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# THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Fall 2017

## TWO PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

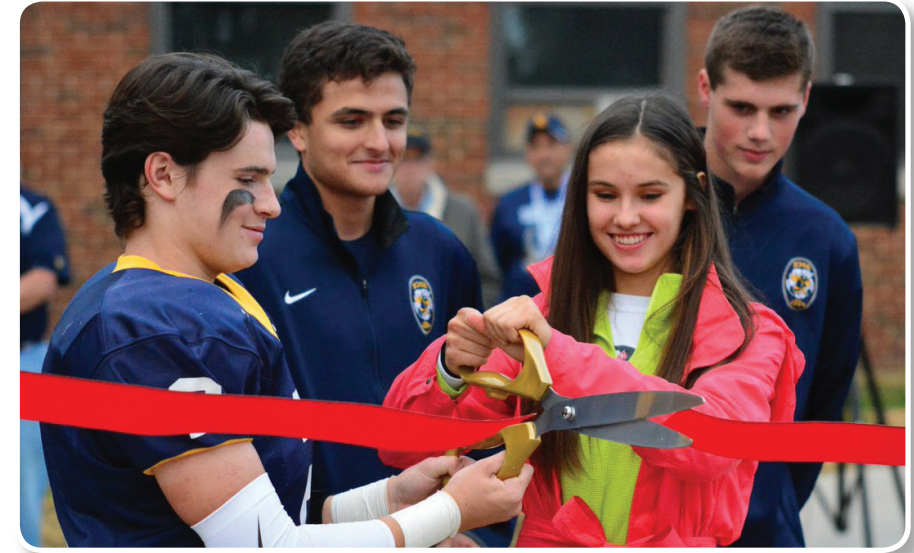
**The generous nature of our community is reflected in two major projects that benefit the Kirtland Local Schools.**

On Sept. 29, the district held a grand opening for a new agility room and stadium restrooms that were a result of donations from Cleveland Construction Inc. and architect Tony Bertone, along with several other companies. The agility room, which is connected to the weight room, doubles the space and provides students with a premier workout area.

The project also included a new sidewalk from the addition to the existing gated fence, and continues around the building.

**The entire project was completed at no cost to taxpayers** thanks to the following groups:

- Richard G. Small Foundation and Cleveland Construction Inc.
- AFB Inc.
- Denk Associates Consulting Engineers
- Alfieri Brothers Construction
- AJ Goulder Electric Inc.
- Burrier Service Company Inc.
- Polaris Engineering & Surveying
- Euclid Glass
- Functional Building Supply
- Gornik Landscaping
- Hallmark Excavating Inc.
- Kiwanis Club
- Osborne/Geauga Concrete
- SME
- Steingass Mechanical Contracting Inc.
- Mullin Brothers Painting
- Donlynn LLC



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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)



**Another donated project** benefitting the district is the installation of a full color, LED, electronic message display sign. The Kirtland PTA donated \$22,000 toward the sign, with the Kirtland Athletic Boosters donating about \$11,000. The sign was installed in front of Kirtland High School by Brilliant Electric Sign Co. in Cleveland. The sign allows the district to post more content with graphics, including the Hornet.

The Board of Education notes these projects would not have been possible without the in-kind donations from our community partners.

*We thank you!*

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

To Our Kirtland Schools Families,



The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) released the 2016-2017 Ohio School Report Cards, providing a single snapshot of how students are scoring on state tests.

The Kirtland Local School District uses the State Report Card as one piece of data to evaluate our overall success in a variety of areas. We will evaluate this information with our staff and will continue to find ways to improve and provide a well-rounded educational experience for our students.

Along with the State Report Card, we encourage our parents and community to utilize our Quality Profile to see a comprehensive view of the quality learning and teaching going on in our schools.

### There are six main components on ODE's Local Report Card:

#### ACHIEVEMENT:

Represents the number of students who passed the state tests and how well they performed. Kirtland received a composite score of C, which is calculated using the number of indicators met (D) and performance index (B).

#### PROGRESS:

Reflects the growth all students are making based on their past performance. Kirtland received a D.

#### GAP CLOSING:

How well schools are meeting the performance expectations for all students and subgroups. Kirtland received a C.

#### GRADUATION RATE:

Percent of students who are successfully finishing high school in four or five years. Kirtland received an A.

#### K-3 LITERACY:

How successful a school is at keeping struggling readers on track to proficiency in kindergarten through grade 3. Kirtland received an NR because fewer than 5 percent of our students in kindergarten reported as "not-on-track" to meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

#### PREPARED FOR SUCCESS:

How well prepared students are for the future. It includes college entrance exam remediation-free scores, Honors Diplomas, Advanced Placement exam scores, and College Credit Plus credits. Kirtland received a C.

The Kirtland Local Schools support high educational standards that provide learning opportunities that go beyond state testing to develop well-rounded learners who are challenged to think critically, problem solve and communicate effectively.

While we feel the data these tests provide is informative, we also believe it is only one part of the puzzle in evaluating and improving our schools. We will continue to find new ways to be innovative and work with staff and community to build on our tradition of excellence. You can find my community presentations on the report card online at [www.kirtlandschools.org](http://www.kirtlandschools.org).

Bill Wade  
Superintendent

## KIRTLAND TEACHER HONORED WITH DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD

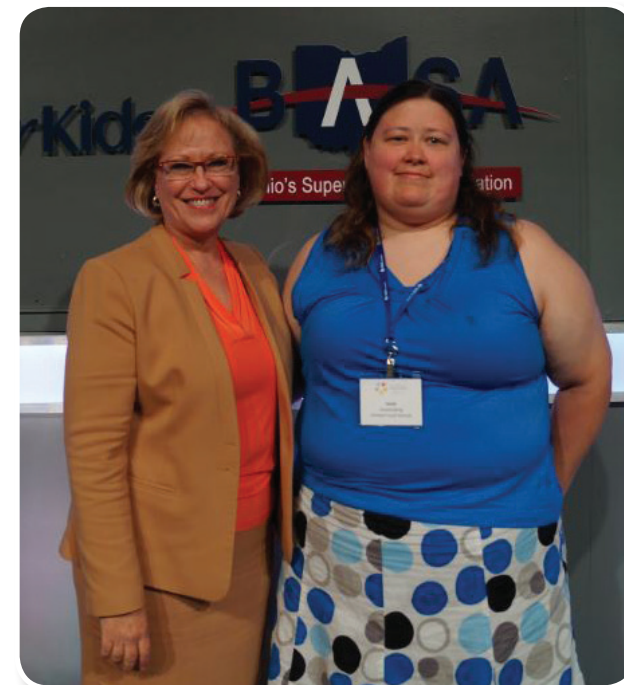
Battelle for Kids recognized Kirtland Middle School eighth-grade Social Studies teacher Heidi Grunenberg as a distinguished educator for her tremendous impact on her students, colleagues and community. Grunenberg was among 33 teachers from across Ohio to receive the 2017 Celebrate Teaching Distinguished Educator Award as a representative of excellence in the teaching profession. The awards were presented during a program at the *Educators Connect for Success Conference* in Columbus on June 8.

Celebrate Teaching is Battelle for Kids' commitment to celebrate, support and inspire great teaching. The 2017 Class of Distinguished Educators were selected for demonstrating evidence of great teaching in multiple ways—including academic, non-cognitive and community measures.

"Heidi embodies so many attributes that foster and promote student and professional success," said Kirtland Superintendent Bill Wade. "She is always the first to help a student in need, in and out of the classroom, while working tirelessly on instructional strategies that will engage and promote growth for students with all learning abilities."

Grunenberg is involved in a variety of activities, including National History Day, Multimedia Club and First Lego League. She also is a technology leader, content literacy specialist and a member of the building leadership team.

"This recognition is a reminder to all that teachers impact students in so many ways by helping them to grow academically, socially and emotionally," said Dr. Karen K. Garza, President and CEO of Battelle for Kids. "Congratulations to all the outstanding teachers in



the 2017 Class of Distinguished Educators, and thank you for your work as a representative of the thousands of teachers across Ohio who give so selflessly of themselves to teach our children."

Visit [www.CelebrateTeaching.org](http://www.CelebrateTeaching.org) to learn more about Celebrate Teaching and the 2017 Class of Distinguished Educators.

## SPORTS SHORTS

The 7th and 8th grade Kirtland Middle School Volleyball Teams won their District Championships.

The Varsity Boys Golf Team earned the Cuyahoga Valley Division Championship. Michael Schnur was named MVP of the Valley Division for the fourth consecutive year.

Kirtland High School Women's Soccer Team is 2017 District Champions.

Kirtland High School Varsity Football Team completed its sixth perfect regular season since 2008 and claimed another Chagrin Valley Conference Championship.



## KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL HAS 12 AP SCHOLARS

Twelve Kirtland High School (KHS) students were named AP Scholars in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement exams.

Only about 13 percent of the more than 840,000 students in 13,680 schools nationwide who took AP Exams last spring performed at a sufficiently high level to merit such recognition. Students take AP exams in the spring after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of yearlong courses and exams.

Four students earned AP Scholar awards for earning an average score of at least 3 on three or more AP exams. They are Isabel Anness, Kristi Bryll, Octavian Donca and Sanjay Sundararajan.

Seven students 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. They are Danielle Bryll, Justin Gardner, Nathan LaMantia, Gino Rosson, Kelly Rudder, Schuylar South and Alexander Weaver.

One student, Emily Needham, earned an AP Scholar with Distinction award for earning an average score of

at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

KHS Principal Lynn Campbell surprised students with signs in their front yards reading “Home of an AP Scholar.”

Most of the nation’s colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement or both based on successful performance on the AP exams. More than 1,400 institutions award a full year’s credit to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades. There are 35 AP exams offered in 10 subject areas, each consisting of multiple-choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions.

Kirtland offers 12 AP classes in Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, U.S. Government, U.S. History, CS Principles, English Language, English Literature, Calculus AB, Calculus BC and Statistics.



## KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL NAMED CLEVELAND CLINIC BANNER SCHOOL

Kirtland High School was named a 2016-2017 Cleveland Clinic Banner School for its success in leveraging community resources to advance student learning.

The award from the Cleveland Clinic Office of Government and Community Relations’ Civic Education Department recognizes the school’s involvement in the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions program and its commitment to student enrichment. This distinction is earned by fewer than 30 percent of the 159 schools in four states that participated in Civic Education programming this school year.

The eXpressions program invites students to translate research studies conducted by Cleveland Clinic high school interns by producing artistic, literary and mathematical interpretations of the science.

The school received a banner. The award also recognizes KHS English teachers Eric Eye, Jennifer Berry and Meriah Duncan, and KHS art teacher Brian Harvey for their support of the Cleveland Clinic eXpressions program through student participation.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM KIRTLAND SCHOOLS

The Kirtland Local Schools are committed to academic excellence and being responsible stewards of our community’s tax dollars. Our mission is to focus on operating in a lean and efficient manner, and cutting costs while continuing to provide an excellent educational experience for our students.

The Board of Education recently adopted the five-year forecast presented by Treasurer Daniel L. Wilson. The forecast revealed the long-term reality that the district is spending down its reserves, and if the current trend continues annual budgets will ultimately show deficits in amounts not allowed by state law.

A variety of cost-saving measures taken over the past several years, the pursuit of alternative revenue and sound financial policies have held the district’s annual expense increase to 2.97 percent over the past three

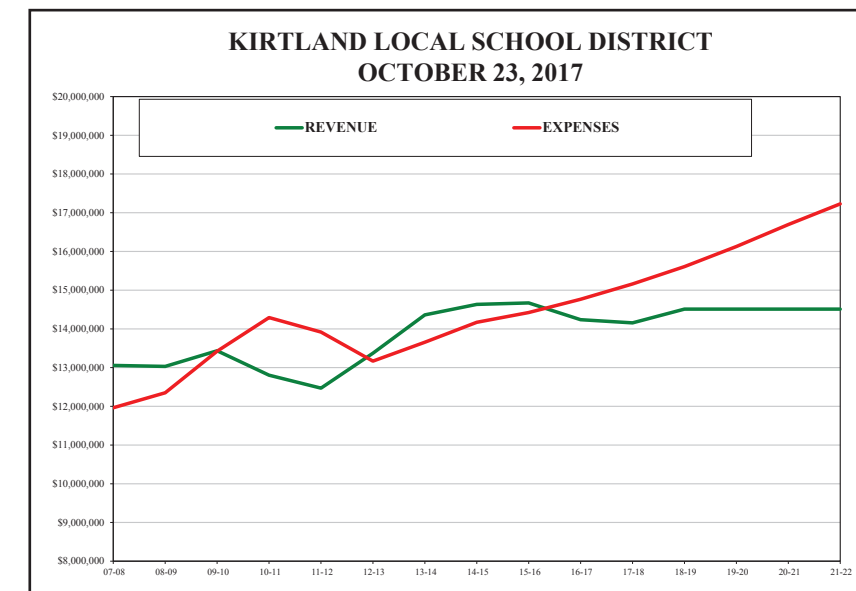
years – which is lower than the state average of 4 percent to 5 percent.

Despite this aggressive fiscal oversight, the dynamics of public education funding in Ohio results in virtually no annual growth in operating revenue to offset the inflationary growth in expenses. Wilson also reported a significant shortfall in tax collections and a shrinking tax base as areas of concern. A renewal levy passed in May -- which did not raise taxes -- provided temporary relief to the budget, but it is clear the Kirtland Local Schools will need to address this shortfall.

The Kirtland Local Schools will continue to engage and communicate with the community as we look for ways to maintain educational excellence while addressing this long-term budget issue.

| KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT<br>GENERAL FUND SUMMARY |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                                        | 2013-2014<br>ACTUAL | 2014-2015<br>ACTUAL | 2015-2016<br>ACTUAL | 2016-2017<br>ACTUAL | 2017-2018<br>BUDGET | 2017-2018<br>ESTIMATE | 2018-2019<br>FORECAST | 2019-2020<br>FORECAST | 2020-2021<br>FORECAST | 2021-2022<br>FORECAST |
| BEGINNING BALANCE                                      | \$ 5,465,396        | \$ 5,965,453        | \$ 4,942,043        | \$ 5,191,020        | \$ 3,769,143        | \$ 3,769,143          | \$ 2,763,043          | \$ 1,666,925          | \$ 50,784             | (2,131,207)           |
| INCOME                                                 | \$ 14,361,861       | \$ 14,632,834       | \$ 14,671,393       | \$ 14,238,131       | \$ 14,405,625       | \$ 14,154,757         | \$ 14,511,765         | \$ 14,511,765         | \$ 14,511,765         | \$ 14,511,765         |
| EXPENSES                                               | \$ 13,656,389       | \$ 14,169,659       | \$ 14,422,416       | \$ 14,764,651       | \$ 15,140,559       | \$ 15,160,857         | \$ 15,607,883         | \$ 16,127,906         | \$ 16,693,756         | \$ 17,228,470         |
| TRANSFER TO BUDGET RESERVE                             | \$ 205,415          | \$ 486,585          | \$ -                | \$ 590,276          | \$ -                | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ 0                  |
| TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVE                            | \$ -                | \$ 1,000,000        | \$ -                | \$ -                | \$ -                | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ -                  | \$ 0                  |
|                                                        | <b>\$ 5,965,453</b> | <b>\$ 4,942,043</b> | <b>\$ 5,191,020</b> | <b>\$ 4,074,224</b> | <b>\$ 3,034,209</b> | <b>\$ 2,763,043</b>   | <b>\$ 1,666,925</b>   | <b>\$ 50,784</b>      | <b>\$ (2,131,207)</b> | <b>(4,847,912)</b>    |
| RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCES                               |                     |                     |                     | \$ 305,081          | \$ 3,769,143        |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |

**OCTOBER 23, 2017 FORECAST**



## KIRTLAND SCHOOLS ORGANIZES DISTRICT-WIDE HURRICANE RELIEF COLLECTION

Kirtland Elementary School Student Council and the Kirtland PTA worked together on Make A Difference Day to support schools affected by Hurricanes.

Student Council advisers Mike Nalepka and Sandy Donovan worked with parent Allison Wuliger from PTA to organize a districtwide collection to benefit one school in Houston and several schools in the Florida Keys.

KES collected books to replace the school library lost at Frazier Elementary School in Houston. The school lost about 500 books, and 20 percent of the school's population was displaced by Hurricane Harvey.

Kirtland Middle School collected new and gently used sporting goods, games and toys, as well as new packages of underwear, undershirts and socks. Kirtland

High School collected new and gently used clothing, and personal hygiene items. KMS and KHS donations will be divided between Key Largo Elementary School, Key Largo Middle School, Plantation Key Schools and Coral Shores High School, where student homes were severely damaged by Hurricane Irma.

Collections took place during October. If you are interested in making a financial contribution, visit <https://go.rallyup.com/kirtlandhurricanerelief>.



## KIRTLAND TAKES FIRST STEPS TOWARD A STRATEGIC PLAN

The Kirtland Local Schools are working with the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County to develop a long-range strategic plan to guide the district over the next several years.

Planning for the strategic plan initially involves identifying staff and community members who represent diverse voices within the school district and the community. Focus groups of administrators, Board of Education members, staff members, parents and community members then provide feedback to identify issues facing the school district and community.

A two-day strategic planning session of district stakeholders will identify beliefs, formulate mission and vision statements, establish policies, review focus group information, identify strengths and challenges, identify needs and create goals for the school district.

A draft of the strategic plan will be introduced at the State of the Schools in 2018, followed by school and community teams developing action plans to address the goals identified by the original stakeholders. The result is a strategic plan adopted by the Board of Education next spring.

## KHS JUNIOR RECOGNIZED FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Kirtland High School junior 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.

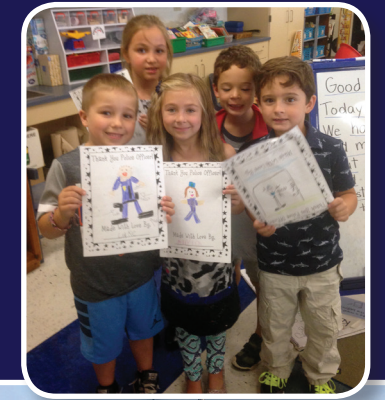
Kelly is a third-year member of the high school's FTC team, the Electric Hornets. She also participated in the middle school's First LEGO League (FLL) team for three years. She coaches several FLL teams and volunteers at FLL competitions as a referee or judge. She also is involved in the NEOHBots (Northeastern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

## HONORING OUR LOCAL HEROES

Kirtland Elementary School (KES) students drew pictures, made posters and wrote thank you notes to local police and fire departments in preparation for its fourth annual "Honor Our Local Heroes" on Sept. 11.

KES Principal Chad VanArnhem arranged for representatives from Kirtland, Kirtland Hills and Waite Hills police departments – communities served by the Kirtland Local Schools – and Kirtland Fire Department, to participate in a parade down the school hallways lined with students and teachers. Participants received student notes and artwork along the parade route.

"The police and fire departments are always so appreciative, and the students love seeing them," VanArnhem said. "This event is a great way to never forget the sacrifices so many made on 9/11 while honoring our own local first responders."



## KES WALK-A-THON FUNDS CLASSROOM MATERIALS

Kirtland Elementary School raised more than \$14,000 at its fourth annual Walk-A-Thon on Sept. 15 for materials requested by teachers.

Students walked the Kirtland High School track during their physical education classes during the week of Sept. 11, raising money from sponsors. Classes competed against each other to earn a Popsicle party and extra recess. The top overall class won a pizza party.

Among the items funded by the walk:

- **Kindergarten:** \$3,250 for subscriptions and flexible furniture
- **Grade 1:** \$3,300 for flexible furniture
- **Grade 2:** \$3,250 for class sets of literature, charging stations for Chromebooks/iPads and flexible furniture
- **Grade 3:** \$2,500 for scoop rocker chairs, lap desktops and books
- **Grade 4:** \$3,000 for flexible furniture
- **Grade 5:** \$3,000 for flexible furniture and book club novels
- **Art:** \$600 for ceramics class, tools and accessories
- **Music:** \$500 for a reading area
- **Physical education:** \$1,000 for rollerblade carts and roller blades



The Walk-A-Thon replaced traditional fundraisers that required students to sell items. Principal Chad VanArnhem called it a healthier alternative that targets specific items per grade level.

Families joined their children on the track, and middle and high school students volunteered by keeping track of student laps. More than 200 parents and siblings participated in the event. Last year walkers walked 2,840 miles. Principal VanArnhem said he is confident the school met and potentially exceeded those miles this year.