



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

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Winter 2020

## KHS UPDATES CURRICULUM WITH NEW CLASSES FOR 2020-2021

The new Kirtland High School Program of Studies for 2020-2021 was redesigned to be more interactive and aligned with Ohio Department of Education standards.

The Program of Studies, which was approved by the Kirtland Board of Education, includes graduation requirements, scheduling protocol, Honors Diploma requirements, cumulative GPA calculation, extracurricular/athletic eligibility, advanced options (Advanced Placement, College Credit Plus), standardized testing and course descriptions.

**KHS also will introduce new courses in the coming year.** They include:

- **English** (Introduction to Film Studies, Creative Writing, Speech and Communication, Poetry and Journalism)
- **Science** (Astronomy, Intro to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering)
- **Social Studies** (Ethics and Philosophy, and Advanced Placement Psychology)
- **World Language** (French and Spanish Conversation classes, and Business/Medical Spanish)
- **Advanced Placement** Capstone Program (AP Seminar and AP Research)
- **Music** (Rock and Roll History, Voice and Treble Ensemble)
- **Health and Wellness** (Personal Fitness and Overall Wellness, and Mindfulness)
- **Magoosh ACT prep**

The “Excite, Explore & Engage” College and Career Pathways program also is expanding, by providing students with experiences to gain awareness, explore and engage in opportunities that stimulate intellectual curiosity, support the pursuit of their own learning, foster open-mindedness and inspire critical reflection, voice and agency. Focus areas for Pathways experiences include:

**KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS**  
**EXCITE**  
**EXPLORE**  
**ENGAGE**

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

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
KIRTLAND, OH 44094

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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)

### excite Grades 6-12

The 6-12 pathway initiative leverages professional speakers, site visits and a curriculum that encourages exploration and awareness of college and career opportunities for students.

### explore Grades 9-10

- Understand college and career planning
- Develop the plan to a pathway
- Experience real-life work force
- Practice self-regulation
- Promote positive relationships

### engage Grades 11-12

- Evaluate plan progress
- Exhibit problem solving skills
- Model integrity, ethical behavior and leadership
- Communicate clearly, reflectively and with reason

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



To Our Kirtland Schools Families,

The new year brings new organization to the Kirtland Board of Education. Jonathan Withrow takes on the role of president, while Shannon Green will serve as Vice President. Timothy Cosgrove returns to the Board after his re-election this fall, along

with Board members Kathryn Talty and newly elected member Matt Whittaker.

On April 1, we will host our second annual Senior Citizen Appreciation Dinner. We invite our local senior citizens to join us for a free dinner and the Kirtland High School Drama Club's performance of "You Can't Take It With You."

Our student athletes and coaches had an impressive fall and winter sports season. Our Hornets football team came home with their fifth state championship. The Hornets also were ranked nationally for the second year in the 2019 High School Football America Small Schools Top 25. The Lady Hornets soccer team made its fourth state tournament appearance in the last five years. We are very proud of all our athletes for their continued success!

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

## BOARD MEETINGS 2020

### 2020 Board of Education Meetings

Jan. 29	Aug. 24
March 9	Sept. 28
April 27	Oct. 26
May 26	Nov. 23
June 22	Dec. 14
July 27	

*\*Board meetings are held at 7pm in the Kirtland High School cafeteria*

### Board Finance Committee Meetings

Jan. 13	April 20
Feb. 24	May 18
March 30	June 10

*\*Finance meetings are held at 7am at the Kirtland Board of Education*

### Board Student Learning and Achievement Committee Meetings

Jan. 13	June 15
Feb. 11	Aug. 11
March 24	Sept. 8
April 14	Oct. 13
May 12	Nov. 17

*\*Board SLA meetings are held at 8:30am in the Kirtland High School Library*

## SPORTS SHORTS

Hornet wrestlers earned several tournament awards. At the Cuyahoga Heights Redskin Invitational, Brayden Adkins, Will Davidson and Jeff Kusar won titles. At the Perry Pin City Tournament, Brayden and Jeff won titles. At the Kenston Invitational, Brayden and Jeff earned second-place finishes. Will finished second at the Rebel Invitational and Jeff also earned an individual title.

Sophomore Kaley Ream won two events at the Perry Invitational swim meet, finishing first in the 100-meter fly and first place in the 200-meter individual medley.

Several Kirtland Soccer members were named to All-Ohio teams by the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association. Maya Zovko and Erika Zshuppe were named 1st Team All-Ohio in Division III, and Tyler Banyasz earned 2nd Team honors



## UPCOMING EVENTS



- Feb. 20** Grade 5 & KHS Band Concert
- Feb. 24** Board Finance Committee meeting, 7am @ Board Office
- March 5** KHS & KMS Choir Concert, 7pm @ KMS Gym
- March 9** Board of Education meeting, 7pm @ KHS cafeteria
- March 10** PTA meeting
- March 16-20** Spring Break
- March 24** Board Student Learning & Achievement Committee meeting, 8:30am at KHS Library
- March 30** Board Finance Committee meeting, 7am @ Board Office
- April 4** PTA Spring Auction, 7pm @ The Kirtlander Party Center
- April 7** PTA meeting
- April 10-13** April Break/No School
- April 14** Board Student Learning & Achievement Committee meeting, 8:30am @ KHS Library
- April 20** Board Finance Committee meeting, 7am @ Board Office
- April 27** Board of Education meeting, 7pm @ KHS cafeteria
- April 30** KHS Band Concert, 7pm @ KES gym
- May 12** Board Student Learning & Achievement Committee meeting, 8:30am @ KHS library
- May 12** PTA meeting
- May 15** Kindergarten registration-must register online
- May 18** Board Finance Committee meeting, 7am @ Board Office
- May 26** Board of Education meeting, 7pm @ KHS cafeteria
- June 10** Board Finance Committee meeting, 7am @ Board Office
- June 15** Board Student Learning & Achievement Committee meeting, 8:30am @ KHS library
- June 22** Board of Education meeting, 7pm @ KHS Cafeteria

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2020-2021

Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year will be on May 15. Parents of incoming kindergarten students can find a variety of information on our website at: <http://www.kirtlandschools.org/KindergartenOrientation.aspx>.

You will find:

1. A sign-up for a presentation, question and answer period and tour of the building. It will be offered on three different days for incoming kindergarten parents/guardians. This is for adults only.

2. Available times for registration on May 15. You will bring your child during your selected time.
3. The necessary forms "Final Forms" that need to be completed prior to registration.
4. All other printable forms and information.

If you have questions or need help, please feel free to reach out to the KES office at 440.256.3344 ext. 2000.



## KES RECYCLING PROGRAM

Kirtland Elementary School is partnering with the Lake County Solid Waste District to run a recycling program this school year for third grade.

The Solid Waste District receives funding from The Ohio State University Extension to provide educational programming. This year, third-grade students participated in programs like "Four Pounds of Trash," "Juice Pouch Wallets" and "Earth Bracelets."



## FARM TO TABLE PROJECT INTRODUCES IMPORTANT SKILLS



Barbara Markovic, an intervention specialist at Kirtland High School and Kirtland Middle School, was in the middle of a professional development day just before the start of the school year when she had a lightbulb moment.

Markovic and her colleagues were learning about performance-based assessments, which measure students' ability to apply the skills and knowledge learned in class. Typically, teachers assign students a task to use their higher-order thinking skills to create a product or complete a process.

After brainstorming with a colleague, the result is a Farm To Table project that spans the entire school year and involves students designing tote bags. She's working with seven high school and middle school students with disabilities on the project, which touches on reading, writing, mathematics and social-emotional development skills.

The project launched in September when a local artist, Adrian Stupica, was brought in to help students design the bags.

Then it was a matter of making decisions on the cost of the bags and how to imprint the design. Through trial and error, the class decided to go with cotton bags. Using new digital equipment supplied by the Kirtland PTA in the

Hornet Hackerspace at Kirtland High School, students can digitally imprint their design onto the tote bags through a series of simple steps. The Hackerspace is a new area that invites students to share their interest in tinkering with technology, meet and work on projects and learn from each other.

The class hoped to sell 75 bags total, but within a month they sold 97 bags. Based on their initial success, they will continue to create and sell bags throughout the school year. Proceeds from bag sales will support community outings and future class projects. One of the class' community outings this year was a trip to Sage Fruit and Vegetable Farm. The Concept of Farm To Table was further cemented with students when they bought fresh fruit and vegetables and learned how to prepare them.

A wrap-around project to the tote bags this spring will be a seed project. Students will grow produce from seeds in their spaces in the Kirtland Community Garden, with plans to sell it back to the school and community. Rock's Farm and Garden offered to donate trays and soil for the students' spring plant sale. Last spring the students held a Spring Plant Sale after growing flowers with donated plant trays and seeds from Petitti's Garden Center.

"The speaker at our professional development day encouraged me to extend my project-based assessment from last year," Markovic said. "Her asking me to extend myself brought us to this point. That is when I brought in the idea of Farm To Table and incorporated it throughout the year."

## KHS INDUCTS 21 INTO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a high school student. In December, the Kirtland High School chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 21 new members.

NHS chapters in more than 12,500 high schools across the nation strive to give practical meaning to the Society's goals of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Kirtland's new members were selected based on demonstrated excellence in those four pillars of NHS.

Membership is more than an honor- it incurs a responsibility and an obligation to demonstrate those outstanding qualities that resulted in selection. Second-year members look forward to working with the new inductees on various service and tutoring projects throughout the year.



### KHS new NHS inductees:

Aimee Baldrey  
Andrew Beinhardt  
Maria Bevanda  
Haley Coso  
Anthony DeMarco  
Hannah Duncan  
Spencer Fortney  
TJ Green  
Haleigh Getchell  
Megan Hansen

Alaina Ingram  
Leah LaVerde  
Alex Loncar  
Timmy Lowery  
Nisha Makkar  
Emily Morris  
Heath Perry  
Zach Szymczak  
Emma Ulrich  
Reese VanArnhem  
Josh Wolfe

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Kirtland Board of Education approved the five-year forecast presented by Treasurer Lew Galante in the fall.

The forecast shows revenues remaining flat, while expenses continue to grow due to inflation and student need. While voters approved a five-year renewal levy last spring, it will not produce any additional revenues for the school district. Staff salaries and benefits comprise 83% of all expenses, and 96% of supply expenses are dedicated to instruction, maintenance or transportation.

In an effort to control rising expenses, the district will focus on capping expense growth at 2.5%. The district enacted zero-based budgeting -- with buildings and departments operating with no budget increases -- and staffing levels were reduced after the 2017-2018 school year through attrition and a reduction in force. The

district also negotiated a high deductible, consumer driven healthcare plan for support staff. The new healthcare plan provides a reduced premium cost to the district and employees, while migrating employees to a greater contribution rate that is in line with other area school districts.

These budget initiatives allows the district to control costs while ensuring the ability to pursue new and innovative projects to continually improve the academic program for students.

The Board and administration are committed to maintaining fiscal responsibility 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.

## KIRTLAND EARNS BEST PRACTICE AWARD FOR RISK MANAGEMENT

Kirtland Local School District's Building and Grounds Supervisor James Smith won the Ohio School Plan Best Practice Award for the district's proactive risk management mitigation practices.

To qualify for the award, districts must show accountability and completion of corrective actions.

In his nomination of Smith, Travis Thompson, director of Risk Management for Hylant Administrative Services in Toledo, said Smith made a building assessment when he started with Kirtland Schools and made several recommendations involving physical changes to building entrances. Those changes brought the district in compliance with ADA building code requirements and improved school safety and security.

"Mr. Smith and the Board truly implemented comprehensive best practices in school safety," Thompson wrote.

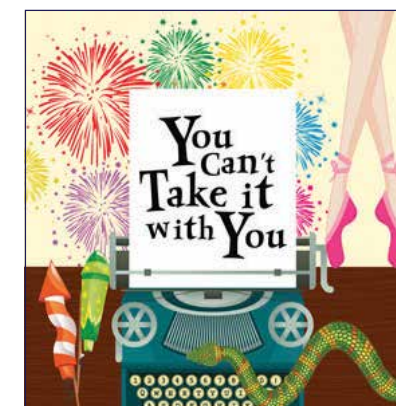
Smith credited Superintendent Bill Wade with leading

the charge to improve campus safety and the support of the Kirtland Board of Education in making it a reality.

"This is heavily weighted on the facility, the physical plant established practices and protocols. Everything we do is for the safety and security of the students, staff and community members," Smith said. "This is a great example of a collective team effort. No success would have been achieved without the leadership and collective team effort from the administrative team, our office support, the principals, our staff and the vendors."

The Ohio School Plan insures about 300 school districts, JVSs and ESCs in Ohio. Annually, they assess risk factors and operational practices of districts through site visits and standards to determine if districts are doing whatever is necessary to mitigate risk. The award recognizes districts that best fit the model for best practices.

This is Kirtland's first award, and Smith's second award. Smith will receive a renewal premium credit and a plaque.



**you are invited**  
SENIOR CITIZEN APPRECIATION DAY  
Wednesday, April 1, 5pm  
Play begins at 6pm

RSVP to [SandyMartz@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:SandyMartz@kirtlandschools.org) or 440.256.3311.

**"You Can't Take It With You"**

by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, three-act play

**Dinner & Play**

Sponsored By:  
The Wrapshack and  
Pizzeria

**FREE**  
to  
**SENIOR**  
**CITIZENS!**

## KMS ROBOTICS TEAMS EARN SPOTS AT STATE CONTESTS

The Kirtland High School Electric Hornets robotics team placed third in their first competition of the season and is headed to the state contest in March.

The Kirtland Electric Hornets FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) 8120 team hosted the Northeast Ohio FTC Qualifying Tournament Jan. 3 and 4 at Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus, taking care of setup, tear down and volunteer duties, including escorting teams to judging, field reset and registration.

The team earned advancement to the Ohio FIRST Tech Challenge State Championship March 13 and 14 at Loveland High School near Cincinnati. The group also competed at the 2020 FIRST Tech Challenge at Kent State University on Jan. 30 and Feb. 1.

FIRST Tech Challenge teams from grades 7-12 are challenged to design, build, program and operate robots to compete in head-to-head challenges.

After winning awards at two regional contests, the Kirtland Middle School robotics team Buzz Buzz Sting Sting is heading to the state contest in Dayton.

This fall, three KMS FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League (FLL) teams



– Buzz Buzz Sting Sting, Steel Stingers and Hungry Hungry Hornets – participated in the Lorain County Community College FLL Regional Qualifier tournament.

Hungry Hungry Hornets won the Motivate Award, which celebrates a team that embraces the culture of FLL through team building, team spirit and enthusiasm. Buzz Buzz Sting Sting won the Coopertition Award, which celebrates a team that displays unqualified kindness and respect in the face of fierce competition. It is the concept and a philosophy that teams can and should help and cooperate with each other even as they compete.

Based on their performance at the regional tournament, Steel Stingers and Buzz Buzz Sting Sting were selected to advance

to the Northeast Ohio FLL District Qualifier competition at the University of Akron in December. Buzz Buzz Sting Sting brought home the Motivate Award and competed at the Ohio FLL Championship Feb. 1 and 2 at Wright State University's Nutter Center in Dayton.

FLL introduces students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface.

## KES MOVES FULL STEAM AHEAD WITH STIMULATING ACTIVITIES

Kirtland Elementary School students are moving full STEAM ahead with science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics activities.

- Students in grades K-5 participate in the Hour of Code through Cord.org. The program exposes students to the field of computer science.
- The 5th Street Theater put on the holiday tradition “A Christmas Carol.” Fifth-grade students ran the entire production, including acting, backstage, directing, lights, sound and video.
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW) involves third, fourth and fifth grades and includes activities on simple machines, human brain modules and robotics.
- Funds from the Walkathon fundraiser provided new materials for classrooms to help students expand thinking and creativity skills. Fourth- and fifth-grade students helped to create the STEAM carts and

delivered them to teachers. The carts contain materials including LEGO scene building, Rubik's cubes, magnetic tiles, dominoes, gravity maze, chess, sign language flashcards, puzzles and games.

KES also created a Zen Den, a quiet place next to the STEAM Room to allow students to work quietly, listen to soft music and “chill” under soft lighting.



## 6-12 MATH TEXTBOOK ADOPTION FOCUSES ON PERSONALIZED LEARNING

In early 2020, Kirtland Middle School and Kirtland High School began implementing a new math program to make personalized learning a reality in the classroom.

The Pearson enVision Math 2.0 program - with a math XL online component - and Pearson MyMathLab, a companion online resource for upper-level math courses, offer embedded interactive and digital math tools that empower and aid students in taking more responsibility for their learning.

Personalized math practice and personal study plans provide a powerful scaffolding to help every student grow and master middle and high school math. This new resource fosters a balanced approach to instruction, conceptual understanding, procedural fluency and overall application of math practices, while enriching through visual cues and math modeling for a better understanding of math concepts.

The enVision Math with mathXL programs, which align with Kirtland Local Schools and Ohio state standards, provide increased focus, rigor and coherence that meets the needs of high achieving students, as well as those students who need additional time and support.

The enVision Math 2.0 program provides a comprehensive pathway from sixth-grade math through Algebra 2 that

ensures all students are college and career ready when they graduate. The middle school program emphasizes ratio and proportional reasoning, number sense, expressions and equations, leading to an understanding of functions and linearity. These concepts are revisited to show interconnectedness at each grade level. Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 are content-specific.

**Some of the exciting components of the new programs include:**

- Videos and/or interactive technology lessons to support math work.
- Student materials that are accessible at home for a blended learning approach.
- Hands-on situations and real-world/authentic problems that will help students develop a deeper understanding of math and reasoning concepts.
- Math literacy activities that help students develop critical thinking and writing skills.

The goal is to continue to provide all students with a personalized, balanced and flexible resource to foster maximum mathematical growth and academic achievement.

## FIVE KHS STUDENTS EARN CLEVELAND CLINIC EXPRESSIONS AWARDS

Five Kirtland High School students earned recognition for their Language Arts submissions in the 2019-2020 Cleveland Clinic eXpressions Program.

**Jordan Jontz** earned a Blue Ribbon for “Empty.” White Ribbons were earned by **Hannah Duncan** for “Dear Baby” and **Nisha Makkar** for “Regards, Your Daughter.” Nisha also earned the Journey Award for her art submission based on her eXpressionist statement that depicted her experience with the eXpressions program and the impact it had on her. Honorable Mentions were earned by **Ariela Gettig** for “Patient X” and **Leah LaVerde** for “The Fight.”

Their work creatively expressed research on infant mortality, opioids and heart disease. More than 1,400 art,

language and math projects from three states, 59 schools and 100 teachers were submitted last month as part of the eXpressions program. A panel of content specialists used four criteria to evaluate each language submission – interpretation, presentation, creativity and initiative.

Award-winning projects will be featured in the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions catalogue and on the eXpressions website. Work also will be displayed in the 2019 eXpressions Art, Language and Math eXhibition at Cleveland Clinic's Health Education Campus. A formal program and reception will be held Feb. 13, 2020.

Student work was supported by KHS English teacher Meriah Duncan and art teacher Brian Harvey.

## KIRTLAND COFFEE CART TEACHES SOFT SKILLS

In December, Kirtland Elementary School rolled out a Coffee Cart to brighten mornings for staff while teaching students soft skills.

Fifth-grade student leaders are paired with students with special needs and a PTA volunteer to travel room to room offering coffee, juice and light snacks to staff members provided by the PTA. The cart will make the rounds monthly, with staff paying with a prepaid punch card.

Fifth-grade teacher Bob Lasecki said the idea is to build student leadership skills and confidence. Students also will work on teamwork, communication, work ethic and interpersonal skills.