



Kirtland Local School District  
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# THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Fall 2020

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### NOVEMBER 23 @ 7 P.M.

Regular Board of Education Meeting  
KES Hornet Hall

### NOVEMBER 25-NOVEMBER 29

Thanksgiving Break

### DECEMBER 4

No School for KES Students  
(Teacher PD Day)

### DECEMBER 8

PTA Meeting via Zoom

### DECEMBER 10

Board of Education Meeting -  
Finance Committee

### DECEMBER 10

National Honor Society Induction  
Kirtland City Hall

### DECEMBER 14 @ 7 P.M.

Regular Board of Education Meeting  
KES Hornet Hall

### DECEMBER 21 - JANUARY 3

Winter Break

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*\*

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
KIRTLAND, OH 44094

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*Athletics*

**Athletic Director: Matt Paul**

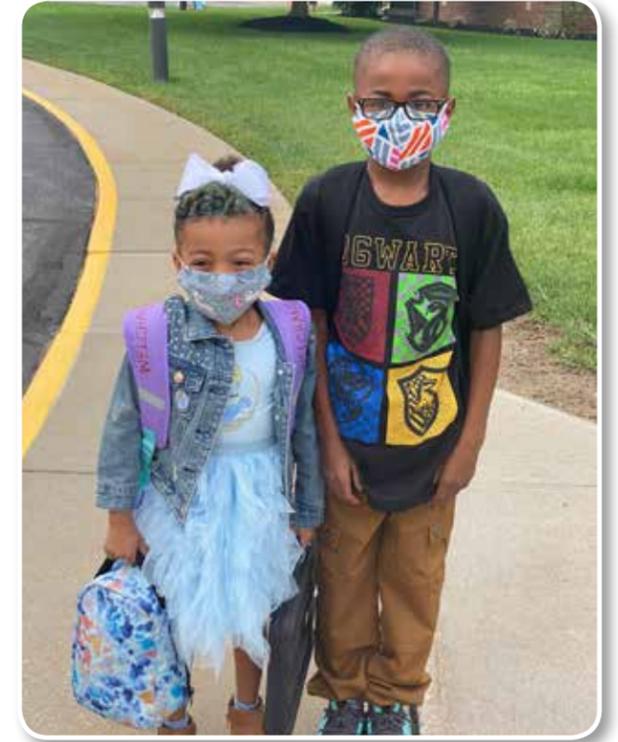
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## KIRTLAND COMMUNITY RALLIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Kirtland Community,



As I see daily headlines in the news from around the state and country, I have noticed that most appear to be negative. Many of the stories revolve around COVID-19. When a student or adult in the school tests positive, it becomes news. While I am all for transparency and communicating to make sure everyone is aware for safety reasons, it is disappointing to me that there are not many headlines highlighting all those that are doing amazing work as our schools have opened. Our students, teachers, counselors, aides, custodians, bus drivers, secretaries, cafeteria staff, coaches, administrators, trainers and parents are doing so much to maintain a safe environment, while providing quality instruction and extracurricular activities. We have a community that has completely rallied to make sure we could open school. I am so proud of where we are at. We realize things are not perfect, but are working daily to get better. The patience and adaptability by all has been amazing. All of you deserve a pat on the back and a positive headline: The Kirtland Community has Rallied for a Very Successful Start to the School Year!



Our goal for opening school was to provide our students with as many educational and extracurricular opportunities in the safest manner as possible. While things look different around the building (one way hallways, masks, daily temperature checks, desks in rows and shields on desks) our students and staff have done an amazing job of adapting. We have teachers that are instructing students in person and streaming to students virtually at home at the same time so there is equity in the material and instruction. We currently have 83% of our students learning in person and 17% learning at home. I am very proud of our coaches, athletes and band members. They all have also adjusted to new requirements to provide the safest environment possible so their seasons can continue. NewsNet5 even commended Mr. Tom Dingeldein and the Kirtland High School marching band for their efforts.

**Our students, teachers, counselors, aides, custodians, bus drivers, secretaries, cafeteria staff, coaches, administrators, trainers and parents are doing so much to maintain a safe environment, while providing quality instruction and extracurricular activities**

We understand that all of this can change rapidly and we must remain vigilant with our safety protocols. I want to thank our students, staff, parents and community for their help to provide so many opportunities to our students.

Chad VanArnhem  
Superintendent



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

# KIRTLAND SCHOOLS EMPHASIZES THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF THE STUDENTS AND STAFF

At the Student Learning and Achievement meeting on September 15, the Kirtland Schools' guidance counselors gave an overview of the social and emotional programs they will be providing throughout the school year. During this time of uncertainty, social-emotional well-being is more important than ever and Kirtland Local Schools have made it a major focus for the school year.

At Kirtland Elementary School (KES), counselors are meeting the needs of in person-learners with classroom support that focuses on kindness, small group support for new KES students, small group support for students when issues arise, and individual support for students as needed. They are holding virtual meetings to support the online learners. At-risk students will be identified and met with regularly. Teachers will also meet every month during Professional Learning Community times to discuss students' social-emotional needs with the counselors.

In addition, KES has established a Kindness Council to further the message that the counselors will deliver in bimonthly visits to classrooms. These visits will include reading books, having discussions and activities that all focus on kindness. The Kindness Council will assist the counselors in providing materials for these Kindness visits.

KES will also continue with their "Responsive Classroom" program that emphasizes establishing a sense of community in the classroom. All of these classroom initiatives to support social-emotional health align with the Gold Medal Award-winning Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program at KES.

At every grade level K-12, the teachers, counselors and staff are making sure remote learners also feel included. There will be a different social-emotional health theme to follow each month of the school year.

Kirtland Middle School (KMS) and Kirtland High School (KHS) are also committed to student well-being and will have a variety of presentations on emotional and mental health this year.

**Grades 9 and 10** will see a presentation by LifeAct, an organization whose mission is to teach young people how to recognize the warning signs of suicide in themselves and their peers and seek professional help. Credentialed instructors give an in-school program about recognizing teen depression and preventing suicide.

**Grades 6-12** will attend The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presentation called "Ending the Silence," which helps students learn about the warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if someone is showing symptoms of a mental health condition.

- September:** Suicide Awareness: Sources of Strength
- October:** Social Justice; Acceptance: Anti-Bullying
- November:** Gratitude; Kindness Day
- December:** Empathy
- January:** Mindfulness, Emotional Intelligence/Awareness
- February:** Positive/Healthy Relationships; Conflict Resolution; Dating Violence
- March:** Resilience; Self-Advocacy
- April:** Service Learning
- May:** Mental Health Awareness

Teachers will take these lessons into the classroom with curriculum on Sources of Strength, Teen Mental Health First Aid & Thrively, Training Trusted Adults, and Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA). The YMHFA program trains adults in the skills they need to reach out and support children ages 6-18 who are in crisis or developing health or substance abuse problems by connecting them with the appropriate care.

**Grade 10** will take part in a year-long program called "Empowering Teens: Teen Mental Health First Aid." This program teaches high school students how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health or substance abuse issues with their peers.

All these programs will support the overall suicide prevention measures that are already in place for grades 6-12.

## NEW BIKE RACKS INSTALLED ON CAMPUS THANKS TO BUILDERS CLUB

The Kirtland Middle School Builders Club, in conjunction with their parent organization, the Kirtland Kiwanis Club, is proud to announce the acquisition of two bike racks for the middle school. Each year, Builders Club members work throughout the year towards a service project for the school and/or community. This year, a need for bike racks emerged. The organizations were more than happy to step forward and fill this need.



# SPORTS SHORTS

as of November 1, 2020

Kirtland's fall sports teams have enjoyed unprecedented success this season. For the first time in school history, each fall sports team advanced to at least the second round of the postseason. The football, boys soccer, girls soccer and volleyball teams all won district titles and will play in the regional tournament and the cross country teams were both represented at the regional meet. The boys' golf team also was represented in the second level of the playoffs.

Here's a recap of each Kirtland sports team:

**GOLF** - Junior Victor Alfieri was the lone Kirtland golfer to advance out of the sectional tournament. Alfieri placed third at the Division II Quail Hollow sectional with a score of 80. Alfieri qualified for the district tournament at Pine Hills Golf Club where he shot an 86 to finish tied for 30th overall.

**CROSS COUNTRY** - Kirtland junior Reilly Greenlee punched her ticket to the state cross country meet by finishing 13th overall at the Division III Boardman Regional on Oct. 31. Kirtland became the first Hornets' team to advance to the regional meet since 2010. Greenlee finished the race in 21:12. Greenlee is the first Hornet to advance to state since 2008. As a team, the Hornets placed 14th.

Greenlee finished seventh overall at districts while senior Julie Namciu was 18th. Sophomore Delaney Kuczkowski, senior Mateja Mrva, sophomore Aria Ray, freshmen Stephanie Drazetic and Jessy Jackson also ran for the Hornets. Senior Ian McGreal finished 23rd in the boys' Division II race to earn his berth to the regional meet. McGreal placed 120th at regionals with a time of 19:44.

**FOOTBALL** - After earning his 200th career victory on October 17, Tiger LaVerde led the Hornets back to the regional semifinals with a dominating 56-28 win over Sandy Valley in a rematch of last year's postseason opener. Mason Sullivan rushed for five touchdowns and a career-high 269 yards in the win. The Hornets followed up that win with a 43-6 victory over visiting Sugar Creek Garaway in the regional semifinals. Sullivan ran for four touchdowns and

threw a TD pass to his brother, Mason Sullivan, in the win. Kirtland will host Canfield South Range in a regional championship game on November 7.

**BOYS SOCCER** - Kirtland finished the regular season ranked 14th in Ohio's Division III. The Hornets beat Oberlin, 5-2, in a district semifinal and on October 31 they beat Andrews-Osborne Academy, 3-2 in overtime, to win a third straight district championship. Evan Dures scored two goals in the district championship, including the game-winner in overtime. Kirtland, who improved to 13-3-1, will travel to South Range for a regional semifinal game on November 4.

**GIRLS SOCCER** - Kirtland finished the final regular season state rankings as the No. 4 team in Ohio's Division III. The Hornets host Doylestown Chippewa at Chardon in a Division III regional semifinal on November 3. In addition to winning a fourth straight district championship, the Hornets celebrated a couple of other milestones this season. Head coach Ed Bradac earned his 200th win with the program and junior Erika Zschuppe recorded the 100th goal of her career. Zschuppe leads the 15-1-3 Hornets with 45 goals.

**VOLLEYBALL** - The unofficial winners of the Chagrin Valley Conference Valley Division title—due to COVID, no official championship will be awarded—the Kirtland volleyball team is 17-6 and on October 31, the Hornets defeated Cardinal, 3-2, to advance to the regional tournament for the first time since 2010. Kirtland advanced to play Independence in a regional semifinal at Barberton High School on November 5.



## OFFICER BILL BAUCKMAN ASSIGNED AS NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS



The Kirtland Police Department has hired Patrol Officer William Bauckman as the new School Resource Officer (SRO) for Kirtland Local Schools. He replaces Officer Al Taddeo who retired. He has completed his training with the Kirtland Police Department and started working in the schools on Monday, October 12.

Bauckman began his career in law enforcement in 1994 with the Cleveland Police Department. In 2000, he was assigned to the Police Academy. In that capacity, he instructed officers in defensive tactics, subject control, firearms and intermediate weapons. He retired from the Cleveland Police Department in June of this year.

Bauckman is a law enforcement instructor certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission. He has taught recruits at the Cleveland Police Academy, Cuyahoga Community College and at Lakeland Community College. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of

Dayton. He retired after 20 years of service from the United States Army Reserves. As a Platoon Sergeant for the 762nd Transportation Company he spent over one year in combat in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bauckman is married and has two children that attend Kirtland Elementary School. He has been a resident of Kirtland for the past 10 years and is active with youth sports.

“Officer Al Taddeo did an amazing job as the Student Resource Officer for many years at Kirtland Local Schools,” said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem, Kirtland Local Schools. “While interviewing to fill the position after Officer Al retired, we wanted to find someone that could make the same personal connection with students, staff and the community. I feel very confident that Officer Bill Bauckman will fill that role extremely well. He is already connected in the community and has spent years in the police department teaching. We feel that his experience with educating others will be a tremendous asset while also ensuring the safety of our students and staff. I am excited for the students and staff to meet him!”

## TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT PRODUCES BUS SAFETY VIDEO

This year, Transportation Director Sheila Dikowicz and a group of Kirtland Local Schools’ bus drivers used creativity and comedy to film an educational video for Kirtland students about school bus safety. Fourth grader Milo Razov (school bus enthusiast) helped demonstrate the importance of paying attention when entering the danger zone around a school bus, while bus drivers had their acting debut giving examples of what to do, and not to do at the bus stop and when riding the bus. Our goal was to show students and parents the importance of safety when around or riding the school bus. “The yellow school bus is the safest way to transport students and students play an integral part in keeping the bus safe by following the safety procedures,” said Dikowicz. “We hope the students enjoy learning from the video as much as we enjoyed making it.”



## KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL HOLDS OUTDOOR SENIOR ATHLETE/ HOMECOMING NIGHT

Celebrating the 58 senior athletes and band members, as well as the Homecoming Court, is a very important tradition at Kirtland High School. On October 8, the school community celebrated these seniors at the women’s soccer game. The Court included Mia Rini, Amber Yurick, Aria Evans-Roskos, Leah LaVerde, Aimee Baldrey, Joey Grazia, TJ Green, Angelo Blasini, Liam Powers and Marko Cubela. The Queen was Aria Evans-Roskos and the King was TJ Green. The evening was live-streamed for the entire community to watch.

Students enjoyed the planned pep rally (wearing masks, socially distanced and approved by the Lake County Board of Health) at the end of the school day. That evening, people in attendance were also treated to a dominant performance by the talented Lady Hornets soccer team. They are one of the top teams in the area and the state.



## KIRTLAND COMMUNITY JOINS TOGETHER TO SET UP DESKS FOR OPENING OF SCHOOLS

Kirtland Local Schools needed to bring in old single desks to maximize the space in its classrooms to accommodate the 83% of students returning to school on September 8. On August 25, 750 desks were brought to the campus and loaded into classrooms in one day.

Kirtland resident Jeff Collins donated the moving trucks and workers from his company, Moving Ahead Service. “Everyone worked tirelessly cleaning, carrying and arranging the desks in classrooms into the evening hours,” said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem, Kirtland Local Schools. “We even had a Kirtland High School senior helping us. Numerous Kirtland Kiwanians showed up to help as well.”



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

During the last five year forecast in early May 2020, the district was in the midst of a potential revenue shortfall as discussions in Columbus involved a reduction to state revenue of nearly 30%. In addition, area county auditors gave indication that local tax collections may reflect delinquencies of up to 8%. This revenue prediction was especially troublesome for Kirtland Local School, as more than 90% of its revenue is received from these two sources.

As time passed however, the district began to see more clarity and the economy began its upswing. Revenue projections increased as time passed, and we can now better project our revenue future. The outcome of state revenue will reflect a decrease from prior years nearly \$300,000 (some of which will be replaced by state and federal grant funding), but local tax collections came in as had been previously projected before the pandemic. Overall, the district is projecting an overall revenue shortfall of less than 1.5% for FY21.

Expenses are projected to increase as the district makes necessary adjustments to meet new requirements associated to COVID-19 protocols and social distancing.

Kirtland Local Schools has secured two grants to help offset costs. The first one is a Broadband Connectivity Grant for \$6,890 for hot spots and an external wi-fi hub. This will help the district purchase wi-fi hotspots for families that don’t have them to support remote learning. Also, the external hub will allow teachers to take students outside the building and still have access to wi-fi. The second grant was from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation for \$20,000 to use toward the professional development of the teaching staff.

## KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SALUTES SAFETY OFFICERS WITH PARADE

In honor of Patriot Day, Kirtland Elementary School participated in a First Responders Vehicle Parade on September 11.

Socially distanced and wearing masks, students and staff honored these local heroes by waving, clapping and holding signs as the safety forces’ vehicle parade made its way through the route. Wearing red, white and blue, the students enjoyed saluting the officers and watching them pass by with their lights and sirens.

“As a way to never forget the events of September 11, 2001, the students and staff honored our local heroes that risk their lives daily to protect ours,” said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem, Kirtland Local Schools. “We are fortunate to have amazing police and fire departments in our community. We hope they feel our appreciation for all that they do.”



## STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS AND SHAKER HEIGHTS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNER TO “BUILD THE BRIDGE” TOWARDS RACIAL EQUALITY

Student-athletes from Kirtland Local Schools and Shaker Heights City School District are partnering to “build the bridge” towards awareness of social justice and race relations this school year. They are participating in the Build the Bridge program, established by Cleveland Heights coaches Mac Stephens and Kahari Hicks and Beachwood Head Coach Damion Creel, to create a coalition of coaches, players, parents, administration and community members to foster the success of student-athletes through social-emotional, educational and athletic advancement. The program creates opportunities for all team members to build relationships and mutual respect between diverse communities, regardless of their race, class or creed.



The two districts are planning several joint initiatives focused on creating personal connections by conducting collaborative discussions on social justice and race relations, in addition to competing with one another on the field. Some of the possible ideas being discussed include both virtual and potential in-person activities that follow local social distancing guidelines and health and safety protocols amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the meetings and events, coaches and athletes will remain in regular contact throughout the year to spark additional dialogue and strengthen team bonds.

On Wednesday, September 2, Cleveland Heights-University Heights High School assistant football coach and one of the creators of the Build the Bridge program, Kahari Hicks, visited with the Kirtland football players at their practice to talk about the program.

“We want to take this opportunity to educate our student-athletes and increase their awareness of others from diverse backgrounds and communities,” said Varsity Football Coach Tiger Laverde, Kirtland High School. “We are looking forward to partnering with Shaker Heights in the future through this Build The Bridge program.”

At the September 5 varsity football game, the Kirtland players, coaches and administrators wore T-shirts with the word “equality” on the front and a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. on the back stating, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

“We see this partnership with the Shaker Heights student-athletes as a great opportunity and learning

experience for our students,” said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem, Kirtland Local Schools. “Building the bridge and being a part of the solution is extremely important. Our goal is to have well-rounded, educated and empowered citizens leaving the halls of Kirtland when they graduate from our district. Having empathy and understanding

of others is an important part of being educated and prepared to make a positive difference in the world. We are thankful for the Shaker Heights City School District and their students for allowing us to be a part of this partnership with them.”

The Cleveland Browns and 850 ESPN Cleveland are also working side-by-side with athletic teams throughout the area, in support of this Build the Bridge program by highlighting teams, athletes and coaches participating in this initiative to empower, develop and unify high school football teams through meaningful interactions between programs of different racial and/or socio-economic demographics.

“Partnering with Shaker Heights through the Build the Bridge program is an excellent opportunity to show how athletics can provide a platform to help our student-athletes better understand and appreciate one another,” said Athletic Director Matt Paul, Kirtland Local Schools. “Too often, we play against teams where there is no sense of connection except the game itself. This game will be



**Having empathy and understanding of others is an important part of being educated and prepared to make a positive difference in the world.**

- Superintendent Chad VanArnhem

different. We genuinely want to connect with one another, both teams, to think about this moment in history. We are grateful to Shaker Heights High School and its community for this opportunity.”

“It is essential to continue to develop education and engage in experiences that support core values of respect, unity, inclusion and equality,” said Principal Scott Amstutz, Kirtland High School. “This partnership with the Shaker Heights student-athletes will provide all of us with opportunities to reflect on these core values and how we can be a part of positive change for the future.”

## KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS AND AP SCHOLARS



Kirtland High School is pleased to announce that **Cassandra McFadden** and **Heath Perry** have been named **National Merit Commended Students** 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.

In addition, the following students have been named AP Scholars. Congratulations to:

**AP Scholars** (Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams): Andrew Beinhardt, 11th grade; Thomas Drazetic, 12th grade; Hannah Duncan, 11th grade; Reilly Greenlee, 10th grade; Megan Hansen, 11th grade; Paul Kosem, 12th grade; Sarah LaMantia, 12th grade; Timothy Lowery, 11th grade; Juliana Namciu, 11th grade; Ryan Ritossa, 11th grade; Anna Shepard, 11th grade; Anthony Shepard, 12th grade; Eric Vinciquerra, 12th grade; Joshua Wolfe, 11th grade

**AP Scholars with Honor** (Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams): Maria Bevanda, 11th grade; Spencer Fortney, 11th grade; Nisha Makkar, 11th grade; Michael Rus, 12th grade; Alessandra Sverko, 12th grade; Lilia Valentic, 12th grade

**AP Scholar with Distinction** (Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams): Cecilia Anness, 12th grade; Julia Camino, 12th grade; Adam Cummings, 11th grade; Ariela Gettig, 12th grade; Jordan Jontz, 12th grade; Leah LaVerde, 11th grade; Cassandra McFadden, 11th grade; Heath Perry, 11th grade; Mario Rodin, 11th grade; Johnathan Sayle, 12th grade; Dea Semaj, 11th grade; Vikram Sundararajan, 12th grade; Emma Ulrich, 11th grade

**National AP Scholar** (Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.): Ariela Gettig, 12th grade; Jordan Jontz, 12th grade; Leah LaVerde, 11th grade; Johnathan Sayle, 12th grade; Vikram Sundararajan, 12th grade

“Kirtland High School students continue to amaze me every year,” said Principal Scott Amstutz, Kirtland High School. “Being named National Merit Commended Students is a direct result of Cassandra and Heath’s academic commitment and achievement. I also am very proud of all our AP Scholars. It takes dedication, perseverance and commitment to tackle all these AP courses and be successful. For a small district, we have such a strong AP community that values the content and rigor that will certainly help our students prepare for future success. Many thanks to our teachers as well. So much time and effort goes into this academic growth and achievement.”

## KIRTLAND AUTHOR RELEASES CHILDREN’S BOOK ON MASKS RELEASE VIDEO TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



Author/Illustrator Nicole Billick, born and raised in Kirtland, recently released a children’s book, “*Marvelous Masks*.” Her goal was to make wearing a mask less scary and more relatable to young children. Billick generously donated copies of her book to Kirtland Elementary School and produced an author’s message video for students. The story, that includes



hand drawn illustrations, aims to help children feel more comfortable and less anxious about mask wearing.



Principal Katy Nagaj enjoyed reading the story to second graders virtually.