



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

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

IN THIS ISSUE



Staff Features: Meet Mr. Burnor and Mrs. Acosta
page 2



**Celebrating the Retirees!
Retiring Staff Members
Reflect on Careers** page 8



**Life Skills Students
Perform Play with
OpenSpot Theater** page 5



**Meet Kingsley's Music
Directors, Mr. Dubay and
Mr. Evans** page 6



**7th Grade Teacher
Feature** page 7



**High School Writing
Students Write Book with
First Graders** page 5



**Three Kingsley Athletes
Sign Letters of Intent**
page 3



**Art Students Awarded at
Art Attack** page 3



**Seniors, 8th Graders go
to Wilderness Property
for Science Day** page 7

KHS Teacher Recognized as STEM Leader.....7
Kingsley Community Bulletins.....4

KINGSLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL SECRETARY KAY WAGNER TO RETIRE AFTER 43 YEARS IN THE DISTRICT



For 30 years, Mrs. Kay Wagner has been the first friendly face that students, staff, and families see when they walk through the doors of Kingsley Middle School. This will be her final school year in the front office as she plans to retire in June 2023.

"I have, kind of, mixed feelings, because I've been here so long, and it's like part of my family," she said.

Mrs. Wagner has become family to many in the district over the years, serving students as a librarian, reading aide, and secretary since starting with the schools 43 years ago.

"I started in 1978. The superintendent came in and said, 'you're going to be the elementary librarian.' And I argued with him and told him I didn't have any training. Well, I took a class up at the college and I took a class through the state of Michigan for the Library Association, and I got the library background," said Mrs. Wagner. "Then one day, the superintendent came into the library while I was reading to the small children and he said 'Hmm, see, I told you, you could do it!' and he walked out."

Over the years, Mrs. Wagner has seen the district grow from a one-building campus to a class B school system with 1,500 students.

She says this time feels right to move on to her next chapter. *Story continued on page 2.*

KINGSLEY SCHOOLS
402 FENTON STREET
KINGSLEY, MI 49649

PRSTD US POSTAGE PAID
CADILLAC, MI PERMIT #147

BOX HOLDER
KINGSLEY MI 49649

Staff Features



Jim Burnor
KHS Woodshop

"The stuff they learn in here gets more and more valuable as they get older. They can save themselves a lot of money just by learning how to use tools!"



Amanda Acosta
KMS Spanish

"We're not *studying* the language, we're *using* the language. Some days we don't use English at all. It doesn't have to be perfect, but if someone can understand you, you get your point across."

To read more about Mrs. Acosta and Mr. Burnor go to kingsleyschools.org/blog

9th Graders Attend MiCareerQuest



On May 11, Kingsley ninth graders and 2,000 other local students explored different jobs and industries at the MiCareerQuest expo at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center. The event featured 50+ exhibitors who offered hands-on activities that helped students learn about high-demand, high-wage careers in the area.



Staff and students decorated her front office with balloons and signage, and they hung bandaids and candy from the ceiling, two things she has given out to students thousands of times over the years.

KMS Secretary Mrs. Kay Wagner Reflects on 43 Years of Service to Kingsley Area Schools

"I have three children, and they all live out of state. Two of them have brand new homes and I'd like to visit them. I think they were probably my biggest concern," said Mrs. Wagner. "I don't know what retirement will look like, exactly, it's kind of up in the air. So I just take each day at a time."

"I think I would like to go and read books or help somebody read, like a mentor. I would like to go out there and volunteer."

"I think my favorite part of the job is watching these kids grow from adolescence to young people that are ready to go on to high school. Very nice," said Mrs. Wagner. "This age group...they're halfway between wanting to be babies to being adults. It's a challenge."

As the secretary, Mrs. Wagner serves many roles: administrative assistant, attendance line, pupil counting, and immunization compliance through the state.

Unofficially, Mrs. Wagner also serves as the makeshift nurse and counselor to heal boo-boos and offer a listening ear.

"I'll answer the phone and take care of bloody noses, I've had a couple of broken arms, and then the phone rings while you're trying to do that, and meanwhile you've got somebody in front of you looking at you in the face that you need to get back to," said Mrs. Wagner.

"I guess I've been here so long that I can answer the phone and give out medicine and write excuses for kids and be able to handle all of it at once."

"I don't think the community realizes all the things I do. Because there's a lot of kids that come in in the morning and they got a heavy heart or something like that. And I've had a lot of people come in and tell me things that they probably shouldn't. But I always have a listening ear."

She says the school and its staff have also helped her through difficult times.

"I lost my husband a couple of years ago and I think that's probably what's kept me afloat, it was I had like a second family here," she said. "Now, I'm going to run our farm just like he would want me to do."

By Chloe McCarthy



Congratulations to senior Kelly Huis who had an art piece accepted into the Northwestern Michigan College Art Show! Her scratch art picture titled, "Cat Scratch Art" received an honorable mention. Great job, Kelly! - Art Teacher Sue Graham

KHS SCIENCE TEACHER NANCY OLENCHECK WINS GRANT



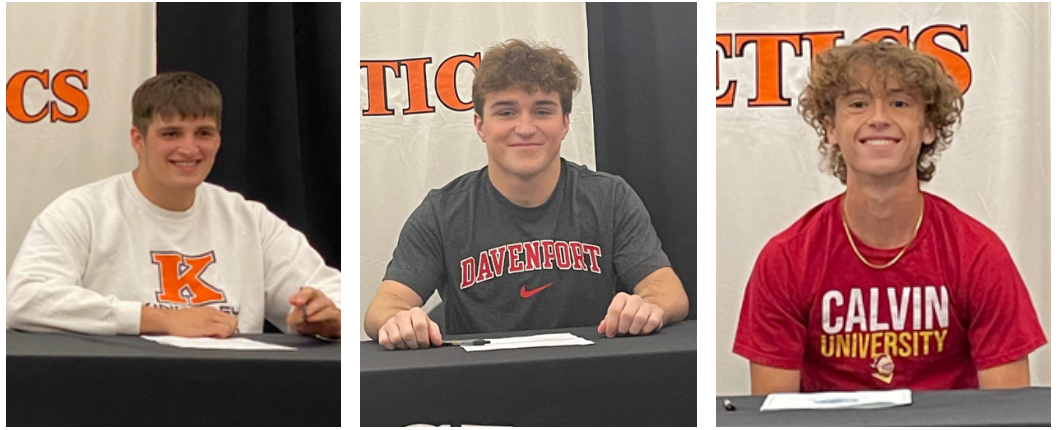
Congratulations to KHS chemistry teacher Nancy Olencheck for being recognized as an influential STEM educator in our region! She is developing new courses that help students excel and prepares them for a research-based STEM career. She won \$250 to enhance her classroom from the Northwestern Lower Mi STEM Network.

KMS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS MUSICAL



The Kingsley Middle School Drama Club performed "Alice@Wonderland - the Musical" on May 19. The show put a modern twist on the classic story and included multiple songs and choreographed dances. Way to go, Drama Club!

THREE KINGSLEY ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT



Kingsley wrestlers Ray VanDyke and Kyan Fessenden have committed to continuing their athletic careers at Davenport University! Ray plans to study nursing and Kyan will study urban education. Connor Johnson signed his letter of intent to run track & field at Calvin University while studying engineering. Congratulations, Stags!

KHS WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS LEARN HISTORY FROM LOCAL SENIOR CITIZENS



Mrs. Newell's written communications students teamed up with local senior citizens for a special local history project. They interviewed seniors at The Rock about what life was like when they were in high school. A few weeks later, they returned to share their history essays with their partner. Student Kaylee Schelich (bottom left) learned that when her partner Connie was a teenager, she was paid 50 cents an hour for babysitting. She also learned that in the 1960's, the average age for a woman to marry was 20 years old, compared to a current average of 27-28. Layla Hickerson (top right) and her partner Cheri talked about how family dynamics have changed over the years; and how in the 60s, it was expected that women would stay home and care for the family and house while men worked and earned a living. All of the seniors and their partners enjoyed this intergenerational project and opportunity to learn from one another.

KINGSLEY HIGH SCHOOL ART STUDENTS EXHIBIT AND COMPETE AT ANNUAL ART ATTACK

On Thursday, March 4, Kingsley High School's art students displayed their works at the Kingsley Library for the annual Art Attack, sponsored by the Kingsley Friends of the Library. The showcase included a gallery and a competition with cash prizes, juried by an NMC art instructor. Take a look at some of the award-winning art to the left.



Top row, left: Kelly Huis' *Dad in Diner*, Best in Show. Top right: Austin Wyskochil's *Art History Project: representing Joseph Stellas*, best drawing. Bottom left: Sarah Johnson's *Old Brushes*, best painting. Middle bottom: Brooke Westenbarger's *Tea Cattle*, best clay sculpture. Bottom right: Sawyer Musser's *Spook*, best sculpture-non-clay.

Work for Kingsley Schools

Kingsley Area Schools is hiring for multiple positions. Work in a district of excellence, live in an area of unspoiled beauty. Scan to see job postings and apply!



Serve Up Smiles with Chartwells Schools Dining

Love the Food Service Industry, but wish you had weekends and holidays off? Bring your culinary experience to Chartwells School Dining!

We are currently looking for Part Time Assistant Cook(s) and on-call Substitute Food Service Workers for the 2023-2024 school year at Kingsley Area Schools.

- HS Diploma or GED, leadership qualities & culinary experience a plus!
- Competitive hourly pay & benefits.
- Hours are Mon-Fri as needed with major holidays off.
- Apply Online at: compassgroupcareers.com or indeed.com

Sign up for Girls' Hoop Camp

The 2023 Kingsley Hoop Clinic will be held June 14-16 at Kingsley High School for girls in 3rd-8th grade.

8:30AM - 10:30AM for 3rd - 6th graders
10:00AM - Noon for 7th and 8th graders

Players will receive instruction, drills for skill development, team games, and individual contests.

The camp cost is \$50. All players will receive a camp t-shirt and a basketball. Siblings are half-price. (Two girls = \$75). Payment can be made in advance or at the door, with checks being made payable to Kingsley Area Schools.

How to Sign Up

If you plan on attending, please return a signup slip with your email, name, grade for fall 2023, adult t-shirt size, contact phone number and alternate phone to Matt Schelich in person or at mschelich@kingsleyschools.org. Sign-ups can also be done at the door.

2023-24 Preschool

GSRP: Free State Funded Preschool

To apply for a GSRP slot parents will need to call 1-800-632-7334 or go to [NMCAA.net](https://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 2023.

GSRP slots will be offered to qualifying at risk families based on a series of risk factors including low family income.

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.

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. There are no income qualifiers to be accepted into the program, and the cost is \$32 per day (for the 2022-23 year, subject to change).

The \$32 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. Filling out a preregistration form does **NOT** guarantee enrollment. Letters will be mailed in May verifying acceptance. Please complete the form below and return it 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 _____

Home Phone # _____ Work/Cell Phone # _____

*Tuition Paperwork mailed in April. *GSRP: [NMCAA.net](https://nmcaa.net), Early Childhood Tab, Application, Pre-Application

Please note your preferred preschool method.

_____ Tuition Schedule: _____ (days of week)

_____ GSRP (State Funded Free Preschool for Monday through Thursday) Application completed at [NMCAA.net](https://nmcaa.net). This is an income based program.

A NOTE FROM DINING SERVICES

THE SCHOOL YEAR IS COMING TO AN END AND WE ARE HOPING TO BE ABLE TO OFFER ALL STUDENTS FREE MEALS FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR. ONE OF THE FACTORS FOR US TO RECEIVE THIS GRANT IS THAT ALL STUDENTS' ACCOUNTS ARE PAID IN FULL REGARDLESS OF THEIR BENEFITS AT THE END OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

SPORTS PHYSICALS

\$15

2023/24 SPORTS SEASON

K-TOWN YOUTH HEALTH CENTER

112 S Brownson Ave
Kingsley, Michigan 49649
231.263.5895

SERVING YOUTH AGES 10-21



SPECIAL PRICE GOOD FROM
APRIL 17TH - JUNE 30TH

DON'T WAIT TO SCHEDULE
GET YOUR SPORTS PHYSICAL EARLY
IT'S GOOD FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

KHS Students Write Books with First Grade Buddies



Every Spring, KHS teacher Missy Newell's written communications class takes on a very special assignment.

"Each of my students has one or two first grade buddies from Mrs. Jarrold's class. The high schooler interviews the first grader and creates a book," said Mrs. Newell.

After that, the senior and junior students go back to the high school to write their book, which sometimes features special illustrations by their first grade friends. Every student was smiling when they got to read their book together for the first time!



KMS Life Skills Students Perform Play with OpenSpot Theatre



This Spring, OpenSpot Theater company worked with Mrs. DeMoulied's students for six weeks to write, rehearse, and perform an original play! OpenSpot specializes in helping students of all abilities gain confidence on stage and off.

Connect with Kingsley Area Schools



FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

 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: June 1 at 4:00pm (Special Meeting), June 15 at 4:00pm (Special Meeting), and regular meetings on June 26, July 10, and August 14.

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.

By Jena VanWagner



Meet Band Director Lance Dubay

Mr. Dubay grew up in Petoskey and studied music at Northern Michigan University.

"In college, I was by no means a great tuba player or a great musician. I struggled so hard, which I think is why I've been able to be successful. I have literally lived every struggle with performing."

Mr. Dubay joined Kingsley Area Schools in 2018 after the departure of longtime band director Tom Clair. Since day one, his goal has been to grow the program and get more kids involved in band.

"Growing up, I was in band and had a not-so-good home life. Music was my outlet. I try to make sure kids know that it can be an outlet. Music is really secondary. My goal is to make good, productive members of society.

It's about hard work, honoring commitments, and being held to a higher standard, which is important in all things you do."

Mr. Dubay is finishing his master's in education, specifically pedagogy. He has been recruited for a few PhD programs and says he wants to continue his education because "we need more band directors. I want to be the one to help produce the next generation of good band directors."

In the summer, he instructs at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. He also does a lot of writing and arranging. He's currently working on piecing together works from American composer Percy Grainger.

"I get bored if I'm not busy. I will have time to rest when I'm dead."



Meet Choir Director Andy Evans

Kingsley Choir Director Andy Evans grew up surrounded by music.

"My mom was the choir director for 30 years at the Leland United Methodist Church. From the time I was a year old, they were passing the baby around during rehearsals, and as my siblings and I grew up, we were part of the adult choir."

He began his musical career as a vocal major in college before switching to upright bass.

Eventually, his professors started passing gigs to him, and that's when his rockstar era began: Mr. Evans spent many years touring including in parts of South Korea, and he rubbed shoulders with big name musicians while living in Nashville.

But it was a musician from Randy Travis' touring band who led Mr. Evans to a teaching career.

"The fiddle player from Randy Travis's road band and I worked together a lot. His wife was one of the top public school orchestra directors in Nashville. She always told me 'you need to be a teacher!' and she would have me go and do workshops with her students."

He found a job as an orchestra director in Metro Nashville. Three years later, he moved to Northern Michigan with his family.

The rest, as they say, is history. Today, Mr. Evans is celebrating 20 years as the choir director at Kingsley Area Schools.

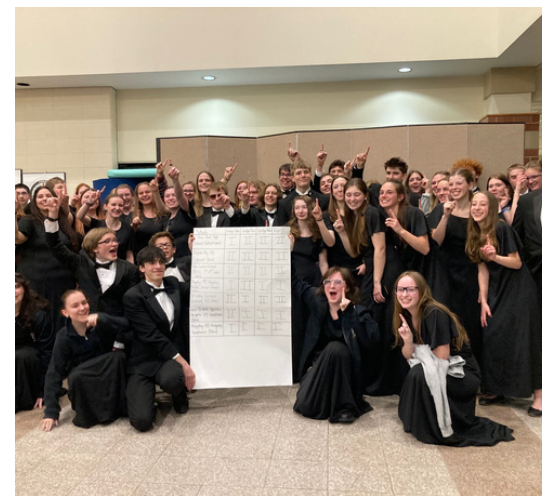
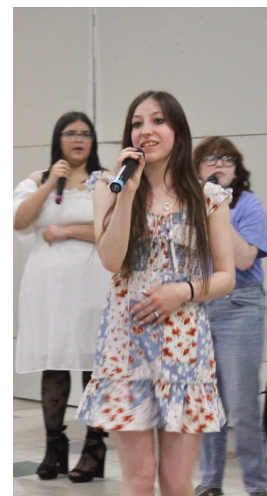
"I love my choir. This is just the most amazing group of kids."

Congratulations to the Kingsley Middle and High School Bands for receiving overall ratings of 1 at their State competitions. This is the highest rating a band can get and not achieved by very many. The culture of excellence in our band program is known far and wide!

June will be a busy month for the bands as they finish up the year with graduation performances and prepare for summer. For the first time, the Kingsley Marching Band will play on Mackinac Island for the Lilac Festival on June 25. The Kingsley Jazz Prism has been invited to perform at the Cherry Royale Parade and the Fife Lake 4th of July Parade.

The funds raised during the year are being put to good use with scholarships for seniors and band camps being awarded. In addition, the bands will have field trips to Craig's Cruisers for the middle school and Michigan Adventure for the high school. It's great to reward the students for all of the hard work they've put in during the year.

Marching Band Camp will be July 24-28 to prepare for the upcoming fall marching season. The band will be putting together a great show! We hope you all have a wonderful (and musical) summer!



Top left moving clockwise: Choral Fusion performs at the annual Dessert Choir Concert. The Kingsley High School band celebrates earning high scores at the District Festival in Gaylord. Jillian Crockett performs at the Dessert Choir concert. The Kingsley Jazz Prism plays at the Kalkaska Trout Festival Parade and wins the award for "Most School Spirit."

Teacher Feature: Meet the 7th Grade Team



"We're their biggest cheerleaders. We have to encourage them while they're trying to figure out who they are. It's so easy to lean toward the negative parts of themselves, and we are the ones always fighting to convince them that they are good enough."

Seventh graders are smack dab in the middle of everything: they're trying to figure out who they are while also beginning to think about their futures.

It's also a foundational grade where they learn skills like basic math and reading comprehension techniques that they'll rely on for the rest of their lives.

"It's an equal mix of being prepared for eighth grade, which really prepares them for high school, and they're already thinking about their futures," said math teacher Stacie Jankewicz.

Seventh grade traditions include a field trip to the Sleeping Bear Dunes and career explorations and experiences.

"It's a year of significant physical and social and academic growth. It's awesome to watch them grow confident in their abilities because they can do things that they didn't realize they could do," said ELA teacher Lisa Flees.

Read on to learn about the teachers and lessons of 7th grade!

Andrew Sias - History

"We go from prehistory up through the end of the Western Roman Empire. As we go through each of those eras, we look at them through the lens of the four main social studies disciplines; history, geography, economics, and civics. By the end of the year, I have them design a society for a colony on another planet. We look at it from all perspectives, like what is the economy like, what kinds of jobs are there, what is the government system, etc. I want them to be able to apply the skills that they've learned throughout the year on that final project."

Lisa Flees - ELA

"We do a lot of analyzing, thinking, and inference-making. We do some writing, grammar, and some argument. We read A Long Walk to Water, which is centered in South Sudan during the Sudanese War where the last boys and girls had to flee and seek out refugee camps and many of them ended up going and living in the US," said Mrs. Flees.

Lori Nolf - Science

"I teach physical science. It's an introduction to chemistry and physics. The whole beginning of the year is a lot with chemical interactions and chemical changes, and then the second half of the year, it's all the physical science. So kinetic energy, gravity, magnetism, electricity, waves, wave energy, how things move or don't move. It's a lot of hands-on labs, which the kids like."

Stacie Jankewicz - Math

"This math class has the transferable skills that they need. Everybody needs seventh grade math. For example, can you go to Home Depot and figure out the square footage or make a conversion if the flooring comes in square inches or something like that? Or understanding unit pricing, or knowing how much something costs when they're is a percentage off at the store. I could go on all day."

Kingsley Seniors, 8th Graders visit School's Wilderness Property for Annual Science Day



On Friday, May 19, Kingsley 8th graders and seniors visited the school's 500-acre wilderness property for a hands-on science lesson in a real-life setting!

The 6th Annual Science Day, organized by science teachers Tiffany Smith and Boone Scharp, offers students an opportunity to see their lessons come to life as they hone in on their powers of observation and discovery while utilizing their practical skills.

8th graders rotated through nine stations across the property that were set up and hosted by senior wilderness students.

Activities included water quality testing, studying macroinvertebrate species, fire-building, survival bracelet making, teambuilding, bluebird house observations, shelter building, geocaching, and balloon launching.





Celebrating the 2023 Retirees

Thank you for your years of service, hard work, dedication, and passion. You have changed many lives!



Sue Billiau, Kingsley Elementary School

"I've been a paraprofessional for 11 years. My favorite part of the job is teaching the kids how to read. The moment when you see the 'I get it!' look in their eyes is priceless! In retirement, I am looking forward to moving back home to California so I can be close to my family and also my daughter who is attending college at the University of Oregon next year."



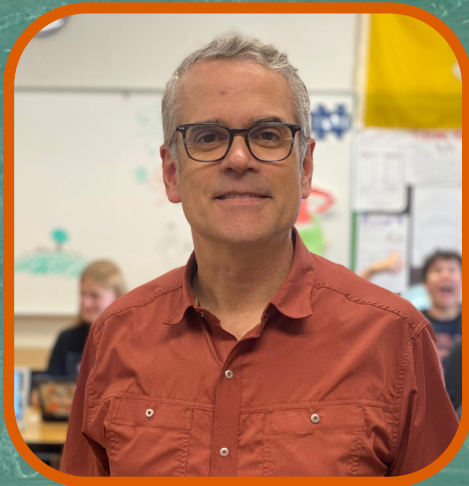
Cathie Bott, Kingsley Elementary School

"I've been here 30 years. I love the kids and the people I work with. I always felt like I was making a difference. In retirement, I don't have any plans. I don't know what it will look like! We'll have to find out. Maybe a bit of travel, get away from winter for a few weeks. Kingsley is a great school and the people are so community-oriented. It's going to be bittersweet to leave because I've made such good friendships here, and I love the kids."



Linda Gursinski, Kingsley Elementary School

"I have been a special education paraprofessional in my five years here, starting in kindergarten and preschool. I just love their enthusiasm and love for learning, they're so bright-eyed. I'm going to miss my days here and hopefully, I'll return to visit and do some subbing when I can. I just purchased a cottage on Lake Huron, and I'm looking forward to possibly moving there this summer and spending the whole summer there."



Bob Keena, Kingsley High School

"I have 32 years in education with 30 years in Kingsley as a middle and high school teacher. The most rewarding part of teaching is working with the kids and watching them pursue their interests. I will miss daily interactions with the students. I'm looking forward to traveling with my wife after I retire. It has been an honor to work with the Kingsley community!"



Kelly Knight, Kingsley High School

"I started teaching in Kingsley in the fall of 1996. The teaching staff and students here is what makes it a pleasure. It's a cohesive unit that is truly focused on what the best educational practices are for our students. There are so many memories that I will cherish but it is time for me to say goodbye and look forward to this new chapter in my life - I'll never have to grade another essay, yippee! Thank you, Kingsley High School, for a wonderful experience."



Missy Newell, Kingsley High School

"I have worked for Kingsley Schools for 25 years, and this was my 35th year in education! I have taught at Kingsley Middle School and Kingsley High School. The most rewarding part is helping students learn, develop, and grow. I will miss the interaction with students and coworkers and the KHS Drama Club, but I'm really looking forward to traveling with my husband in retirement! We bought a camper last summer so we'll definitely do some camping and traveling."



Justine Rinehart, Kingsley Middle School

"I can't even talk about [my retirement]," Mrs. Rinehart said, choking up. "I just love sixth grade because they're still kids and you see the kid in them, but you can still have meaningful conversations as well because they're old enough to do that. My classes were all about practicing good science and good science practices, recognizing evidence, making claims based on evidence, thinking a little deeper to make inferences, and lab safety. We did a lot of hands-on activities."



Todd Vanslebrouck
Assistant Facilities Director

From everyone at Kingsley Area Schools,
congratulations on your retirement, and thank
you for your service to the district!



Kay Wagner, Kingsley Middle School

"I started here in 1978. My favorite part of the job is watching these kids grow from adolescence to young people that are ready to go on to high school. They're halfway between wanting to be babies to being adults. It's a challenge. In retirement, I think I would like to go and read books or help somebody read, like a mentor. I would like to go out there and volunteer."