

# THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Summer 2023

## KIRTLAND STATE OF SCHOOLS FOR 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Superintendent Chad VanArnhem presented his annual State of the Schools to the community for the 2022-23 school year on April 24. He began his address by discussing the four overarching pillars within Kirtland Local Schools Strategic Plan - Personalized Learning, Safe and Secure Environment, Well-Managed Finances, and Community Engagement.

### Personalized Learning

With a steady enrollment rate, Kirtland students in all grades have had a tremendous amount of success both inside and outside the classroom this year. The class of 2023 earned several major accomplishments including:

- 33 students graduate with high honors
- 28 four-year academic letter winners
- 31 students graduated with an Honors Diploma
- 18 AP Scholar students
- 235 AP exams taken over four years
- 15 students with an ACT score 28+
- 1 National Merit Scholar winner
- 11 students graduated from Auburn Career Center
- More than 3,000 hours of combined community service
- 86% of graduates continue at high learning institutions
- Received 350K+ in scholarship money combined
- 1 student graduated with an Associates Degree

Kirtland has placed an emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education at all grade levels. Students are coding, using MakerSpace technology, practicing media skills through leading the morning announcements, and announcing play-by-play at Kirtland sporting events, and participating in clubs like LEGO league and First Tech Challenge.

The District Report Card ranked Kirtland as the top school district in Lake County and in the top 9% of schools in Ohio. Achievement levels are nearing pre-pandemic scores. Kirtland High School was one of two schools in Lake County that earned five stars in all areas on the report card.

In the non-academic, extracurricular landscape, Kirtland students have gotten involved in many clubs and groups. Eighty-seven percent percent of high school students

# of Activities	Average GPA
0	3.0 GPA
1	3.24 GPA
6	4.16 GPA
9	4.39 GPA



are involved in at least one activity. The district has also seen a correlation between the number of activities students are involved in and their Grade Point Averages (GPA).

The district's athletic program is as strong as ever with many student athletes and programs represented. At the state level, the football team remains one of the best programs in Ohio with their tenth state championship appearance in 11 years and wrestler Louka Babic made it to the state tournament. The football team, volleyball team, boys soccer team, boys basketball team, girls basketball team and baseball team all won their conferences this school year.

### Safe and Secure Learning Environment

Kirtland has many programs in place to address the wellness of both students and staff. They teach students ways to get help for themselves or others including the See Something, Say Something program.

Kirtland staff and students participate in a myriad of safety trainings including regular participation in safety drills and the ALICE program. Kirtland has a school resource officer on site and a crisis response team.

Additional safety measures include cameras on all school buses, holding areas at entrances to all buildings, a remote PA system, the ability to lock down individual buildings, quarterly safety meetings with Kirtland Police and Fire Departments, increased police presence in the buildings for classroom visits and student interaction, and

*(continued on page 2)*

## KIRTLAND STATE OF THE SCHOOLS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the ongoing installation of door alarms to ensure outside doors remain closed and locked.

### Well-Managed Finances

Kirtland takes pride in being responsible with their financial decisions. "I'm very proud of how our district manages the money," said VanArnhem. "We are very fiscally responsible in a variety of ways that include sharing services and zero-based budgeting."

From the tax dollars Kirtland Local Schools receives, the majority of it (84%) goes toward staffing and 10% goes toward purchased services. Kirtland taxpayers pay 73% of per pupil revenue that comes to the school which is significant compared to the 44% Ohio average of other districts. Kirtland receives only 16% of its funding from the state of Ohio which is also significantly smaller than the average 36%. Compared to the 15% average funding from the federal government to schools in Ohio, Kirtland receives only 7% of its revenue from the federal level. Kirtland falls in the middle for millage rates compared to other Lake County districts.

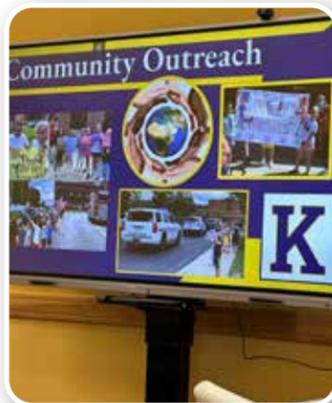
When measuring the correlation between the amount of money spent per pupil and test scores, Kirtland finished in the top 33%. This means that Kirtland has been fiscally responsible with the amount of money we are spending per pupil and our students are performing well.

Even with a focus on fiscal responsibility, schools face the challenge of increasing costs and flat revenue. The district has not sought a new general fund levy from taxpayers since 2012, and the district works hard to flatten the expense increases and avoid deficit spending. Based on smart fiscal decisions, VanArnhem stated that the district avoided deficit again this school year.

A renewal levy on the ballot on May 2 passed which will bring the district \$1.5 million each year. This money makes up about 10% of the district's total income. The money is used for general operations, classroom instruction, student services, extracurricular activities, safety and security, and transportation costs.

### Community Engagement

Kirtland is fortunate to have so many different groups within our community that help us and our students achieve success. Thank you to the Kirtland Kiwanis Club, the Kirtland Area Service Council, the Band, Athletic, and Academic Boosters, the Kirtland Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and the new Kirtland Alumni Association for your unwavering support.



As a district, we are also proud of the ways our students and staff serve our community through community service groups and projects. Kirtland's Class of 2023 had more than 3,000 combined community service hours, our Kirtland Key Club conducts various service projects throughout the school year, and this year we had students volunteer at the Red Cross Blood Drive at Lakeland Community College. A Kirtland Elementary School tradition is our "Thank You to First Responders" event on September 11 where students and staff get the chance to connect with local first responders and thank them for their service to our community.

The new Kirtland Alumni Association's goal is to engage alumni and connect them back to the district and communicate district highlights and events. The link to register is on the Kirtland website where you can sign up to receive a variety of communications from the district to keep you in the loop. <https://www.kirtlandschools.org/alumniassociation.aspx>

Through our Kirtland Drama Department, we hosted a Senior Citizen Appreciation Night where we invited seniors from the community to come and enjoy dinner and a show performed by our drama students.

We do our best to connect to the community through as many channels and mediums as possible including our website, our quarterly newsletter the "Kirtland Connection," our Qualify Profile that comes out every fall, our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages, as well as the email communication blasts sent out throughout the year.

### Permanent Improvement Projects

Two new projects we have been working on are the refurbishment of our high school science lab and the stadium renovations.

The science lab is complete with state-of-the-art technology, flexible seating, and lab stations to allow the students to go seamlessly from lecture based sessions to hands-on lab work.

The on-going stadium renovations include new turf for football and soccer games, an area for kids to play in the D-zone during games, relocating the visitors bleachers to outside of the track with a new press box, resurfacing the track, installing new LED lights, and installing a new digital scoreboard. Thanks to a generous donation from Mr. John Wilson, Kirtland is able to install some of the best turf possible for our student athletes. Kirtland's new stadium will be called Wilson Stadium. Generous sponsors have also provided the funds to upgrade to a digital scoreboard.

## KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY FOURTH GRADERS PARTICIPATE IN THE SCIENCE FAIR

Kirtland Elementary School hosted their annual fourth-grade science fair on May 4. Every spring, fourth-grade students participate in sharing a fun experiment with their classmates.



Each student is responsible for determining the question they want to investigate in order to find the answer before the big event. Students conducted their research, collected all their materials, and investigated the

results at home, and then presented the experiment to their homeroom peers.

The fourth graders share their explanation of why/how they achieved their results in front of their classmates, which helped them to both practice independent learning and had a chance to work on their public speaking skills. Their homeroom practice helped to prepare them for the larger audience at the science fair.

## KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY FIFTH GRADERS PARTICIPATE IN THE INVENTION CONVENTION

Kirtland Elementary School fifth-grade students participated in our Invention Convention program this school year.

The Invention Convention curriculum teaches creative problem-solving skills, innovative thought-processes and promotes 21st century critical-thinking, creativity and communication skills to children which aligns with Kirtland Local Schools' "Profile of a Hornet."

The program starts with the students identifying a problem and then has them brainstorm solutions which leads to building and field-testing working prototypes of their inventions. Then, they get to be an entrepreneur and take their inventions to the next level!

A team of Kirtland High School students from the robotics team volunteered to serve as judges for the final phase of the program. Thirty-five inventions have moved on to the regional competition. Congratulations to all our inventors.



## KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADER COMPETES IN POWER OF THE PEN STATE TOURNAMENT

Kirtland Middle School (KMS) eighth grader Kevin Urbanick is a two-year member of the KMS Power of the Pen team. Over the span of those two seasons, Urbanick has devoted himself to creative writing growth through focused reflection, rigorous self-critique and scholarly collaboration. During the 2022-23 Power of the Pen season, he competed in the Lake Erie College District Tournament in January as well in the Hudson Middle

School Regional Tournament in March. At the Hudson Regional, Kevin distinguished himself in a field of 87 eighth-grade writers by placing seventh overall. As a result, Urbanick qualified to compete in the Power of the Pen State Tournament at Ashland University on May 18-19.



## KIRTLAND KEY CLUB RETURNS WITH STRONG SHOWING AT OHIO KEY CLUB CONFERENCE

The Kirtland High School Key Club participated in the Ohio Key Club District Leadership Conference April 1-2. Following the conference, Ohio Kiwanis Governor Dave Kuhn made a personal call to Kirtland Kiwanian Rick Fox to acknowledge Kirtland Key Club's strong showing at the conference.

There were 16 Kirtland Key Clubbers who participated in leadership sessions and service projects. One of the projects included making and shipping more than 6,000 meals to earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria. Another project included making cards and creating grippy socks for Ohio kids in foster care.

The Kirtland Key Club also returned home with several awards: Best Promotional Video, Distinguished Club President (Maya Hill), three individual scholarships (Maya Hill, Liz Aranavage, and Mia Osborne), and the top two awards for the oratorical contest.

In the Ohio District Oratorical contest, contestants spoke about how Key Club has impacted the way they think about the world, whether that be deepening their perspectives internationally, culturally, or intellectually. Liz Aranavage and Maya Hill took first and second place. Having both been highly involved Key Club members since their freshmen years, Aranavage and Hill had plenty to share about how Key Club has impacted them.



At the award ceremony, Aranavage and Hill were also asked to speak before the entire conference of Key Clubbers and Kiwanians. They shared inspiring messages of the personal benefit of service, the legacy they hope to leave behind for future Key Clubbers to follow, and their desire to seek out new opportunities to continue to serve their communities in college next fall.

Kirtland High School Key Club is always accepting new members. Any high school students who wish to serve their school and community while having fun with friends should see Mrs. Duncan to join Key Club.

## KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RAISES MONEY FOR LLS DURING SPIRIT WEEK

During the week of February 27, the Kirtland Elementary School Student Council spearheaded a Spirit Week fundraiser campaign throughout the building to raise money for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). LLS is an organization that raises money for children with blood cancers and has worked for decades to eliminate this potentially deadly disease. In 1964, the five-year survival rate for children with the most diagnosed pediatric leukemia was 3%. Today, that survival rate is 90%.

Students across the grade levels worked together to raise money to go toward this important cause. Each student donated one dollar per day to participate in



exciting and fun-filled displays of support during Spirit Week. On Monday, everyone wore hats. Students were asked to wear silly socks on Tuesday and Wednesday was Support your Favorite Sports Team or Player Day. Thursday's Crazy Hair Day was a great lead-up to Friday's cozy Pajama Day.

Thanks to all the KES students and staff that participated in this year's Spirit Week. Together, we raised \$1,865 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

## TWO KIRTLAND STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR 2023 EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Two Kirtland High School students competed in the Educators Rising State Conference in March. Educators Rising (EdRising) Ohio is a non-profit organization for middle and high school students interested in education-related careers.

Seniors Kayla Dudash and Lidia Ingram both secured top 10 spots in their respective competitions. Dudash competed in the Children's Literature K-3 competition and Ingram competed in the Children's Literature Pre-K Competition.

They are both headed to Orlando, Florida to compete in the Educators Rising National Competition June 29-July 2. They will have the opportunity to connect and learn from other competitors through more than 40 breakout sessions, compete for national titles in competitive events and listen to keynote presentations from national education leaders.



Both Dudash and Ingram are students at the Auburn Career Center.

## KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND 2023 INVENTION CONVENTION U.S. NATIONALS

The Ohio Invention League Invention Convention has been granted a few scholarships to award to students from the Invention Convention Worldwide.

Nadija Mrva, a sixth grader at Kirtland Middle School, is an award recipient. She accepted her award and competed in the 2023 Invention Convention US Nationals at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI, June 7 -9.





# KHS Class of 2023

## HIGHLIGHTS

# Congratulations!

The Kirtland High School Class of 2023 held their graduation ceremony on May 21 at the Mentor Fine Arts Center.



15

GRADUATED WITH  
A 28+  
ON THE ACT

33

GRADUATED WITH HIGH HONORS  
CUM LAUDE - 5 (3.75-3.999)  
MAGNA CUM LAUDE - 12 (4.0-4.249)  
SUMMA CUM LAUDE - 16 (4.25+)

235

AP EXAMS TAKEN OVER  
A FOUR YEAR PERIOD  
FOR SENIORS

28

GRADUATED WITH  
A 4-YEAR ACADEMIC  
LETTER

31

RECEIVED  
HONORS DIPLOMAS

\$350K+

SCHOLARSHIPS  
EARNED OVERALL

1

NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLAR WINNER

1

STUDENT EARNED AN  
ASSOCIATE DEGREE

11

GRADUATED FROM  
AUBURN CAREER CENTER

3,000+

COMMUNITY SERVICE  
HOURS LOGGED

18

AP SCHOLAR  
STUDENTS

86%

SENIORS CONTINUE  
AT HIGHER LEARNING  
INSTITUTION

### OTHER 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- 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
- Drama Club Production - *Pirates, Papers and Plunder*
- Choir - 7 public performances - Band - 27 public performances
- State Runner-up Football Team
- 3 Seniors committed to playing Athletics in College
- 6 Team Championships in the Chagrin Valley Conference
- 14 All Ohio Athletes
- 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

### Graduating Seniors

- Morgan Ashley Adkins  
Elizabeth Walker Aranavage  
Nicholas Donald Arcidiacono  
Patrick David Bak  
Adam David Beinhardt  
Austin Tyler Booth  
Ian MacMillan Borthwick  
Mitchell Alexander Carestio  
Marissa Olimpia Carmosino  
Luke William Chuko  
Josephine Elizabeth Copeland  
Carlyn Marie Davidson  
Natalya Marie Drazetic  
Kayla Mae Dudash  
Aneliese Minea Dures  
James Earl Ensinger  
Warren Kenneth Eveland  
Julia Ann Fleming  
Nicholas Christopher Frato  
David Matthew Frederick  
Alana Michelle Friihauf  
Natalie Elizabeth Glowe  
Connor Cole Godfrey  
Austin Michael Goff  
Thomas John Gogolin  
Ava Ilyse Golem  
Tessa Rose Gordon  
James David Gotch  
Jacqueline Diane Gotch  
Corinne Kathryn Greenlee  
Maya Katherine Hill  
Gregory Daniel Ihnat  
Lidia Montoni Ingram  
Sydney Elizabeth Jeavons  
Andrew Warren Juday  
McCall Amanda Kasmerski  
Adam Matthew Knaak  
Sheridan Kraska-Kochevar  
Avery Elizabeth Kuczkowski  
Delaney Christine Kuczkowski  
LenaMarie Alexis Kutscher  
Connor Andrew LaPorte  
Philip John LaVerde  
Austin Matthew Leland  
Richard Scott Lessick  
Sophia Rose Loncar  
Nicholas Christopher Lucido  
Destiny Ella Marn  
Madison Marie Matijevic  
Ashlynn Marie McCrory

- Alexander Andrew Migas  
Ryan Michael Miracle  
Owen Robert Mueller  
Noah Anthony Nead  
Kyle Hunter Opatrny  
Mia Alis Osborne  
Daven Shailesh Patel  
Joseph Russell Pekar  
Nicole Maria Penjoyan  
Layla-Dianne Ku'uipo Perry  
Joshua Kekoa Perry  
Ante Petric  
Isabella Ana Piazza  
Emily LeeAnn Popowski  
George Michael Prusock, III  
Aria Grace Ray  
Genevieve Grace Reilly  
Micah James Reynolds  
Nikolena Noel Samac  
Angela Rose Santorelli  
Gaetano Charles Savelli  
Ashley Grace Schneider  
Ana Rose Schwartz  
Jack Christopher Schweinfurth  
Matthew Daniel Shepard  
Nora Marie Sherman  
Jared Daniel Simon  
Sarah Marian Frances Snyder  
Rachel Rebecca Spencer  
Antwyne Sheldon Stoves, Jr.  
Samuel Olin Sydenstricker  
Ishmael Eric Trillo  
Samantha Paige Turner  
Chloe Nicole Ungrady  
Brigham John Weight  
Robert Thomas Whittaker  
Owen Theodore Winfield  
Adreanna Marie Zemba

### STUDENT COUNCIL

- Sophia Rose Loncar  
*President*  
Elizabeth Walker Aranavage  
*Vice President*  
AnaRose Schwartz  
*Secretary*  
Aria Grace Ray  
*Treasurer*

### CLASS SPEAKERS AT COMMENCEMENT

- Elizabeth Walker Aranavage  
Nikolena Noel Samac

### Graduates will be attending 27 different colleges

- Ashland University  
Bowling Green State University  
Case Western Reserve  
Cleveland State University  
College of Wooster  
Culinary Institute of America, N  
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



## KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONORS STUDENTS AND LEARNING WITH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Kirtland Elementary School (KES) hosted their 2nd annual Spring Celebration of Learning on Tuesday, May 9. Students and families were invited to explore the halls of KES and dive into their 2022-23 school year learning journey.

The Spring Celebration is a way to show Kirtland parents and families what their students have been working on first-hand. "It's an all encompassing opportunity for the families to truly see what the students are engaged in both in the regular classrooms and in their specials classrooms," said Kirtland Elementary School Principal Katy Nagaj.

All K-5 students and families spent time in the students' home classrooms where the students themselves talk about the work they have done including sharing their digital portfolios and showing examples of projects they have completed.

Families also have the opportunity to learn more about what the students are doing in their Specials classes - art, gym, STEAM, and music. These Kirtland teachers prepared hands-on activities for students and families to participate in together. "This provides firsthand knowledge to families so they are able to have a better understanding of what their children are doing while at school," said Nagaj.

The Spring Celebration of Learning is also a showcase of student artwork from their entire school year. Each Kirtland artist has at least two projects on display throughout the school for the families to enjoy. The art is a wide variety of mediums as the students explored all different types of art this year. KES Art Teacher Valerie Jacobucci planned an overarching pond for their ceramics unit, with each grade level contributing a different essential component. The third-grade students created fish, the second-grade students made water lilies and the fifth-grade students created dragonflies. Other projects from the school year include: fiber arts, watercolor projects, paper weaving, paintings, and metal embossing. Jacobucci also had art-related activities planned for the families that stopped by the art room.



A time honored tradition at Kirtland is the fifth-grade end of year musical which is now part of the Spring Celebration. There were 45 fifth-grade students who had spent the past four months practicing for the performance of the musical "S'cool". "S'cool" is a musical about students struggling to fit-in at school and exploring the emotions and frustrations surrounding self-respect, and creating your identity. The students have been performing a version of this musical for over a decade. "It's a rite of passage when you get to the fifth grade, you have the chance to be part of the play," said STEAM Teacher and Play Director Bob Lasecki. The production was performed for both Kirtland Elementary School and Kirtland Middle School on May 8, before the parent showcase on May 9.

Lasecki's STEAM fifth-grade students gave the families a robot demonstration as their contribution to the Celebration of Learning. During the school year, the students were charged with a real-world thinking prompt. The prompt/real world problem was that a nuclear reactor had melted down and boxes needed to be retrieved from an area no longer safe for humans to go. They had to build robots capable of collecting the boxes and have them bring them back to a secure location in a specific amount of time. The students performed a demonstration for families to show the robots they built and how they work.

The celebration continued on May 16 with the kindergarten and first grade spring concert.



## SPRING SPORTS SHORTS

### BASEBALL

Kirtland's baseball team got off to a slow start, found its rhythm early in conference play, and then won the Chagrin Valley Conference Valley Division title and a Division III sectional title while finishing the season with a 19-7 record overall and a 10-2 mark in league play.



Head coach Luke Smrdel was named the Valley Division's Coach of the Year and eight players earned All-CVC honors.

Gino Blasini, Adam Knaak, Tommy Gogolin, Tyler Turk, and Casey Carkhuff each were named first-team all-league and Trip Thaler was a second-team selection. Luke Chuko and Maguire Boyd both earned honorable mention honors.



### SOFTBALL

The Hornets showed great progress under first-year head coach Nina Christley, who led the team to a 5-15 record despite a lack of experienced pitchers.

Grace Mastrangelo stepped up when the Hornets needed a pitcher, and she performed better than could be expected of a first year pitcher. Megan Reed and Addison Fleming also chewed up some innings for the Hornets.

The Hornets landed four players on the All-CVC team.

Madison Matijevic was a first-team selection, Nikolena Samac earned second-team honors, and Ava Puruczky and Addison Fleming were named honorable mention.

### TENNIS

Kirtland's co-ed tennis team finished the spring season 5-6.

The Hornets earned eight points in CVC play and landed a pair of players on the all-conference team.

Patrick Bak and Liz Aranavage both were named honorable mention All-CVC.

Kirtland's second doubles team of Bobby Whittaker and Hanna Rauch placed fourth at the league tournament.



### TRACK & FIELD

Kirtland's track teams enjoyed quite a bit of success this spring.

The Hornets finished second to Beachwood for the girls' CVC Valley Division championship. Beachwood edged Kirtland by just one point for the team title.

Leading the charge for the Hornets were first-team All-CVC performers Lauren Palagyi, Julia Fleming, Manisha Thern-Svanberg, Marissa Carmosino, Sylvia Vosicky, Ainsley Borthwick, Izzie Copeland, and Delaney Kuczkowski. Copeland and Borthwick also took home second-team honors along with Corinne Greenlee. Chloe Hansen and Megan Urbanick were named honorable mention selections.



Copeland went on to win the Division II district title in the 800-meter run and she teamed up with Kuczkowski, Borthwick, and Vosicky to lead the 4x800-meter relay team to the regional meet.

Kirtland's Warren Eveland and Will Sayle both earned honorable mention honors for their performance at the CVC Valley Division track meet.

Will Beers turned in a very strong performance at the Division III district meet by placing second in the long jump and he also helped the 4x200-meter relay team earn a regional berth by placing third at the district.

Beers, Eveland, Sayle, and Jake LaVerde competed in the 4x200-meter relay at the regional meet and Greg Ihnat finished in ninth place in the shot put at the Norwayne regional.

## KIRTLAND MUSIC PROGRAM INVESTS IN NEW DRUMLINE EQUIPMENT

Kirtland Local Schools and the Kirtland Music Boosters purchased new drumline instruments for the Kirtland Hornet Marching Band in February. This included six snare drums, six bass drums (ranging in size from 16" to 26"), and two sets of quint tenors. They also purchased the appropriate carriers, cases and stands.

Kirtland High School Band Director Tom Dingeldein would like to thank the community for its continued support of the music department through the Kirtland Music Booster's ongoing fundraising efforts. "It is wonderful to have this momentum in the program and the students are truly excited by the support and purchase," said Dingeldein.

These new instruments will replace the sets they have been using since 1997 and will now be used for middle school use at the annual Mass Band performance and for alumni during the Strawberry Festival Parade. "Drumline equipment, on average, needs to be replaced every 12 seasons," said Dingeldein. "We have worked tirelessly to maintain the former equipment and stretched its life 25 years or 30 seasons when playoff games are considered."

These new instruments will be a great asset to the Kirtland band students as they prepare for their summer rehearsals and the 2023 marching season. "The percussion section is an essential part of the fall atmosphere at Kirtland High School, from performing at school assemblies, to hearing them at rehearsal, they remind everyone of the joys of the fall football season" said Dingeldein. "This purchase will ensure an essential section of the band will continue with proper equipment



and that a key aspect of the fall will continue to be heard for years to come."

This purchase was made possible through the dedication of Columbus Percussion, and the relationship that the Kirtland Music Program has with them. Columbus Percussion acquired the snare drums of this new drumline equipment after Tama sponsored the Band Directors Marching Band in the 2022 Tournament of Roses Rose Parade. Due to the very temporary use of the snare drums within the parade, Tama and Columbus Percussion were able to sell all the equipment to Kirtland at Columbus Percussion's cost which saved the district and music boosters over \$4,000 off the normal retail price.



**It is wonderful to have this momentum in the program and the students are truly excited by the support and purchase.**

*Tom Dingeldein, Band Director  
Kirtland High School*

## KHS JUNIORS AND SENIORS EXPERIENCE CAREER PATHWAY EXPLORATION

Every spring, Kirtland High School (KHS) juniors and seniors embark on a few weeks of career exploration activities, end-of-the-year presentations, as well as some memorable group activities for the seniors.

The Career Skill Building Seminar Experience allows the KHS juniors to get a feel for possible careers and pathways after high school. They spend four days off campus at different job sites, career shadowing professionals of their choosing. Some shadow as many as four different professionals to get a better understanding of what they are interested in. "We want to offer them as many experiences outside of the classroom and as much real world experience as possible," said KHS High School Counselor Mary LaVerde. With the help of several community volunteers, the KHS juniors also get to practice their interview skills through mock interviews. Each student participates in a few interviews to gain experience interviewing for professional positions.

The juniors also heard from several professionals who gave them advice for post graduation. Brandy Race is a Human Resources Professional with Stanley Black & Decker who volunteered her time to speak with the students about interview skills, professionalism, and the different resume skills they need to start thinking about after they graduate. Ohio State University Admissions Counselor Keith Lofton also spent time talking with students about the college application and admission process. A representative from Lake/Geauga Educational Assistance Foundation (LEAF - Ohio), a nonprofit organization that aims to help provide information to students and guide them through the education process after high school, also visited to talk about the financial aid process. They also return to KHS every fall to host a Financial Aid Night for parents and students. The LEAF representative works with the students throughout the year - this includes the financial aid nights.

The KHS counselors also host a college application workshop for the juniors to help them start preparing to write college essays and help them navigate the college search process as a whole. "The juniors learn a lot about the college application process and are on track to submit applications when they return to campus in the fall," said LaVerde. "They are motivated to do some of that work in the summer so we try to give them a head-start with the junior seminar information before the school year ends."

They share their experiences from the career shadowing through a small group presentation to teachers, school board members, and community members using a slideshow and photos as a visual aid. They

report back on what they learned during the process and say whether the experience cemented their goals on their future pathway or if they changed their mind about their chosen career after the shadowing experience and decide if they want to continue on that pathway.

KHS seniors spend the two weeks leading up to graduation with a week of career shadowing or working on a service project and then participating in a week packed with fun activities. For five days, the students chose to either participate in a service project or shadow a professional in a career pathway that interests them. After that, they present a graduation portfolio where they discuss their five day career shadowing or project experience as well as reflect on the k-12 experience as a whole, the skills they have developed at Kirtland, and what experiences have helped them decide what is next for them.

The week leading up to the commencement ceremony the seniors spend time with their classmates making memories that will last long after their Kirtland Local Schools' experience has come to a close. They went bowling, ate sweet treats from the King Kone Ice Cream Truck, and enjoyed a fun day at Cedar Point Amusement Park. "One of the benefits of being in a small school is that we are able to do a lot of fun things and have those experiences with them," said LaVerde.

They also participated in their Senior Day of Service as a way to give back to the Kirtland community. The seniors were dispersed to different sites across the community doing

things like yard work for the city, painting houses for Safety Town, working at Kirtland Elementary School, and gardening work at places like the Holden Arboretum, the Penitentiary Glen Reservation, and Lake Metroparks Farmpark. "Throughout their high school careers we stress the benefit of being involved in your community and the importance of staying involved as they move forward," said LaVerde.





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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 CLEVELAND, OH  
 PERMIT NO. 1

## UPCOMING EVENTS



- July 10-14 Camp Invention K-5
- July 17 Board of Education Meeting, KHS Cafeteria
- August 14 Board of Education Meeting, KHS Cafeteria
- August 16 KMS/KHS Open House
- August 17 First Day of School
- August 30 KMS/KHS Picture Day
- August 31 KES Picture Day
- September 1 Teacher Workday – No School for students
- September 4 Labor Day – No School for students

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER**  
**KIRTLAND, OH 44094**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

- President: Matt Whittaker**  
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*Athletics*  
**Athletic Director: Matt Paul**  
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- 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)