



Kirtland Local School District  
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PERMIT NO. 1

## UPCOMING EVENTS



- March 7 - Board of Education Student Learning and Achievement Committee Meeting - Hornet Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- March 7 - Board of Education Meeting - KES Hornet Hall - 7 p.m.
- March 8 - PTA Meeting - Hornet Hall - 7 p.m.
- March 11 - End of Third Quarter
- March 14-18 - Spring Break
- April 7 - Board of Education Finance Committee Meeting - Board Office Conference Room - 7 a.m.
- April 11 - Board of Education Student Learning and Achievement Committee Meeting - Hornet Hall - 5:30 p.m.
- April 11 - Board of Education Meeting - KES Hornet Hall - 7 p.m.
- April 15-18 - April Break (No School for Students)
- April 27 - High School Choir and Band Concert - KMS gym - 7 p.m.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

- President: Jonathan Withrow**  
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- Vice President: Matt Whittaker**  
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- Timothy Cosgrove**  
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- Shannon Green**  
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- Joshua Hayes**  
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- Superintendent: Chad VanArnhem**  
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- Director of Pupil Services: Kristen Schutte**  
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- Treasurer: Lew Galante**  
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- Kirtland Elementary School*  
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- Kirtland High School*  
**Principal: Scott Amstutz**  
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- Athletics*  
**Athletic Director: Matt Paul**  
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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

# THE Kirtland CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Winter 2022

## THANK YOU TO OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY



### Hello Kirtland Community,

I want to continue singing the praises of our students and staff! The excitement, hard work and pride that our students continue to demonstrate is inspiring. They have persevered through many challenges these past few years but are thriving with our in-person learning.

I cannot be more proud and thankful for our staff. Numerous districts around us have needed to close from staffing shortages. Our ultra dedicated employees have rallied to cover classes, bus routes and shifts to ensure that the learning goes on for our students! I am also grateful for our dedicated substitutes that have filled vacant positions and help to keep our doors open.

After a very successful fall athletic season, I am proud that all of our extracurricular activities are taking place in the winter. We believe that these extra opportunities are important for the overall well-being of our students. The

Kirtland Local Schools are currently providing a variety of activities that include basketball, wrestling, swimming, gymnastics, drama and First Lego League.

We are making progress toward our Kirtland High School science lab and stadium renovations. Below is the timeline that we will be following with the goal that phase one of the plan will be completed so the fall athletic teams will have a new turf field to play on and the science lab will be open for learning. Also included on page two are the latest renderings provided by ThenDesign Architecture.

The Kirtland Local Schools will have a RENEWAL operating levy on the ballot on May 3, 2022. The operating levy was last approved in 2017 and it will NOT be a tax increase to homeowners. It raises \$2,280,000 yearly for the school district for general fund expenses.

Thanks for your support,

Chad VanArnhem  
Superintendent

## KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL INDUCTS 21 NEW MEMBERS TO NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a high school student. In December, the Kirtland High School chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 21 new members.

NHS chapters in more than 12,500 high schools across the nation strive to give practical meaning to the Society's goals of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Kirtland's new members were selected based on demonstrated excellence in those four pillars of NHS.

Membership is more than an honor – it incurs a responsibility and an obligation to demonstrate those outstanding qualities that resulted in selection. Second-year members look forward to working with the new inductees on various service and tutoring projects throughout the year.



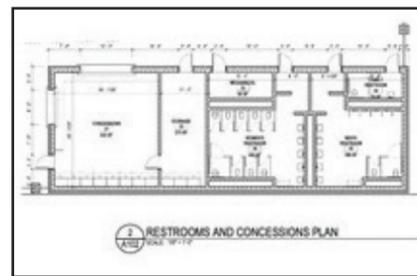
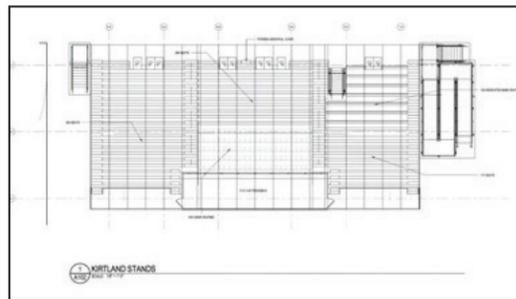
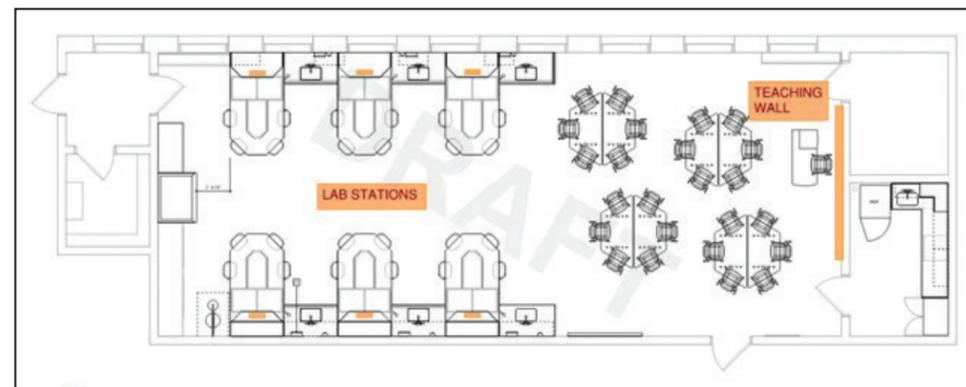
### The inductees are:

- |                     |                    |                  |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Erin Potter         | Thomas Gogolin     | Philip LaVerde   |
| Morgan Adkins       | Ava Golem          | Sophia Loncar    |
| Elizabeth Aranavage | Corinne Greenlee   | Mia Osborne      |
| Austin Booth        | Maya Hill          | Isabella Piazza  |
| Marissa Carmosino   | Adam Knaak         | Aria Ray         |
| Luke Chuko          | Avery Kuczkowski   | Nikolena Samac   |
| Josephine Copeland  | Delaney Kuczkowski | Robert Whittaker |

# TIMELINE AND PROJECT SCHEDULE\* FOR PHASE 1 RENOVATIONS (SCIENCE LAB, STADIUM TURF, LIGHTS) AND SCOREBOARD

\*Tentative  
(subject to change)

Architect distributes Scope of Work	1/7/2022
CMR submits list of proposed subcontractors for approval	1/19/2022
Pre-Proposal meetings	1/19/2022
Architect issues bidding documents	2/11/2022
Questions on bidding documents due	2/18/2022
Architect issues response to questions	2/23/2022
GMP and pricing proposal due	2/28/2022
Interviews	3/2/2022
Board meeting to consider CMR recommendation	3/4/2022
Start Construction	4/1/2022
Owner occupancy of Phase I (Field, Lights, Scoreboard, Science Renovation)	8/1/2022
Owner occupancy of Phase II (Bleachers and Transportation area)	8/1/2023



## SPORTS SHORTS

### Kirtland's winter sports teams are off and running and already the Hornets have found success in various ways.

The girls' basketball team is off to a 6-1 start after opening the season with six straight wins before falling to Division I Kenston on Jan. 8, 50-44. The Bombers were the preseason pick to win the Western Reserve Conference.



"Things continue to get better each week," said Kirtland coach Brittany Zele. "I am seeing a lot of application of our skill work from practice transitioning into the games. We are at the toughest part of our schedule and the girls are ready to be challenged each week."

The Hornets are 4-0 in the Chagrin Valley Conference Valley Division play but will be challenged often during the second half of the season.

Senior Reilly Greenlee leads Kirtland with 15.3 points per game while senior Alex Rosson also averages double figures with 11.6 points per contest. Senior Macy McIntosh is Kirtland's leading rebounder as she pulls down 7.8 rebounds per game. She also has posted a team high 3.3 assists per contest. Junior Corinne Greenlee has posted a team-best 4.1 steals per game while her sister averages 4.0 thefts per game.

As always—at least for the last decade—the Kirtland boys' team got off to a late start following the football team's run to the state championship.



The Hornets are 2-3 on the year with all three losses occurring on the year.

"These young men are working hard while facing a lot of adversity early on in the

season," said Kirtland coach Shawn McGregor. "With the late start due to football and a bout with COVID, our young men are competing while playing catchup."

Owen Mueller and Ben Beres have been consistent in scoring and Ramon Lescano, Mason Rus, Scotty

Haymer, Gage DiFabio, and Phil LaVerde have been solid contributors throughout the early goings.

Through their first three games, Mueller drained seven 3-pointers while Beres has connected on six long-range shots.

"The seniors are doing a great job of leading," McGregor said. "We have little Varsity experience on our roster, so at times they are learning on the job, but their competitive nature and resilience have carried us early. They're a great group of kids that work their tails off."

Kirtland's wrestling team has grappled with success this winter as a trio of returning state qualifiers has led the way for the Hornets.

Senior Will Davidson, who placed third at state last season and is ranked No. 1 at 132 pounds this year, already has claimed three tournament titles. He opened the season with a win at the Cuyahoga Heights Al Pinter Memorial Tournament, and then topped the field at the Kenston Invitational Tournament, and last weekend, he won the Perry Pin City Tournament.

Senior Brennon Braud, who was 1-2 at state last season and is ranked 10th at 190 this winter, also won individual titles at the three tournaments where the Hornets competed.

Another senior, Anthony Gencarelli, a returning state qualifier, placed third at Kenston and won the Perry tournament. Equally important, he announced his intentions to continue his education and wrestling career at West Liberty University. He is ranked No. 9 at 175 pounds.

Junior Louka Babic won a title at the Al Pinter tournament and junior Gaetano Savelli placed third. Savelli also finished fifth at Perry.

Kirtland's swim team, fresh off a win over South, continues to show improvement.

Kaley Ream, a three-time state qualifier, won both the 100 freestyle and backstroke races against the Rebels while Claire Dumstorff won the 100 breaststroke and placed second in the 100 freestyle. Giorgi Mei won the 200 individual medley and Sophia Shepard was second in the 50 freestyle. Walter Knoop placed second in the 50 freestyle and won the 100 breaststroke.

## KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Kirtland Local Schools recognized several high school students for their academic achievements at the November 22 Board of Education meeting.



Students recognized for their hard work and dedication in Advanced Placement classes and for receiving the **AP Scholar Award** include: Corinne Greenlee, Philip LaVerde, Malia Becker, Charlie Burris, Gianna Cantini, Skye Carpenter, Scott Haymer, Kaley Ream, Mason Rus, Joseph Schueren, Payton VanArnhem and Jonathan Withrow. *These students received a 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams.*



Students recognized for their hard work and dedication in Advanced Placement classes and for receiving the **AP Scholar with Honor Award** include: Bobby Whittaker, Amalie Gettig, Penelope Jankowski, Macy McIntosh and Livia Susevich. *These students averaged a 3.25 on all AP exams and a 3 or higher on 4 or more on these exams.*



Students recognized for their hard work and dedication in Advanced Placement classes and for receiving the **AP Scholar with Distinction Award** include: Alyssa Bryll, Reilly Greenlee and Marco Valentic. *These students averaged a 3.50 on all AP exams and a 3 or higher on 5 or more on these exams.*



Jason de Zwaan has been named a **National Merit Commended Scholar** by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. More than two-thirds (about 34,000) of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

## KES JOINS IN “START WITH HELLO” PROGRAM TO PROMOTE KINDNESS

Kirtland Elementary School (KES) joined Kirtland Middle and High School in the “Start with Hello” initiative to help students feel connected and give them a sense of belonging.

The Start with Hello program comes from the nonprofit organization Sandy Hook Promise, which aims to end school shootings and create a culture change that prevents violence. Through programs like Start with Hello, students and adults are taught to recognize the signs of someone who may feel socially isolated and is at risk of hurting themselves or others. By simply saying “hello” to another person, it can help keep them from feeling isolated and alone.

KES held a spirit week from September 20-23 with different kindness challenges held each day. On Monday, the theme was “Green Out” and students wore the color green to show they care about classmates, teachers and other school adults. Tuesday’s theme was “No One Plays Alone,” in which students were encouraged to expand their friend group and play with someone new to ensure no one was left playing alone. On Wednesday, students wore superhero shirts or shirts with positive messages in honor of HERO day, which stands for Here Everyone Respects Others.

Spirit Week wrapped up with a day devoted to performing intentional acts of kindness. Students were encouraged to go out of their way to do something nice for someone else.

## KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL INTERVENTION SPECIALIST RECEIVES 2022 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Alicia Martin, Intervention Specialist at Kirtland High School, was selected as one of 10 recipients of the 2022 Woman of Achievement Award. This is the 29th year the Woman of Achievement Award has been presented by the Women’s Center at Lakeland Community College. This year’s theme, Leading with Light, puts the focus on those who “shined a light during the pandemic,” said Women’s Center Manager Gloria Lane.

Kirtland High School English Teacher Jennifer Berry and Sophomore Myah Drazetic worked together to write a letter to nominate Martin. The letter showcased the reasons they believe Martin deserved to be recognized for her virtual teaching during the pandemic. “As an educator, Mrs. Martin has always helped in ways that make students and staff feel more valued. She pushes students to their fullest potential, helping them feel more confident in their work as well as themselves,” said Berry and Drazetic. “She always makes sure you know that she’s there if you need anything,

even if it’s something you have discussed many times before; she never makes you feel bad for it. This is a challenging job, but the fact that she did it all and did it well within a virtual setting makes it even more remarkable.”

Before Martin began working at Kirtland 15 years ago, she worked as a social worker at a VA Hospital. She has served as a co-teacher in Berry’s 10th grade English classroom for the past four years.

The Women’s Center currently plans to hold an in-person awards ceremony on March 13 to recognize this year’s winners. Each recipient will be awarded with an original piece of art “created for this purpose by a local female artist,” said Lane.



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## KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN BULLY PREVENTION MONTH SHARES MESSAGE THROUGHOUT ENTIRE DISTRICT

Kirtland Middle School participated in several activities to promote Bully Prevention Month in October. On October 20, students and staff participated in an Unity Day by wearing orange as a message of hope and support, sending a universal message for society to prevent bullying. Students also were engaged in a lesson on understanding what bullying is, learning prevention strategies and how to seek help.

Kirtland High School Peer Leaders also discussed with the middle school students ways to address bullying in each student’s homebase period. Peer Leaders at the middle school also assisted high school peer leaders in the Duck Brand Challenge Be Kind® Stick Together® presentation at the elementary school. Be Kind® Stick Together® is a character education program offered to schools by Project Love and Duck Tape® in an effort to provide a fun and different way for students to explore the important social-emotional learning concepts of kindness and sticking together to combat bullying and negative behaviors in schools.



# Committed To Wellness at Kirtland Local Schools

The Kirtland Local Schools have a strong commitment to the overall wellness of its school community. Staff, students and families are coming together now more than ever to not only take care of others but themselves. Numerous initiatives are being planned in partnership with the District's Wellness Committee that are happening in the classrooms as well as in their homes.

The Wellness Committee consists of members of the administration, staff, students, and parents that have met quarterly over the past few years. The committee looks for ways to promote wellness for students, staff and the community which aligns with the district's strategic plan of "promoting healthy choices for students."

Families are enjoying the wellness calendar published each month by the food services department which consists of a wide variety of daily prompts for people to complete. The guidance counselors at Kirtland Elementary School also publish a monthly newsletter that is shared with staff that focuses on topics like connecting with nature and even a recipe of the month.



## KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kirtland Elementary School (KES) has increased its wellness efforts over the past few years, especially to help staff and school families throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. With the help of the guidance counselors, Principal Katy Nagaj has created a wellness challenge for their elementary school staff that includes a team step challenge, completing a 'wellness wheel' for self reflection, and offering writing prompts to complete in their own gratitude journals.

The guidance department writes a monthly wellness newsletter. The main goal is to provide staff members with information on a variety of topics such as mental health, connecting with nature, strengthening your mindset, and more. Each issue includes a main focus, guidance updates from within the building, and a healthy recipe.

During a recent professional development day, the staff had options of participating in activities such as yoga, walking, guided meditation or an exercise boot camp class led by two of their own teachers. The boot camp, started last year, has had high levels of participation, so the school is hoping to bring it back as a weekly program teachers can take before or after school.

Partnering with the PTA, students and staff participated in a walk-a-thon on October 15. Families donated through a website created for the event to sponsor the students walking. During the week leading up to the walkathon, Mrs. Grdadolnik had each class walk laps around the track. Then during the event, the students were given lanyards with cards attached to keep track of their laps.

Other wellness activities for students include "Walking Wednesdays." All kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers are encouraged to take their students out of their classrooms for a brain break. They continue to track their steps and some even keep track as a class. They walk on the track, around the campus and playground. The playground features activity zones with prompts like pushups, Hornet Jacks, or obstacle courses.

In addition, there is a 30 minute block of No New Instruction time every day built into the master schedule where a wide variety of activities take place throughout the building. "Some of these activities center around wellness," said Nagaj. "For example, some students play kickball in the gym while others take part in STEM-related activities to actively engage in hands-on problem-solving challenges to stretch their brain and mind."

"I value wellness and I know that, considering what our staff and students have been through during the past year and a half, I am committed to providing opportunities for our KES family to take care of themselves so that they can take care of others," said Nagaj.



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*Katy Nagaj  
Kirtland Elementary School Principal*

**"The need for the wellness committee has been as important as ever as so many people battled isolation, anxiety and inactivity from the pandemic. Feedback from the students has been extremely valuable as we look to always improve what we are doing for the children."**

*Chad VanArnhem  
Superintendent, Kirtland Local Schools*



## KIRTLAND MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Students are focusing on social-emotional learning and well-being during their homebase time at the middle school. A new Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiative at both schools is "improving yourself, empowering others, and impacting the world" featuring positive competencies and skills that revolve around those three pillars.

KMS celebrated Bullying Awareness Month in October with lessons that focused on creating an anti-bullying school where students stand up for and advocate for each other (in-person and online). Kindness Week and World Kindness Day celebrations focused on teaching students about the impact that one positive deed can have on others because it creates a chain reaction of kind acts. Students also were encouraged to develop an "attitude of gratitude" where students reflect on what they are thankful for and take time to acknowledge it. Two other awareness campaigns that students will be involved in include vaping awareness and suicide prevention and awareness.

For physical wellness at the middle school, all students receive 20 minutes of REC every day to encourage them to get up and move. If the weather is good and the field is dry, then REC happens outside. KMS also focuses on mental health by identifying student stressors. Students fill out a survey so that staff can be more aware of where student stress levels are. Guidance Counselor Mr. Greg Bell meets with all of the students that are flagged for follow-up. There is a check-in meeting to try to lower their stress and anxiety. Results from the survey are also used to find ways to make improvements within the school.

At the high school, there is a high percentage of students who participate in athletics, marching band and other extracurricular activities that allow them to get moving during the day. Teachers also consistently provide movement breaks during their classes to help students reset and get some steps around the building. Students are involved with Project Love and Unity Day. They are peer leaders to the elementary and middle school students, focusing on making healthy connections with other students. Mental health initiatives include Life Act presentations for suicide prevention and awareness and Peer Leaders working with ninth graders on stress management.

"The need for the wellness committee has been as important as ever as so many people battled isolation, anxiety and inactivity from the pandemic," said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem. "Feedback from the students has been extremely valuable as we look to always improve what we are doing for the children. We will continue striving to meet the physical and social-emotional needs of our students and staff to provide the best possible learning environment for them."