



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE" February 2024 kingsleyschools.org

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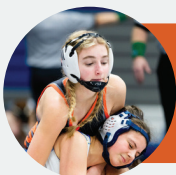
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GROW, COOK, SEW! SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE STUDENTS LEARN LIFE SKILLS AT KMS



"I love it when my students feel success with things they didn't think they could do. This is a safe place where they can practice and mess up." -Sustainable Science Teacher Tiffany Smith

On any given day in Kingsley Middle School's Sustainable Science class, you may find students huddled around a griddle cooking a recipe, or with their heads down at the seat of a sewing machine.

In Sustainable Science, Ms. Tiffany Smith and her students explore basic life skills like cooking, sewing, and planting and harvesting food using a hydroponic system. Lessons have included sewing by hand and with a machine, cross-stitching, and basic cooking skills like chopping, seasoning, sauteing, baking, air-frying, and more.

Teacher Tiffany Smith says that whether they're making pancakes or sewing an apron, it's never about the end result. (continued on page 2)

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Sustainable Science (continued)

Sometimes recipes don't work out and we burn food or we put too much baking soda in our recipe. That's a part of the process and let's be honest, we have all done that!" she said. "It is fun as a teacher watching them both succeed and fail, and when they fail, I love seeing them overcome those challenges."

Her students experience a lot of "firsts" in her class. Many have never touched a sewing machine or grown their food.

"I love it when my students feel success with things they didn't think they could do, like when they use the sewing machine for the first time or sew a pillow

and look at their completed project," said Ms. Smith.

This year, students have made a variety of recipes, including spaghetti, tacos, stir fry, kale chips, baked pumpkin seeds, Christmas cookies, breakfast wraps, pancakes, baked vegetables, cinnamon rolls, chili and more!

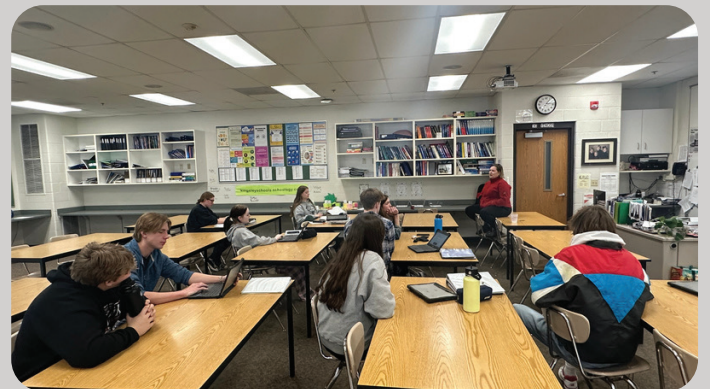
"The students say they love the freedom of learning things in school that they typically wouldn't," said Ms. Smith. "Many of them responded by saying that they love being able to taste what they grow and what they cook. I think they just basically love doing something different."

"I love watching them enjoy a meal they made and telling me that they have never tried anything like it before. I feel like I have accomplished the goal of the class!"

Top left: Ms. Smith and her students are growing fresh kale, dill, and basil from their hydroponics kits and using them in recipes in class. Top right: Students prepared breakfast wraps. Bottom left: Ms. Smith assists during a lesson on how to cook chicken stir-fry. Right corner: Students cross-stitched fun designs like the flower and pufferfish, decorated cookies, and designed custom pancakes, like one that looks like Luigi, using colored batter.

Ms. Olenchek's Research Class to Present Projects at Upcoming Science Fair

Next month, ten KHS science students will head downstate to present research projects at the Flint Regional Science and Engineering Fair March 15-17. Ms. Olenchek tasked students with finding a topic that interested them and formulating an experiment and study around it. Their projects aim to answer a variety of questions, including "What are the absorbency levels of different beauty blenders?", "How can we improve foster care applications?", "How does arc affect shooting percentage in basketball?", and more. Good luck, students!



Last month, two Kingsley actors took the stage at the Old Town Playhouse in Traverse City. Kingsley freshman Liam Schramm and 8th grader Mason Kanakis brought magic to the production of "Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic." Liam played Oliver Rivers, a math genius completely lost in a magic school, and Mason played a series of characters including the hilarious Goyle. Both are veterans at the Playhouse and have participated in multiple Young Company shows. Bravo!

KHS Offering Free PSAT and SAT Courses this Winter



By Lori Heitmeyer
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Dear Kingsley Parents,
Guardians, and Students,

Spring testing is right around the corner, and Kingsley High School offers an amazing opportunity for your children to prepare for testing.

It is important to note that PSAT and SAT testing offer a new digital format this year, and students are not familiar with all of the tools and new format of the test.

Any student in grades 9-12 is encouraged to attend FREE classes to learn this new platform for testing. These classes will be held on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:30 in the commons or the library.

These classes are specifically designed to:

- Prepare students for timed test-taking
- Relieve test anxiety
- Provide practice time for each subject and area
- Offer subject-specific tips
- Reveal test layout and answers

This is a great opportunity for KHS students to learn and practice the new digital format, build confidence, and fully prepare for spring testing.

Upcoming Sessions:

Reading & Writing
Sunday, February 11
3:00-4:30PM

Math Module 1&2
Sunday, February, 25
3:00-4:30PM

Math Practice Review/Study
Sunday, March 10
3:00-4:30PM

Students can also take a full practice test on their own at any time.

No books are required. Students are asked to bring a computer.

Want to sign up? Scan the link below with your phone's camera!



2024 Scholarships

Exciting news! 2024 Local scholarships are becoming available.

Seniors - Please keep a close eye on the Class of 2024 Google Classroom as this will be updated on a daily basis. Be sure to pay attention to the deadlines as each scholarship will have different due dates. Parents are welcome to join the Google Classroom and the code is: keq6uu7

The Grand Traverse Community Foundation scholarships became available on January 18.

These are local scholarships for Kingsley students.

Please fill out the application on the link below. If you have any questions, please let me know.



The deadline for most of these scholarships is March 1 unless otherwise noted.



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



Sign up for Free SAT/PSAT Classes at Kingsley High School!

Any student in grades 9-12 is encouraged to attend FREE classes to learn the new, digital SAT platform for testing. These classes will be held on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:30 in the commons or the library. For more info see page 3.

Scan code below to sign up.



Coffee Chats

with Superintendent
Joshua T. Rothwell

Every third Thursday of
the Month 8:30AM-
9:30AM at the Kingsley
Branch Library

Next Coffee Chat
Thursday, February 15

All are welcome!



Upcycle with the Middle School Art Department

Do you have some cool stuff lying around that is just begging to be turned into an art project? Don't trash it - Ms. Tiffany Eichler's art class is looking for unique supplies!

Recently, they got a donation of wallpaper samples which they used to make beautiful Christmas ornaments.

Do you have something to contribute? Email Ms. Eichler at teichler@kingsleyschools.org.

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,



Two Trustees Join the Board of Education



On Monday, January 8, 2024, two new trustees joined the Kingsley Board of Education after the departure of board president Tony Temple and trustee Heather Bartelmay.

Courtney Guy and Josh Green were appointed to the board after being selected from a pool of six applicants.

Both new trustees are Kingsley graduates who are looking to make a difference in their hometowns. Read on below!



Courtney Guy

What drove Courtney to join the school board? She says she didn't want to be "stagnant," No pun intended. A KHS graduate and mom of two Kingsley elementary schoolers, she says she wanted to be part of Kingsley's future. "I am a local, I was born and raised here. As our community grows, I'm excited to see how we are going to navigate that and how we are going to grow

the school," she said. "I am an incredibly good listener and am very compassionate towards everybody pretty much."



Josh Green

Josh Green is also a Kingsley High School graduate. Throughout his career across several science-related jobs, he's had the chance to interact with and teach students, which piqued his interest in working with the district.

"I'm excited to be a part of the decision-making process about the policies that are going to help teachers and students succeed," said Mr. Green. "I went to the school and the teachers here were great for me and they helped me to succeed, and I'm just so excited to be able to give back."

"I'm a really friendly person to approach and talk to so if anyone would like to just say hi to me, if they see me out and about and in chat, I would be totally up for that."

Connect with Kingsley Area Schools



Follow us on Facebook and 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 | 2/12 6:00PM

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.

Student Athletes of the Week

Max Goethals



Max Goethals is a senior on the varsity wrestling team and has had an outstanding start to the 2023-2024 wrestling season with a 10-1 overall record and winning the 190-lb weight class at Allendale, going 3-0 on the day. Max also excels in football at Kingsley while carrying a 3.78 grade point average.

Annie Strang



Annie is a sophomore on the varsity girls basketball team and scored nine points versus Frankfort and 18 against Onkama, making six 3's on the week. Annie also excels in softball while carrying a 3.3 grade point average.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



Kingsley Wrestling Thank you to Pattersnap Photography for capturing shots from the Girls' meet in Gladwin and the Boys' Home Quad in January!



Support the Varsity Basketball Teams at their Home Games this Month!

Boys Varsity

2/1 vs Suttons Bay @7:00PM
 2/6 vs Buckley @7:00PM
 2/15 vs Cheboygan @7:00PM

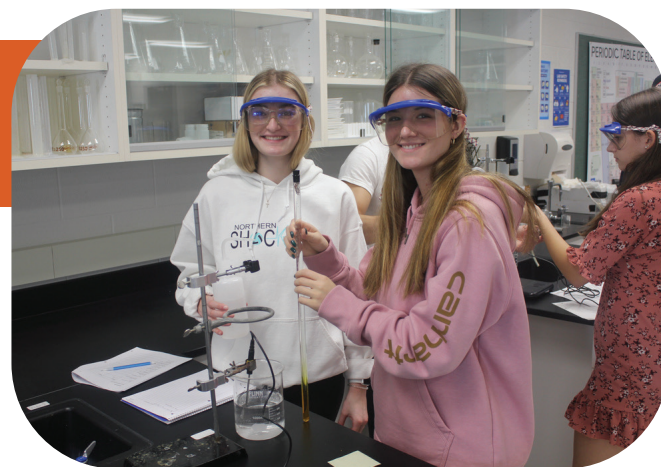
Girls Varsity

2/2 vs Suttons Bay @7:00PM
 2/16 vs Benzie @7:00PM
 2/27 vs Elk Rapids @7:00PM

STAG SNAPSHOTS

Chemistry Students Measure Gas

Chemistry I students in Ms. Olenchek's class are studying gas laws. In a recent lab, students created a chemical reaction between magnesium and hydrochloric acid to produce hydrogen, which they measured with a special tool called a eudiometer. Students also used LabQuest Verniers, sophisticated measuring tools that have multiple applications. This experiment is often repeated in college-level chemistry courses, preparing Ms. Olenchek's students for a bright future in STEM!



Spanish Students Experience Mexican Tradition

Mrs. Acosta's Middle School Spanish students tried "La Rosca" bread which is typically served on January 6, The Day of the Three Kings. Each Rosca had six plastic baby Jesus figurines in them! Traditionally, the people who find a baby Jesus have to host a dinner on February 2, but the lucky students got a reward instead. Students learned that the world record for the longest Rosca is 2.8 miles long and was made in the Mexican state of Baja California.



KHS Students Enjoy Puzzle Time

Kingsley High School students have found a new winter pastime: puzzles! Every day, the library is a revolving door of students who come in to work on them between classes and at lunch. One teacher said she's thrilled to see students chatting and working together without a phone in sight!



The KHS library is the place to be! Pictured: Kingsley seniors and students from Mr. Guy's class study for exams.





Meet Kingsley's Newest Staff!



Tiffany Eichler

Middle School Art Teacher

"I think in general, teaching is fun, because you can transfer information that you're really excited about to somebody else. I'm hoping to decorate the school more and see some more art publicly in our building."



Tony Taylor

6th Grade Special Ed. Teacher

"My favorite part of teaching is watching their eyes and expression when the light kicks on and they say, 'oh, I know what this is now.'" said Mr. Taylor. "Kingsley is my forever home and we want to keep contributing here as much as we can."



Brendan Wiltshire

High School Math Teacher

"I personally love working with numbers. Over the last several years, I have been figuring out how to ignite that creative sense and that sense of wonder in my students. Math isn't just a series of rules, it's really about patterns and how it all ties into the real world."



Aaron VanLandschoot

High School History Teacher

"I can understand where [students] are coming from. I know when to push and when to kind of back off. So I think I really develop those relationships pretty well with students, and I think, then, they're willing to put in maybe a little bit more effort."



Michelle Lewis

KMS Admin. Assistant

"I love the staff I work with. There are some really nice students that I get to interact with on a daily basis," said Mrs. Lewis. "PS - I'm also going to be directing the Kingsley High School drama production. Make sure you come and check it out!"



Christopher Gaddy

8th Grade ELA Teacher

"The biggest highlight of this year has been how welcoming everyone has been," said Mr. Gaddy. "I try to be supportive of the students and help them along the way as they traverse middle school and language arts."



Stay Tuned for more Staff Features!

Read more about our new staff members and see the full interviews at www.kingsleyschools.org/blog