



Kirtland Local School District
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THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Spring 2018

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

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KIRTLAND SCHOOLS EARN STATE TAXPAYER HERO AWARD

Auditor of State Dave Yost presented a Taxpayer Hero Award to Kirtland Local School District in recognition of the district's successful cost savings through a variety of initiatives.

"The Kirtland Local School District exemplifies the value of collaboration and utilizing shared services to save money for both schools and taxpayers," Auditor Yost said. "Driving operational costs down means more money is available for classroom use that benefits Kirtland students."



"It's all about preserving excellence in the classroom and creating a safe and secure environment."

Since 2012, the school district has engaged in a number of cost-saving initiatives, including savings from a shared treasurer and combined food service with Mentor Exempted Village School District, shared leadership services with the Perry Local School District for building and grounds maintenance and transportation, reducing one administrator position by consolidating it with the responsibilities of the superintendent, shared services with the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio for human resource and payroll savings, grant income from the Lake Health Hospital Program and the State of Ohio Straight A Grant Income program and refinanced 2006 and 2007 outstanding bonds.

The school district estimates that it has saved more than \$3.6 million through these initiatives.

Superintendent Bill Wade said the true heroes are Kirtland Schools' staff.

"They're the ones who adapt and continue to exceed expectations," Superintendent Wade said. "It's all about preserving excellence in the classroom and creating a safe and secure environment."

Auditor Yost created the Taxpayer Hero Award to acknowledge state and local government officials who demonstrate initiative to cut cost and/or increase efficiency within their respective entities or to protect tax dollars and uphold the integrity of government in Ohio.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON MAY 8



The Kirtland Local Schools have Issue 2 – a 5.9-mill, 10-year operating levy – on the ballot. Track your absentee ballot, check your voter registration and find your polling location online at the Lake County Board of Elections website – www.lakecountyohio.gov/lakeelections/VoterToolkit.aspx.



WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

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Kirtland High School Principal Lynn Campbell on Twitter @KirtlandHS-Prin
Kirtland Hornets athletics on Twitter @kirtlandsports

Kirtland Athletics at www.kirtlandhornet.org | Kirtland Local Schools at www.kirtlandschools.org

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



To Our Kirtland Schools Families,
A committee of students, parents, staff and community members came together recently in an all-day retreat to focus on developing a strategic plan that will set the priorities for the Kirtland Local Schools for the future.

A strategic plan will help the school district focus its energy and resources on action plans that will help the district achieve the goals outlined by our stakeholders. The feedback provided throughout the process through surveys and focus groups provided valuable data to help our strategic planning committee identify strengths and weakness, as well as identify opportunities.

The result of this process will ensure we are working toward common goals that will only strengthen our school district as we work toward implementing the vision created by our school and greater community.

I want to thank all of the individuals who volunteered their time and provided valuable insight to help us work through this process and create a dynamic plan that will serve as a roadmap for our schools.

I also want to remind you that the Kirtland Local Schools have Issue 2, a 5.9-mill operating levy on the May 8 ballot. Issue 2 is intended to help our district preserve the academic excellence we now provide our students. You can learn more about Issue 2, including a Q&A, on our website at www.kirtlandschools.org/operating.

Bill Wade
Superintendent

FINANCE UPDATE: BUDGETING PROCESS AIMS TO PRESERVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The district has begun the budgeting process for the 2018-2019 school year. The Board is committed to academic excellence and being prudent stewards of taxpayer dollars and as such is starting a process to further scrub expenses to keep them to a minimum.

The initial budgeting process shows the district will be well below its initial goal of capping expenses at 2.75% and will be closer to a 1% increase. This was achieved through continued budgeting efficiencies such as zero-based budgeting to more efficiently plan for incurred costs year to year, consolidation of staff through more efficient scheduling and changes in special education services. The Board and administration will continue to work on this budget and will finalize by the June Board meeting.

Failure to pass additional revenue will result in changing the district as we know it. It will mean fewer teachers, increased class sizes and fewer opportunities for students. It is clear cuts will have a drastic impact on the quality of education provided in Kirtland. The district and the Board are looking at all options, which were discussed at the March Finance Committee meeting, to determine the best course of action to further offset the projected \$1.1 million deficit.

The district works hard to cut expenses that do not impact educational excellence, while balancing fiscal responsibility. A levy failure would result in cuts that are expected to impact our day-to-day operations and will adversely affect the quality of education we provide our students.

You can find forecasts, monthly financial statements, audits and appropriations online at www.kirtlandschools.org/Treasurer.

KMS NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Five Kirtland Middle School students placed at the regional National History Day competition, earning them a trip to the state contest.

Students in grades 6-12 participate in National History Day events at the district, state and national levels. Historians, educators and professionals in related fields evaluate students' historical research that leads to exhibits, documentaries, original performances, websites and scholarly papers. Those recognized at the district events qualify for the Ohio History Day State Competition. Award-winning entries at the state level are eligible to participate in the National History Day event in June in College Park, Maryland.

The 2018 contest theme is Conflict & Compromise in History.

Kirtland had three winning entries from five students at the Region 3 District Competition, which includes Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina and Summit counties:

- Ella Kessler won 3rd place Junior Individual Documentary and the Grey's Armory Award for "All Together for Victory: Disney's World War II Propaganda"
- Aaron Schulz, Vincent Debeljak and Victor Alfieri won 2nd place Junior Group Documentary for "Manhattan Project"
- Sky Carpenter won 2nd place Junior Individual Exhibit for "The Connecticut Compromise"

The state contest will take place April 21 at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. KMS eighth-grade Social Studies teacher Heidi Grunenberg advises students in the National History Day contest.



KHS JUNIOR RECOGNIZED FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP



Kelly Rudder was named one of the nation's 10 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge (FTC) Dean's List Award Winners for 2017.

Dean's List winners demonstrate leadership and commitment to FIRST, have technical expertise and passion, display entrepreneurship and creativity, motivate

and lead fellow team members and effectively increase awareness of FIRST in their school and community.

Kelly is a third-year member of the high school's FTC team, the Electric Hornets. She also participated in the middle school's FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team for three years. She coaches several FLL teams and volunteers at FLL competitions as a referee or judge. She also is involved in the NEOHBots (Northeastern Ohio Robotics Alliance) organization as a NEOHBots Ambassador.

Jake Grdadolnik is one of three FIRST Dean's List Finalists for 2018 and will attend the World Competition in Detroit, Michigan.

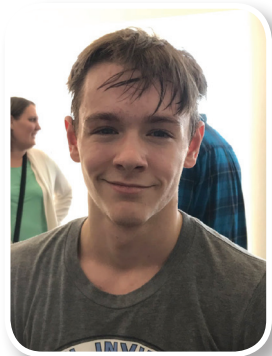
SPORTS SHORTS

The Kirtland High School girls' Varsity basketball team finished the 2017-2018 regular season with an undefeated 22-0 record, setting a new school record with 23 wins in a single season. Head Coach Bob Bell also was named Ohio's Division III Coach of the Year, and players Sydney Snyder and Jenna Sayle earned All-Ohio honors.

Bell's 17-year record at Kirtland is 281-12. He led the Hornets to 10 Chagrin Valley Conference titles in the last 14 years and 14 sectional championships.

Sydney, a senior, was named First Team All-Ohio and 2018 Ohio Varsity Girls Basketball Player of the Year. She was a Special Mention All-Ohioan last winter. Jenna, a junior, was named Division III Northeast Lakes Player of the Year and the Chagrin Valley Conference Valley Division MVP. She received an Honorable Mention for All-Ohio.

Junior Konnor Duncan represented the Kirtland Hornets at the 81st Annual State Wrestling Championship in Columbus after finishing as a runner-up at the Division III district wrestling tournament and finishing the season with a 23-17 record.



ISSUE 2 WILL HELP KIRTLAND PRESERVE THE EXCELLENCE

Issue 2 is a 5.9-mill, 10-year operating levy on the May 8 ballot that aims to preserve the academic excellence of the Kirtland Local Schools.

While operating costs continue to increase, revenue has remained flat since the last new money levy in 2012, and actually declined with cuts to state and federal funding.

These losses must be absorbed by the district's general fund budget to cover mandated services.

The district took aggressive measures to reduce costs, including streamlining positions, reducing staff and implementing shared service agreements for bus maintenance, food service, human resources, payroll and healthcare benefits management.

Along with reducing expenses, the district also sought alternative revenue sources. State and local grants supported modernizing learning spaces, implementing a 1:1 computer initiative, providing professional development, purchasing four new school buses, renovating classrooms, opening a new athletic agility room and renovating the stadium restrooms and utilizing an electronic message display sign. All of these initiatives were funded at no cost to taxpayers.

Revenue generated from Issue 2 will be used to support the day-to-day operations of the schools and preserve Kirtland's academic excellence by maintaining class sizes; providing a diverse and well-rounded extracurricular program; art and music; offering AP and online course electives at the high school; providing quality special education and gifted services.

Issue 2 supports the programming that ensures students have what they need to succeed. It supports a near-perfect graduation rate and a 90% college enrollment rate, as well as early reading intervention services that set our students up for success. It supports safety and security measures for our entire school community.

Failure of Issue 2 threatens the academic excellence and support services that directly impact students. A levy failure will mean fewer teachers, increased class sizes and fewer opportunities for students.

You can learn more about Issue 2 at www.kirtlandschools.org/operating.

2018-2019 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year will take place on **May 18. You must call the Kirtland Elementary School (KES) office to set up an appointment at 440-256-3344 x. 2000.** Your child must be 5 years old by Sept. 30 to enter kindergarten. All required enrollment documents are on the Kirtland Local Schools' website under the Parents tab. If you need a paper copy, please stop in the KES office. **Parents(s) and child will both attend registration.**



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL 2018-2019 REGISTRATION

The Kirtland Local Schools invite children ages 3-5 to learn, play and grow at the Kirtland Schools' Bright Beginnings Preschool. Registration for Kirtland residents is **April 9-30**. Registration for non-residents is **May 1-June 1**. Currently enrolled students receive first priority in enrolling. There is a \$100 non-refundable registration fee to reserve your child's placement in class. Cost of the program is \$1,630 for Kirtland residents, and \$1,830 for non-residents. **To register, call Diana Simpson at 440.256.3311 x. 1007.**



KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL POWER OF THE PEN ADVANCES TO STATE TOURNAMENT

The Kirtland High School Power of the Pen team took third place at the 2018 PenOHIO 9-12 Division Tri-C North Coast Regional Tournament, earning a spot at the State Tournament.

Varsity team members Brandi Martz, Emily Crebs, Schuyler South, Morgan Carpenter, Mya Adams and Thomas Calvert are members of the Creative Writing Club. They competed in three 40-minute rounds, writing to open-ended prompts. Students are judged according to specific requirements, earning awards for each round. Kirtland's Varsity team will compete at the state tournament in May at The College of Wooster.

PenOHIO is Ohio's Interscholastic Writing League for adolescents and young adults from schools across the state. Top state winners earn college scholarships

and have their work published in PenOHIO's eBook of Winners, a curriculum supplement for Ohio teachers.



SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

The Kirtland Local Schools are an ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) district. ALICE provides preparation and planning to proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter. Training for staff and students is done in coordination with local law enforcement.

The district typically runs one tabletop safety drill – in which plans and procedures are reviewed and discussed before implementation – and three active drills with students and staff at the beginning of the school year, with another round of review and drilling in January. The district will be adding additional regular ALICE drills during the school year. This allows staff, students, administrators and local law enforcement the opportunity to practice and review safety procedures.

These additional drills will be a combination of tabletop and active drills to provide students and staff the opportunity to think and talk about decisions prior to implementing a live drill. This will allow the schools to look at a variety of scenarios. The district also will run drills for scenarios that occur at unexpected times, such as during a class exchange, lunch periods and recess, to ensure our staff and students are best prepared and thoroughly understand proper procedures.

The district is constantly reviewing its procedures and upgrading safety systems. We are exploring adding more cameras and ways to barricade our doors during lockdowns. The ultimate goal is to create a comfort level among staff and students with safety policies and procedures, as well as enhance partnerships with law enforcement to ensure the safest environment for all.

The Kirtland Local Schools want to review visitor security procedures, outlined below:

- Approach the main entrance and push the buzzer located near the door (at KES, this is inside the main entrance doors).
- Please state your name and reason for your visit to the building secretary.
- Please proceed directly to the office to sign in or to conduct any business.

We appreciate our families following procedures to ensure the safety of everyone on our campus. Safety and security remain a top priority for our district. We thank you for your patience as we continually review and update our practices to maintain a safe campus.

KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL ELECTRIC HORNETS BRING HOME MOTIVATE AWARD

The Kirtland High School FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Team brought home the Motivate Award and a Dean's List Finalist at the iSPACE FIRST Tech Challenge Ohio Championship in Cincinnati.

In its third straight state appearance, the FTC Electric Hornets won two of their five robot game matches, placing 26th. They also earned the Motivate Award, which celebrates the team that exemplifies the essence of the FIRST Tech Challenge competition while making a collective effort to make FIRST known throughout their school and community. Team member Jake Grdadolnik was one of three FIRST Dean's List Finalist winners and will attend the World Competition in Detroit, Michigan.

Led by junior Kirk Brauer, the Electric Hornets implemented the FIRST Competition web application for the robot rounds.

The team earned a trip to state competition after finishing fifth overall and earned the second-place Inspire Award at the district competition at Kent State University. The team also finished seventh out of 28 teams – the second-highest robotics competition finish in team history – in January at competition at Cuyahoga Community College.

The Electric Hornets participate in community outreach events throughout the year, including events at Hattie Larhnam, the Kirtland Cub Scout Pinewood Derby and the University of Akron. The team also mentors teams from Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation, Mentor Memorial Middle School and Eastlake Middle School.



KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR CREATES APP FOR FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

Kirtland High School junior Kirk Brauer brought Family Bingo night into the 21st century with a bingo app.

Kirtland Elementary School (KES) Principal Chad VanArnhem said Family Bingo Night was getting by with an outdated bingo machine and a hand-made board held up by a flimsy old projector screen.

This school year, a new mounted projector and large electronic screen were added to Hornet Hall, so VanArnhem explored the idea of using an app to offer a better visual for participants. But none of the apps seemed to be quite the right fit, and more robust apps were too expensive. So he approached KHS computer science teacher Greg Cosimi with an idea.

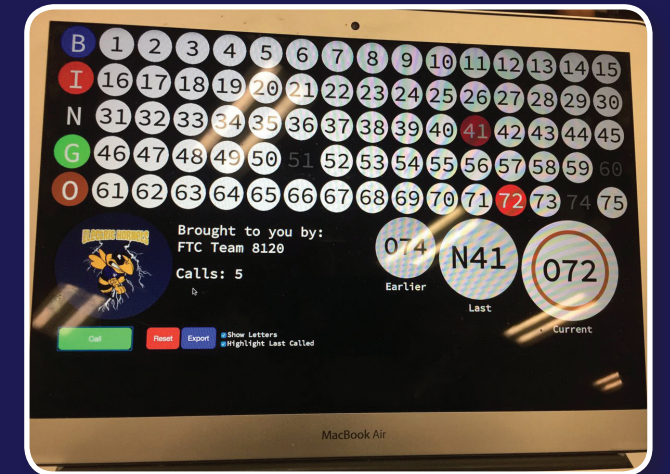
Cosimi knew one of his students, Kirk, could get the job done. Kirk listened to what VanArnhem was looking for and designed a bingo app within a week.

“You click a button and it chooses a random bingo ball, just like in a bingo machine, and displays it in an easily readable format,” Kirk said, adding that he used a lot of programming knowledge he picked up through computer science classes and from his work with the Electric Hornets, KHS’ robotics team. “I took all the knowledge I had and jammed it all into one thing. I packaged it for Kirtland with the Electric Hornets logo and created a file they can run on their computers.”

“The app was everything I hoped for and more,” VanArnhem said. “I felt bingo night went smoother than ever, in large part due to Kirk’s app.”

Cosimi, who taught Kirk Introduction to Programming, AP Computer Science A and Honors C++ Programming over the past three years, said the KHS junior “has the rare mix of knowledge, skill and determination that allows him to accept challenges and run with them.”

Cosimi said the Electric Hornets Robotics Team – where Kirk serves as a builder, programmer and 3D modeler – nominated Kirk to the FIRST Dean's List this year, which recognizes students who exhibit gracious professionalism in their relentless pursuit of engineering excellence.



ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

Kirtland Elementary School students, staff and community members participated in the One School, One Book initiative.

Thanks to a grant from the Kirtland Education Foundation, every student and staff member received a copy of “The World According to Humphrey” by Betty G. Birney. Everyone read the same chapter each night, and students answered daily questions.

Local businesses participated in a scavenger hunt, displaying Humphrey posters and allowing students to compete for prizes by stamping their Humphrey Passport. The school also had its own Humphrey the hamster that visited classrooms daily. You can find more information online at <http://www.kirtlandschools.org/OneBookOneSchool.aspx>

