

An unexpected highlight came in the form of a royal parade with King Charles riding a horse, adding a touch of regal enchantment to our journey.

We explored the Natural History Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum, and toured past the majestic Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. Next was a whirlwind tour through Piccadilly Circus. That day, we viewed St. Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, and the venerable Westminster Abbey.



The grand finale was the spectacular play "Wicked," a West End theater performance that left us spellbound. The next day, students delved into history as we ventured to the Tower of London, a place steeped in tales of intrigue, execution, and legends. The Tower Bridge awaited, providing an adrenaline-pumping experience as we walked across its glass floor, peering down at the River Thames below.

Later, the London Eye then gave us a completely different view of the city, allowing us to see all of London's boroughs.

Paris, France

Our journey commenced with a guided tour showcasing the city's most iconic landmarks, from the hubbub of **Place de la Concorde** to the elegance of **Champs-Élysées**. The group examined the **Arc de Triomphe** and learned of its history.

We then visited the mesmerizing palace and gardens of **Versailles**, a testament to opulence and artistic mastery. Guided by a local expert, we explored the **State Apartments** and were awestruck by the **Hall of Mirrors**.

Our Parisian exploration continued with another walking tour that took us past the **Notre Dame Cathedral**. We also immersed ourselves in art at the **Louvre**, toured **Montmartre**, and took in panoramic views of the **Sacre-Coer Basilica**.

Summer 2024: Visit Japan!

Want to go on the next Kingsley Middle School Travel Club Trip? Join us in Japan in June of 2024! The nine-day itinerary includes guided tours in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka.



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the trip details, itinerary, and more! *This trip is led by EF Tours which is not affiliated with Kingsley Area Schools.*

"The travel club's adventures aren't just about sightseeing; it's about personal growth and expanding horizons: navigating foreign public transportation systems, trying new foods, and being immersed in different languages and cultures. The journey to London and Paris transformed them into global citizens, igniting curiosity for exploration and a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of cultures and our commonalities." -Mr. Sias

KAS Makes District-Wide Technology Upgrades



"We're bringing learning into the 21st century a little more. We are constantly working to make improvements to make things even better."

Kingsley Area Schools' technology department has been busy, squeezing years of tech upgrades and infrastructure maintenance into just a few months.

This summer, technology specialists Marcia Inman and Nik VanWagner are working to install new classroom and building equipment that will modernize Kingsley's classrooms, increase connectivity and strengthen building and cyber security.

New Teacher Tech: laptops, projectors, document cameras and docking stations

Marcia and Nik replaced all of the 10-year-old desktops with sleeker computer systems and added laptops and docking stations to every classroom.

Each classroom now has upgraded projectors and document cameras.

"The laptops and docking stations will allow teachers to move their education environment to different places. They'll be able to take a class outside, or to the gym or library, while still staying connected and able to pull things up," said Nik. "Since the new projectors are everywhere, too, they can just take their computer and plug in somewhere else."

New Chromebooks

The district has invested in 400 new Chromebooks plus new Chromebook carts, so that every student will be able to use them during class time. Kindergarteners will be provided with special touchscreen versions.

New Security Systems & Cameras

125 new security cameras were installed at all three schools plus

the Central Office, transportation department, and athletic fields.

Last fall, the district also implemented a buzz-in security system at every school door. Community members, parents, and students, now have to use a camera doorbell admittance system to gain admittance.

New Network Infrastructure and Security

The district's old hardware made it impossible to upgrade to the latest software, including advanced security and anti-virus protection. Now that all of the computers are being replaced, Kingsley Area Schools will have state-of-the-art systems and security.

"Now, we've got a new firewall that sits at the edge of our network and kind of monitors everything that goes in and comes or comes out," said Marcia.

Expanded WiFi Coverage

New WiFi access points have been added across campus.

"It has longer and better coverage and can support more devices at one time. If teachers want to take their class outside, they'll still get WiFi," said Nik VanWagner.

New iPads for Kindergarten

This year, every Kindergarten room will have six iPads available plus touchscreen Chromebooks.

New Academic Digital Streaming Service

Teachers and students will now be able to access Swank Digital Campus,

an online streaming platform with a catalog of 35,000 movie titles for use in the classroom and school.

A New Face

New technology specialist and 2022 Kingsley High School graduate Nik VanWagner joined the IT department full-time in Spring 2023, but he has been training for his role for a long time.

"In high school, I was the 'call-him-before-calling-the-tech-guy' student for a while. A few teachers, if they had a problem, knew my schedule and they'd call my teacher and say 'Hey, can you send him down here to fix this?'"

Nik interned with the school's tech team last year and was later offered a full-time role.

"I like waking up every morning and saying okay, this is what I'm going to change today, or, this is what I'm going to make better today. I also like being here full-time because school wasn't my strong point or anything, but I liked the people here,"

Marcia and Nik would like to thank everyone for their patience and support in installing and implementing the new systems.

"All of this would not be possible without the support of Northwest Education services and the supportive administration and staff at Kingsley Area Schools."

Cafeteria News: Free Breakfast, Lunch for All Students; Plus, Donor Makes All Accounts Whole

Free Breakfast and Lunch for All Students

To offer this program to all students, dining services needs families to fill out a few forms.

We are pleased to inform you that as part of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, Kingsley Area Schools will be participating in the Michigan School Meals Program, which allows ALL students enrolled in our district a healthy breakfast and lunch at NO Charge to your household each day.

To be able to offer this program to all students we do need some household information.

- If your student attends Kingsley Elementary or Middle School, the Education Benefits Form (EBF) needs to be completed.
- For students attending Kingsley High School, the Free & Reduced Price Meal Application needs to be completed.
- Forms will be available to you at your student's open house or you can save time by completing the forms online at [Kingsley.familyportal.cloud](https://kingsley.familyportal.cloud) and selecting the form for your student.

These reports are critical in determining the amount of money that our school receives from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs like Title IA, At-risk (31a), Title II A, E Rate, etc. These supplemental programs have the potential to offer support and services for our students including, but not limited to:

- Instructional support (staff, supplies & materials, etc.)
- Non-instructional services (counseling, social work, health services, etc.)
- Professional Learning for staff
- Parent and Community engagement supplies and activities
- Technology

We are asking that you please complete and submit these forms as soon as possible to ensure that additional funding for our school is available to meet the needs of our students. All information on the report submitted is confidential.

All forms completed and turned in before September 8th will be entered into a prize drawing.

No Charging Allowed for School Year

No charging will be permitted this year; all accounts must have enough funds on them to receive extra entrees, ala carte items, individual milk, etc. or pay with cash.

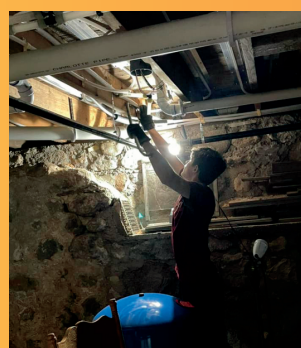
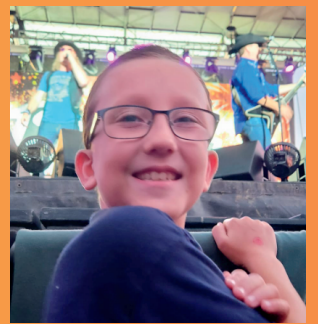
Donor Pays Off Student Accounts

There was also a generous donation made to the school and ALL student accounts have been made whole.

Thank you!



Hey, Stags! What Did You do this Summer?



From left to right. **Row 1:** Lily swam with pigs in Bahamas, Schramm kiddos got a new baby brother, Hunter went camping, kayaking, bike riding, and fishing with his cousins, Carley took two head of cattle to the fair, The Tanaka Family went to Niagara Falls, Jensen had a blast at the Buckley Old Engine Show. **Row 2:** Kingsley kids posing after their cow shows, Jack and Zora enjoyed several Michigan beaches, RJ learned how to drive a tractor, Adison Baldinger, made the TC Waves Travel Softball team, Sylvia Thomas played with butterflies and danced, danced, Daniel went to his first concert in Indiana and got to be Front Row for his favorite band, Big and Rich! **Row 3:** Annaleigh and Brooklyn Bunker went to Ocqueoc Falls with family, Kennedy went to her first Tiger's game, Aiden and Grady got to spend four days on Mackinac Island, Matthew caught a lot of fish this summer, Jaxson Gillhespy at Clingmans Dome in Tennessee, Emma went to Florida and Tennessee. **Row 4:** Eva and Maddy put in some crazy hours at the track this summer, Soalla had so much fun at Raging Waters, Hunter Wagner (3rd grade) is always reading, The Ullom family took on Michigans adventure before heading to Wisconsin Dells, Max went zip lining in the UP, Blake gained a baby sister on August 16th! **Row 5:** Carley, Molly and Kylie at Buckingham Palace, Sawyer went to the fair with his calf named Dirty, Brayden Sherman (8th grade) showed his steer named Bongo at the fair, Evander and Journey Achard went to Mackinaw City, Alex MG went hiking with camp to Pictured Rocks, Emily and Eden got their ears pierced. **Row 6:** Grace went to Medieval Times in Toronto and was named Queen of the Tournament, Brielle and Makenzie spent a lot of time outside and in the water. Violet lost her two front teeth and spent many days at the lake swimming and fishing, Troy helped work on our farmhouse remodel, Alex went to see Bluey's Big Play in Grand Rapids, Brooklyn and Mia (and Cam, who's starting in preschool this year) got a new puppy named Mack and went camping a LOT! **Thanks for your submissions, Stags!**