



EXCELLENCE AND AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS LEAD TO STUDENT SUCCESS

The beginning of the school year is filled with the excited chatter and laughter of teachers, staff, and students reuniting to embark on a journey of learning and discovery. The enthusiastic reunions which occur are indications of the strong, authentic relationships formed between staff members and students, and are at the heart of our mission at KPS. When students feel safe, welcome and connected at school, their minds are open to deep, meaningful learning.

When authentic relationships are formed, learning occurs more naturally, with students and staff working together as a team to ensure academic excellence. One example of this occurred recently in a Kentwood elementary school with a student named William.

When students feel safe, welcome and connected at school, their minds are open to deep, meaningful learning.

William began his third-grade year reading at a kindergarten level. His math skills were also only at a first-grade level. In previous years the teachers had worked hard to help William succeed academically. Nothing seemed to work.

William's third-grade teacher continued to look for new ways to present reading skills to him. Midway through the year his teacher tried a new reading intervention strategy with him. The new strategy clicked! William was soon reading more proficiently.

As the year progressed, William's teacher continued reading instruction and also monitored and supported him with his math skills. They both worked diligently to improve his opportunities for success. Their hard work paid off! William finished the year performing at a third-grade level in both reading and math.

Authentic relationships lead to excellence and equity in education.

These success stories occur because our teachers and staff members see the potential in each individual child. As they form connections with each child, they share both challenges and successes. Success is a team effort. Authentic relationships lead to excellence and equity in education.

This year, each KPS staff member will be trained in Restorative Practices, a research-based strategy that strengthens relationships, builds social connections, and fosters a greater sense of belonging. The use of this strategy impacts behaviors, creates a positive school environment and enhances academic achievement. The goal is to affect each individual student in a way that transfers beyond the school day.

Last year, the Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) at Michigan State University looked at student learning and achievement during the remote learning period of the COVID-19 situation.

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CREATING A POSITIVE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Strong, Authentic Relationships: Genuine relationships between adults and students is at the heart of the work that we do. When students feel safe and welcome, their minds are open to deep, meaningful learning. This year, each KPS staff member will be trained in Restorative Practices, a research-based strategy that strengthens relationships, builds social connections, and fosters a greater sense of belonging. This impacts behaviors. It impacts academic achievement. Most importantly, it impacts each individual student in a way that will transfer beyond the school day.

Vision Casting: We will embark on designing our strategic plan that will guide the work we do for the next several years. The plan will be a blueprint of specific actions that we will take to meet the needs of each member of the KPS school family.

Excellence and Equity: Kentwood Public Schools will continue to be committed to excellence and equity in all that we do. Our facilities, the way we build relationships, the work we do to keep our students safe, our instruction—all are part of reaching Excellence and Equity in Education. It is our standard here in Kentwood.

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EPIC reviewed student achievement during the pandemic and identified KPS as one of the higher growth districts in the state.

Superintendent Kevin Polston noted, "We know that the COVID-19 crisis took its toll on students and families. The EPIC study demonstrates what I saw daily, even in the most difficult of times, our teachers and staff remained focused on helping students excel!"

Polston added, "In order to continue our commitment to excellence and equity, and develop strong, authentic relationships, KPS will be working to develop a plan which encompasses these goals and prepares us for the future. We will begin to cast a vision that provides a blueprint for the future. The board and I are excited about the possibilities for KPS as we prepare for our future!"

BROOKWOOD SUMMER OF ARCH

Happy Summer!!! The students and staff from the Brookwood ARCH summer school program had an amazing time at Kentwood's Veterans Memorial Park. The students enjoyed socializing with friends, playing games, picking out fake tattoos, playing bingo and getting their faces painted.



STEM IS A BLAST AT ENDEAVOR

This summer, ARCH students witnessed first-hand how STEM is used in real world scenarios. ARCH students visited the Kentwood Department of Public Works, to learn how our city uses engineering and technology to keep our streets clean and plowed



during the winter, takes care of miles of underground pipes, and keeps our parks and city beautiful. Students were divided into teams to stop a water main break, learn how the city puts road signs together, and see the variety of vehicles used by the Public Works Department.

Endeavor Elementary students also learned about technology and how it makes our lives better. After spending a week focused on coding and creating new technology, students were visited by Kentwood's emergency responders. They showed our students some of the technology they use while on the road to keep us safe. Students had a blast building relationships with our local heroes, and looking at the variety emergency vehicles, and the tools inside!

A special thank you to the Kentwood Department of Public Works, Kentwood Police Department, Kentwood Fire Department, Life EMS, and GR Gymnastics.

PINEWOOD STUDENTS LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER

Pinewood students have been learning more about each other with various activities and icebreakers designed to help build their confidence and feel safe outside of their comfort zones. The goal is to create a team-based and inclusive environment for all of our students to have fun, grow and most importantly be safe. This environment helps students and staff develop strong, authentic relationships.

Pinewood students also had the opportunity to engage with Junior Achievement. Through this program, students engage in a multitude of lessons on financial literacy, career clusters, soft skills, technical skills and professionalism. These skills prepare students for future success, independence and self sufficiency.



MEADOWLAWN EXPLORES WHAT ARCH HAS TO OFFER

Meadowlawn students have had a blast exploring what ARCH has to offer, while learning skills like creative thinking, sharing, treating others with kindness, integrity, and more. Students have come together to build relationships and bonds that they can carry with them forever. They had the opportunity to visit the Department of Public Works where they learned about construction work, erected traffic signs, fixed broken pipes and even took a look inside one of the trucks to understand all of the buttons and gears.

Another exciting learning experience was a trip to John Ball Zoo. The kids were excited to learn about a variety of animals they had never seen before and understand their ways of living. They were even able to feed some of the animals!

Students were also intrigued by experiments at school. One experiment included mixing Coke and Mentos to get a chemical reaction. Another challenged students to create a device to keep an egg safe when dropped from various heights. Students gain new insights when solving problems and engaging in experimentation.



ARCH STUDENTS AT BOWEN VISIT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Bowen ARCH visited Veterans Memorial Park for some fun activities. Students played Catch the Chicken, and designed devices to fly marshmallows. Students also cooled off by making their own ice cream and getting wet in the splash pad.

LEARNING CONTINENTS AT CHALLENGER ELEMENTARY

Challenger Elementary students learned about continents from around the world in anticipation for their trip to John Ball Zoo. At the zoo, students identified animal friends from Africa, South America, and North America! Students enjoyed experiencing the broader world without having to travel far.





VALLEYWOOD ARCH!

Valleywood students have been having a blast in ARCH. One of the highlights was visiting John Ball Zoo, where students learned about some of their favorite animals. Students identified animals they had never seen in real life.

In a separate activity, a yoga vendor came to Valleywood and explained the importance of yoga and how yoga is connected to many things, including dancing.

TOWNLINE ARCH SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Townline students engaged in fun and meaningful activities in ARCH. Students worked in small groups to create a rover that followed commands. On a rainy day, students constructed a mini golf course inside the gym and were able to sharpen their putting skills.

Townline students practiced their artistic skills by experimenting with different art mediums. They used golf balls to create their own abstract art pieces and made spinning tops with old CD's. A favorite trip was to the Grand Rapids Public Museum, where students enjoyed the planetarium and carousel.

SIX KPS SCHOOLS WIN AWARDS

The Kentwood Public Schools is proud to announce that six schools were named Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools for 2021 - 2022. Bowen, Challenger, Discovery, Endeavor, Meadowlawn Elementaries and Crestwood Middle School all earned this distinction.

Capturing Kids' Hearts names National Showcase Schools that "go the extra mile each day, creating the social-emotional safety on school campuses that is conducive to learning." Building strong relationships is central to Kentwood Public Schools' foundation in educating students and are honored by this recognition.

Capturing Kids' Hearts reviewed more than 600 schools nationwide to select this year's list of National Showcase Schools. The organization reviewed key performance indicators, looked at data at the various schools across the nation, and surveyed staff and students at the buildings under consideration. At the end of this rigorous selection process, only 378 schools nationwide received this honor, including the six KPS schools.

The district appreciates the ongoing efforts of both staff and students at the six schools named as Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools. Congratulations to each for their hard work in achieving this honor!





STEM FUN AT MEADOWLAWN

Meadowlawn summer school participants have been engaging in STEM Thursdays throughout our summer program. Prior to the start of summer school, each Meadowlawn teacher selected one STEM activity to teach. Every Thursday, from 11:00-11:30, students rotate classrooms to explore and enjoy these exciting activities. The first five Thursdays of summer school have been filled with amazing STEM enrichment including: Ice cream in a bag, sensory bottles, play-dough making, creating clouds and simulating an earthquake! On the final Thursday of summer school, students will celebrate their learning with a STEM party.

EXPLORER ELEMENTARY SUMMER SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Explorer students have exemplified excellence in the classroom this summer using grit and determination to advance their learning. Students engaged in math, reading, writing and developed their collaboration skills. In the afternoons, students joined the ARCH program, taking field trips to various locations in West Michigan. One of the favorite field trips was to the Grand Rapids Public Museum where students attended a planetarium show which taught them about the new James Webb Space Telescope.

The students also enjoyed getting to visit the 3 Mile Project, where they had full access to two movie theaters, basketball and volleyball courts, a gaga ball pit, and so much more. Every week the students looked forward to visiting a park in town where they were able to cool off from the summer heat on the splash pad. On the final Wednesday, students enjoyed a trip to the GR Skate & Event Center!

KPS BUILDS FOR THE FUTURE!

Construction projects in Kentwood are progressing well, as crews have worked diligently throughout the summer to upgrade and improve a variety of buildings in the district. Some of the highlights of this work include Brookwood Elementary's progress on a new gym, full-service kitchen and cafeteria space for students. At Discovery Elementary the parking was redesigned to increase safety for both pedestrians and traffic at the school.

Meadowlawn Elementary is seeing some extensive construction and renovations. Two classrooms were added to help with the increased student population at the school. Other renovations include new carpeting, paint, and an HVAC update which will provide air conditioning in all classrooms. Outside of the building separate drop-off and pick-up spaces have been created for parents and buses to improve traffic flow during arrival and dismissal times.

Your support helps KPS build for the future!

Hamilton Early Childhood Center also received a new HVAC upgrade, bringing air conditioning to all classrooms. Classrooms and hallways are undergoing renovations at East Kentwood Freshman Campus. Projects include new casework, carpet, paint, and two new staircases to improve student movement throughout the building.

As these projects progress into advanced phases and toward completion, new projects will begin at other buildings. These include a new gym, full-service kitchen, and cafeteria at Bowen Elementary and a full-service kitchen at Endeavor Elementary.

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New Meadowlawn classroom



From left to right: Dr. Angelia Coleman, new principal at Townline · Julie Schrot, new principal at Meadowlawn · Zsanara Hoskins, new principal at Glenwood, collaborate and prepare for the new year at a summer administrator work session.

KPS IS WELCOMING THREE NEW ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS AND THREE NEW DEANS OF STUDENTS IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR!

Dr. Anglia Coleman is the new principal at Townline Elementary. Dr. Coleman has most recently served as the Dean of Students at Endeavor Elementary for the past two school years. Prior to that, she served for several years as a principal for both Grand Rapids Public Schools and the National Heritage Academies.

Glenwood Elementary's new principal is Zsanara Hoskins. Last school year, Hoskins served as an interim principal at Glenwood during the second semester of the year. She previously held the title of Dean of Students at Explorer Elementary in Kentwood.

Julie Schrot will be the new principal at Meadowlawn Elementary. Schrot comes to Kentwood from River City Scholars in Grand Rapids where she served as assistant principal.

Along with these new principals, KPS is welcoming new deans of students at several of our buildings. Orlando James is the new dean at Glenwood Elementary. He served in this role last year as interim and is moving into the role permanently this year. Joe Marsiglia, teacher in the district and interim dean last year at Explorer, will move into the permanent dean position this year. And Ahnna Sisco, prior teacher in the district at Brookwood and most recently Challenger Elementary, will serve as the new dean at Endeavor Elementary. Paul Adams is returning to KPS as the new assistant principal at Pinewood Middle School. Adams had been a math teacher at Crestwood Middle before taking on leadership roles at William C. Abney, including the roles of assistant principal and principal at that building.

Finally, KPS is happy to announce that Dave Emeott is taking on the role of Co-Athletic Director in the district. He will do this job while continuing to serve as track and field coach.

The KPS leadership is pleased to be able to have such quality candidates take on these leadership positions in KPS in the current competitive job market. Please join us in welcoming them to their new positions.

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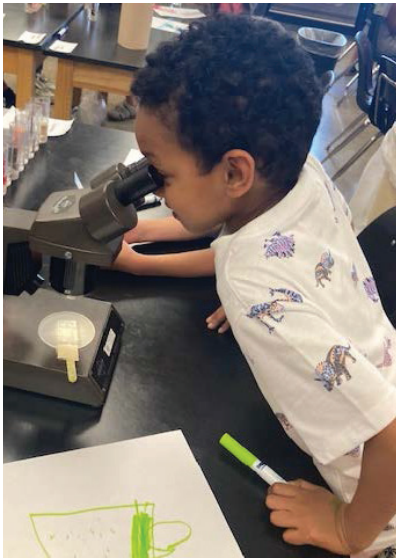
New Meadowlawn parking lot

A project to support the Culinary Arts program at East Kentwood High School as part of the Career Tech Ed Program will also be initiated, including both a restaurant production kitchen as well as a residential kitchen. Construction is also scheduled to begin on a 45,000 square foot new Early Childhood Center in the district located near Townline Elementary.

These projects are all the result of the continued support of the Kentwood community through bond programs that were approved in 2015 and 2021. Your support helps KPS build for the future!

KENTWOOD STUDENTS GET A STEM SUMMER CAMP AT EKHS

For the first time this summer, East Kentwood High School offered STEM SUMMER CAMPS for students in Kindergarten through 8th grades at the high school. The design of the program centered on “students teaching students,” with high school students assisting the Kindergarten through 8th grade students in the processes of science.



This summer’s program was an extension of the annual “STEAM FAIR” where all students throughout the district combine for a day of learning from one another. “Everyone had so much fun this summer, and I was so proud of our high school student leaders helping the younger students experience science,” said Chad VanHouten, East Kentwood High School teacher and the organizer of the STEM Summer Camp.

Six different camps were offered this summer, each with a different theme, including camps on animal exploration, robotics, and engineering and aviation. The camps were a big hit for the students who participated. Parents were pleased as well. “My daughter was always looking forward to coming to camp each day, guessing all day long what kinds of animals she would get to learn about. She loved telling us all the cool animal facts that she learned each day,” said Jessica Lewis, a parent of one of the students in camp.

Angie Hinkle, another parent of a camp member agreed, saying, “The facilities, with their equipment and abundant animals, were impressive. The teacher and high school leaders were enthusiastic and kept the classroom active and engaged.”

Close to 200 students participated in the six camps throughout the summer.

KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS School Calendar 2022-23

- Aug 22 *First Day of School
- Sep 2 No School
- Sep 5 No School
- Sep 21 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- Sept 28..... Middle School Conferences- Evening (Full Day for Students)
- Sept 29..... Middle School Conferences- Half Day for 6-8 Students
- Sept 30..... Half Day for 6th-8th Student & Staff
- Oct 12 & 13... High School Evening Conferences (Full Day School)
- Oct 14 Half Day for 9th-12th Students & Staff
- Oct 26 Elementary Evening Conferences
- Oct 27..... Half Day K-5 Students / Evening Conferences
- Oct 28 Half Day K-5 Students & Staff
- Oct 31 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- Nov 23 Half Day for ALL Students and Staff
- Nov 24 & 25 ... No School - Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 16 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- Dec 19 - 30 Winter Break
- Jan 2 Winter Break
- Jan 16 No School - MLK Day / PD for Staff
- Feb 14 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- Feb 20 & 21 Mid-Winter Break

AUGUST							JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30		26	27	28				

OCTOBER							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8				1	2	3	4
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	31						26	27	28	29	30	31	

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- Mar 1..... Middle & High School Evening Conferences / Full Day of School
- Mar 2 Middle & High School Evening Conferences / Half Day 6-8 Students ONLY / Full Day High School
- Mar 3 Half Day 6-12 Student & Staff
- Mar 27 Elementary Evening Conferences / Full Day
- Mar 28 Half Day K-5 Students
- Mar 29..... Half Day K-5 Students & Staff
- Mar 30..... Half Day for ALL Students and Staff
- Mar 31 - Apr 7. Spring Break
- May 26 Half Day for ALL Students / PD for Staff
- May 29 No School - Memorial Day
- Jun 2..... Last Day of School - Half Day for Students & Staff

School	Start	Dismissal	Half Day Dismissal
Elementary	9:00 AM	3:55 PM	11:55 AM
Middle	8:15 AM	3:04 PM	11:20 AM
Freshman Campus	7:30 AM	2:31 PM	10:53 AM
High School	7:30 AM	2:31 PM	10:53 AM
Crossroads	7:37 AM	2:29 PM	10:45 AM

NOVEMBER							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	28	29	30				30						

DECEMBER							MAY/JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	1	2	3

No School For Students
 Half Day *check left column to see what schools have ½ days

* Updated 8/15/22