



Kirtland Local School District  
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# THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Winter 2019

## KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS PREPARES TO LAUNCH “EXCITE, EXPLORE & ENGAGE”

### A College and Career Pathways Program for Grades 6-12

In an effort to bring personalized learning to students, the Kirtland Local Schools are launching a new “Excite, Explore & Engage” College and Career Pathways Program for grades 6-12.

The program, which will start to be rolled out next school year, aligns with the district’s recently adopted Strategic Plan and its goal to implement a personalized learning pathway system for all students, with a focus on innovation, life skills, and career and college preparation. The district is updating its curriculum and instruction to offer students multiple opportunities to create a post-secondary planning pathway.

The program will expose students to a professional speakers platform, the ability to meet and talk with professionals in various careers, on-site visits to local businesses, and tools for self-reflection to assist them in planning for life after high school.

At the middle school level, the new program hopes to “EXCITE” students and make them aware of the many college and career opportunities available to them. Students in grade 6 will focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM); grade 7 will focus on health and human services, natural resources, education and humanities; and grade 8 will focus on law, administration and business.

At the high school level, freshmen and sophomores will “EXPLORE” different career options. Students in grade 9 will select from a variety of pathway options to further explore in high school - health and human services, education, STEAM, business, law, protective services, arts and communications. With the help of teachers and counselors, students will map out a four-year plan for their high school years. Underclassmen also will network with community and business partners; participate in career fairs, and manufacturing and STEAM expos; and prepare for life after high school and college.

Juniors will focus on resume writing, mock interviews and a one-week shadowing experience. Seniors will participate in a two-week shadowing experience. The district hopes these experiences for upperclassmen will “ENGAGE” them further as they make decisions on future studies and/or careers after graduating from Kirtland Local Schools.



**COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS  
PROGRAM FOR GRADES 6-12**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Kirtland Athletics at [www.kirtlandhornet.org](http://www.kirtlandhornet.org) | Kirtland Local Schools at [www.kirtlandschools.org](http://www.kirtlandschools.org)

## save the date

March 12 - 7 p.m.

Join Superintendent  
Bill Wade for the  
State of the Schools  
presentation at Lakeland  
Community College.

Look for details online at  
[www.kirtlandschools.org](http://www.kirtlandschools.org)

“Our mission and vision at Kirtland Local Schools is to provide a personalized education for all students while educating them to become empowered citizens,” said Kirtland Superintendent Bill Wade. “This new career pathways program does just that, and we can’t wait to give our students the knowledge, skills, tools and experiences needed to be successful in postsecondary education and/or training that leads to gainful employment.”

A large part of the success of this program will be the partnerships and active participation of our local businesses, organizations and community members who are willing to provide real life opportunities to our students by offering their time and talents. The district is looking for individuals to speak to students about a particular career, allow students to shadow their business, help students with their interviewing skills and/or resumes, serve as a mentor or spend time speaking to students at a career fair. If interested, please fill out the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/KirtlandSurvey> or call Superintendent Wade at 440.256.3311.



## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



To Our Kirtland Schools Families,

On March 6, we are hosting our first-ever Senior Citizen Appreciation Dinner. We invite our local senior citizens to join us for a free pasta dinner, sponsored by Angelos Pizzeria and Restaurant, and the

Kirtland High School Drama Club's performance of "Rest Assured." Our high school Jazz Band also will provide dinner music.

Our student athletes and coaches had an impressive fall and winter sports season. Our Hornets football team came home with another state championship, and Coach Tiger LaVerde was named 2018 Cleveland Browns High School Coach of the Year. Our Lady Hornets soccer team finished its season as runner-up in the Division III State Championship, while our boys' team made its first-ever Final Four appearance.

At its Jan. 21, 2019, meeting, the Kirtland Board of Education took the final step to place a 4.11-mill renewal levy on the May ballot. **This is not a new tax.** The levy was originally approved by the voters in 1999 and will be extended for five years. The renewal of the \$1.45 million will help the district maintain current educational programming and services.

The renewal is critical to the district as our revenue is projected to remain flat. The district has worked hard to control and reduce expenses and will continue to do so into the future. The Board and administration are committed to maintaining fiscal responsibility to the community with a goal of ensuring every dollar spent benefits students and the community. The Board and the district will remain transparent in financial discussions as they progress.

We're looking at a strong second half of the year. If you have any comments or questions, please reach out to me at [bill.wade@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:bill.wade@kirtlandschools.org) or call 440.256.3311.

Bill Wade  
Superintendent

## PTA SPRING AUCTION TO RAISE MONEY FOR STEAM PROGRAM

The PTA Spring Auction is raising money for the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) program at Kirtland High School. Proceeds from the auction will fund a Maker Space and production lab, as well as supplies for a K-12 Fab lab.

The PTA Spring Auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, at the K&D Amenities Center, 4420 Sherwin Road in Willoughby. At the event, you are able to bid on items including class pottery, Principal for a Day, dining, entertainment and spa baskets, as well as Kirtland Hornet-themed packages.

This is the PTA's only fundraiser, which traditionally supports school programs and events.

### SAVE THE DATE- MARCH 6, 5PM

Kirtland Local Schools will host a Senior Citizen Appreciation Dinner on March 6.

Enjoy a dinner of pasta, salad, a roll and dessert at 5pm in the Kirtland High School cafeteria, followed by "Rest Assured," a play by Donald Payton, performed by the Kirtland High School Drama Club in Hornet Hall.

To participate, please RSVP via email to: [sandy.martz@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:sandy.martz@kirtlandschools.org), or call 440.256.3311.



- The KHS Boys' Varsity Soccer team made its first-ever Final Four appearance, finishing its season with a record 17-2-3 – the most wins in school history. The team also had 14 shutouts (the most in school history). The team claims six Academic All-Ohio players. Jeremy Lunka was named 1st Team All-Ohio and All Great Lakes Region.



- Coach John Valentic achieved his 200th victory this season (all at KHS) and won the Ron Pinsenschaum Award from the Greater Cleveland Soccer Coaches Association for exceptional coaching, ethics and sportsmanship.
- The KHS Varsity Football team visited the Ohio Statehouse to be recognized as the Division VI Football State Champions. The Hornets had a 15-0 season. The Hornets earned state football titles in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2018.



- KHS Varsity Football Coach Tiger LaVerde was named the 2018 Cleveland Browns High School Coach of the Year and nominated for the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award. He and 31 other coaches representing the 32 NFL teams were invited to the 2019 Pro Bowl in Orlando. LaVerde was joined on the trip by Hornets lineman Jack Bailey, a KHS senior heading to Kent State University to play college football. Bailey was one of 50 high school

football players who joined their coach to participate in a Play Football High School Skills Showdown and Play Football Celebrity Flag game at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World. Bailey won the bench press competition, pressing 225 pounds 23 times. LaVerde and Bailey were honored on the field during Pro Bowl pregame festivities.



- The Kirtland Middle School (KMS) 8th grade Lady Hornets Volleyball team won the Chagrin Valley Conference championship. The 7th grade team took third place.
- KHS Cross Country member Ian McGreal was named 1st Team All Chagrin Valley Conference, while Emily Crebs, Reilly Greenlee and Julie Namciu were named 2nd Team. Honorable Mentions were earned by Mateja Mrva, Nick Briggs, Konnor Duncan and Aimee Baldrey.





## KIRTLAND HEAD COACH BOB BELL COLLECTS CAREER WIN # 500

Kirtland High School Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Bob Bell won his 500th game as head coach last fall.

Bell graduated in 1967 from Hannibal River High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball. He earned a basketball scholarship to play at Kent State University, later earning a Varsity letter as pitcher for the Golden Flashes baseball team.

He began his 38-year coaching career as the boys' junior varsity coach at Kent State University High School. He served as head coach at Skyview High School in Monroe County, Riverside High School and Willoughby South. He retired from teaching from the Willoughby-Eastlake School District.



In 1998, Bell responded to a newspaper advertisement for the Kirtland girls' freshman coach, but he was tapped to coach the JV squad, which he coached for four seasons before being named the head coach for the girls' Varsity team.

In his 18 years at Kirtland, Bell accumulated a 288-114 record, and is now 500-400 overall as a head coach.

Last season, Bell was named the Ohio Division III, Northeast Lakes District and Ohio Varsity Coach of the Year. He was named Chagrin Valley Coach of the Year 10 times and led the Lady Hornets to the 2005 district championship.

## SPORTS SHORTS

The Kirtland High School (KHS) Lady Hornets Varsity Soccer team finished its season as the state runner-up in the Division III State Championship, and champions of the Chagrin Valley Conference-Chagrin Division. The team ranked second in the Division III coaches' poll and won more games than any other team in school history with a 20-3 record. They are also the only women's soccer team in Lake County to appear in multiple state finals – 2015, 2017 and 2018.

- Freshman Erika Zshuppe was named MVP of the Chagrin Valley Conference and 2nd Team All-Ohio. Junior Maya Zovko was named MVP of All Greater Cleveland, 1st Team All-Ohio and All Regional High School Player. Maya is only the third student-athlete in any sport from Kirtland to be named News-Herald Player of the Year.
- Coach Ed Bradac was named Chagrin Valley Conference Coach of the Year, All Greater Cleveland Coach of the Year and Division III Coach of the Year for Ohio.



## ROBOTICS TEAMS EARN SPOTS AT STATE COMPETITIONS

The Kirtland High School (KHS) FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Team won the Inspire Award at the FIRST Tech Challenge Cleveland Qualifying Tournament in January, earning them a spot at the state contests.

The Inspire Award is presented to the team who judges identify as embodying the "challenge" of the FIRST Tech Challenge program and being a strong ambassador of the program in the community. The team that receives this award performed well in all judging categories and was chosen as a model FIRST Tech Challenge team both on and off the playing field.

The Electric Hornets also picked up the Motivate Award at the Kent State Qualifier. The KHS Electric Hornets are among 36 teams that will advance to the 2019 iSPACE Ohio FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship in February at Loveland High School. This will be the team's fourth straight state appearance.

The Electric Hornets participate in community outreach events throughout the year, including demonstrations at Hattie Larlham and the Kirtland Kiwanis Strawberry Festival,



and multiple events hosted by the University of Akron.

Bob Lasecki, a fifth-grade Kirtland Elementary School teacher, allows the team to teach robot programming integrated with math standards to his students. The team also mentors teams from Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation, Kirtland Middle School, Mentor Memorial Middle School, Mater Dei Academy and Eastlake Middle School.

Advisors for Kirtland FTC 8120 are Michael and Donna Rudder.

The Kirtland Middle School (KMS) FLL Team Buzz Buzz Sting Sting has been working on developing an innovative solution to solving muscular atrophy in astronauts due to the lack of gravity in space. The team conferenced with NASA, Great Lakes Science Center and Parker Hannifin to design a space suit to combat muscle loss astronauts experience from trips to space.

The team received the Robot Design award at Lorain Community College with advancement to the district competition at the University of Akron, where the team won the Robot Strategy award. The KMS team also advanced to state competition, ending their season among the top 11 percent of teams in the state. Heidi Grunenberg advises the middle school robotics team.



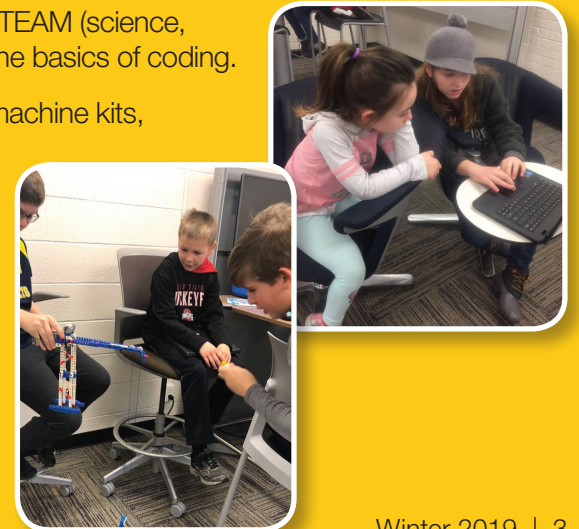
## STUDENTS USE KNOWLEDGE OF STEAM TO LEARN CODING BASICS

Kirtland Elementary School fifth-grade students used their knowledge of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) to teach K-4 students about the basics of coding.

Fifth-grade students, led by Bob Lasecki, showcased their LEGO simple machine kits, robotics, STEM kits and vinyl cutter to introduce STEAM projects to the younger students as part of the Hour of Code, which aims to broaden participation and interest in the field of computer science.

The LEGO sets contain a brick assortment with gears, wheels and axles, levers and pulleys. Using the sets, students engage in investigating and understanding the operation of simple and compound machines found in everyday life. The kits include a national curriculum built on engineering design, technology, science, real life and applied math.

The vinyl cutter uses a blade to cut out shapes and letters from sheets of vinyl. The shapes are programmed into the machine and printed out for immediate use.





## DARE2CARE PARTNERSHIP BUYS SHOES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Students at Kirtland Local Schools raised \$3,600 to donate 170 pairs of shoes to students at a Guatemalan school in Central America through The Shoe That Grows Program. The schools partnered with Dare2Care International, a Lake County non-profit organization, to raise money for "The Shoe That Grows" initiative to provide new shoes for children who were victims of last year's earthquake in Guatemala, Central America, and orphans in Cameroon and Tanzania, Africa. The shoes are adjustable to grow with the child.

According to The Shoe That Grows organization, more than 1.5 billion people suffer from soil-transmitted diseases worldwide. The adjustable shoes cost \$25 each and protect children from exposure to illness and disease, enabling them to attend school and help their families.

Kirtland Elementary School raised \$1,215 by selling outlines of shoes for \$5. Students decorated the shoes, which were displayed in the Shoe Art Show. Art show winners were Barrett Bernot (first grade), first place; Alexandra Kostelnik (kindergarten), second place; and Kevin Urbanick (fourth grade) and Leah Murphy (second grade), tied for third place. They also had the option of buying a T-shirt designed by the fifth-grade "Make It Club" to raise additional funds for the program. Student Council

co-advisors Mike Nalepka and Sandy Donovan led the effort.

Kirtland Middle School raised \$1,200 by hosting a staff vs. student volleyball game. Kirtland High School sponsored a dodgeball game that raised \$1,300 for the project.

Dare2Care is scheduled to deliver the shoes to Jardin De Amor School in Guatemala – a nonprofit providing education programs, scholarships, work programs, housing and health services to the region's poorest families – in mid-March, and hopes to schedule a video chat between Guatemalan and Kirtland students.



## KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS NAMED TO COLLEGE BOARD AP DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

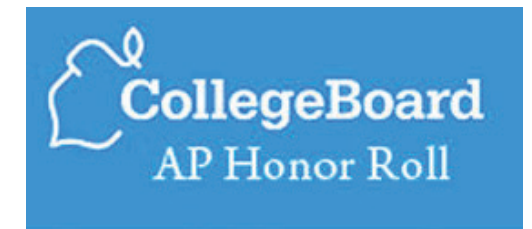
Kirtland Local Schools is one of 373 school districts in the United States and Canada named by the College Board to the 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll.

To be included on the Honor Roll, districts had to increase the number of students participating in AP courses while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP exam scores of 3 or higher. This is the third year Kirtland Local Schools has been recognized. The district also was recognized in 2017 and 2013.

In 2018, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for students that qualified for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion in the 9th Annual District Honor Roll is based

on a review of three years of AP data. To be honored, districts must meet the following criteria:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, 6 percent in medium districts and 11 percent in small districts.
- Increase or maintain the percentage of underrepresented minority groups taking exams.
- Improve or maintain performance levels.



Kirtland High School offers 12 AP classes in Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics I, U.S. Government, U.S. History, CS Principles, English Language, English Literature, Calculus AB, Calculus BC and Statistics.

## KIRTLAND PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Registration for Kirtland Local Schools' Bright Beginnings Preschool for the 2019-2020 school year is open through April 12. Find the registration packet on the Kirtland Local Schools website – [www.kirtlandschools.org](http://www.kirtlandschools.org) – and send it with the deposit to Diana Simpson at the Kirtland Board of Education, 9252 Chillicothe Rd, Kirtland, OH 44094.

Students must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2019, and must be potty trained by the first day of school to attend.

Bright Beginnings offers one class in the morning, 8:45-11:15 a.m. An afternoon class from 12:15-2:45 p.m. will be added if enough students enroll. A decision on the number of classes to be offered will be made in early April, and parents will be notified by April 19 if their child will be placed in a Bright Beginnings class.

Please forward questions to Diana Simpson at 440.256.3311 x.1007 or email [diana.simpson@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:diana.simpson@kirtlandschools.org), or Becky Malinas at [becky.malinas@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:becky.malinas@kirtlandschools.org).

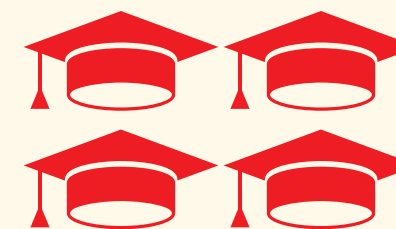
### Pre-K Registration



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year will take place on **May 17**. **You must call the office to set up an appointment at 440.256.3344.** Your child must be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2019. 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 Kirtland Elementary School office. **Parent(s) and child will both attend registration.**

## Kirtland High School AP Scholar Awards 2018



4 STUDENTS EARNED AP SCHOLAR AWARDS FOR EARNING AN AVERAGE SCORE OF AT LEAST 3 ON THREE OR MORE AP EXAMS.



7 EARNED AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS AWARDS FOR SCORING AN AVERAGE OF 3.25 ON ALL EXAMS TAKEN, AND SCORES OF 3 OR HIGHER ON FOUR OR MORE OF THESE EXAMS.



1 STUDENT EARNED AN AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION AWARD FOR EARNING AN AVERAGE OF 3.5 ON ALL AP EXAMS TAKEN AND SCORES OF 3 OR HIGHER ON FIVE OR MORE OF THESE EXAMS.

**save the date**  
Saturday, May 18

Kirtland Local Schools will host a Family Fun Run & Wellness Fair on campus on Saturday, May 18. Vendors associated with health and wellness that are interested in participating should email [chad.vanarnhem@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:chad.vanarnhem@kirtlandschools.org). Stay tuned for more details.