



**Kevin Polston**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of Superintendent**

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**Kentwood Public Schools**  
5820 Eastern Avenue, S.E.  
Kentwood, MI 49508  
Phone 616•455•4400

August 4, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! I hope this letter finds you enjoying the summer season and spending time with those close to you. Personally, July has been filled with excitement and energy, as I began serving as the new Kentwood Public Schools superintendent. It is an honor to be part of a new chapter in the Kentwood Public Schools story.

Thank you for the warm welcome that I received throughout the community! There is a lot of pride in Kentwood and in KPS. I look forward to partnering with our community as we strive for excellence. Together we can change the world through providing relevant and meaningful opportunities for our students.

Speaking of a warm welcome, on July 13, 2021, students and staff from Kentwood Public Schools welcomed Governor Gretchen Whitmer to East Kentwood High School to sign historic legislation into law that provides additional resources for our students. These funds will ensure that every child has access to support systems that continue to reinforce excellence and equity. I again want to highlight that our vision statement, Excellence and Equity in Education, is not just a tagline at Kentwood Public Schools. It is a standard we seek to achieve each day for every student.

This year, we will stress the following themes:

- **Health and wellness:** As we continue to fight this global pandemic, we must keep in the forefront the health of our students, their families, and our staff. No one fights a pandemic alone; we will win this fight standing together as a community. Please see the attached *Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.)* for more information on our COVID safety plan. The safety of our students, staff, and community remains our top priority.
- **Committed to continuous learning and being data-driven:** We want students to be actively engaged in learning and achievement. In addition, we must model this as an organization, through institutional learning and data gathering that ensures we are living out *best practices* in all that we do.
- **Excellence and Equity:** Kentwood Public Schools is committed to excellence and equity in all that we do. From our bond construction to how we use taxpayer dollars to how we treat every child in the district, excellence and equity are “lived values” at KPS.

We are excited to welcome our students back to in-person learning! This past year we were reminded about the importance of educating the whole child and the vital role relationships play in the lives of our children. The in-person learning environment with the synergy that comes from students engaging with each other and their teachers and staff members provides the best option for most students to achieve the highest level of learning.

You will receive a welcome from your child's principal with key dates for the school year. I look forward to seeing all of our students on the first day of school, Monday, August 23rd.

As a reminder, if you have not already completed the online enrollment form for your student(s), please do so at <https://www.kentwoodps.org/registration/olr/>

As always, please don't hesitate to contact your building administrator if you have school specific questions. Please don't hesitate to contact me and our central office team if you have district questions. All of us are here to serve you and your family. Thank you again for your support and assistance as we embark on an exciting year ahead!

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Polston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kevin Polston

Superintendent