



Kirtland Local School District
9252 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, OH 44094
440.256.3311

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THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Fall 2018

*****ECRWSSDDM*****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
KIRTLAND, OH 44094

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Timothy Cosgrove
tim.cosgrove@kirtlandschools.org

Vice President: Tom Meyer
tom.meyer@kirtlandschools.org

Shannon Green
shannon.green@kirtlandschools.org

Kathryn Talty
kathryn.talty@kirtlandschools.org

Jonathan Withrow
jonathan.withrow@kirtlandschools.org

Superintendent: Bill Wade
bill.wade@kirtlandschools.org

Director of Pupil Services: Becky Rowell-Malinas
becky.malinas@kirtlandschools.org

Treasurer: Lew Galante
lew.galante@kirtlandschools.org

Kirtland Elementary School
Principal: Chad VanArnhem
chad.vanarnhem@kirtlandschools.org
9140 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, OH 44094
440.256.3344

Kirtland Middle School
Principal: Scott Amstutz
scott.amstutz@kirtlandschools.org
9152 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, OH 44094
440.256.3358

Kirtland High School
Principal: Scott Amstutz
scott.amstutz@kirtlandschools.org
9150 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, OH 44094
440.256.3366

Athletics
Athletic Director: Matt Paul
matt.paul@kirtlandschools.org

STATE REPORT CARD 2017-2018

The Ohio Department of Education recently released the **2017-2018 State Report Card**, with the Kirtland Local School District receiving an overall grade of B.

The School Report Cards provide 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 the overall success of the district in a variety of areas. While the district supports accountability, the one-size-fits-all format does not provide an accurate picture of what occurs daily in our schools.

With the adoption of a Strategic Plan, Kirtland Schools' focus is on providing an educational program that personalizes learning to empower our students for future success. The plan outlines several goals to guide the district:

- Implementing a personalized learning pathway system for all students (with a focus on innovation, life skills and career and college preparation).
- Continuing to focus on a safe and secure environment, including the appropriate social and emotional supports to develop the whole child.
- Managing resources efficiently and effectively focused on student learning.
- Implementing a plan to engage and empower students, staff, parents and community.

As we begin our work on our new Strategic Plan, we will focus our efforts on improvement in these areas to meet our vision and mission. Likewise, we will take the information we garner from our daily activities, coupled with the data from the State Report Card, to help continue to improve our schools for our students and community.

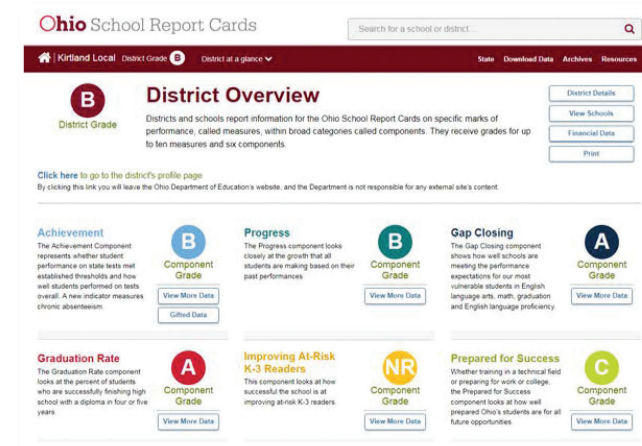
Along with the State Report Card, we encourage our parents and community to utilize our Quality Profile to see a comprehensive view of the quality learning and teaching going on in our schools. The Quality Profile highlights academics, performing arts, leadership and enrichment, parent and community partnerships, awards and fiscal stewardship.

KES EARNS GOLD MEDAL FOR PBIS PROGRAM

Kirtland Elementary School earned a Gold Medal School honor from the Ohio Department of Education for its Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program.

KES is one of seven schools from Lake and Geauga counties that will be honored with a Gold Medal Award at the 2018 Ohio PBIS Showcase in November for its successful implementation of PBIS. Recipients demonstrate extraordinary leadership of implementation efforts, creative problem solving and innovative strategies.

PBIS is a broad range of systemic and individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes in school communities while preventing problem behavior. The key attributes of PBIS include preventive activities, data-based decision-making, and a problem-solving orientation.



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Kirtland High School on Twitter @MrAmstutz
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Kirtland Athletics at www.kirtlandhornet.org | Kirtland Local Schools at www.kirtlandschools.org



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It's been a fast start to the 2018-2019 school year. Already this year, two Kirtland High School (KHS) students were recognized for their academic achievements as 2019 National Merit Scholars. Another 21 KHS students were named AP Scholars by the College Board's AP Program in recognition of their exceptional achievements on the college-level Advanced Placement exams.

Earlier this year, the Kirtland Board of Education adopted a Strategic Plan, which outlines the school district's mission, vision and beliefs. The Strategic Plan reflects the community's expectations for our schools and will serve as a guide in every decision we make. I would like to thank the more than 500 community members who participated in this process of developing our plan, and I am excited to use it to continue to improve our schools into the future.

Over the summer, the Board of Education made a decision to delay a ballot request and take time to evaluate when the district will return to the ballot with an appropriate levy request. The implementation of student fees, following staff and budget reductions, made this delay possible, allowing the Board and administration time to analyze how those actions will impact the overall budget.

The Kirtland Local Schools also earned an overall grade of B on the 2017-2018 State Report Card. I am pleased the district continues to show improvements as we met 19 out of 24 report card indicators (up from 15 last year), while also showing significant improvement in Achievement, Progress and Gap Closing. Our Performance Index Score also went up for the third consecutive year, highlighting the progress our teachers are making in meeting the needs of all students.

Bill Wade
Superintendent

KIRTLAND PTA NAMED A 2018-2020 NATIONAL SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Earlier this year, the Kirtland PTA was notified that it received the PTA National School of Excellence Award 2018-2020. This is the second year PTA was recognized with this national award.

This award recognizes programs that support and celebrate partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. To receive the award, PTAs must demonstrate that they:

- Welcome all families into the school community
- Communicate effectively
- Support student success
- Speak up for every child
- Share power with families and school staff
- Collaborate with the community

The Kirtland PTA was one of only 279 National PTA Schools of Excellence named nationwide, and one of only eight in Ohio. Kirtland PTA President Lisa Ianetta Alejos said she wants people to realize that the Kirtland PTA isn't just here for the elementary school, but also for the middle and high schools.

"We are unique because we are a district-wide PTA," Alejos said. "We really strive to help in all three buildings on campus."

A focus area in the excellence program for the Kirtland PTA was "Ensuring Health & Safety of Students." The

objective was to promote healthy lifestyles at home and at school, and the PTA wanted to link this with as many events as possible throughout the school year.

At Kirtland Elementary School (KES), the PTA sponsored "Heart Healthy Day" on Valentine's Day – instead of candy, trays of fruits and vegetables were distributed to every classroom.

To start off the year in a healthy way, the PTA helped organize a family Walk-a-Thon on the Kirtland High School (KHS) track before a home football game. Hundreds of students and parents participated in the event, which also raised more than \$20,000 for items for the KES library.

To support the health and safety initiative further, the PTA sponsored an anti-vaping presentation, which was well attended by both Kirtland Middle School (KMS) and KHS parents.

The culminating program was the PTA's only fundraiser, the Spring Auction, which funded door barricades for every classroom. Superintendent Bill Wade approached the PTA with the safety initiative. The PTA Spring Auction raised \$35,000, which funded the barricades and other school safety measures for the entire campus.

"We had an initial goal of raising \$30,000," Alejos said. "We were so proud and excited to surpass our goal for such a great cause."

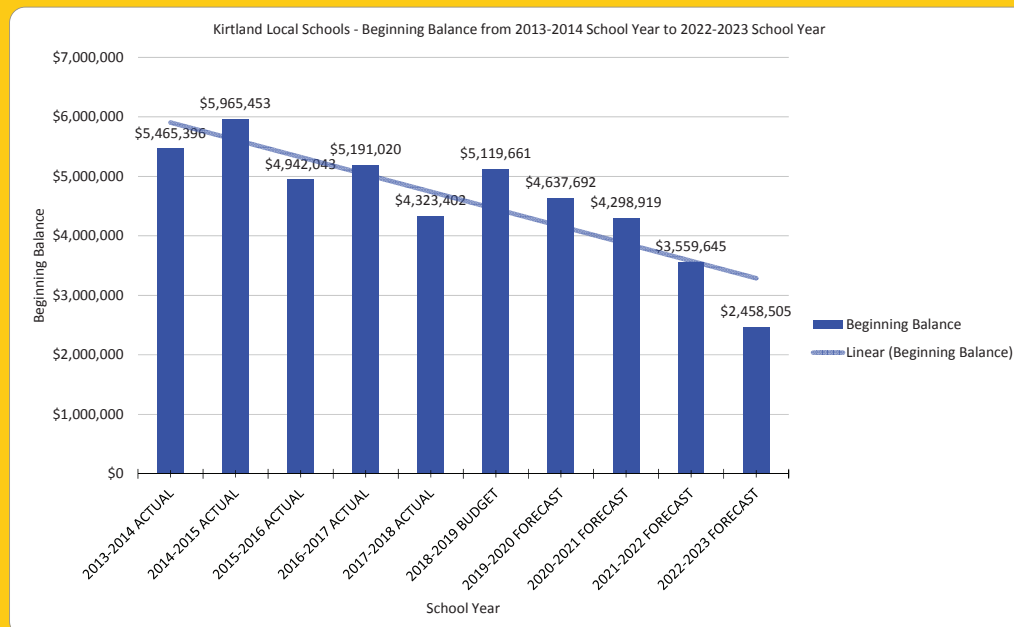
FINANCIAL UPDATE

With the adoption of the five-year forecast by the Board of Education in October, revenues are projected to remain flat for the Kirtland Local Schools, while expenses continue to grow due to inflation, as well as student need, healthcare costs and utilities.

As previously stated, the district took corrective action to the budget following the May levy failure by reducing costs through strategic cuts and increased fees. These adjustments helped limit the expense growth to 1.06%.

However, Treasurer Lew Galante is projecting this fiscal year's revenues to be lower than previous (and future) years based on over-inflated collections last spring. That one-time revenue increase was due to higher-than-normal real estate tax payments resulting from federal tax law changes. As a result, the district is projected to deficit spend this year by about \$500,000. This trend of deficit spending is expected to continue throughout the five-year forecast.

Reduced spending last year -- combined with the Lake County Auditor's error, budget cuts and increased student fees -- provided the administration and Board of Education a short-term cushion to analyze the full impact of these factors. This will allow the district time to determine how and when to return to the ballot with an appropriate levy request.



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

welcome **communicate** **support**
speak up **share power** **collaborate**

TWO KHS STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Two Kirtland High School seniors were recognized in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship program.

Lily Kelemen was named a National Merit Semifinalist, and **Emily Crebs** was named a National Merit Commended Scholar.

Less than 1 percent of high school seniors make it to the semifinal round. About 90 percent of semifinalists are expected to move on to become National Merit Finalists. About half of all finalists are awarded National Merit Scholarships. To become finalists, the semifinalists must submit a scholarship application that includes a strong academic record and an account of their participation in school and community activities, leadership abilities, participation in school and community activities, employment and any honors or awards.

National Merit Commended students are recognized for their outstanding academic promise. These students can become candidates for special scholarships provided by corporate and business sponsors.



Lily Kelemen



Emily Crebs

21 KHS STUDENTS NAMED AP SCHOLARS

Twenty-one Kirtland High School students were named AP Scholars by the College Board's AP Program in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement exams.

Students take AP exams in May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of year-long courses and exams.



Seven students were recognized as AP Scholars with Distinction for earning an average score of at least 3.5 (out of a possible 5) on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams. They are Emily Crebs, Octavian Donca, Konnor Duncan, Jake Grdadolnik, Lilly Kelemen, Jenna Sayle and Gent Semaj.

Two students – Austin Fulco and Brandi Martz – were named **AP Scholars with Honors** for scoring an average of 3.25 on all exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams.

Twelve students were named AP Scholars for earning an average score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams taken. They are Audrele Bielinis, Luke Camino, Dawson Cosgrove, Jonah Cummings, Andrew DeMarco, Rylee Domonkos, Erin Koschik, Laura Koschik, Jeremy Lunka, Jacob Neibecker, Kate Ricketti and Mathew Speece.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement or both based on successful performance on the AP exams. KHS offers 12 AP classes in Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics 1, U.S. Government, U.S. History, Computer Science Principles, English Language, English Literature, Calculus AB, Calculus BC and Statistics.

AP Scholars



TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES AT KMS

Kirtland Middle School (KMS) is working on providing transformative learning experiences for students through engaging, hands-on activities, projects and problems in computer science, engineering and biomedical science.

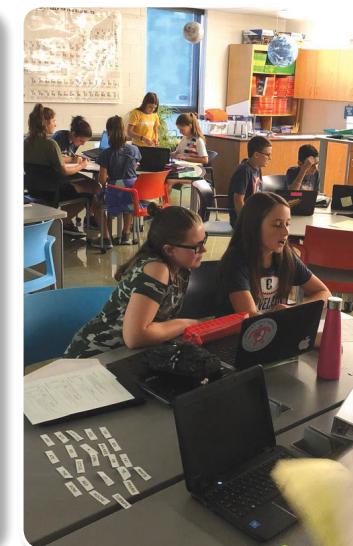
Through Project Lead the Way (PLTW), KMS teachers Ed Bradac and Heidi Grunenberg are empowering students to develop in-demand knowledge and skills they need to thrive.

Bradac is teaching "Medical Detectives" to sixth and seventh grades. Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

Grunenberg is teaching "Energy and the Environment" to eighth-grade students, who are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to energy needs. They investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They use what they learn to design and model alternative energy

sources, as well as evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

Each course is nine weeks and challenges students to solve real-world challenges that should inspire them to re-imagine how they see themselves.



KIRTLAND STUDENTS 'STICK TOGETHER' AGAINST BULLYING

A Kirtland High School (KHS) peer leadership group worked with Kirtland Elementary School (KES) students on a character education program supported by Project Love and Duck Brand.



"Stick Together" helps students explore the social-emotional learning concepts of kindness and sticking together to combat bullying and negative behaviors in schools.



KHS students presented to third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students on kindness and the boomerang effect – how positive deeds are passed along and often returned like a boomerang. They

also led a discussion on how good vs. bad deeds can affect someone.

As part of the program, KHS students demonstrated how easy it is to tear a single piece of duct tape, but when two pieces "stick together" it is impossible to tear apart. The symbolism helped KES students understand that sticking together helps avoid bullying or being torn apart.

Students pledged to be bully free, and with the help of Kirtland Middle School (KMS) Peer Leaders and KMS School Counselor Greg Bell wrote their names on a piece of Duck Brand duct tape and placed it on a banner displayed in Hornet Hall.

"We want to leverage our unique situation of having our older students support our younger students," said KES Principal Chad VanArnhem. "Our KES students were engaged hearing the discussion led by older students – well-rounded athletes and scholars – that our students look up to." The schools also are discussing how to continue to leverage the KHS leadership group, led by KHS School Counselor Mary LaVerde.

KIRTLAND ADOPTS STRATEGIC PLAN

The Kirtland Board of Education adopted the Strategic Plan, which outlines the school district's mission, vision and beliefs.

Our Mission: We educate students to become empowered citizens.

Our Vision: Kirtland Local Schools will provide a personalized education for all students.

We Believe In:

- Cultivating a personalized learning environment for all students.
- Providing a safe, positive and productive atmosphere.
- Increasing communications within the schools, families and the community.
- Encouraging innovation and cultivating a sense of intellectual curiosity.
- Treating all persons with respect and dignity.
- Empowering students to have a voice in our democracy.



The strategic planning process began in September 2017 by identifying key stakeholders to help facilitate the process. Another 70+ community members were invited to help the district reach out to the community to identify values, expectations and barriers to success, as well as provide recommendations for moving forward. The group met more than 15 times in February and March.

The process culminated in a day-long planning retreat that resulted in the above mission, vision, core beliefs and goals for the district. More than 500 community members took part in the process, providing a true representation of our schools and community. We believe this strategic plan captures what the community wants the Kirtland Schools to be like now and in the future. You can find the Strategic Plan online at <http://www.kirtlandschools.org>.

KIRTLAND SHARES TREASURER WITH PERRY LOCAL SCHOOLS

Kirtland Local Schools entered a shared services contract with Perry Local Schools to share the services of a Treasurer.

Lew Galante, chief financial officer for Perry and Fairport Harbor Exempted Village School District, will share his time with Kirtland. Galante replaces Treasurer Daniel L. Wilson, whose services Kirtland previously shared with Mentor Local Schools.

"I'VE HAD THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH LEW IN A VARIETY OF CAPACITIES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND I AM IMPRESSED BY HIS PROFESSIONALISM AND KNOWLEDGE OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FINANCE."

- BILL WADE
SUPERINTENDENT

Kirtland Superintendent Bill Wade said the agreement continues good stewardship between the two districts, which also share the services of a transportation director and a buildings and grounds supervisor.

"This is a continuation of shared services that are mutually beneficial to both districts," Superintendent Wade said. "I've had the chance to work with Lew in a variety of capacities over the past several years and I am impressed by his professionalism and knowledge of schools and school finance. I'm excited to have him as a member of our team as we move our schools forward in a positive direction."

Galante has been with Perry Schools since 2005. Prior to that, he served as treasurer for Garfield Heights City Schools and the Wellington Exempted Village Board of Education in Lorain. He also was a financial liaison for the Lake-Geauga Computer Association and assistant to the treasurer for West Geauga Local Schools.

Galante's three-year contract runs Aug. 20, 2018, through July 31, 2021.



OUR MISSION

We educate students to become empowered citizens.

OUR VISION

Kirtland Local Schools will provide a personalized education for all students.

WE BELIEVE IN

- Cultivating a personalized learning environment for all students.
- Providing a safe, positive and productive atmosphere.
- Increasing communications within the schools, families and the community.
- Encouraging innovation and cultivating a sense of intellectual curiosity.
- Treating all persons with respect and dignity.
- Empowering students to have a voice in our democracy.

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