



KINGSLEY CONNECTION

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

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KINGSLEY CELEBRATES 2023 HOMECOMING



Pictured: Gavyn Merchant celebrates a touchdown, King Max Goethals and Queen Ellie Moran with Olivia Estelle, the Marching Stags perform at halftime.

It seemed as though the entire village was at Rodes Field under the Friday night lights when Kingsley High School took on Grayling at their Homecoming football game on September 29. The packed bleachers and an enthusiastic student section cheered the Stags to a victory over the Vikings, 20-56. At halftime, KHS administrative assistant Sheelah Walter crowned the Homecoming King and Queen, seniors Max Goethals and Ellie Moran. The festivities capped off a week of Kingsley traditions, including spirit days and the Powder Puff football game.

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From Amputee to All-State: Motivational Speaker Visits Kingsley Area Schools

On September 18, motivational speaker Brad Hurtig visited Kingsley Middle and High School to share how he went from from amputee to all-state in football after losing both of his hands in an accident.

His message to students is to always Find a Way, no matter the obstacle.

Brad was joined by the 10 Talents band who shared their messages of hope through inspirational songs that accompanied the presentation.

Later that night, 10 Talents performed a free concert for students at Kingsley Middle School.



Bus Safety Reminders



Kingsley Area Schools Resource Officer Deputy Jason Roelofs would like to remind drivers of Michigan's school bus traffic laws:

- No passing a stopped bus with flashing lights
- Drivers must stop at least 20 feet behind the bus
- If you're on the opposite side of a divided highway, you do not need to stop for the bus as long as there's a physical barrier or dividing section that separates you from the lane where the bus is stopped
- As of June 30, 2023, it is illegal to hold or use a cellphone while driving in Michigan

Fourth Graders Visit Buckley Old Engine Show Grounds



Pictured: Mrs. Clark's class poses in front of a 1941 tractor.

Students ventured to Buckley for a trip back in time to experience what life was like for farmers, workers, and families in the 1800s and 1900s. Highlights of the trip included a ride on the 1918 steam train and live demonstrations of wheat threshing with a steam engine, blacksmithing, rock crushing with a 1941 tractor, an antique whistle tower blowing, shingle branding, woodworking, and more.



Top left: Students rode on a vintage steam train, right: students watch a wheat threshing demonstration, middle left: students enter a room with antique machinery, bottom left: students walk across the show grounds, bottom right: students walk along a street with antique buildings and a water tower.

Meet New Superintendent Josh Rothwell



"We need to focus on the future. Kingsley has always been a great place for kids to go to school and for folks to raise their families. I just think we have to right the ship a little bit. It's not sinking. It just needs a little more direction." -Mr. Josh Rothwell

This month, longtime educator Josh Rothwell took the reigns as Superintendent of Kingsley Area Schools. Mr. Rothwell is familiar with the role and the district: he's a Kingsley native who graduated from Kingsley High School and later went on to teach third grade at Kingsley Elementary. He worked for KAS for several years before moving to Forest Area Schools where he most recently served as superintendent.

"I grew up here. My wife grew up here. My sister and I both went to Kingsley and graduated from here. I was actually a third grade teacher with Molly Dunham for 12 years, and now my daughter is in her class. I coached JV basketball with [KHS teacher] Matt Schelich for 12 or 13 years," said Mr. Rothwell.

"When this job opportunity came up, it was kind of a nice chance to think I could go back home. I know there's been a lot of challenges over the last couple of years, and I just thought with my experience here and being part of that community, I hope we can right the ship and just move forward."

How have your first few days in the district been?

It's really good to see a lot of the people that you know. There are a lot of veterans that have been here but then I think there's there's a lot of pretty solid, positive buzz about the new folks. My intent hopefully is to create a comfortable environment and an enjoyable place to work. I think a lot of people in the past few years have explored other opportunities which is disappointing, but can't really dwell on that.

What are your short-term goals?

To try to build that foundation; have a positive workplace. That was lacking for a while, folks didn't really feel appreciated. These are the folks that are in the trenches doing the work and they deserve to be appreciated because it's a tough job in this day and age. I think a small goal would just be to get out and about and appreciate what people are doing and just be nice to people. It's amazing how far that goes sometimes.

What are your long-term goals?

The elephant in the room is infrastructure and buildings. We are absolutely packed right now in all three buildings at this point. In the elementary, you walk through and see the teachers and staff who work in closets and all that stuff. I'm interested in getting some conversations started. I spoke with Jason Stowe about a facility study to have somebody come in and really dissect each building to find out where we're at.

What do you want the community to know about you?

It's kind of cliché and dorky but I have an open-door policy. I'm a people person and I like to go to the events and be a part of the community, which I think we already do as a family. I enjoy the community aspect of being here. Knowing people already and meeting new people like families in our community is great because it sets their minds at ease to know that there's somebody there that's supportive of our efforts to educate our kids.

jrothwell@kingsleyschools.org

Join the Kingsley Middle School Travel Club in England and Ireland in 2025!



By Andrew Sias
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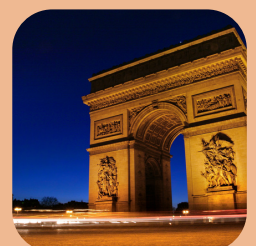
Hi Kingsley Middle School Families,

There is incredible growth that comes with seeing the world, exploring new places, and experiencing new cultures - and I'm excited to bring that opportunity to our community.

Pack your bags because we are headed to IRELAND & ENGLAND on our upcoming trip in Summer 2025! This stunning trip will explore the cultural experiences, natural wonders, and iconic sights of these stunning countries.

This past summer, we ventured to London and Paris for a weeklong adventure. Students experienced:

- Historic tours of London with stops at Big Ben, Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, and more
- A Royal Parade featuring King Charles!
- The Palace of Versailles and its Hall of Mirrors
- Parisian strolls past Notre Dame
- The history of the Arc de Triomphe with a guided tour
- Art appreciation at the Louvre
- Authentic French food, including dinner at a traditional creperie

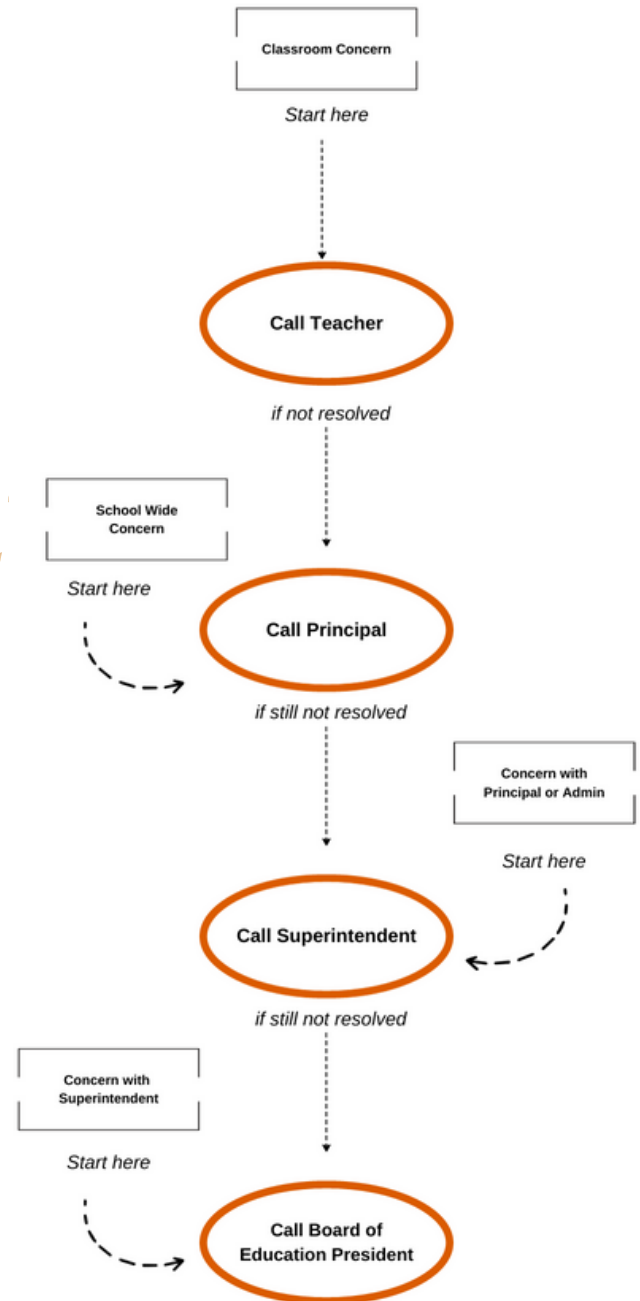


Interested in joining us on our next adventure? Email me to find out more about the trip!
asias@kingsleyschools.org

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Complaint Management System



MRS. ABBIE CLARK'S FOURTH GRADERS LEARNED ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD USING GUMMY BEARS IN AN EXPERIMENT CALLED "SAVING FRED!"



GOOD GRILLING WEATHER: CIARA TANAKA + THE DINING SERVICES TEAM MADE GRILLED CHICKEN AND CORNBREAD FOR A HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH!



10 TALENTS, A ROCK BAND, PERFORMED A FREE EVENING CONCERT FOR STUDENTS ON SEPTEMBER 18.

Submit your Photos to the Yearbook!

Download the Yearbook Snap app and use code STAGS

iPhone

Android



KINGSLEY HIGH SCHOOL STAFF LEFT TO RIGHT: SUE GRAHAM, COUNSELOR LORI HEITMEYER, NANCY OLENCHAK, STEVEN KLINGE, DAN HARBOLD, COUNSELOR BRITTANY FELDHAKE, JASON STEWART, ROBIN LEWIS, MICHELLE PETERSON, KRISTIN BAUER, AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEPTUY JASON ROELOFS

Understanding Threat Definitions & Procedures



By Chloe McCarthy & Kingsley School Resource Officer Deputy Jason Roelofs
Questions? Contact: sro@kingsleyschools.org
231-263-5261 ext. 1106

As the new school year begins, Grand Traverse County's emergency management team would like to educate parents and community members about the verbiage used when there is a threat in or around the school.

There are two kinds of actions deployed when there is a public or school safety threat: lockdown and secure mode. You may see these terms used by dispatchers and media outlets when reporting on threat situations.

"We want to get on the same page about these definitions so we're all using the same terms. Across the country, emergency managers and dispatchers are using the same terminology to alleviate confusion and panic," said School Resource Officer Deputy Jason Roelofs.

Lockdown

Intruder, active shooter, or onsite threat

"A lockdown is an immediate threat, whether it's immediately outside or something's happening inside. This is typically a worst-case scenario type of situation," said Deputy Roelofs.

- Once law enforcement agencies arrive and mitigate the threat, the entry points to the school will be blocked off
- Information will be disseminated as quickly as possible
- Parents are advised not to rush to the school as this creates an additional hazard for law enforcement
- In the event of an emergency threat, students may be taken to previously designated emergency shelter zones

Secure Mode

Threat or possible threat in the area

"Secure mode means the threat is not at the school and may not involve the school, it could be as common as someone experiencing a domestic disturbance down the street. Secure modes can be something that happens frequently as they have nothing to do with the school."

- The threat is not in or around the building, but potentially in the same community
- Secure mode is a precautionary measure
- Parents should not necessarily expect an explanation or notification of these events
- Parents are discouraged from calling the school or arriving to campus

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:
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.

STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

➔ Korbin Bedford



August 28: Korbin is a senior striker on the varsity boys soccer team. He is off to an excellent start to the 2023 season with six goals, three in a win over Newaygo, and two in a win over the TC Bulldogs, and four assists. He has a 3.89 grade point average.

➔ Skylar Workman



September 4: Skylar is a senior running back on the varsity football team. In week one, Skylar rushed for 51 yards on eight carries and had a 45-yard reception with three touchdowns in Kingsley's 46-12 win over Reed City while carrying a 3.4 grade point average.

➔ Olivia Reamer



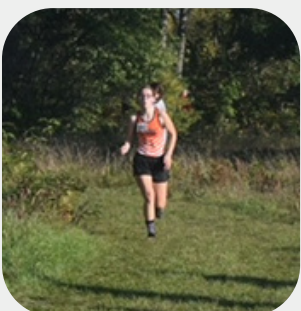
September 11: Olivia is a junior hitter on the varsity volleyball team and has had an outstanding start to the 2023 season with a perfect 97-97 serving 100% on the season adding 31 kills and 13 blocks through the first 12 matches. Olivia carries a 3.93 grade point average.

➔ Max Goethals



September 18: Max is a senior two-way player on the varsity football team. Max had an outstanding game against Cheboygan with 11 tackles on defense while catching two passes and a touchdown on offense. Max also excels at wrestling and rugby at Kingsley while carrying a 3.78 grade point average.

➔ Sayla Bender



September 25: Sayla is a junior runner on the varsity girls cross country team. Sayla has had an outstanding fall so far finishing in the top ten at the Northwest Conference Jamboree at Buckley on September 12, and recording her best finish at the Evart Invitational, finishing fourth with a time of 23:59. Sayla also excels at track and field while carrying a 4.0 grade point average.

KINGSLEY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT UPDATES



Good Sports: "Buckley has only one boy on their Cross Country team. The Kingsley boys have included him multiple times in their warm-up and group talks. This behavior represents all the best of school sports. Thank you Kingsley boys XC, Buckley appreciates you!"

-Jolie King, Kingsley Middle School teacher and Buckley Cross Country Coach

EQUESTRIAN TEAM ADVANCES TO STATE FINALS



Congratulations to Kingsley Equestrian riders Darlene Wilcoxon, Alina Wood, and Adam Wilcoxon who earned high placings at their district meet at the Otsego County fairgrounds and at Regionals. They will now advance to the State Finals October 11-15.

CROSS COUNTRY TEAM WINS BIG AT EVART INVITATIONAL



Congratulations to our Kingsley runners! KHS Girls: Sayla Bender, 2nd place, with Natalie Sterk and Mara Van Wagner in the top 10. KHS Boys: Branden Stock, 2nd place, with Braxton Zenner in the top 10. Both the middle school boys and girls teams took third with Natalie Mitchell, Colten Sherman, and Erik Stark in the top 10. Photo credit: Shanda Bender

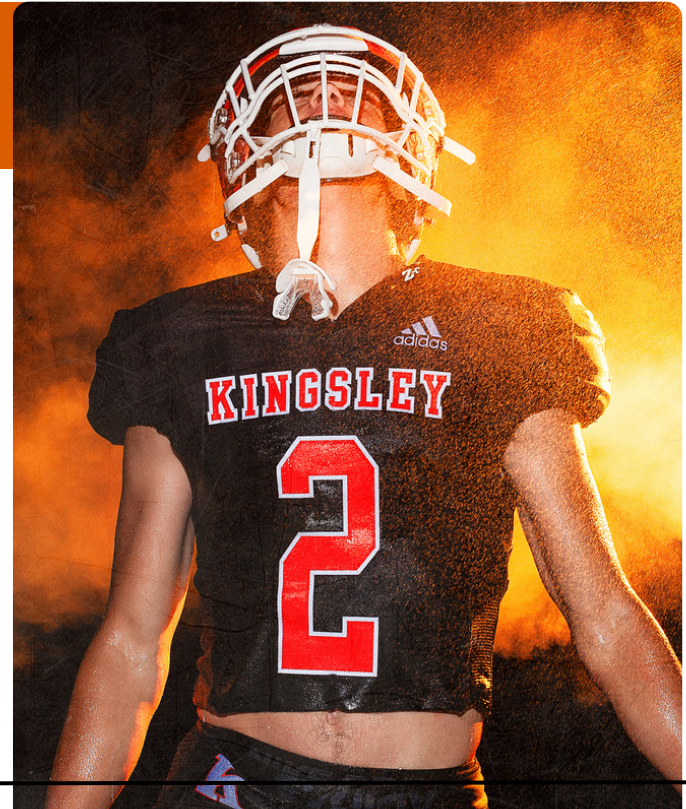
STAG SNAPSHOTS

Kingsley Running Back Eli Graves Named *Detroit Free Press* Prep Player of the Week

After a phenomenal start to the football season, the *Detroit Free Press* nominated Kingsley High School senior Eli Graves for their Prep Player of the Week for September 25. The *Free Press* nominated Graves and four other players from across the state and asked readers to vote on who should earn the title. On September 28, Graves was named the Prep Player of the Week after earning 27,818 votes!

"The senior carried the ball 24 times for 284 yards. He also returned kickoffs of 99 and 90 yards for touchdowns. He finished with 493 yards total offense and six touchdowns in Kingsley's 44-21 victory over St. Francis." -*Detroit Free Press*

Congratulations, Eli! We are proud of you!



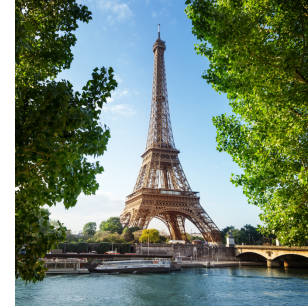
Mobile Planetarium Brings the Stars and the Sky to Kingsley Middle School

Middle School students took a trip out of this world to learn about the sun, moon, stars, and planets when a mobile planetarium landed inside the gym. Students took a closer look at each planet's features, the surface of the sun and moon, and star-gazed at constellations in the night sky.



School is Back in Full Swing

Pictured: Kindergarteners at recess. Right: Finley Wallace and Ruby Walton.



Make Memories to Last a Lifetime with the Kingsley High School Travel Club



By Robin Lewis
Kingsley High School Teacher
Trip Leader
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If parents are looking for a way to widen horizons, instill self confidence and expose their children to a wider world, travel is a great way to do it.

International travel also looks good on college and job applications and can enhance scholarship applications. Students return home with greater self-confidence and a raft of new experiences to widen their perspective of the world and their part in it.

Kingsley High School travelers are leaving in June 2024 for Switzerland and Italy.
Interested? Email me at rlewis@kingsleyschools.org.

Read on to hear about our most recent trip to the British Isles and Paris!

Travelers flew from Traverse City to Dublin where they visited St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Georgian Squares and St. Stephen's Green as well as a visit to Trinity College to view the famous Book of Kells.

In Dublin, Kingsley students also learned the basic steps for Irish dancing and clapping rhythms for traditional songs. At "Granny's Attic," a popular restaurant with live music, they enjoyed putting those skills to use.

From Dublin they traveled to Belfast where they learned the history of the "Troubles" of Northern Ireland and explored the Titanic museum. In Belfast, everyone had the opportunity to contribute their own messages to the peace murals while listening to survivors of the religious conflict. Belfast also presented beautiful art everywhere: stained glass displays of The Game of Thrones, an angel statue at the harbor, and various public sculptures related to Irish culture.

Venturing next to Derry, students wandered the coastline of the famously beautiful Giant's Causeway and actually climbed atop the basalt columns. Then it was on to Cairnryan to catch the ferry to Alloway and Edinburgh, Scotland. It was fun to explore the city of Edinburgh as well as touring ancient Edinburgh Castle, situated on Castle Rock since the 12th century. Some even ventured down Victoria Street, a street famous for its similarity to Harry Potter's Diagon Alley. Upon leaving the Castle, travelers were treated to a visit to an art installation featuring Scotland's kelpies, a mythical water horse. From there it was a brief journey to the Robert Burns Gardens, a memorial to the Auld Lang Syne composer who is the national poet of Scotland. Filled with blooming flowers and winding paths led to beautiful statues of the author's characters.

From there, everyone boarded the train to London. After taking a few minutes to stop for photos at Platform 9 3/4 (another Harry Potter

standout!), it was time to see London. Big Ben, Parliament Square, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, and St. Paul's Cathedral all figured into our tour. Some students chose to visit the Victoria and Albert Museum with its amazing collection of art, clothing, and jewels. Others opted to visit Dippy the Dinosaur at the Museum of Natural History. The best overall view, however, was probably from the large enclosed bubbles of the London Eye which gave everyone panoramic views of London and the Thames River from high in the sky. A chance to wander through and around Windsor Palace was popular as was the tour of the Tower of London.

Leaving London on a Eurostar train bound for France, travelers entered Paris, viewing the Eiffel Tower, Place de Concorde, Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées. A photo opportunity outside Notre Dame allowed everyone to obtain photos of the famous cathedral which, sadly, was still under repair from the 2019 fire. Everyone climbed the many steps to Sacre Coeur Church for the amazing view of Paris before wandering among the shops and confectioneries of its famous Montmartre neighborhood. Part of an afternoon was spent in the Louvre, the largest (and most visited) single museum on earth, and home to the Mona Lisa. (And, of course, the glass pyramid from The DaVinci Code was a popular photo as well!) Travelers left Charles DeGaulle International for Traverse City tired but wanting to travel again!