

## Our KMS Mission...

The mission of Kirtland Middle School is to assure the highest quality education for all its students in a safe and professional climate. We recognize our students are transitioning from adolescents in elementary school to young adults in high school; learning is the main focus for our students. In achieving academic excellence the staff of Kirtland Middle School commits itself to the following values and standards:

1. What will teachers expect the students to learn?

KMS students will learn and master the grade level content standards developed by the Ohio Department of Education and the District Course of Studies.

2. How will teachers know when the students are learning?

Teachers will include the constant diagnosis of student learning (assessments such as class participation, written and oral responses and tests, projects, self/peer evaluations, portfolios, journals, multimedia presentations, Internet research, and formal testing such as achievement and diagnostic testing, proficiency testing, and OGT preparation).

3. How will teachers respond when students do not learn?

The teachers appreciate the different learning styles of each individual student and make adaptations in instruction when students are not successful. Refocusing, re-teaching, finding new ways to present materials, individualized attention, and redirecting information are just a few of the strategies.

In addition, the KMS Staff recognizes:

a) The Student

- i. Is a person in transition: intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.
- ii. Is a person that should be treated as a unique individual.
- iii. Has a unique learning style and learning abilities.
- iv. Should have diverse academic opportunities provided for them (include exploratory, music).
- v. Benefits from many activities to serve their different interests (clubs, athletics, activities).
- vi. Should be assisted in developing honest respect for others, and interdependence as a learner and person.

b) The Teacher

- i. Shall serve as a role model to students.
- ii. Shall exhibit professional relationships with peers, students, parents, and community members.
- iii. Possess content area knowledge and skills regarding appropriate teaching methodologies and strategies identified with different teaching styles and learning abilities.
- iv. Is an integral participant in governance, operation, and improvement of the school.
- v. Believes professional growth is a continual goal/activity which is assisted by the school administration.

c) Instruction

- i. Utilizes eclectic instructional strategies and approaches.
- ii. Incorporates different teaching approaches to meet the needs of the various student learning styles.
- iii. Requires the use of a multitude of instructional materials.
- iv. Incorporates technology in all academic areas.

d) Parents and Community

- i. Parents need to be engaged for a maximum student learning. Involvement will include interactive and open communication between educational personnel and home.

Educational excellence requires a community commitment of human and financial resources to assure these high levels of academic excellence.