

K KINGSLEY CONNECTION

"A COMMUNITY OF TRADITION AND EXCELLENCE" December 2025 kingsleyschools.org

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HARVEST DAYS, PUMPKIN PATCHES, AND CRAZY COSTUMES...GOODBYE FALL!

Above: Fourth graders celebrate Harvest Day with flannel and farm wear outfits.

It's hard to believe that the first semester is already winding down!

This fall, Kingsley Area Schools continued cherished seasonal traditions and celebrated new achievements in the arts, athletics, and academics.

The Arts: Mr. Sias took over high school art from Sue Graham and Annabelle Rowbal joined the district as the new choir director.

Athletics: Girls rugby went undefeated on the regular season, Tristan Hernandez competed at cross country state finals, the football team beat St. Francis to win districts, and girls volleyball won districts as well.

Academics: KHS' Anna Bauer became the school's first National Merit Semifinalist and Katelynn Bennett and Ryan Welke earned commended status. The districts new Naval ROTC program was invited to march in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC. *Way to go, Stags!*

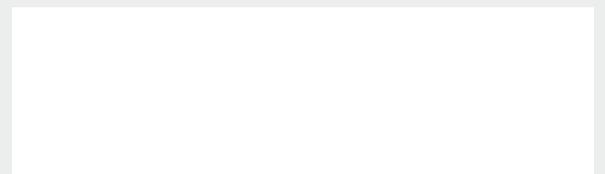


BUS DRIVERS WANTED



\$1500 BONUS!

APPLY NOW! Details Inside



Students get Behind the Wheel of the Drive Alive Simulator



Kingsley High School students took the wheel of a special driving simulator to understand the dangers of driving while distracted or impaired by drugs or alcohol.

The Arrive Alive Tour pulled into the KHS front vestibule to help students understand the real-life consequences of driving impaired, without the real life consequences.

Their specially equipped car features state-of-the-art simulation technology including the country's first and only marijuana driving simulation experience.

Students chose an obstacle course an impairment - texting and driving, or under the influence of a few drinks or cannabis. Every student quickly spun out of control as they drove the course.

The Arrive Alive Tour allows participants to drive while distracted, drunk, or drugged in a fully functioning vehicle without moving.

Drive Alive is the country's #1 ranked drunk and distracted driving awareness event, and was sponsored by KHS' Students Against Negative Decisions (STAND) club.



Scan to watch students use the simulator!

Red Ribbon Week Promotes Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness



The Kingsley High School STAND Club recently hosted Red Ribbon Week to promote alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention awareness.

The Students Against Negative Decisions (STAND) facilitated several in-school activities to encourage their peers to live a drug and alcohol free lifestyle.

STAND club members decorated the school red and hosted a "wear red" spirit day. Students also colored puzzle pieces that illustrated what their "natural high" is and what activities bring them joy.

"The school showed students six videos about what Red Ribbon week is and what it stands for, along with videos from naturalhigh.org that tell the story of someone famous and how they found their natural high," said advisor Michelle Peterson.

The club hosts several positive engagements throughout the year, including National Kindness Day activities in November.

To learn more about STAND club, contact Michelle Peterson at mpeter-



KHS' Robin Lewis Wins Tech Challenge

KHS' Robin Lewis recently won the Regional Educational Media Center's tech challenge by signing up to learn more about Google Gemini over a two-week learning event.

We are so thankful for educators that are continually staying abreast of the latest technology!

ATHLETICS NEWS

Girls Rugby Has Undefeated Season



The Traverse City Alliance girls rugby team finished the regular season 11-0. They competed at the State Championship in Holland and earned third place statewide.

Congratulations to our Kingsley athletes, left to right; Taylor Smith, Addison Merchant, Mallory Massey, Grace Merchant,

Stags Beat St. Francis to Win Districts



The varsity football team is the district champion after taking St. Francis 57-6 at home. 9&10 News reports the score is St. Francis' biggest margin of loss since 1968. The win came after a frantic scramble to

fix the Rodes Field goal posts after a parent complained they were too narrow. At risk of forfeiting the game, Kingsley athletic director Mitch Miggensburg recruited TC Crane to repair and reinstall the goal posts the night before the matchup to meet MHSAA standards. The crew's quick work ensured the Stag community was able to cheer on the team and celebrate another District Championship. Go Stags and THANK YOU TC Crane!

Tristan Hernandez Runs at State Finals



Tristan Hernandez came in 30th place at the D3 State Finals at the Michigan International Speedway with a time of 16:15. Tristan was the D3 Regional Champion after scoring a personal best time of 16:04. He also excels in track & field at Kingsley while carrying a 3.0 grade point average. Great job, Tristan!

➔ Dave Hall Honored



KHS volleyball coach Dave Hall was honored by the Michigan Volleyball Coaches Association as their coach of the week. Sarah Wooer says "He is extremely dedicated to our team. He makes volleyball more than games and practices, [it's about] relationships and memories."

➔ Lady Stags Win Big



Congratulations to the Lady Stags varsity volleyball team, who won the District Championship against Manton.

➔ 4x100 Relay Team Celebrated



Kingsley High School's record breaking 4x100m relay team was recently honored during a football game. In May, they became the fastest team in D3 history with a time of 49.38. Congrats, Emilee Robinson, Aizlyn McKinley, Alivia Dear, and Norah Galton (not pictured).

For sports schedules, rosters, and more information, visit kingsleyschools.org/athletics



Meet Annabelle Rowbal, the New Choir Director

Ms. Rowbal graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in vocal performance and music education in 2022. She spent two years at Holt Public Schools as a music teacher and in Troy Public Schools as long-term substitute. Most recently, she decided to pursue a dream that was disrupted by COVID during her college years - working at Disney's World Hollywood Studios in Orlando, Florida!

Now, she's excited to join Kingsley Area Schools and establish her own program. Their first concert is December 18 at 7:00PM at KHS.

"I am so excited to be here in Kingsley. I've heard really great things about the district and community here."

"I want to have fun in here. I want to encourage kids to continue with music. I know that music is in everybody's lives, like it's mine, so I just want everyone to be able to come in and have something that they enjoy."

She officially started in the district in mid-October. Ms. Rowbal says she's invigorated by the students' excitement that choir is back and also acknowledges that coming into the district mid-semester presents its own challenges.

"I am super excited to be here and figure it all out. I would also love a little bit of grace getting into it as I go through files and cabinets and discover things, and figure out exactly what I want to be teaching with my different classes and all that good stuff."

I try to incorporate a lot of different musical activities and different musical genres and stuff to engage all students. I want it to be their classroom. Because it's not my program, it's their program. So giving them input, I think is really, really important."

Fast Facts

Hometown: Troy, Michigan
Education: Michigan State University
Teaching Style: Energetic, fast, fun
Hobbies: Reading, napping, hanging out with her cat, playing animal crossing
Pets: Gary, the cat.

Favorites

Food: Sushi
TV Show: The Office
Artist: Lady Gaga
Holiday: Christmas
Movie: The Spongebob Movie
Book: Twilight
Drink: Coke
Icecream: Mackinac Fudge



I've always loved working with kids and I've always loved music. I am super excited to be here. My favorite part of the job is the excitement I see when students successfully make beautiful music.

Kingsley Community Helps "Stuff a Bus" for the Father Fred Foundation



During Kingsley's day off from school on November 4, all the buses were tucked away in the garage except for one. Transportation director Erik Nieman parked a big yellow school bus at Northland Food Market, transforming it into a mobile food drive in support of the Father Fred Foundation and local families in need.

"We are stuffing a school bus for Kingsley Area Schools to help benefit the community," he said to UpNorthLive. "I came from Southwest Michigan and we did an event each year right around the Thanksgiving Christmas holiday and it was an overwhelming success so I wanted to start it up here."

Dozens of bags of groceries were donated. All food will be specifically earmarked for Kingsley families when they arrive to Father Fred. The drive came at a particularly critical moment while many families faced food insecurity amid the suspension of SNAP benefits due to the government shutdown.

Representatives from Father Fred expressed their gratitude for the community's generosity.

"The need is huge. It's been very steady all year long, but demand has been high. But right now it's really, really increased. People are scared. And we've had a record number of first-time visits. So people who have never needed assistance before are coming for help. So that's a lot," Erin Krueger of Father Fred told UpNorthLive.

If you would like to support Father Fred, visit fatherfred.org



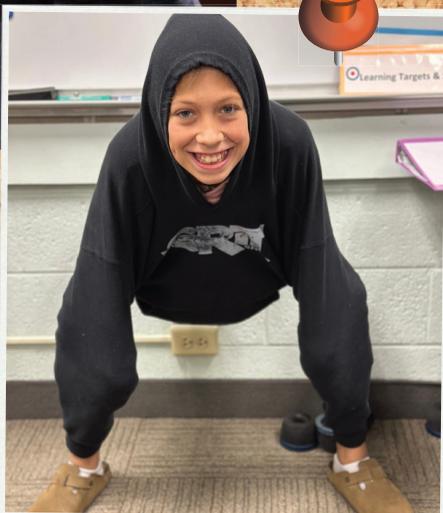
Coffee Chats

with Superintendent
Joshua T. Rothwell

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



All are welcome!



Funny Photo!
Gracie Osborn by Wendy
Brosier



NOW HIRING

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

- \$1500 Bonus after 3 months
- Paid Training & Endorsements
- \$23 per hour



Apply now! Hiring Immediately.

Scan QR code or visit
applitrack.com/kingsley/onlineapp



Join the Kingsley Ski and Snowboard Club!



Each winter, from January to March, Kingsley students take to the slopes at Crystal Mountain after school on Thursdays.

The after school ski program is open to Kingsley students ages 7-18. Only students in 7th-12th grade are allowed to ride the bus.

The cost is \$110 without rentals and \$140 with rentals. Costs are subject to change.

Students can also join for just a night and pay for a night lift ticket.

Contact Amanda Acosta for more information at
aacosta@kingsleyschools.org



Taco the Chameleon Settles into New Home

Tiffany Smith's new class pet is making lots of new friends at Kingsley Middle School. "I have been carrying him on my shoulder quite a bit lately and it's amazing how many elementary kids know about him now. They pass by us and say, 'Oh look, there's Taco,' or 'Oh, hi Taco!' He has become a staple now!" said Ms. Smith. He recently took a trip to the vet and he is a healthy little dude! He may even be getting a friend soon in a potential additional class pet. Stay tuned!

Mini Stags Win Big

Congratulations to the girls and boys Mini Stags Cross Country team, who both took second place at the Championship meet., Leo Chandler beat the record for the one mile race.



History, Brought to Life

Mr. Buniewicz's US history class participated in a simulation of the 1787 Constitutional Convention. Each student was cast as a delegate who they researched to understand their beliefs, state values, and stances on issues of the time. Some students even dressed up to assume the role of their delegate! A lively, engaging discussion brought the history to life.

8th Grade Visits NMC

Eighth graders recently visited Northwestern Michigan College. Students toured academic buildings, learned about college programs, and got a better idea of what college life is like. They also had a picnic lunch at Grace Macdonald park. "The day combined learning, teamwork, and fun, making it both enriching and enjoyable for everyone involved!" said teacher Tiffany Smith.



Local Businesses & Professionals Mentor High Schoolers

Kingsley High School would like to extend a huge Thank You to the following Professional Partners for hosting a Work Experience Student this School year:

Joann Miracle, Community Children's Center; Matthew Dontz, Dontz Surveying & Construction; Kim Burch, The Village Cafe; Dr. Erik Burke, Stag Dental; Paul Wagner, Wagner Farms; James Cook, Gill-Roys Hardware; and Dr. Sara Lint & James

from the Clarke-Everett Dog & Cat Hospital.

"First quarter job site visits were overwhelmingly impressive! These businesses and professionals are truly training the next generation of hard working, autonomous employees!

Thanks for your time and dedication to your profession and to our Kingsley students! We are so fortunate to have your support!" says Lori Nolf Kingsley High School Counselor.

We are still looking for Businesses to partner with the school to serve on Advisory Boards, attend Career Events, and do classroom visits. If you're interested, email Lori Nolf at lnolf@kingsleyschools.

Kingsley Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps News



Color Guard Welcomes Veterans Home at TVC

The Kingsley High School NJROTC provided the Color Guard at Cherry Capital Airport for the Honor Flight Welcome Home ceremony. More than 70 Michigan veterans who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, visited Washington DC to visit memorials in their honor. Hundreds of supporters and dozens of flags were there to greet them upon their arrival.



NJROTC Cadets Recognized at Pinning Ceremony

KHS staff, students, and community members celebrated cadets during a Military Pinning Ceremony. Eighth grade and high school cadets were pinned by local veterans, servicemembers, and first responders.

“When veterans or mentors perform the pinning, it highlights the passing of knowledge and values from one generation of service members to the next,” said Gunnery Sergeant Barr.

The ceremony celebrated the cadets’ achievement, growth, and the transition to greater responsibility. It honors the hard work, dedication, and leadership each service member or cadet has demonstrated to earn their new rank.

GT Sheriff’s Marine Unit Takes Cadets to the Water



ROTC students recently trained with the Grand Traverse Sheriff’s Department Marine Unit on Arbutus Lake to learn about maritime law enforcement operations and water safety. Cadets rode on the patrol and rescue vessel, and interacted with deputies who specialize in marine operations. They also drove the ROV underwater rescue drone. Thank you so much to Deputy Roelofs and the Marine Division for taking our students out on such an engaging field trip.



Autumn Memories



FIELD TRIP ON ARBUTUS LAKE



8TH GRADE ROTC



PILOT + FLIGHT ATTENDANT!



PINK DAY AT KMS



ZOMBIE RUN 2025 HOSTED BY MRS. MERCHANT'S CLASS



MUMMY HOT DOGS



ANYTHING BUT A CUP DAY



HAUNTED TRAIL VOLUNTEERS



MUMMY TIME!



SUBMITTED BY TONY TAYLOR



KMS STAFF CELEBRATES HALLOWEEN



MS. SMITH'S CLASS MAKES NOODLES