



Kirtland Local School District
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THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Summer 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS



Kirtland Middle/High School

August 11-12 - 6-12 Laptop Distribution
August 12 - 6th Grade/KMS New Student Orientation
August 16 - Freshman Orientation
August 18 - First Day of School
September 24 - Homecoming and Senior Night

Kirtland Elementary School

August 12 - Kindergarten Orientation - 9-10 a.m.
August 12 - New Student Orientation - 10-11 a.m.
August 17 - Open House 5-7 p.m.
August 18 - First Day of School
August 18-20 - Kindergarten screening days (by appointment)

*****ECRWSEDDM*****
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KIRTLAND, OH 44094

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Athletics

Athletic Director: Matt Paul

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Hello Kirtland Community,

I need to start by thanking our students, staff, parents and community for a tremendous school year! While faced with historic challenges, everyone stepped up to ensure that learning continued and it was done safely throughout the pandemic while ending the school year on a very positive note for our students. The end of school year parties and award ceremonies were able to take place. The annual drive-in movie night took place and was very well attended. Our 94 seniors were able to have an in-person graduation ceremony and participated in many fun activities. I am so proud and grateful for our Class of 2021's leadership. On their last week of school, our seniors could be found all over the school campus and the community providing hours of community service. They were working with our youngest students, painting the Buddy Benches, landscaping and picking up trash. This speaks volume to their character and the legacy they have left behind.

It is now time to start thinking about next school year. First, it is important that our children have time to be kids over the summer! They have experienced unparalleled challenges and need time to socialize and have fun! While being a kid and enjoying all that summer has to offer, I am encouraging all students to read for pleasure. We have a great public library with a fun reading program taking place. We do have other options at school that will be short and engaging to support and continue the learning with our Brain Boost program.

Next school year, we will continue to follow the guidance of our local health officials and anticipate many less restrictions for our students. We are looking forward to welcoming back all of our students to in-person learning and a sense of normalcy. All of the protocols and expectations will be sent out as we get closer to the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you for all of your support and Go Hornets!

Chad VanArnhem
Superintendent



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Kirtland Elementary School on Twitter @mrsnagaj
Kirtland Middle School on Twitter @MrAmstutz | @MrLeoneMS
Kirtland High School on Twitter @MrAmstutz
Kirtland Hornets athletics on Twitter @kirtlandsports

Kirtland Athletics at www.kirtlandhornet.org | Kirtland Local Schools at www.kirtlandschools.org

KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL RANKS HIGH ON U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT “BEST HIGH SCHOOLS” LIST

Kirtland High School is a 2021 Best High School, based on rankings from the *U.S. News & World Report*. Kirtland High School is ranked #1 in Lake County, #17 in Cleveland and #52 in Ohio (out of 683 schools ranked in Ohio.)

“I am proud to see that our high school is ranked very high in our area and across the state,” said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem, Kirtland Local Schools. “We are fortunate to have such wonderful students, a dedicated and caring staff, supportive parents and a great community. Our school district strives to continue learning and improving every day as we build empowered citizens at Kirtland Local Schools.”



KILE AND EADEH RECEIVE LAKE COUNTY STATE SUPPORT TEAM AWARDS



Kim Kile, a member of the Kirtland High School Class of 2021, is the recipient of the 2021 Raymond A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Student Award through the Lake County State Support Team. The district nominated Kile for this award due to her eagerness to learn, her determination and perseverance and for her truly kind-hearted spirit. Her nomination reads, “Kim always tries her very best

in all that she does, she works hard, and she cares about her learning,” said Becky Malinas, Kirtland Local Schools. “Kim’s smile lights up a room and she makes all those around her smile. Kim impresses her teachers because she truly cares about all she does, strives to be the very best she can be, not only in the classroom but also in her vocational training, in her part-time job, as well as on the Kirtland High School cheerleading team. Kim is a true friend, she develops strong friendships and she makes the people she comes in contact with feel cared about. Kim does not let obstacles get in her way, she deals very well with change, new challenges and she is willing to try new things—all with a smile on her face. She is the perfect example of an outstanding student and she will accomplish great things in her future endeavors.”

Krista Eadeh, an intervention specialist at Kirtland Local Schools, is the recipient of the 2021 Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award through the Lake County State Support Team. Her nomination reads, “*Krista approaches every day and every child with incredible enthusiasm, energy and passion. She is an energetic and motivational teacher, who constantly works to improve her teaching skills, her connections with students, staff and families and in her ability to meet every student’s individual needs. She spends endless hours preparing quality lessons and interventions so that each and every student is able to accomplish their individual goals. Krista regularly collaborates with all teachers, her fellow intervention specialists and parents to ensure that all of her students are being successful throughout their school day as well as at home. Krista inspires her students and each and every child feels the love, support and care she has for them. She is one of their biggest cheerleaders! Her continuous commitment and focus on our students’ growth is exemplary. Krista’s never-ending determination and dedication to provide every student with the support, tools and interventions needed to be successful across all classes and in every subject area is exceptional. Kirtland Local Schools is truly thankful for Krista’s passion, dedication and commitment to every student’s growth and success.*”



SPORTS SHORTS

Spring 2021 was another banner season for the Kirtland Hornets sports teams. After a year off due to COVID, the Hornets left their mark in the area with impressive performances in baseball, softball, tennis, and track.

TRACK

Kirtland’s track team also had a big spring with seven athletes earning all-conference honors and five advancing to the regional meet.

Senior Julie Namciu and junior Reilly Greenlee split the girls’ team’s MVP award. Both earned second-team All-CVC honors in the 4x800-meter relay. Delaney Kuczkowski and Sophia DeMarco also competed in that event. Junior Maria Alfieri earned second-team all-league honors in the 100-meter hurdles and Marissa Carmosino and Elin Conner were named honorable mention.



On the boys’ side, sophomore Jason DeZwaan and senior Ryan Ritossa earned first-team All-CVC honors in the 400-meter dash and pole vault, respectively, while senior Alex Fellingner was second-team for his efforts throwing the discus. Ian McGreal and Luke Gogolin both earned honorable mention honors. Fellingner placed third at the district track meet while Alfieri was fourth. Greenlee finished as the runner-up in the 1600 and was fourth in the 3200. She also ran a leg in the 4x800-meter relay that finished second. Namciu placed second in the 400 and also competed in the 4x800 with Greenlee, DeMarco, and Kuczkowski

TENNIS

Kirtland’s tennis team closed out the season with a 7-7 record overall and 5-5 in the CVC Valley Division.

T.J. Green and Mario Rodin were among the most successful Hornets as they finished second in second doubles at the CVC tournament and reached the quarterfinals at sectionals. Green finished the year 8-5 while Rodin was 4-2. Both earned first-team All-CVC honors. Nisha Makkar (8-6), Aaron Schulz (6-7), and Liz Aranavage (5-9) all played singles for the Hornets while Anthon Mancini (10-4), Alex Loncar (8-4), and Bella Schulz (6-3) competed in singles play.



BASEBALL

Kirtland’s baseball team won its second straight Chagrin Valley Conference Valley Division title and advanced to the Division III district semifinals.



The Hornets, who finished 19-9, finished a perfect 12-0 in league play and saw head coach Luke Smrdel and senior Andrew Spencer named the league’s coach and player of the year, respectively.

Seniors Reese VanArnhem, Danny Davidson, and Spencer all were named first-team All-CVC and seniors Mason Sullivan and Anthony DeMarco both earned second-team honors. Juniors Gage Sullivan and Mason Rus were named honorable mention all-league. The honors didn’t stop there for the Hornets as Davidson was named first-team and VanArnhem earned second-team All-Ohio honors.

VanArnhem led the Hornets with a .460 batting average and a team-best 46 hits and 29 stolen bases. Davidson posted a team-high nine doubles, Mason Sullivan and Gage Sullivan each pounded out five triples, and Mason Sullivan clobbered a team-high three home runs and recorded a season-best 34 runs batted in.

Both Spencer and Mason Sullivan finished the year 5-1 on the mound. Spencer led the team with a 1.340 earned run average in 47 innings of work.

GIRLS’ SOFTBALL

The Hornets lost eight of their first 11 games but finished the season playing their best softball. Kirtland was 7-7 in its final 14 games to close out the year with a 10-15 record. Kirtland landed five players on the All-CVC team.

Freshman Gianna DiFranco was a first-team selection while sophomore Madison Matijevic and junior Gianna Cantini both were second-team honorees. Sophomore Nikolena Samac and junior Malia Becker were named honorable mention. Cantini also was named honorable mention All-Ohio after leading the Hornets in batting average (.638), hits (44), triples (3), home runs (7) and runs batted in (48). She also pitched 147 of 147 2/3 innings for the Hornets this season. She struck out 167 batters. Matijevic led the Hornets with 12 doubles and DiFranco tied Cantini for the team lead with three triples.

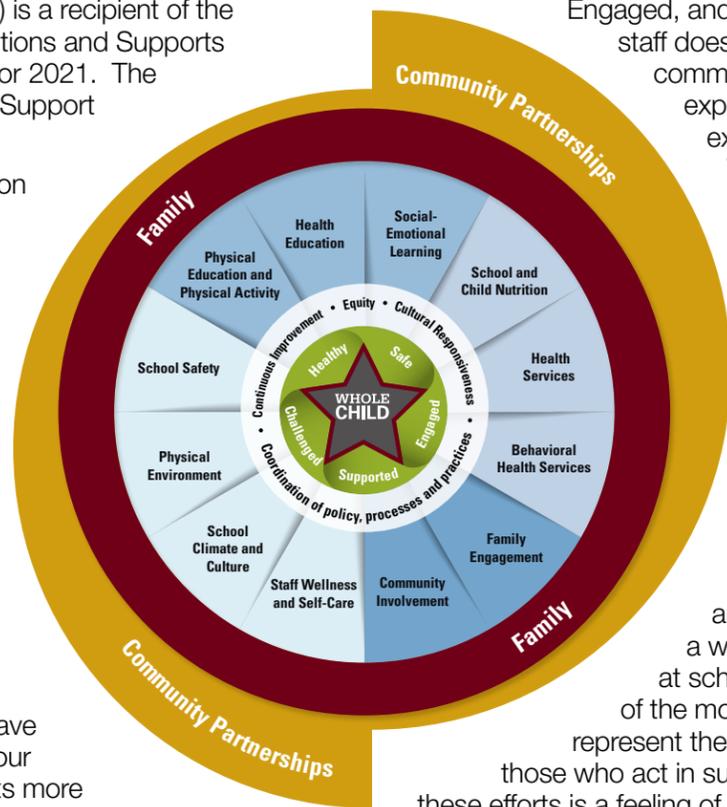


KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES OHIO PBIS GOLD RECOGNITION AWARD

Kirtland Elementary School (KES) is a recipient of the Ohio Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Gold Recognition Award for 2021. The school was recognized by State Support Team Region 4.

The Ohio Department of Education appreciates the time, effort and dedication schools and districts throughout the state have committed to PBIS and fulfilling the requirements of the PBIS Recognition System. "During the 2020-21 school year, each participating school and district faced challenging in-person and virtual options, significant student and family needs, and trauma," said Director Merrie Darrah, State Support Team Region 4. "The high levels of anxiety, depression and social isolation that our students, staff and community have faced make the sustainability of our PBIS and behavior support efforts more important now than ever."

"PBIS is implemented in many ways at Kirtland Elementary School," said Principal Katy Nagaj. "We use the HORNET character traits to guide us. Hornets are Hard-working, Open-minded, Respectful, Noble,



Engaged, and Trustworthy. Our staff does a fantastic job communicating clear expectations and modeling expected behaviors. We use common language so that everyone hears the same words, sees the expected behaviors and is taught the same ways to represent the traits we value. Each month, we focus on one of the character traits. We teach what that looks like, sounds like, and how we act in such a way both at home and at school. We wear a color of the month each Tuesday to represent the trait, and we celebrate those who act in such ways. The result of these efforts is a feeling of safety and positivity among our students. I am extremely proud of our hard-working staff who have cultivated a very warm and welcoming climate here at KES and I am confident we will continue to do so in the future."

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS OFFERS SUMMER BRAIN BOOST CAMP FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH ELEVENTH GRADE

Last summer, the district expanded its programming and created the Summer Brain Boost for students that have just completed kindergarten through eighth grade. For the 2021 summer the Kirtland School District is expanding the Summer Brain Boost through eleventh grade, all students that are currently in Kindergarten through eleventh grade are able to attend.

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. "On average, students lose 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading and 27 percent of their school-year gains in math during summer break, which tends to have a snowball effect as students experience subsequent skill loss each year."

The Summer Brain Boost runs from July 5 through August 5 from 9-11 a.m.

Kindergarten through third-grade students are offered instruction in phonics, reading, writing and math. Fourth through eleventh grade students are offered instruction in reading, writing and math. Students that just completed kindergarten through third grade will attend classes in-person and students that just completed fourth through eleventh grade are attending classes virtually and will have the opportunity to work on and complete their assigned summer reading projects. Currently, 39 students have enrolled in the Summer Brain Boost. Teachers provide a relaxed, low stress approach that the students are truly enjoying in a small group setting. There will be fun activities added throughout each week.

"Grade level concepts are reviewed and reinforced for deeper understanding and application," said Malinas. "The practice and reinforcement will support a strong foundation for our students to build upon in the upcoming school year."



FOURTH-GRADE SCIENTISTS SHARE EXPERIENCES WITH SCHOOL DURING ANNUAL SCIENCE FAIR

For more than 20 years, fourth-grade students at Kirtland Elementary School have participated in a science fair where they have been responsible for sharing and explaining their own experiments to other grade levels. To prepare for this event, the students select an experiment to practice at home, bring all needed materials to school, and share their experiments with their classmates. It is amazing to see the tremendous growth of having students understand their concepts about their own inventions.

Some of the names of the experiences were Lemon Volcano, Flying Birds, Breathing Milk, Elephant Toothpaste, Egg in the Bottle, Scurrying Pepper, Exploding Bag, Inflatable Balloon and Opening Flowers.



FIFTH-GRADE INVENTORS CONVENTION SHOWCASE CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

Invention Convention is a K-12 invention education curricular program mapped to national and state educational standards that teaches students problem-identification, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and creativity skills and builds confidence in invention, innovation and entrepreneurship for life. All fifth graders at Kirtland Elementary School participate in this program every year. During a typical school year, select students are chosen from a group of judges (high school robotics club and local engineers) to move on to the state competition at the state fair in Columbus. Select students from the state level then move on to the national level held at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. This year, schools could hold their own conventions and then the national program allowed students to submit their inventions, using a

recorded video pitch.

Some top inventions this year included: Collin Rascan with the Firewood Rack With No Mess; Bram Crisici with the Soccer Sleeve; Shawn Haines with the Super Seeder; Emma Skrbis with the All-Weather Wheelchair; and Courtney Svoboda with the Soft Sled.



"Your video presentations were excellent," said Board member Shannon Green. "Invention Convention Inventors were brilliant and the science experiments were super cool! Nice job explaining everything, very well rehearsed. Great job KES students!"



KHS Class of 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations!

The Kirtland High School Class of 2021 enjoyed an indoor commencement ceremony on Sunday, June 6 at the Mentor Fine Arts Center.



2
EARNED A 35
ON THE ACT
(1 PERFECT SCORE)

13
EARNED A 30+
ON THE ACT
(1 PERFECT SCORE)

223
AP EXAMS OVER A FOUR
YEAR PERIOD
FOR SENIORS

36
RECEIVED
HONORS DIPLOMAS

2
NATIONAL MERIT
COMMENDED SCHOLARS

1
NATIONAL
AP SCHOLAR

12
GRADUATED FROM
AUBURN CAREER
CENTER

42
GRADUATED WITH HONORS
CUM LAUDE - 8 (3.75-3.999)
MAGNA CUM LAUDE - 19 (4.0-4.249)
SUMMA CUM LAUDE - 15 (4.25+)

31
GRADUATED WITH
A 4-YEAR ACADEMIC
LETTER

4,000
COMMUNITY
SERVICE HOURS
LOGGED

\$350K+
SCHOLARSHIPS
EARNED OVERALL

2
STUDENTS EARNING
ASSOCIATE DEGREES

1
STUDENT EARNED
ONE LIFE SCHOLARSHIP
FROM AUBURN FOR
ARCHITECTURE

1
STUDENT EARNED
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE
FEMALE DIVERSITY
AWARD

Summa Cum Laude (4.25+)

Andrew Joseph Beinhardt +*^
Haley Anne Coso +*^
Nicholas Martine' Clayton +^
Adam Joseph Cummings +^
Joseph Michael Delis +
Anthony John DeMarco +*^
Leah Elizabeth LaVerde +*^
Alexander John Loncar +*^
Nisha Makkar +*^
Mateja Victoria Mrva +^
Heath James Perry +*^
Dea E Semaj +^
Emma Grace Ulrich +*^
Joshua James Wolfe +^

Magna Cum Laude (4.000 - 4.249)

Corinne Isabella Aquila ✓^
Aimee Kristine Baldrey ✓*^
Evan Jacob Bartholomew ✓^
Maria Bevanda ✓*^
Danielle Amber de Zwaan ✓^
Hannah Marcelle Duncan ✓*^
Spencer D Fortney ✓*^
Thomas James Green ✓*
Kristian Marko Grman ✓
Megan Grace Hansen ✓*^
Alaina Montoni Ingram ✓*^
Kaylin Paige Loncar ✓^
Timothy Andrew Lowery ✓*^
Emily Jane Morris ✓*
Ryan Luka Ritossa ✓^
Mario Anthony Rodin ✓^
Audrey Celeste Ryser ✓^
Anna Marie Shepard ✓^
Zachary Joseph Szymczak ✓*^

Cum Laude (3.750 - 3.999)

Ashton Thomas Gregory •
Emily Marie Kaseda •^
Cassandra Elizabeth
McFadden •^

Ami Shailesh Patel •^
Adam William Ribic •^
Mia Rose Rini •
Reese Matthew VanArnhem •*^
Amber Noel Yurick •^

Honors Diploma

Corinne Aquila
Aimee Baldrey
Evan Bartholomew
Andrew Beinhardt
Maria Bevanda
Nicholas Clayton
Haley Coso
Adam Cummings
Danielle de Zwaan
Anthony DeMarco
Hannah Duncan
Spencer Fortney
Megan Hansen
Alaina Ingram
Jonathan Jackson
Emily Kaseda
Leah LaVerde
Alexander Loncar
Kaylin Loncar
Timothy Lowery
Nisha Makkar
Cassandra McFadden
Mateja Mrva
Ami Patel
Heath Perry
Adam Ribic
Ryan Ritossa
Mario Rodin
Audrey Ryser
Dea Semaj
Anna Shepard
Zachary Szymczak
Emma Ulrich
Reese VanArnhem
Joshua Wolfe
Amber Yurick

Graduates will be attending 28 different colleges

Arizona State University
- Tempe
Baldwin Wallace University
Bowling Green State
University
Cedarville University
Cleveland State University
Eastern Michigan University
John Carroll University
Kent State - Geauga
Kent State University
Lakeland Community College
Miami University
Michigan State University
Ohio Northern
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Penn State University
Roosevelt University
Tennessee Tech
University of Akron
University of Cincinnati
University of Findlay
University of Louisville
University of Mount Union
University of Southern Florida
- Tampa
University of South Carolina
- Upstate
University of Toledo
Walsh University
West Virginia University
Youngstown State University

+ Summa Cum Laude
(4.25+ Cumulative GPA)
✓ Magna Cum Laude
(4.249 - 4.00 Cumulative GPA)
• Cum Laude
(3.999 - 3.750 Cumulative GPA)
* National Honor Society
^ Honors Diploma

