

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS HIRES NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Kirtland Local Schools Board of Education has hired Katy Nagaj as the next principal of Kirtland Elementary School (KES). She replaces Chad VanArnhem who has become the District's new superintendent effective August 1.



Nagaj comes to Kirtland Elementary School from Streetsboro City Schools where she was the assistant principal of Streetsboro Elementary School. Nagaj began her career as a first and second-grade teacher at Timmons Elementary School at Kenston Local Schools.

In Streetsboro, Nagaj provided instructional leadership and coaching in the creation and implementation of engaging learning environments, experiences and assessments, especially in the areas of literacy and mathematics. She also restructured and implemented school-wide PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) to promote positive building culture, which encouraged open communication with all stakeholders and managed student behaviors. Most recently, she led the development and management of the online learning platform through Google Classroom throughout COVID-19 shelter in place order.

Nagaj received her principal licensure through the Cleveland State University Inspired Leaders Program. She received her Masters of Education in Curriculum

and Instruction from Ashland University and her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a concentration in psychology from Ursuline College. She is active in numerous professional education communities in Ohio.

Nagaj's classroom and leadership experience aligns with the district's strategic plan. "I am extremely excited for Mrs. Nagaj to be the next principal at KES," said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem, Kirtland Local Schools. "Her background with curriculum and instruction will be an extremely valuable asset to continue moving the school forward and taking it to the next level. Mrs. Nagaj has such a positive energy that is contagious and I'm very excited for our students, staff and parents to meet her."

Nagaj is committed to focusing on academic success for all students and fostering their personal growth as empowered learners, while promoting overall positive building culture for staff, students and parents. "I feel thankful and thrilled to join the Kirtland team," said Nagaj. "My beliefs and goals align with the district's vision and mission, and I am looking forward to contributing to the KES excellence. I am excited to meet the staff, students and parents as soon as possible!"

Nagaj resides in Chardon with her husband and two children.

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS OFFERS SUMMER BRAIN BOOST CAMP

Kirtland Local Schools has offered our students in kindergarten through third grade the C.H.A.M.P.s Camp for the past six years. This summer, the district expanded its programming and created the Summer Brain Boost for students that have just completed kindergarten through eighth grade.

The goal of the Summer Brain Boost is to reinforce skills and concepts that were taught the previous school year to ensure that our students have solid skill mastery to support a successful start to the school year. "On average, students lose between 25-30% of their school year learning over the summer months which is often referred to as summer learning loss, summer setback, and summer-slide," said Director of Pupil Services Becky Rowell-Malinas, Kirtland Local Schools.

"The practice and reinforcement will support a strong foundation for our students to build upon in the upcoming school year," said Malinas.

The Summer Brain Boost runs Mondays through Thursdays and began on August 3 and runs through August 27 from 9-11 a.m.

Kindergarten through second-grade students are offered instruction in phonics, reading, writing and math. Third through eighth grade students are offered instruction in reading, writing and math. Students that just completed kindergarten through third grade were given the opportunity to attend in-person or virtually and students that just completed fourth through eighth grade are attending classes virtually. Currently, 58 students are attending the Summer Brain Boost.



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THE Kirtland CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Summer 2020

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Hello Kirtland Community,



I am beyond excited and honored to be the new superintendent of the Kirtland Local School District. I have been a resident of Kirtland for the past seven years and have been the elementary school principal for the past six years. In this time, I have met so many wonderful students, staff, parents and community members. I have developed a deep love and appreciation for the city and school district and look forward to many more great years together.

I am especially looking forward to building upon the rich history of educational excellence in the Kirtland Local Schools. This will happen by offering a variety of courses and opportunities for our students to grow. We will look to continue to expand our STEAM opportunities for all of our students in grades K-12. We will leverage quality teacher instruction and technology to offer our students a personalized education while allowing them ownership of their learning. Social-Emotional support and learning will also be emphasized at each building. I will continue to work on moving our district forward towards excellence in our four main pillars of the strategic plan: providing a safe and secure environment, personalized learning, well managed finances and engaging the community.

As we approach our start date of September 8, there have been several questions as to what school will look like this fall. We have put together a comprehensive plan through collaboration and feedback from other school districts, our staff, parents and health officials. We are preparing to offer instruction in a variety of learning settings so we can be

flexible based on the recommendations of our local health officials. This preparation and flexibility will ensure that learning continues while keeping the safety of our students and staff at the forefront of our decisions. I will be hosting Town Hall meetings with families to answer questions they have. Our "Return to School Plan," questions, answers and information on the meetings can be found at <http://www.kirtlandschools.org/COVID-19Updates.aspx>.

Knowing the amazing students, staff and families in Kirtland, I am extremely confident that we will successfully navigate these unprecedented times and have a very successful school year! I am excited to see the students and staff back in our buildings soon!

Thanks for your help and support,
Chad VanArnhem, *Superintendent*



I will continue to work on moving our district forward towards excellence in our four main pillars of the strategic plan: providing a safe and secure environment, personalized learning, well managed finances and engaging the community.



K KHS Class of 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



Your pride and togetherness, your dedication and commitment to finish the year strong - has allowed this class to accomplish many amazing achievements - and graduating TOGETHER

Congratulations!



The Kirtland High School Class of 2020 had an amazing day on Sunday, July 12. It was great to see all of our graduates together as they celebrated their high school commencement.

On this memorable day, graduates started with a picnic at SNPJ Farm. They spent time together and played many games, ate great food, won prizes and capped off the picnic with a hypnotist. After the picnic, students were escorted by the Kirtland Police and Fire in a parade for our parents and community. The parade led to the Mayfield Road Drive In where they viewed their senior video. "We are very proud of the Class of 2020," said Principal Scott Amstutz, Kirtland High School. "Remember...the next time you close your eyes and dream of your future, hope

is the only thing stronger than fear. Happiness is not a destination, it is a way of life. Every person you meet knows something you don't so learn from them." Residents can view the Class of 2020 Commencement video on the district website

"Your pride and togetherness, your dedication and commitment to finish the year strong -has allowed this class to accomplish many amazing achievements - and graduating TOGETHER," said Amstutz. "You cannot do this without strong relationships and a positive mindset - and that passion will leave your legacy in our hallways forever." The Kirtland High School Class of 2020 celebrated the end of their K-12 education journey with a long list of accomplishments.

47
GRADUATED WITH HIGH HONORS (CUMULATIVE GPA OVER 4.0)
CUM LAUDE - 18
MAGNA CUM LAUDE - 15
SUMMA CUM LAUDE - 14

1
NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLAR

41
RECEIVED HONORS DIPLOMAS

36
GRADUATED WITH A 4-YEAR ACADEMIC LETTER

13
EARNED A 30+ ON THE ACT

24
DIFFERENT COLLEGES ATTENDING

31
PUBLIC PERFORMANCES PUT ON BY MARCHING/JAZZ/CONCERT AND HONORS BAND COLLECTIVELY

12
STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM AUBURN CAREER CENTER

2,000
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS LOGGED

ATHLETICS

1
WRESTLING STATE QUALIFIER

FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

GIRLS SOCCER FINAL FOUR

4
CVC TITLES

SPORTSMANSHIP BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Summa Cum Laude (4.25+)

Cecilia Anness
Julia Camino
Rylee Domonkos
Ariela Gettig
Jordan Jontz
Alinea Kanel
Sarah LaMantia
Lauren Lee
Johnathan Sayle
Vikram Sudararajan
Alessandra Sverko
Lilia Valentic
Gabriella Vlastic
Luke Weaver

Magna Cum Laude (4.000 - 4.249)

Samantha Bates
Emily Blankenship
Julia Coleman
Thomas Drazetic
Luke Gardner
Savanna Godfrey
Jessica Kelly
Natalie Pawlowski
Morgan Reed
Anna Robejsek
Michael Rus
Sabrina Shimko
Lauren Snyder
Eric Vinciquerra
Grace Wojnar

Cum Laude (3.750 - 3.999)

Michael Alfieri
Fiona Borthwick
Katelyn Cole
Aidan Dressel
Haleigh Getchell
Richard Holcknecht
Corinne Kuczkowski
Joseph Mongelluzzi
Noelle Nead

Gabriella Piazza
Abigail Ruckel
Zachary Samsa
Anthony Shepard
Jaymes Torok
Grace Trivisonno
Nicholas Vernon
Cecelia Wilcox
Maya Zovko

Honors Diploma

Cecilia Anness
Samantha Bates
Emily Blankenship
Fiona Borthwick
Julia Camino
Katelyn Cole
Julia Coleman
Rylee Domonkos
Thomas Drazetic
Luke Gardner
Haleigh Getchell
Gettig, Ariela
Savanna Godfrey
Cali Ihnat
Jordan Jontz
Alinea Kanel
Jessica Kelly
Corrine Kuczkowski
Sarah LaMantia
Lauren Lee
Joseph Mongelluzzi
Noelle Nead
Natalie Pawlowski
Gabriella Piazza
Morgan Reed
Anna Robejsek
Abigail Ruckel
Michael Rus
Zachary Samsa
Johnathan Sayle
Anthony Shepard
Sabrina Shimko
Lauren Snyder
Vikram Sundararajan
Alessandra Sverko

Jaymes Torok
Grace Trivisonno
Lilia Valentic
Gabriella Vlastic
Luke Weaver
Grace Wojnar

Graduates will be attending 24 different colleges

Kent State University
Ohio University
Cleveland State University
Lakeland Community College
The Ohio State University
Washington and Lee University
Lake Erie College
University of Cincinnati
University of Akron
Georgia Southern University
John Carroll University
Cornell University
Bowling Green State University
University of Mount Union
Miami University
University of Kentucky
Chandler Gilbert Community College
University of Dayton
Baldwin Wallace University
University of Michigan
University of Mount Union
Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics
Ursuline College
Cleveland Institute of Art

Twelve seniors graduated from Auburn Career Center with certifications and qualifications for the workforce and college preparation.

