

# THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Fall 2023

## KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS EXCEEDS STATE STANDARDS ON 2022-23 STATE REPORT CARD

On September 14, the Ohio Department of Education released the 2022-23 School Report Cards for the more than 600 districts in the state. The Kirtland Local School District has been awarded an exceptional five-star rating, the highest attainable recognition. Furthermore, the district's overall Performance Index has reached unprecedented heights, marking it as the highest in at least the past eight years and is ranked in the top 9% of the state.

"This remarkable accomplishment has placed our district within the top 9% of all school districts in the state, reflecting the dedication and hard work of our students, staff, and community," said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem. "Our students have demonstrated remarkable progress, achieving at levels surpassing those prior to the pandemic. This is truly a momentous achievement, and I couldn't be prouder of our collective efforts."

The Ohio School Report Cards include performance information provided by schools and districts including academic, financial, and opportunity to learn data. Some of this data is then combined into six components (listed to the right) that receive star ratings to indicate the level of performance for the school and district.

"I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all our students, staff, families, and community members for their role in making this success possible," said VanArnhem. "Your unwavering support and commitment to our school district have played a pivotal role in this outstanding achievement."



### OVERALL RATING (★★★★★)

The Overall rating is calculated by a weighted formula of all other rated components



#### ACHIEVEMENT

(★★★★★)

The Achievement Component measures students' academic achievement using each level of performance on Ohio's State Tests.



#### PROGRESS

(★★★★★)

The Progress Component measures the academic performance of students compared to expected growth on Ohio's State Tests.



#### GRADUATION

(★★★★★)

The Graduation Component is a measure of the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate and the five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate.



#### GAP CLOSING

(★★★★★)

The Gap Closing component shows how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for our students in English language arts, math, and graduation. It also measures how schools are doing in supporting English learners to increase language proficiency, reducing chronic absenteeism for all students, and identifying gifted students and providing gifted services.



#### EARLY LITERACY

(★★★★★)

The Early Literacy Component is a measure of reading improvement and proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade. Four stars means the district exceeds state standards in academic achievement.



#### COLLEGE, CAREER, WORKFORCE, AND MILITARY READINESS

(not rated this year)

The College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness Component measures how well-prepared Ohio's students are for all future opportunities.

# KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES NEW MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

At the Special Board of Education meeting on July 26, 2023, Mr. Bob Race was approved to become Kirtland Middle School (KMS) principal for the next three school years and Mr. Victor Puskas was approved to be the next principal at Kirtland High School.

“Mr. Race demonstrated strong leadership and did an amazing job of supporting KMS last school year as the assistant principal,” said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem. “Mr. Race has built strong relationships with students, staff and the community in his first year in the district. He was a strong curricular leader and would do whatever task that was asked of him. We are excited to have Mr. Race as the principal at KMS.”

“I am immensely grateful to the school board, Mr. VanArnhem, Mr. Amstutz, the community, and my dedicated staff for entrusting me with the incredible privilege of leading the middle school as the new principal. Together, we have embarked on a journey of educational excellence, fostering a nurturing environment for our students to thrive. It is an honor to guide and inspire our future generation, and I am humbled by the unwavering support and confidence placed in me. Thank you for this incredible opportunity!” said Race.

Prior to joining Kirtland High School, Mr. Puskas was the assistant principal at West Geauga High School for the past two school years. Before that, he was a science teacher at Chagrin Falls High School for seven years. He went through an extensive interview process including a final round interview with 16 people that included teachers, an administrative assistant, guidance counselors, administrators, parents and students. The committee collectively was excited and in agreement that Mr. Puskas was a great choice to be the next high school principal. “Mr. Puskas comes to us with a reputation as a strong educational leader with a great



*Mr. Victor Puskas, Principal, Kirtland High School*

work ethic,” said VanArnhem. “He is also known for building meaningful relationships and working well with students, staff and families. Mr. Puskas comes from a strong educational background that will help to continue moving the high school forward in a positive direction. I am very excited for our community to meet him.”

“I would like to thank the Board of Education, Mr. VanArnhem, and the entire interview panel for entrusting me with leading Kirtland High School. It is an honor to be in this position and I intend to work hard each day to make this school community proud. Kirtland Local Schools is a district with a strong reputation which includes a talented staff, supportive families, and bright and motivated students. As an educator, you simply cannot ask for a better place to serve. I look forward to building relationships, establishing trust, and working collaboratively with all stakeholders to continue to deliver a high-quality personalized education to all Kirtland High School students. Go Hornets!” said Puskas.



*Mr. Bob Race, Principal, Kirtland Middle School*

## BECOME INVOLVED

Parent involvement is so important in providing the best experience for our students throughout the year... please consider joining one or more of these support organizations:

### PTA

The Kirtland PTA, which encompasses all three schools in our district, is thankful for parent and community support, which allows us to serve all the students in our district. Our mission statement is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Follow us on Twitter: @kirtland\_pta Join our Facebook Group: KPI (Kirtland Parent Information) and Facebook page: Kirtland PTA <https://www.kirtlandschools.org/PTA.aspx>

### Band Boosters

We are a dedicated group of parents, faculty, and friends that support the district's music programs. Booster raised funds are used to supplement Board of Education support and provide additional funding for the special educational opportunities requested by the music directors. Our purpose is to enhance the overall music experience for our students. Join our Facebook Group: Kirtland Music Boosters <https://kirtlandmusicboosters.com/>

### Academic Boosters

The Kirtland Academic Boosters support academic programs and improvements in all three Kirtland schools. We do not sell memberships. We depend on donations from our community to help us fund academic programs.

Donations: [paypal.me/KEF44094](https://www.paypal.com/kef44094). 100% of every donation goes to the Kirtland Schools. 501(c)(3) - Most donations are tax deductible.



**January 10  
March 14  
8:00 a.m.**

Held at 8:00 am at Honey's Cafe  
9264 Chillicothe Dr. #3 Kirtland.  
(located next the Kirtland Local Schools)

**First ten people will receive free coffee on these days.**

## KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL AMONG TOP HIGH SCHOOLS IN OHIO

Kirtland High School (KHS) is once again among the top public high schools in Ohio according to the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best High Schools ranking released on August 29, 2023.



KHS ranks No. 1 among high schools in Lake County, No. 20 among 146 high schools in the Cleveland area, and No. 76 among 741 high schools in the State of Ohio, placing it in the top 11% of public high schools statewide. Nationally, KHS ranks 2,109 among the

approximately 18,000 public high schools who were ranked across the nation of the approximately 25,000 public high schools.

The ranking is based on five criteria with the weight of each criteria given a certain percentage and all five criteria totaling 100 percent. These criteria include

- Proficiency on state-required tests (20 percent)
- Performance on state-required tests (20 percent)
- Performance of underserved students, such as minorities and those from low-income households (20 percent)
- How well students are prepared for college (30 percent)
- Graduation rate (10 percent).

**#1**

OF 20  
SCHOOLS  
IN LAKE COUNTY

**#20**

OF 146  
SCHOOLS  
IN CLEVELAND

**#76**

OF 741  
SCHOOLS  
IN OHIO



# KIRTLAND COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO UNVEIL NEW ARTIFICIAL TURF STADIUM

Kirtland Local Schools and the Kirtland community officially celebrated the opening of their new artificial turf stadium on August 26 with a ribbon cutting ceremony before the first home football game of the season against Lutheran West.

“There was a lot of hard work that went into the stadium renovation from a lot of different people, so to see our students on the field is a dream come true,” said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem.

The Kirtland High School (KHS) soccer teams were the first team to play an official game at the new Wilson Stadium on August 22 while the Kirtland Hornet Marching Band and the football team also got practice time on the field earlier in the day.

A permanent improvement levy helped fund the stadium project as well as the KHS science lab renovation. The Kirtland Athletic Boosters donated \$40,000 toward

the turf, ACO donated \$22,000 toward drainage and the long jump and the Kirtland Kiwanis Club donated \$5,000 plus labor work to help renovate the home team’s press box.

John Wilson, Jr., owner of AQUA DOC Lake & Pond Management and a 1980 graduate of Kirtland High School purchased the naming rights to the stadium for \$200,000 last fall.

Kirtland Local Schools would like to thank everyone who helped complete this project including: Marous Brothers Construction, Then Design Architects, local civil engineer John Urbanick, Kirtland grounds crew members John Lipps and Dave Sluga, the Kirtland Kiwanis and Mike Kost from BK Electric.

“There are so many success stories of everyone coming together to make this happen,” said VanArnhem.



**“There was a lot of hard work that went into the stadium renovation from a lot of different people, so to see our students on the field is a dream come true.”**

*- Chad VanArnhem, Superintendent, Kirtland Local Schools*



# SO MUCH MORE THAN A FOOTBALL STADIUM

By Chad VanArnhem, Superintendent

Before the revitalization of Wilson Stadium, the Kirtland Local Schools and the surrounding community faced severe limitations in utilizing the stadium. The field's dimensions rendered it unsuitable for soccer. Moreover, the location of visiting stands and light poles inside of the track further restricted its versatility. To compound matters, the field often deteriorated into a muddy mess after just a few games played in wet conditions. As a result, it was primarily reserved for high school football, and even then, its usability was compromised. Home playoff football games even had to be played at other stadiums because of the field conditions. The marching band had to tolerate sloppy conditions during the Hornets' deep postseason runs. These issues, however, are now a thing of the past!

The field has undergone significant improvements that include state of the art turf that is wide enough for a soccer field. Wilson Stadium has proudly hosted numerous soccer games, featuring both boys' and girls' teams spanning grades 7 through 12. Also, our soccer teams now get to play games under the lights which they were not able to do in the past. Additionally, all football teams in grades 7 through 12 have had the privilege of utilizing the field. Excitement abounds as youth football teams and cheerleaders too have had the opportunity to play in the stadium.

Beyond athletics, the marching band now enjoys the luxury of marching on the turf rather than navigating dirt patches that inevitably turn into mud. The middle school has taken advantage of the upgraded facilities by sending students out to participate in various activities, including



recreational time before and after lunch. The wellness classes now use the field and track for physical activities that were previously limited to the gymnasium. On extended block days, some teachers also use the field to give their students short physical breaks, which research shows is necessary and boosts student

productivity. Additionally, the middle school girls' and boys' soccer teams, cheerleaders, and football players have all been given the opportunity to participate in at least one game on the upper field. Previously, the upper field was only usable by the middle school football team during the first few weeks of the season before the turf was installed. "All of us at the middle school are so grateful for such a beautiful facility and an extension of our learning space," said Principal Bob Race, Kirtland Middle School.

Kirtland Elementary, in particular, utilized the track during the entire week of September 11th for their annual walkathon. This culminated in a special walkathon night held just before the Friday night football game on September 15th, where hundreds of students and family members came together to participate. Many of the elementary students have also enjoyed playing on the youth field during the Friday night football games which is located behind the east end zone.

Furthermore, the new track has become a hub of community activity, regularly frequented by residents. The addition of "night lights" has extended its usability into the evening hours, providing lighting for an evening walk or jog. The field has also been rented out to another school to generate revenue for the district.





# KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STUDENTS ENJOY NEW LAB SPACE

The new, renovated science room at Kirtland High School opened in January 2023. The renovation focused on opening up two small rooms to create one larger, improved and functional learning area for the students. The classroom also needed new electrical, plumbing, floors, ceiling tiles, countertops, and a fresh coat of paint.

The room now allows the students to bounce back-and-forth seamlessly from a laboratory setting to a classroom space while also being able to take advantage of the new upgraded technology such as the monitors located at every lab station that displays students' real-time work or teaching materials. "This is a great addition to our high school because it allows the students to experience a better lab experience that will prepare them for college-level labs and for future career opportunities," said science teacher Alexandra Ardo.



**scan the QR code to  
view the opening of the  
renovated Science Lab**





# KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT PLACES FIRST IN NATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION

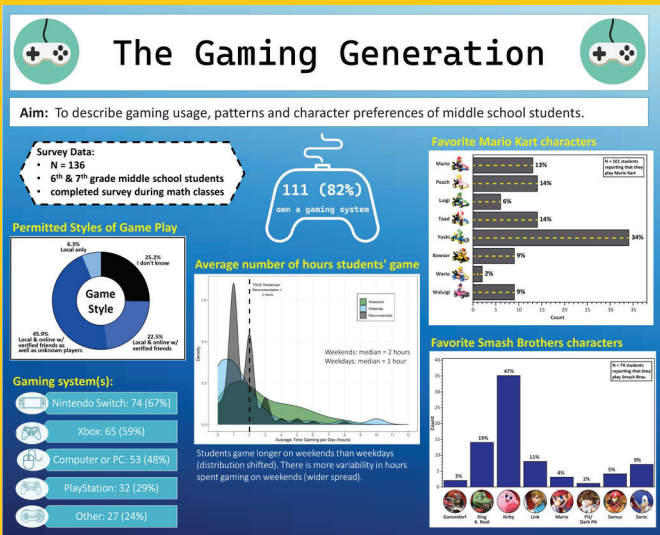
Kirtland Middle School Student Cole Nowacki won first place in the 2023 National Data Visualization Poster & Project Statistics Competition in the fourth-sixth grade division. The poster and project competitions are directed by the ASA/National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Joint Committee on Curriculum in Statistics and Probability.

Cole titled his project “The Gaming Generation” and his research topic was to describe gaming usage, patterns and character preferences of middle school students.

Each student was challenged to create posters that displayed two or more related graphics that summarized a set of data, look at the data from different points of view, and answer specific questions about the data.

Cole selected a topic of interest to him, identified his research questions, developed his survey questions, created a Google form to collect data, administered the survey to fellow sixth and seventh graders and then created visualizations of the resulting data to put on his poster.

Cole looked at data sets including style of game play, gaming systems, average hours of gameplay, favorite



characters and how many students own gaming systems.

He submitted his poster in March and was notified in April that he won first place in Ohio in the 4-6 grade division. For placing first at national level in his age division Cole will receive a certificate, a monetary award and a Texas Instruments calculator.

# KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS RECEIVES SUPPLY OF EPIPENS AND TRAINING COURSE FROM LOCAL NON-PROFIT

The Allison Rose Foundation is supplying the Kirtland Local Schools with an inventory of epinephrine injectors (EpiPens) at no cost to the District. These epinephrine injectors are important precautionary devices that can be used if someone has a severe allergic reaction called anaphylaxis.

In addition to supply of the epinephrine injectors, the Kirtland Board of Education entered into a year-long partnership with the foundation during which time they will help provide training to staff and students including supplying information about food allergies, anaphylactic reactions and cross contamination. “We thought it would be a great idea to educate all of our staff on the dangers of allergies and also how to use an EpiPen,” said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem.

The Allison Rose Foundation is a non-profit located in Independence with a goal of decreasing and eliminating deaths caused by food allergies in children and young adults. They focus on education, awareness, advocacy, and research. “The Allison Rose Foundation provides a comprehensive program/process for any entity that wants stock epinephrine prescribed to them,” said Allison Rose Foundation Executive Director Rebecca Suhy. “Obtaining this life-saving medication, while not difficult, can be time consuming. Therefore, we streamline this process and make it simple.”

Over 75 school districts, a majority of which are located in Northeast Ohio, have been trained by the foundation.

# KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECOGNIZES AND HONORS FIRST RESPONDERS WITH ANNUAL DRIVE-THROUGH PARADE

On Monday September 11, 2023, in honor of Patriot Day, the staff and students at Kirtland Elementary School (KES) honored all of the community's first responders in an outdoor parade. Officers in their vehicles drove through the school parking lot as students lined the driveways wearing red, white and blue, cheering, clapping, and waving American flags to show appreciation for all they do.

"September 11, 2001, was one of the darkest days in our country's history," said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem. "Not to be lost in the tragedy was the heroism and selfless acts of so many from the passengers on Flight 93 to the first responders in Washington D.C. and New York City. While remembering the events of 9/11, I would like to publicly thank all the emergency forces that serve the Kirtland Local Schools for their tireless dedication to keeping us safe. September 11th is a day we will not forget and also provides a day of reflection and thankfulness for those that risk their lives daily to protect ours."

"It was an honor for us to show appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our local heroes," said Principal Katy Nagaj, Kirtland Elementary School. "Chief McCallister and Chief Hutton have been excitedly receptive and extremely helpful in the planning process. The students worked in their classrooms writing thank you letters and drawing pictures to show appreciation for all that our First Responders do to keep us safe."

In addition to the parade, KES also welcomed members of the Kirtland Police Department to have lunch with

students. "We have established a wonderful relationship with the Kirtland Police Department. It is important for our Hornets to know and recognize the first responders who work in our communities each day so that when they see them outside of school they feel comfortable interacting with them," said Nagaj. "Officers visit on a regular basis, walking the halls, reading stories in classrooms, and participating in events such as the Ice



Cream Social and Walk-a-Thon. In addition, School Resource Officer Bauckman, serves as a daily support to all of our Kirtland students. You may see him greeting students off the bus, visiting the playground, assisting with safety drills, and any other needs that he is called to. We are grateful for his presence throughout the district every day!"



**"It was an honor for us to show appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our local heroes. The students worked in their classrooms writing thank you letters and drawing pictures to show appreciation for all that our First Responders do to keep us safe."**

*— Katy Nagaj, Kirtland Elementary School Principal*





*A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom. This Quality Profile helps characterize the overall educational value provided by the Kirtland Local School District in areas that matter to our community.*

# ***Kirtland***

**QUALITY PROFILE | 2022-2023**



## MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

Hello Kirtland Community,

I am so thankful for the support of all of our stakeholders which ensured we had a very successful start to the 2023-2024 school year.

As we returned to school, safety continued to be a major focus for the district. Last school year, the Kirtland Local School District was awarded over \$125,000 in grant money from the state for safety enhancements. Over the past few years, the district has enhanced numerous safety features around the campus and will continue looking for ways to improve. This summer, bullet resistant film was added to all the first floor exterior windows. Propped door alarms were installed on the exterior doors. A full scale safety drill was also conducted this fall with the help of our local first responders. The schools will continue to work closely with the Kirtland Police and Fire Department with safety planning, discussions and quarterly meetings. The district has further trained the threat assessment team that consists of administrators and counselors. We have a full time Student Resource Officer on campus as another layer of protection.

For the 2023-2024 school year, the district will be looking to enhance its writing by integrating the Writing Revolution program across all subject areas. Grades 6-12 will also be going through a social studies curriculum audit this school year. Our current materials will be analyzed to see how they can be improved and teachers will be receiving ongoing professional development on best social studies instructional practices. All teachers will be receiving high-quality and ongoing professional development throughout the school year to review best instructional and assessment practices.

I am so proud of the support we have received from our community as we have renovated our high school biology lab and our stadium. Numerous people, organizations, and community groups stepped up to support our school district to provide a great learning space and an updated place for extracurricular activities.

Thanks for all of your support, and Go Hornets!

Chad VanArnhem  
Superintendent



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Matt Whittaker, President  
[matt.whittaker@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:matt.whittaker@kirtlandschools.org)

Josh Hayes, Vice President  
[josh.hayes@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:josh.hayes@kirtlandschools.org)

Jonathan Withrow, Member  
[jonathan.withrow@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:jonathan.withrow@kirtlandschools.org)

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Timothy Cosgrove, Member  
[tim.cosgrove@kirtlandschools.org](mailto:tim.cosgrove@kirtlandschools.org)

## WE BELIEVE IN:

- Cultivating a personalized learning environment for all students.
- Providing a safe, positive and productive atmosphere.
- Increasing communications within the schools, families and the community.
- Encouraging innovation and cultivating a sense of intellectual curiosity.
- Treating all persons with respect and dignity.
- Empowering students to have a voice in our democracy.





Our community is paramount to our success. We continue to focus on engaging our alumni, increasing parent communication, engaging the community, partnering with businesses, and increasing student and community interaction. Our students are working to engage with our community in a variety of ways, especially through community service projects. The Class of 2023 had more than 3,000 hours of community service! We are extremely thankful and appreciative of the partnerships with Kirtland Kiwanis, PTA, Academic Boosters, Kirtland Area Service Council, Music Boosters and Athletic Boosters. Our elementary students continue to give thanks to our local first responders on 9/11 with their annual parade. Our business partners also have been a great asset in 6-12 College and Career Pathways initiative Excite, Explore, Engage. They have been instrumental in providing our students with unique experiences to learn more about themselves and begin to plan for their futures. We also have over \$500,000 committed to the district in naming rights and sponsorship.

## Kirtland Elementary School

- Students honored first responders during an outdoor parade on Patriots Day
- KES held its annual Walk-a-Thon fundraiser in October and raised more than \$15,000 for wellness related resources for the students
- KES students and staff held several fundraisers to raise \$1,865 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society last winter

## Kirtland Middle School

- Students volunteer to work the concession stand for basketball games
- Students run a recycling program
- Students put together Easter baskets for families in need
- Students volunteer as servers at the Kirtland Senior Citizen dinner
- Students served pancakes at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast two weekends in a row
- Students volunteer to help with Holiday Boutique

## Kirtland High School

- Kirtland student-athletes were among the 40 volunteers who assisted during the Chagrin Valley Conference's inaugural Inclusive Sports Day with Empower Sports at West Geauga High School last fall. Empower Sports is a nonprofit organization that provides sports and exercise programs for children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities
- Seniors participated in a community Service Day as part of their Senior Experience, providing service to different community businesses such as Holden Arboretum, Penitentiary Glen, Lake Farmpark, Kirtland Service Department, and Kirtland Elementary School



The Kirtland Local Schools provide a good value for our taxpayers' investment in our schools. The district works hard to stretch tax dollars and is recognized at the state level for our efforts in fiscal stewardship.

## Highlights

- Kirtland Local Schools are among the Top 9% of Ohio public school districts.
- 75% of teachers have a Master's degree.
- Kirtland receives only 1% of its budget from the state foundation.
- Kirtland's effective millage rate of 37.5 ranks in the middle of Lake County school districts.



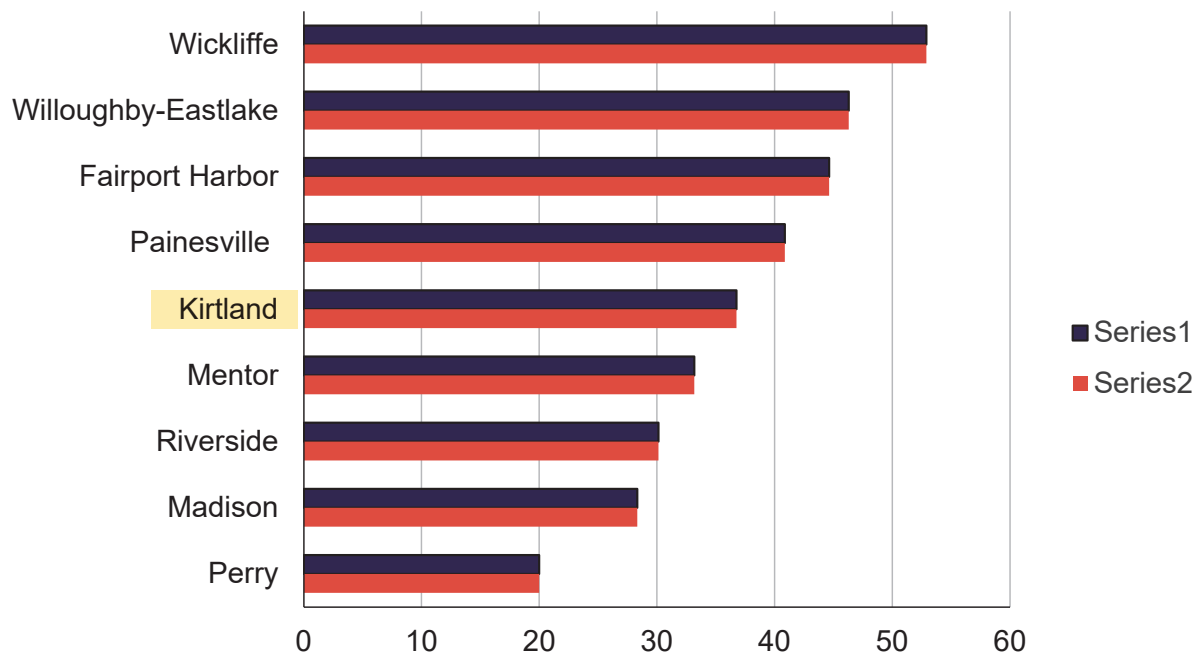
### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

General Property Taxes -73%  
State Aid - 15%  
Federal - 5%  
Other Revenues -7%

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Personnel Services - 82%  
Purchased Services - 12%  
Supplies and Materials - 2%  
Capital Outlay - 2%  
Other Objects - 2%

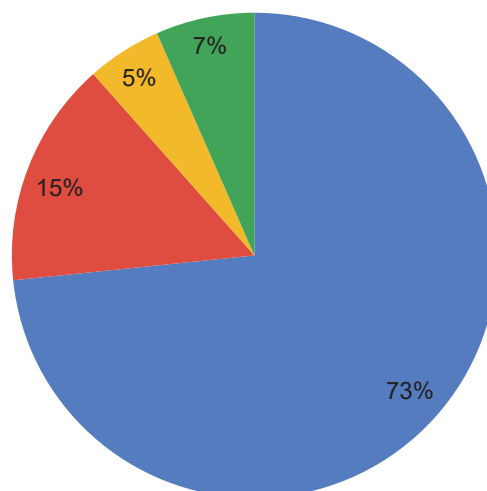
Total Effective Tax Rate (Mills)- Lake Co. School Districts





Kirtland Local Schools Revenues (Per Pupil)	FY23	Kirtland	Statewide
General Property Taxes	\$ 11,477	73%	41.5%
State Aid	\$ 2,360	15%	36.8%
Federal	\$ 778	5%	15.0%
Other Revenues	\$ 1,030	7%	6.7%
<b>Total Revenue Per Pupil</b>	<b>\$ 15,646</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

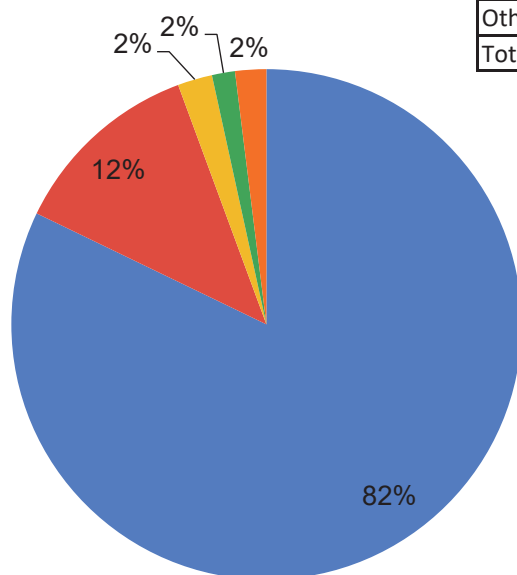
## REVENUES



■ General Property Taxes ■ State Aid ■ Federal ■ Other Revenues

## EXPENSES

Kirtland Local Schools Expenses	2022-2023 FY23	
Personnel Services	\$ 12,824,780	82%
Purchased Services	\$ 1,904,635	12%
Supplies and Materials	\$ 343,924	2%
Capital Outlay	\$ 227,731	1%
Other Objects	\$ 307,345	2%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 15,608,415</b>	<b>100%</b>



■ Personnel Services ■ Purchased Services ■ Supplies and Materials  
■ Capital Outlay ■ Other Objects

31

RECEIVED  
HONORS  
DIPLOMA

28

GRADUATED WITH  
A FOUR YEAR  
ACADEMIC  
LETTER

1

NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLAR  
WINNER

9

GRADUATES  
EARNED A 30+  
ON THE ACT

15

GRADUATES  
EARNED A 28+  
ON THE ACT

3,000

COMMUNITY  
SERVICE  
HOURS  
LOGGED

## GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2023 ARE ATTENDING 27 DIFFERENT COLLEGES.



- Ashland University
- Bowling Green State University
- Case Western Reserve
- Cleveland State University
- College of Wooster
- Culinary Institute of America, NY
- Gannon University
- Hiram College
- John Carroll University
- Kent State University
- Lake Erie College
- Lakeland Community College
- Loyola - Chicago
- Lynn University
- Mercyhurst University
- Miami University
- North Carolina State University in Raleigh
- Ohio Northern University
- Ohio State Mansfield
- Ohio University
- The Ohio State University
- University of Mount Union
- University of Toledo
- University of Utah
- University of Cincinnati
- Wittenberg University
- Xavier University

## 2022-2023 School Year Highlights

- Another successful Senior Service Day for the community
- Drama Club Production - *Pirates, Papers, and Plunder*
- Choir - 7 public performances
- Band - 27 Public Performances
- Competed in the 1st CVC Academic Challenge
- Key Club Ohio District Leadership Conference
  - Best Promotional Video
  - Distinguished Club President
  - 3 individual scholarships and the top 2 awards for the oratorical contest



**\$350K**SCHOLARSHIPS  
EARNED OVERALL  
BY CLASS  
OF 2023**11**STUDENTS  
GRADUATED  
FROM AUBURN  
CAREER CENTER**240**AP EXAMS  
TAKEN BY  
KHS STUDENTS  
IN 2022-2023**235**AP EXAMS OVER A  
4 YEAR PERIOD  
FOR OUR SENIORS**1**STUDENT EARNED  
ASSOCIATE  
DEGREE

## Academic Highlights

- Kirtland High School is a 2023 Best High School, based on rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*.
- Kirtland High School is ranked #1 in Lake County
- Kirtland High School is ranked #20 in Cleveland
- Kirtland High School is ranked #76 in Ohio (out of 741 schools ranked in Ohio.)
- 16 KHS Students Graduated Summa Cum Laude (4.25+ Cumulative GPA)
- 12 KHS Students Graduated Magna Cum Laude (4.249 - 4.00 Cumulative GPA)
- 5 KHS Students Graduated Cum Laude (3.999 - 3.75 Cumulative GPA)



240 Advanced Placement Exams taken by 133 KHS students in 2022-2023

45 KHS Students were named AP Scholars in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level AP exams.



**24 AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION FOR EARNING AN AVERAGE OF 3.5 ON ALL AP EXAMS TAKEN, AND SCORES OF 3 OR HIGHER ON FIVE OR MORE OF THESE EXAMS.**



**4 AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS FOR EARNING AN AVERAGE OF 3.25 ON ALL AP EXAMS TAKEN AND SCORES OF 3 OR HIGHER ON FOUR OR MORE OF THESE EXAMS.**



**17 AP SCHOLARS FOR EARNING AN AVERAGE SCORE OF AT LEAST 3 ON THREE OR MORE AP EXAMS.**

## Athletic Highlights

- State Runner-up Football Team
- Volleyball won their 4th consecutive CVC Title
- 3 Seniors committed to playing Athletics in College
- 6 Team Championships in the Chagrin Valley Conference
- 14 All Ohio Athletes
- Ava Golem earned 3rd Team All Ohio and Natalie Glowe earned Honorable Mention All Ohio
- Adam Knaak earned 1st Team All-Ohio First Base and Luke Chuko earned Honorable Mention All-Ohio Catcher
- 3 Chagrin Valley Most Valuable Players
- 18 ALL Chagrin Valley Conference 1st team award winners
- 7 All Chagrin Valley Conference 2nd team award winners
- 8 CVC Honorable Mentions



The Kirtland Local Schools offer athletic opportunities for students at the middle and high school levels. A well rounded education includes a variety of opportunities. The Kirtland Local Schools believe there is more to our students than test scores. Athletics and extracurricular activities build character, teamwork and engagement. Kirtland High School offers a wide variety of clubs, co-curricular and extracurricular opportunities for students. Kirtland Middle School offers 9 clubs and 10 athletic teams for students.

## Athletic Highlights

### FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Kirtland sports teams claimed four Chagrin Valley Conference championships during the fall sports season
- 47 Hornets earned All-CVC honors including three—Philip LaVerde, Natalie Glow, and Ava Golem—who were named CVC Players of the Year
- Coaches—J.P. Moran, Tiger LaVerde, John Valentic, and Arlayna Newcomer—earned CVC Coach of the Year honors
- Kirtland's football team won its fifth straight conference title (not counting the 2020 season when the league did not recognize conference champions due to the COVID-shortened season) and then made another run to the state championship game
- The Hornets also completed a sixth straight undefeated regular season in football
- The Hornets won a fourth straight conference title in volleyball with a perfect 10-0 mark in league play for the second straight season and advanced to a Division III district championship match
- Kirtland's girls' cross country team claimed back-to-back conference championships and qualified as a team to the regional meet for the second straight season
- The Hornets split the boys' soccer Valley Division title with league rival Berkshire
- Senior Philip LaVerde earned a scholarship from the Build A Bridge Foundation
- LaVerde was named Ohio's Division VI Defensive Player of the Year
- Daven Patel, Tommy Gogolin, George Prusock, and Joe Pekar earned first-team All-Ohio honors in football; Gino Blasini and Adam Knaak earned second-team All-Ohio



honors and Rocco Alfieri and Matthew Kahley were third team selections

- Gogolin set a new school rushing record with 363 yards in a 41-6 playoff win over Fort Frye
- Kirtland's boys' soccer team played in a fifth straight district championship game



2022  
FOOTBALL  
5TH STRAIGHT  
CONFERENCE  
TITLE

47 HORNETS  
EARNED  
ALL-CVC  
HONORS

GIRLS CROSS  
COUNTRY  
BACK-TO-BACK  
CVC TITLE

GIRLS  
VOLLEYBALL  
PERFECT 10-0  
RECORD

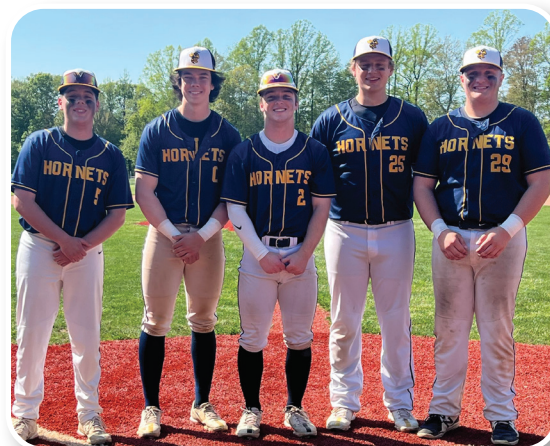
**WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS**

- Kirtland winter sports teams claimed a pair of league championships in Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball
- 2 coaches—Shawn McGregor and Matt Ridgeway—were named CVC Coach of the Year in their respective divisions
- 21 student-athletes earned All-CVC honors
- Luka Babic qualified for the state wrestling championships with three teammates also competing at the district tournament
- Gaetano Savelli won a CVC championship in wrestling
- Kirtland's boys and girls basketball teams won sectional titles
- Claire Dumstorff won a pair of CVC swimming championships in the 100-yard breaststroke and 100-yard freestyle

**SPRING SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS**

Mother Nature challenged Kirtland's sports throughout the spring but the Hornets persevered, as always.

- Kirtland's baseball team won the CVC Valley Division title with head coach Luke Smrdel being named the CVC Coach of the Year
- 28 student-athletes earned all-conference honors
- Adam Knaak and Luke Chuko represented the Hornets in the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches all-star game
- Gianna DiFranco and Madison Matijevic represented Kirtland in the Ohio Varsity All-Star Classic and Underclassmen Showcase
- Will Beers advanced to the regional track meet in both the long jump and 4x200-meter relay; Warren Eveland, Will Sayle, and Jake LaVerde also competed in the 4x200
- Izzie Copeland won the district title in the 800-meter run
- Copeland, Delaney Kuczkowski, Ainsley Borthwick, and Sylvia Vosicky also qualified for the regional meet in the 4x800-meter relay
- Kirtland's baseball team won a Division III sectional championship
- The doubles tandem of Bobby Whitaker and Hannah Rauch placed fourth at the CVC tennis championships
- Kirtland's girl's track team won team titles at the Cuyahoga Heights Relays and Independence Invitational and also set the 4x800-meter relay record at the Cardinal Invitational



2023  
GIRLS AND BOYS  
BASKETBALL  
LEAGUE  
CHAMPIONS

2023  
BASEBALL  
CVC  
TITLE

2023 BASEBALL  
DIVISION III  
SECTIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP

28 STUDENT  
ATHLETES  
ALL-CONFERENCE  
HONORS





## Student/Staff Leadership Highlights

### Kirtland High School

- Bobby Whittaker received a National Merit Scholarship awarded to only 2,500 students nationally
- All senior students engaged in local service projects during our third annual Senior Day of Service
- The Kirtland First Tech Challenge Team walked away from the Kent State Qualifier Tournament with the highest award possible

## Wellness of Students and Staff is a Top Priority

Wellness is top priority for both students and staff at the Kirtland Local Schools. The district's wellness program is thriving and all grade levels at each building continue to take part in programs and activities this school year. In a partnership with the district's Wellness Committee, numerous initiatives are taking place in classrooms as well as in homes. The Wellness Committee, which consists of members of the administration, staff, students, and parents, has met quarterly over the past few years. The committee is always looking for ways to promote wellness for all stakeholders, which aligns with the district's strategic plan of promoting healthy choices for students.

### Kirtland Elementary School:

- World Kindness Day
- Lunch Bunches
- Monthly Student Meetings teaching and rewarding students for positive behavior
- Sensory paths in hallways
- "Zen Den" room to provide calming environment
- Kindness Council organized displays for classrooms to share acts of kindness
- Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss's Birthday
- Right to Read/Spirit Week
- Autism Awareness Week
- Wellness Committee organized staff wellness activities
- Walking Wednesday (weekly)
- "Starts with Hello" Spirit Week
- "P.S.I Love You Day"
- "Red Ribbon" Week
- "Say Something" Week
- "Socktober"

### Kirtland Middle School:

- "Starts with Hello" Spirit Week
- "P.S.I Love You Day"
- "Red Ribbon" Week
- "Say Something" Week
- KMS Building Leadership Team (BLT) led Staff Wellness Activities

### Kirtland High School

- 9th grade Welcome/Orientation Day
- Wellness Class Elective
- New Student Welcome Luncheon
- 11th & 12th grade Peer Leaders mentored all 9th grade students in small groups throughout the year. The students participated in many activities together including study strategy and team building exercises
- LifeAct Presentations for all 9-12 students
- Friendsgiving, Unity Week Activities, Cookies & Cocoa with the Counselors, Sources of Strength Week, and an Activities Fair
- Project Love presentations with KES students

## Performing Arts Highlights

### VOCAL

- KHS Choir performed in three seasonal concerts combined with the 8th-Grade Choir.
- KHS Choir participated in a masterclass with composer Sarah Quartel at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music
- Three students from KHS Choir attended OMEA Districts IV & VII High School Band & Choir Festival on the Cleveland State University campus in November.
- Winter and spring concerts for 5th-Grade Choir, 6th-Grade Choir, and 7th-Grade Choir.
- 12 students between 7-9 grades attended the OMEA District VII Middle School Honors Choir held at Solon High School.
- 7th and 8th-Grade Bands and Choirs attended an annual field trip to Playhouse Square to see 'Aladdin,' followed by dinner at Hofbräuhaus. These same groups also had the privilege to participate in a Q&A Zoom session with Marcus Martin, who played the Genie, prior to seeing the show.
- Elementary choir also performed throughout the year.

### BAND

- KHS Band members performed 29 public performances.
- KHS Band members toured Akron University and Kent State University while being hosted by their respective university music departments.
- KMS and KHS Low Brass participated in the 42nd annual Tuba Christmas hosted by the University of Akron
- KHS Music Department traveled to New York City and had classes with members of the cast of the Lion King prior to seeing the production on Broadway. They also attended the show Hadestown.
- The Kirtland Jazz program has grown to 38 members and love working a great repertoire that includes Swing, blues, funk and rock.



1200

CHROMEBOOKS  
PROVIDED FOR  
GRADES K-12

400

PORTABLE  
COMPUTERS  
FOR GRADES 9-12

155

IPADS  
PROVIDED  
GRADES K-12

100%

KIRTLAND STUDENTS  
ENGAGED IN  
1:1 TECHNOLOGY

## Examples around the District:

### Computer Classes

- Learn about and upgrade computer hardware
- Programming in Java, C++, XHTML, JavaScript, SQL, and AppInventor
- Develop Android Apps
- Develop programs for educational use in the district
- Google Apps (Docs, Sheets, Slides)
- Write code to control Finch robots wirelessly using many different motors and sensors

### Art Classes/ Art Club

- Adobe Illustrator and Premiere
- Students create/draw vector graphics from scratch “making the traditional art classroom digital”
- 3D printer
- Students create videos and graphics such as the homecoming candidate video.
- Digital photography and video editing
- Photoshop and Premiere
- SLR Cameras
- Graphic design

### Yearbook Club

- Adobe Photoshop, SLR cameras

### Media Club

- Streaming live events through Boxcast

### Hackerspace

- 3DPrinting, TShirt Printing, Digital cutting, poster printer, video studio

### Robotics League

- Building and programming robots. Designing parts and printing them on a 3D printer
- Qualified for State Competition
- Built Robots to use at Rockwell Automation and Great Lake Science Center
- Taught a programming workshop at Rockwell Automation
- Work with Rockwell Automation at Great Lakes Science Center to have students program Robots

### Student Tech Helpers

- Students have begun helping to fix damaged chromebooks
- Media students fulfill requests for digital and print products
- Students help run and produce content for the digital scoreboard

### Technology at Kirtland High School:

- Every student is issued a Chromebook
- A computer lab with high end, up to date computers
- 3D Printer, Vinyl Cutter/Printer, Shirt Printer, video recording and editing equipment.
- Digital Scoreboard

### Technology at Kirtland Middle School:

- Every student is issued a Chromebook
- 3D Printer in the Robotics lab

### Technology at Kirtland Elementary School:

- Every student is issued a Chromebook
- 3D printer in the STEM Classroom
- All classrooms K-3 have interactive digital viewboards
- All classrooms 4-5 have Smart TVs for screen sharing





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## UPCOMING EVENTS



November 10	K-12 Conferences - No School for Students
November 16	High School Fall Sports Recognition
November 20	Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 22-27	Thanksgiving Break - No School for Students
December 7	Winter Choir Concert Grades 8-12
December 14	National Honor Society Induction
December 18	Regular Board of Education Meeting
December 21-January 2	Winter Break - No School for Students
January 3	Teacher Work Day - No School for Students

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*

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

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*Athletics*

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## FOLLOW US

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Kirtland Elementary School on Twitter @mrsnagaj

Kirtland Middle School on Twitter @KCSchoolMrRace

Kirtland High School on Twitter @MrPuskasKHS

Kirtland Hornets athletics on Twitter @kirtlandsports

Kirtland Athletics at [www.kirtlandhornet.org](http://www.kirtlandhornet.org) | Kirtland Local Schools at [www.kirtlandschools.org](http://www.kirtlandschools.org)