



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

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UPCOMING EVENTS



MARCH 26
Staff Vaccination Day
(Remote Asynchronous
Learning Day for Students)

MARCH 29 - APRIL 2
April Break (No School for Students)

APRIL 9
End of Third Quarter

APRIL 23
PTA Online Spring Auction

APRIL 26
Regular Board of Education
Meeting in KHS Cafeteria

MAY 7
No School for Students

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
KIRTLAND, OH 44094

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

THE Kirtland CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Winter 2021

KIRTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTES TO PLACE PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY ON MAY BALLOT



Dear Kirtland Community,

To meet the needs of the rising costs for maintaining Kirtland Local Schools' aging facilities, along with the need to update the stadium, the Board of Education voted to approve placing a continuing permanent improvement levy with an increase of .95 mills on the May 4, 2021 ballot.

The PI levy renewal, with the increase, will collect enough funds to pay for the ongoing maintenance, upgrades to learning areas like classrooms and labs, as well as the renovation of the stadium.

Permanent improvement (PI) money can be used towards any property, asset or improvement with an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more. By law, funds generated from a permanent improvement levy CANNOT be used to pay district operating expenses such as employee salaries and benefits. The existing PI collects 0.73 mills and generates approximately \$250,000 each year for buildings that are over 238,000 square feet. This is the same amount that has been collected by this PI levy for the past 25 years to cover the cost of maintenance and needed upgrades.

The five year general upkeep and maintenance schedule shows the need of \$250,000-\$350,000 annually (not including a stadium renovation). The 1.1 mill levy originally approved in 1996, continues to bring in approximately \$250,000 - this is currently 0.73 mill equivalent. Due to inflation, we are no longer able to keep up with our maintenance schedule which requires up to \$350,000 per year.

The increased cost of the 0.95 mills on a \$100,000 home is approximately \$2.75/month. This amount will remain fixed. As property valuations increase over time, the effective millage collected is decreased.

Sincerely,

Chad VanArnhem
Superintendent



Congratulations

to Kirtland High School's AP Scholars

AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

- Andrew Beinhardt
- Hannah Duncan
- Spencer Fortney
- Reilly Greenlee
- Megan Hansen
- Timothy Lowery
- Julianna Namciu
- Ryan Ritossa
- Anna Shepard
- Josh Wolfe

AP Scholar with Honor

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.

- Maria Bevanda
- Nisha Makkar

AP Scholar with Distinction

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.

- Adam Cummings
- Leah LaVerde
- Cassie McFadden
- Heath Perry
- Mario Rodin
- Dea Semaj
- Emma Ulrich

National AP Scholar

- Leah LaVerde

Commended Students

- Cassie McFadden
- Heath Perry

College Board National Recognition Program, Rural and Small Town Scholar

- Heath Perry

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY
MAY 4, 2021 – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Why is Permanent Improvement (PI) money needed?**
The money will be used toward improving facilities across the district. For example, two projects for which the PI levy funds are planned to be used in the educational setting include improving a high school science lab and completion of renovation of K-3 classrooms. The increase and continuous levy also allows the district to borrow money to renovate the stadium. Because of the playing surface and size of the field, it has limited use which is primarily for only football. Currently, the soccer teams do not play on the field because it is not regulation size and too much activity would destroy the grass. The new stadium will have a turf field that will be large enough so football and soccer can BOTH use it. The turf will be available for baseball/softball to practice on while the fields are muddy. The band can practice on it without worrying about wearing bare spots in the field. Classes can use it during the day. The turf can be used for recess for the elementary students when the grass is muddy.
- If the stadium is rebuilt, will the track be upgraded?**
Yes, many community members enjoy using the track. It will be resurfaced and accessible for the public to use.
- Will this money go toward staff salaries and benefits?**
No, a permanent improvement levy can only be used on items with a life expectancy of more than 5 years - NOT salaries or benefits.
- Does the District plan to place a levy for general operating expenses, including salary and benefits on the ballot in the fall?**
If the PI levy passes, there is no anticipated future levy request of any kind until 2024 at the earliest. The last time the district passed a levy for new money was back in 2012. Because of fiscal responsibility, in 2018, the Kirtland Local Schools earned the **Auditor of State Taxpayer Hero Award** for using innovative ideas to cut costs and increase efficiency to protect taxpayer dollars.
- Why is an increase to the current PI levy being placed on the ballot?**
The current levy collects around \$250,000 a year to maintain our current facility that is 238,491 sq. ft. on about 23 acres. This is the same amount collected each year back to 1996. While our school buildings and classrooms are well maintained, there will continue to be increased costs to maintain the aging buildings. The original part of KES was constructed in 1920, KMS in 1965, KHS in 1958, transportation building in 1972 and the Board of Education building in 1956.
- Why is a permanent improvement levy being placed on the ballot during a pandemic?**
The increase in PI levy funding would allow the District to continue with maintenance and improve areas of

- the facility; it also allows the district to borrow money for the stadium improvement. The district plans to borrow money now while interest rates are at historic lows in an effort to save taxpayers a significant amount of money in comparison to waiting to borrow money when rates begin to rise. Students have not been able to do as much hands-on science learning or work collaboratively during the pandemic. The PI money will be able to renovate a science lab and update elementary classrooms that will allow students to work in a collaborative manner. Also, as many of us strive to return to a sense of normalcy—the goal would be to have a new multipurpose stadium ready for the 2022 season bringing our community back together and offering increased opportunities for outdoor physical activities.
- Will placing the PI levy on the special election ballot require the district to expend tax dollar money?**
No, funds have been donated to the district by a community member to cover the cost of the election.
 - Will this mean that the fall season of 2021 will not have home football games?**
No, the current plan is to begin the project following the last home game so construction will be done in time for the 2022 season.
 - Will the youth leagues be able to use the fields?**
Yes, the plan would be able to offer equal access to youth soccer and football teams to have the opportunity to use the turf field. The high school and middle school teams will have the priority, but the youth teams can use it when it is available.
 - Is this increase just for a stadium?**
No, it will allow the district to continue to maintain and upgrade any part of the facility.
 - Will the field be moved to the back rec park?**
No, community members have shared that they love the current location of the stadium.
 - Has the school sought funding from other sources to help with facilities?**
Yes, the district received a Straight A Grant from the state for \$1,100,000 to renovate the classrooms in grades 7-12. We received a transportation grant in 2018 for \$225,633.20 to purchase four new buses. The Agility room off of the weight room was donated by Cleveland Construction and the Richard Small Foundation in 2017.
 - How much will this new continuous PI levy cost?**
The increased cost of the 0.95 mills on a \$100,000 home is approximately \$2.75 a month.

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS CREATE VIRTUAL CONNECT

As the school year progresses, our school community continues to experience so many changes. Our goal has been and continues to be based on providing the best instruction, interventions, and support for every student's success in his or her academics and social emotional growth in any environment. We recognize that both in-person and virtual learning platforms are extremely different and we continue to work on refining and improving in-person and virtual learning.

In an effort to support all students, Kirtland Local Schools formed the Student and Parent Virtual Connect, meetings for virtual students as well as their parents.

Student Virtual Connect monthly meetings are now offered to students to connect with each other, to share what is working for them, to share what can be added to their lessons to enhance learning, to brainstorm ideas on ways to involve our virtual students in non-academic activities and to strengthen their peer relationships while growing in their social-emotional skills in this atypical time.

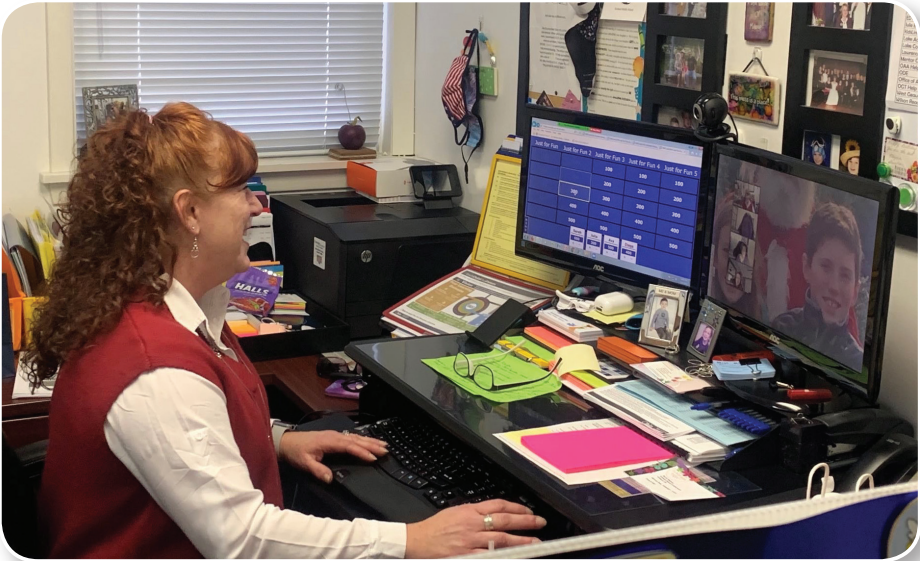


The Parent Virtual Connect monthly meetings offer tools for supporting students at home, ideas to help students be successful, as well as time for parents to engage with each

other and share their ideas while they are helping their children thrive not only during virtual learning, but on all learning platforms.

"We strongly encourage our parents to involve their students in these meetings," said Director of Pupil Services Becky Malinas, Kirtland Local Schools. "It is crucial that we stay connected with our children to better understand their point of view, how they are progressing with virtual learning, what is working and what can be enhanced to improve every day instruction and learning."

During the first Student Virtual Connect meeting, students were able to share their thoughts and ideas



on virtual learning. Students expressed that they love the break-out rooms during instruction, that they enjoy the asynchronous learning and that they like the improvements in the interactive part of instruction. They also really like sleeping in! Students expressed that they would like to see more paper-pencil activities so they do not have to be on the screen during the entire lesson. Students offered ideas on how to connect with other students and become more involved with each other.

During the first Parent Virtual Connect meeting, parents were able to share their thoughts and ideas as well. Parents expressed that they would like to see longer breaks in between classes or a longer lunch time to provide a break in between the morning and afternoon sessions to break away from the computer screen and provide their children time to do an activity outside. Parents are concerned about the amount of time their children are on a computer but overall understand that this is the setting we must be in at this time. Parents are trying different activities to keep their children connected with their peers to provide social situations to keep their children involved. Overall, parents expressed that they are very happy with how virtual learning has rolled out, that they are very appreciative of the teachers' hard work and that Kirtland Schools is far ahead of other districts' progress with virtual learning.

We are looking forward to future Virtual Connect meetings and the opportunity to network with students and parents as we learn more about their perspectives to support, drive and strengthen instruction, interventions and social opportunities.

KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVES EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2019-2020 YEARBOOK

The past school year has been one of the strangest and most difficult for students who have been trying to learn amidst a pandemic. Even through this time, the yearbook staff at Kirtland High School was able to create a book that captured memories of the year and connected everyone, whether at home or in the classroom. It is this dedication that led to the 2019-2020 Kirtland High School Yearbook being awarded the Walsworth Gallery of Excellence Award.

This award is given by the yearbook printing company, Walsworth Publishing. Their Gallery of Excellence is a collection that is compiled every year of the most distinguished yearbooks that Walsworth prints. The books in the gallery are chosen based on quality demonstration of theme, coverage, design, photography and copy.

Only a limited number of yearbooks receive this award and are shared at workshops with other schools for inspiration. They are also featured at regional, state and national conventions as models of remarkable student journalism. In addition, the covers, photos and coverage ideas are available for viewing on the Walsworth website and in the company's educational materials.

President of Walsworth Yearbooks, Don Walsworth, wrote a letter to Kirtland High School English Teacher and Yearbook Adviser Jennifer Berry saying, "Our company's reputation of superior quality is enhanced by Gallery books such as yours. Your yearbook's induction is a commendation of your staff's outstanding work and commitment to excellence."

Berry said her yearbook staff is made up of 28 students who are creative, motivated and eager to help. Staff member Dominic Vernon has entered some of his photos into national competitions and is always on the football sidelines. Senior Editor Emma Simons, Junior Editor Kaley Ream and Design Editor Amber Yurick are a huge force behind the book as well. This yearbook is a student publication and students take yearbook as a class.

This year especially was a challenge when trying to connect students who were only present virtually, but Berry said the staff worked hard to include everyone.

"We want this book to be a historical document of the people who called this place theirs - who our students are beyond the classroom and sports. We were honored to receive the award, especially given the challenges of COVID-19 in the spring," said Berry.

Rob Rainer, Sales and Service Representative for Walsworth Publishing wrote a letter to Kirtland High School Principal Scott Amstutz saying, "The yearbook staff at Kirtland is one of the hardest working, dedicated staffs I have ever had the honor of working with. They blend

I joined yearbook because I aspire to be an author and a journalist. I figured this class would give me some experience with journalism and photography, two skills that I have had very little experience with until now. My time in this class hasn't been exactly what I expected, with the pandemic and all, but I've still found ways to learn and enjoy making the yearbook. (Sarah Fisher '24 - 1st year in yearbook)

I signed up for the yearbook for my freshman year because the class is different. In yearbook, you're not taking notes, studying, or being tested. Instead, you are part of a community where you get to be creative and get to let your guard down. (Jacqueline Gotch - 2nd year in yearbook)

I joined yearbook because I wanted to help create something and give back to my school. Being able to work on the yearbook allows me to have a positive impact on others. (Ashton Gregory '21 - 1st year in yearbook)

I signed up for yearbook as a freshman because I had an open class period and it seemed like a fun class. I had no idea how much fun I would end up having, though. Last year's yearbook was definitely a strange year from March through May, but it made finishing the book even more of an accomplishment. (Kaley Ream '22 - 3rd year in yearbook)

My favorite part of being involved in yearbook is facing the challenges of design, grammar and meeting deadlines. Due to the pandemic, the Kirtland yearbook staff has made this year's book all about 'What do you think?' This gives each student a chance to have their thoughts and opinions heard throughout the book. (Brooke Alfieri '21 - 2nd year in yearbook)

great design, photography and excellent copywriting in producing the yearbook."

He also commended Berry for her efforts in guiding the staff to create the best yearbook possible for the Kirtland community. The school will receive a commemorative plaque that outlines the award for Kirtland High School to display.

The yearbook for 2020-2021 can be purchased at www.yearbookforever.com.



KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS' GRADUATE AND STUDENT HELP DISABLED VIETNAM VETERAN

When Alessandra Braud, a recent Kirtland Local Schools' graduate, learned about a disabled Vietnam Veteran who was on the brink of homelessness, she immediately lent a helping hand.

Braud is currently a student at Kent State University and found out about the veteran, who goes by AI, through a mutual friend on Facebook. AI had lost his wife in January 2020 and was struggling while living alone in a trailer.

Braud enlisted the help of her brother Brennon, a junior at Kirtland High School, to get donations of basic care items to send to AI. This act of kindness then shifted to fill a more immediate need. Half of AI's trailer had caved in after a heavy snowstorm on Christmas. Braud started a Facebook campaign where people can donate money through PayPal to help AI get a new place of residence.

In the meantime, Braud and her volunteers have been able to get AI and his pet cat into a Days Inn, where the owner offered a complimentary week-long stay. A recent Facebook post from Braud states that they have raised enough funds to keep AI there until January 31.



While he stayed at the hotel, Brennon gathered his friends and members of the Kirtland wrestling team from school to pack up AI's things from his trailer, box them up, and put them in storage until AI finds a permanent residence. Along with Brennon, Kirtland residents Luka Babic, Will Davidson, Drew Duncan, Jerry Zovko, Avery Zupancic, Ian Borthwick, Gaetano Savelli, and Parker White have been volunteering their time outside of school and sports practices to help the cause.

In addition, the President of the Kirtland Kiwanis, Chris Hesson, had his son helping along with several

other Kiwanians who donated their time and resources. Kirtland Local Schools' Superintendent Chad VanArnhem had his son and daughter, also Kirtland students, helping to pack up AI's things, too.

AI's story and Braud's plea for help from the community was broadcast on Channel 19 News, where Braud was quoted saying, "Since we come from a family that has military, it kind of hit close to home. Of course, I was going to help."

Channel 19 spoke with AI, who said, "If it hadn't been for these people. I wouldn't have what I have today. They've helped me out a lot."

Braud is keeping everyone updated on AI and their mission to help him through her Facebook page. People can donate money to the cause through PayPal at <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/alanthornton1569> or Braud also accepts cash or check that she then deposits into the PayPal account.

Braud said, "The only thing we have left that is needed is more funds to hopefully buy him a new trailer or home!"

Braud also set up a Facebook page so people can follow his story and updates better at: <https://www.facebook.com/helpavietnamvet/>.



Since we come from a family that has military, it kind of hit close to home. Of course, I was going to help.
- Alessandra Braud

KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL EARNS COLLEGE BOARD'S AP COMPUTER SCIENCE FEMALE DIVERSITY AWARD

Kirtland High School has earned the College Board's AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young womens' access to AP Computer Science A (CSA). This award acknowledges 1,119 schools for their work toward equal gender representation during the 2019-20 school year—nearly 37% more than the 818 schools recognized last year. Kirtland High School is one of only 232 schools to be recognized for achieving this important result in CSA. (one of 22 schools in Ohio to receive an award)

This recognition is a reflection of our students and our community," said Computer Science Teacher, SIS Coordinator and Webmaster Greg Cosimi, Kirtland High School. "Kirtland High School is such an awesome place to learn for our young women. They are encouraged to strive for greatness at every opportunity. Our students look up to leaders that came before them like Kerri Zalba, Lilly Kelemen, Jenna Sayle, Kelly Rudder and Rylee Domonkos as they accept the challenges of solving real-world problems and building new things. I am so proud of our past and present students for making the school's computer science program what it is today."

According to the College Board, new research shows that female students who take AP computer science are more likely to major in computer science in college

compared with matched peers. In the school's letter of acceptance, it stated, "Through your leadership in diversifying computer science education, you're preparing your female students for the high-paying, in-demand jobs of the future and giving them the opportunity to help solve some of society's most challenging problems. This honor recognizes the outstanding work your school is doing to engage more female students in computer science."

When Cosimi first started teaching at Kirtland High School in 2009, there were only two boys in AP Computer Science A. That was up from zero the year before. The 2019-20 AP Computer Science A class had 17 students (11 boys:6 girls), and there were two full sections of AP Computer Science Principles with 50 students (28 boys:22 girls).

"It's cool that there are more females in this class, and more females taking it because I enjoy it and I feel like they would enjoy it, too," said Leah LaVerde, a student in the Honors C++ Programming class this year.

An official award certificate to celebrate this achievement will arrive at the school soon.



KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS RECOGNIZE TEACHERS AND STAFF TO START THE NEW YEAR

At the beginning of her term as PTA President for Kirtland Local Schools, Allison Wuliger wanted to find a way to recognize the wonderful teachers and staff members in the district. It was then she came up with the idea for the "Hornet Heroes" program, which puts out a call into the Kirtland Local Schools' community for people to nominate a teacher or staff member who goes above and beyond for the students.

Since the first Hornet Hero Awards were given in October 2019, there have been 21 people recognized through the program. The PTA asks for nominations every month and after reviewing them, chooses the winners. The award recipient is then invited to the monthly PTA meeting to be recognized and listen to a reading of their nomination. Each winner also receives a certificate and small token of appreciation.

This month, the two selected winners were Guidance Counselor at Kirtland Elementary School Mrs. Linn Bowen, and Third Grade Teacher Mrs. Janine Greer.

The nomination for Bowen read, "Mrs. Bowen makes herself available no matter what, and just shows up for people!" This particular family was going through a lot of personal losses and stress and was thankful that Mrs. Bowen took extra time to check in with them and make sure they were all okay.

Greer is one of two teachers at KES who has a blended learning classroom, meaning half her students are taking classes in-person while the other half are learning virtually through Zoom. This results in a challenging environment for students and the teachers alike. Greer's nomination read, "But what is exceptional is her contagious positive attitude on the whole situation. I believe that one of the most important things that these third graders will take from Mrs. Greer in 2020 is her grace and patience under adversity."

The Hornet Heroes Award has been given to a broad spectrum of people who make up the Kirtland Local School District including teachers, administrative staff, custodial workers and bus drivers. "Our teachers and staff members truly are outstanding and help make the Kirtland Local Schools a special place," said Wuliger.



Linn Bowen



Janine Greer

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS' PRESCHOOL RE-OPENS FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

After the pandemic caused the Kirtland Local Schools' Preschool program to close for the past school year, they are excited to be able to again offer the Kirtland Local Schools' Bright Beginnings Preschool starting in August 2021.

The Bright Beginnings Preschool provides a stimulating learning environment that enhances a child's educational growth and success in a variety of areas including cognitive skills, critical thinking, language development, social and emotional skills, pre-reading and writing, math skills and more.

Kirtland residents may register their 3, 4, and 5 year-old children now until April 23. Non-residents may register their child starting March 23 until April 23. In order to save your child's seat in the class, a fee of \$100 is due at the time of registration. Registration forms can be found under the Final Forms section of the District website at <https://kirtland-oh.finalforms.com/>.

A birth certificate, driver's license, enrollment form, proof of residency and deposit must be sent to Diana Simpson at the Kirtland Board of Education. The cost of the

program for Kirtland residents is \$1,830 per child and \$2,000 per child for non-residents.

The preschool program runs from Monday through Thursday beginning at 8:45 a.m. and ending at 11:15 a.m. Children must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2021 and potty-trained by the first day of class in order to attend Bright Beginnings. The classroom structure itself encourages a child's sense of self-confidence through a curriculum that requires a child to make decisions, explore, solve problems, be creative, and practice social skill development.

Parents will have the opportunity to meet with the classroom staff individually the week before preschool begins. Additionally, the Kirtland Schools' Bright Beginnings Preschool staff will plan summer outings and get-togethers for both parents and children to meet before starting classes. Staff members will contact families after summer events are determined.

With any questions, call Diana Simpson at 440-256-3311 ext. 1007 or email diana.simpson@kirtlandschools.org.

DO YOU HAVE AN INCOMING KINDERGARTEN STUDENT FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR?

PLEASE CONTACT MRS. WARDER AT THE KES OFFICE.
440-256-3344 OR EMAIL HER AT TERRY.WARDER@KIRTLANDSCHOOLS.ORG

SHE WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
CHILD'S FULL NAME, PARENT/GUARDIAN FULL NAME,
E-MAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER.

ONCE WE HAVE MORE SPECIFIC REGISTRATION INFORMATION, WE WILL CONTACT YOU

