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THE *Kirtland* CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Fall 2019

FULL STEAM AHEAD AT KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kirtland Elementary School launched a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) class this school year for grades K-5 to encourage students to think outside the box, solve real world problems, collaborate and learn life and future job skills.

The class is supported through a variety of grants from the Kirtland PTA and the Kirtland Education Foundation. The Kirtland Walkathon also raised more than \$17,000 to create STEAM/Blended Learning Carts that teachers can use in their classrooms for blended learning studios. In blended learning, students learn via electronic and online media, as well as traditional face-to-face teaching. Grant dollars also will enhance STEAM opportunities through assemblies by COSI on Wheels and additional materials and equipment.

Different components of the STEAM program include Project Lead The Way (PLTW), The Buzz, Bots, Fifth Street Theater and STEAM Challenge of the Month.

Project Lead the Way: PLTW empowers students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects and problems that build on each other and relate to the world around them. Through pathways in computer science, engineering and biomedical science, students not only learn technical skills, but also learn to solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate and collaborate.

The Buzz: The Kirtland Buzz is a news show written and produced by fifth-grade students. Students use video and editing equipment and software to deliver a bi-weekly news show to the school.

BOTS: BOTS? A New Children's Musical is being introduced to the fourth grade. During the BOTS

Robotics Competition, teams and their singing and dancing robots all vie for the top prize. Amidst the coding, building and fierce competition, two members from rival teams befriend one another and throw everything off balance. This STEAM musical invited humans and robots to discover the power of technology and teamwork.

Fifth Street Theater: The Fifth Street Theater program for fifth graders encourages participation in the visual arts through plays and musicals.

Make It Challenge: Students are invited to participate in a STEAM challenge of the month at home using common everyday items found at home. Students also participate in age-appropriate coding through Code.org, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools.



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LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



To Our Kirtland Schools Families,

The Ohio Department of Education recently released the 2018-2019 State Report Card, in which the Kirtland Local School District received 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 reflect on areas of strength and improvement, and to evaluate the overall success of the district in a variety of areas.

With the adoption of the Strategic Plan, our focus is on providing an educational program that personalizes learning to empower our students for future success. Specifically, we will be working with curriculum experts in English Language Arts and Math to evaluate our curriculum, assessments and instruction to improve the indicators missed on this year's report card. The Board of Education approved the adoption of the Pearson Envision textbook series and online support materials for grades 6-12 at the October meeting.

We will continue to support our teachers in reviewing this data, along with other local data, to work on strategies which will help our students to acquire and apply knowledge, skills and work habits. Furthermore, we will look to increase the use of benchmarking assessments so that our teachers can continue to better monitor student progress and adjust instruction in real time to best meet the needs of all students. The goal is to challenge our students to think deeper while meeting our vision and mission for our students and community.

Along with the State Report Card, we encourage our parents and community to utilize our Quality Profile - which you can find on our website www.kirtlandschools.org - to see a comprehensive view of the quality learning and teaching going on in our schools. We are using our Strategic Plan to remain focused on continuous improvement in an effective and efficient manner.

Bill Wade
Superintendent

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FINANCE UPDATE:

The Kirtland Board of Education recently approved the district's 2019-2020 appropriations budget. With a target of maintaining fiscal stability, the general operating fund was reduced by .75% from the 2018-2019 budget, resulting in a flattening in the district's expense trajectory.

The budget reduction was achieved by addressing several key expenditures, including:

- Utilizing zero-based budgeting to ensure all items reflect important needs and are appropriate for the school year. The Board adopted a zero-based budgeting model, with buildings and departments operating with no budget increases. The budget allows the district to control costs while ensuring the ability to pursue new and innovative projects to continually improve the academic program for students.
- Negotiating a high deductible, consumer driven healthcare plan for support staff (custodians, bus drivers, secretaries). 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. This plan saves the district premium dollars while allowing employees to utilize a health savings account to fund future medical needs.
- Securing grants to reduce costs. The Kirtland Local Schools recently won a grant from the Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) School Safety and Security Grant Program to install cameras on 16 buses. Each bus will feature three interior cameras and one exterior/stop arm camera to maintain a safe and healthy climate on the bus. The exterior camera will record license plates of vehicles that illegally pass a bus. Local law enforcement encourages the use of stop arm cameras as evidence to issue citations and provide data on adding patrols to high incident locations. Kirtland transports 1,176 students daily, providing transportation services to and from 13 private/parochial schools and six schools for special education. Kirtland buses travel 21,504 miles annually transporting students to academic and athletic events. The total cost of the camera project in Kirtland is \$39,503, with the grant covering two-thirds of the expense. Installation was completed in late October.

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 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.

SPORTS SHORTS

The Kirtland Hornets Varsity Football team clinched another Chagrin Valley Conference (CVC) Division title and locked up the No. 1 seed in the Division V, Region 17 playoffs.

For the second straight season, Kirtland's boys' and girls' Soccer teams won District titles. The boys won the Division III Gates Mills District Championship. The girls' won their third straight District title and advanced to a third straight Regional Championship game.

The Kirtland High School Volleyball team closed out the year 18-5 overall and earned a share of the CVC Valley Division title. **Stella DeJohn** led the Hornets with 208 kills and 72 solo blocks. **Abby Ruckel** posted team highs in assists (370) and service aces (70), and **Ava Golem** finished with a team best 396 digs. **Natalie Glowe** was second in kills (172), digs (205) service aces (58) and blocks (40). Five Hornets— Ruckel, DeJohn, Glowe, Golem and Maria Alfieri—were selected to play in the Ohio Varsity Senior Slam & Underclassmen Showcase, an all-star volleyball event featuring up to 80 Northeast Ohio's top high school volleyball players. The Kirtland Middle School 7th and 8th grade girls' Volleyball teams earned the title of CVC Champions. The 7th grade team was 17-2, and the 8th grade team was 18-1.

Kirtland's Cross Country team had two runners qualify for the Division III Regional Meet. **Julie Namciu** placed 71st

with a time of 22:27 and **Reilly Greenlee** qualified but did not run. The Hornets had several runners earn All-CVC honors. **John Sayle** led the boys' team to a third-place finish on his way to earning First Team All-CVC. **Ian McGreal** was named Second Team while **Josh Wolfe** and **Jonny Jackson** both earned Honorable Mention. Greenlee and Namciu both finished among the top eight in the girls' race to earn First-Team honors. **Mateja Mrva** and **Aimee Baldrey** both earned Honorable Mention.

The boys' Golf team closed out its season with a 6-7 overall record and an eighth-place finish at the Division II Sectional Tournament. **Cici Anness** spent the regular season competing on the boys' team but competed at the girls' Sectional Tournament, where she advanced to the District Tournament.



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GREAT LAKES THEATRE BRINGS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE TO LIFE

The English Language Arts Department at Kirtland High School brought the Great Lakes Theatre Residency Actors to the school for a week to help bring William Shakespeare's works to life for students.

Shakespeare is a critical author who explored universal themes, compelling stories and relatable characters. Working with the actors allowed students of multiple learning styles to think about "Julius Caesar" in a new, creative and hands-on way. By exposing students to the living, breathing text, students become active participants, not merely passive consumers.

The English Department prides itself on offering a rich, quality selection of texts for students, and always looks for ways to engage students to help them better understand the texts being studied. The Academic Boosters (formerly Kirtland Education Foundation), made the visit from the Great Lakes Actors possible.



save the date Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Kirtland Local Schools will host a Senior Citizen Appreciation Dinner on April 1, 2020. Enjoy dinner in the Kirtland High School cafeteria, followed by a performance from the Kirtland High School Drama Club in Hornet Hall.

Stay tuned for details.

**Dinner
& Play**
**FREE
to
SENIOR
CITIZENS!**

SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATES

A top goal of the Kirtland Local Schools is to create a safe and secure campus for our students, staff and visitors. Below is a summary of projects that contribute to creating a safe campus:

- **Raptor Technologies Visitor Management School Security System** -- Screens for sex offenders, alerts staff to custody violations, and provides districtwide reporting for all visitors. Visitors must provide state-issued identification (like a driver's license) to a school secretary for scanning and check in. Visitors will receive an automated visitor pass in the form of a sticker with their name, photograph and date of visit imprinted on it. The system allows Kirtland Schools to more efficiently and effectively monitor visitors and create a more secure entry into our campus.
- **Route 306 Crosswalk** -- The district created a walkway from campus to the crosswalk, providing a safer transition across the road.
- **Informacast Emergency Notification System** -- The district implemented an emergency mass notification communication tool



to provide immediate communication campuswide. Administrators can access the system from anywhere to immediately communicate with the entire campus in the event of an emergency. The program can also notify local emergency departments simultaneously and instantaneously secure doors in the event of a lockdown situation.

- **Securly** -- This web filter provides tools to educate and safeguard students' online presence. The program provides free parental controls for school-issued devices, along with weekly reports on a child's online activity. Devices go home with the same level of filtering they experience at school, but parents have the ability to further restrict access to social media, email, games, etc. Parents will receive an email from Securly to set up their parent accounts in the near future. Contact your building principal if you have any questions.
- **New KHS/KMS Entrances** -- New visitor entrances at Kirtland High School and Kirtland Middle School provide vestibule areas, allowing staff to screen visitors before allowing access to buildings.

The Kirtland Local Schools are excited to have these new procedures and programs in place and will continue to work toward a safe and secure learning environment for students, staff and visitors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 3** Board of Education Student Learning & Achievement Committee meeting, 8am @ KHS Library
- Dec. 9** KES 4th Grade Concert, 6:30pm @ Hornet Hall
- Dec. 9** Board of Education Finance Committee meeting, 7am @ Board Conference Room
- Dec. 9-13** Deck the Halls @ KES
- Dec. 10** 2nd Grade Concert, 6:30pm @ Hornet Hall
- Dec. 11** KHS Choir Concert, 7pm @ KMS gym
- Dec. 11** KMS Band Concert, 7pm @ KES gym
- Dec. 12** 5th Grade Christmas Carol, 7pm @ Hornet Hall
- Dec. 16** Board of Education meeting, 7pm @ KHS cafeteria
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3** Winter Break
- Jan. 6** Records Day/No School for Students
- Jan. 14** PTA meeting
- Jan. 24** KES Bingo Night, 5:30pm @ Hornet Hall

MINDFULNESS TRAINING FOR THE CLASSROOM

Kirtland Local Schools staff are participating in mindfulness training this school year to help prevent student burnout, set up a positive learning environment, increase self-awareness, reduce stress and find more balance.

Dr. Miriam Mandel, an adjunct professor at Lakeland Community College, is working to educate teachers on the current research in neurophysiology and understanding the effects of stress on the mind and body, as well as exploring mindfulness and meditation and its benefits. The goal is to learn techniques to help staff and students become more focused and calm while experiencing less stress and distractions.

Superintendent Bill Wade said the mindfulness training promotes the district's second pillar of safety and wellness, providing staff with strategies to help alleviate stress and find ways to improve the educational environment to maximize everyone's potential.

KES AGAIN RECOGNIZED FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

Kirtland Elementary School earned its second consecutive Gold Medal School honor from the Ohio Department of Education for its Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program. KES will be honored at the 2019 Ohio PBIS Showcase in December 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 schools while preventing problem behavior. They key attributes of PBIS include preventive activities,

data-based decision-making, and a problem-solving orientation.

In earning its second consecutive award, KES Principal Chad VanArnhem said the school's efforts in the area of kindness stood out:

- The KES Kindness Council painted a "Kindness Wall" in the hallway outside of Hornet Hall. Students were invited to post notes recognizing others for acts of kindness.
- Kindness Challenge essay writing contests encouraged students to write about acts of kindness they experienced. Essays were judged by Kirtland High School students.
- All-school monthly meetings were added and involve all 500 KES students. Different classes lead the monthly events, delivering messages on one of the HORNET letters, participating in an energizing activity, and listening to guest speakers.

KES also conducted a survey of parents to collect feedback on the effectiveness of its PBIS program. You can watch PBIS videos online at www.kirtlandschools.org/PBISVideos.aspx.



FUTURE READY

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS
**EXCITE
EXPLORE
ENGAGE**

COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS
PROGRAM FOR GRADES 6-12

COLLEGE & CAREER PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

Throughout the school year, Kirtland Local Schools will introduce the new “Excite, Explore & Engage” College and Career Pathways Program for grades 6-12. The primary goal of the program is to place students on a path to becoming empowered citizens -- someone who seeks opportunities and experiences that stimulate intellectual curiosity, that support the pursuit of their own learning, that foster open-mindedness, and that inspire critical reflection, voice and agency.

FUTURE READY

A productive and empowered citizen is ready for the future. Future Ready means every student deserves a rigorous, personalized learning environment filled with caring adults, and encourages students to take ownership of their learning. Through the College and Career Pathways Program, Kirtland graduates will demonstrate skills as a:

- Resilient, self-directed learner
- Respectful collaborator
- Empathetic, purposeful communicator
- Problem solver
- Inspired innovator
- Self confident critical thinker

EXCITE

At the middle school level, the new program will “EXCITE” students and make them aware of various career fields. Students will gain exposure to real-life career opportunities, experience an introduction to planning the college/career pathway, understand self-regulation and positive relationships, ignite intellectual curiosity, and engage with Thrively to identify skills, strengths and interests.

EXPLORE

At the high school level, freshmen and sophomores will “EXPLORE” different career options. Students will gain an understanding of the college/career planning process, develop their own plan, experience the real-life workforce, practice self-regulation, promote positive relationships, and reflect and revise their plan.

ENGAGE

Upperclassmen will “ENGAGE” in the process to make decisions on future studies and/or careers after graduation. They will evaluate the progress of their individual plan, exhibit problem solving skills; model integrity, ethical behavior and leadership; communicate clearly, effectively and with reason; embody creativity and innovative thought; use critical thinking skills and demonstrate perseverance; and revisit and finalize their individual plan.

The Kirtland Local Schools are committed to working with students, educators, families, community members, higher education institutions and the business sector to prepare students for their future pathways through site visits, speaker series, seminar, job shadowing, internships and a Capstone project.

BECOME A KIRTLAND SCHOOLS COLLABORATOR

Are you interested in being a collaborator with the Kirtland Local School District? We need your support in our efforts to engage students in college and career exploration. Our goal is to provide students with a variety of opportunities to explore college and career pathways in grades 6-12. These experiences include guest speakers, mock interviews, shadowing experiences and site visits. Your expertise and willingness to complete an online form is integral to our success. You can find the form on our website at www.kirtlandschools.org.



HORNET IDEALS REFLECTED IN DYNAMIC ART PROJECT

Kirtland Elementary School art teacher Carol Bradac used a rock garden art project to remind students to show their HORNET (Hardworking, Open-Minded, Respectful, Noble, Engaged, Trustworthy) ideals everyday in their own unique way.

Bradac read Linda Kranz’s book “Only One You” to her classes, followed by a discussion about traveling through life and using their own abilities and unique qualities to take a positive path and make a difference.

David Mancini, a Kirtland parent and owner of LandPro Landscaping Inc. in Kirtland, donated and delivered more than 500 white rocks to the school - enough for every student from preschool to fifth grade - after Bradac explained her vision for creating a collaborative rock garden.

Bradac invited students to decorate a rock that reflects their uniqueness. She collected the painted rocks and arranged them into the letters KES by the front entrance to the school with the help of her daughter Brynn, an eighth-grade



student at Kirtland Middle School, and her sister Pat.

“The meaning of our rock garden is that we are wonderful and unique individually, but we can also be wonderful and unique collectively,” Bradac said. “Art is everywhere!”

KHS STUDENTS EARN 43 AP SCHOLAR AWARDS

Forty-three current and former 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 yearlong courses and exams.



National AP Scholar awards are granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. National AP Scholars were 2019 KHS graduates Emily Crebs, Lilly Kelemen, Jenna Sayle and Gent Semaj.

AP Scholar with Distinction awards are granted to students who receive 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. AP Scholars with Distinction are seniors Julia Camino, Rylee Domonkos, Ariela Gettig, Jordan Jontz, Johnathan Sayle, Anthony Shepard and Vikram Sundararajan. The following 2019 KHS graduates also were recognized: Kirk Brauer, Emily Crebs, Konnor Duncan, Austin Fulco, Jake Grdadolnik, Lilly Kelemen, Brandi Martz, Jacob Neibecker, Kate Ricketti, Jenna Sayle and Gent Semaj.

AP Scholar with Honor awards are granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. AP Scholars with Honors are seniors Cecilia Anness and Alessandra Sverko. The following 2019 KHS graduates were also recognized: Audra Bielinis, Erin Koschik and Mathew Speece.

AP Scholar awards are granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. AP Scholars are junior Leah LaVerde and seniors Paul Kosem, Sarah LaMantia and Lilia Valentic. The following 2019 KHS graduates also were recognized: Luke Camino, Dominic Capretta, Kalyne Corson, Dawson Cosgrove, Jonah Cummings, Andrew DeMarco, John Dever, Laura Koschik, Kyle Lutz, Logan Potosky, Eva Shepard and Dean Springer.

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 19 subject areas, each consisting of multiple-choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions, except for the Studio Art exam, which evaluates students’ original artwork.

KHS 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.