



Kirtland Local School District  
9252 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, OH 44094  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS



- April 21 - Senior Citizen Appreciation Night
- April 22-23 - Drama Club Performance
- April 27 - High School Choir and Band Concert
- May 6 - No School for Students
- May 12 - KES Spring Concert
- May 22 - KHS Graduation - Mentor Fine Arts Center
- May 23 - Regular Board of Education Meeting, KHS Cafeteria
- June 1 - End of Quarter 4 and End of Trimester 3
- June 1 - KES Mayfield Drive In
- June 1 - Students' Last Day of School
- June 2 - Records Day (No School for Students)

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

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
KIRTLAND, OH 44094

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- Kirtland Middle School on Twitter @MrAmstutz | @MrLeoneMS
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- Kirtland Hornets athletics on Twitter @kirtlandspots

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

# THE Kirtland CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Spring 2022

## KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT GIVES STATE OF THE SCHOOLS ADDRESS

Superintendent Chad VanArnhem presented his annual State of the Schools to the community on March 3 at the Community Center and to the Kiwanis Club on February 17.

VanArnhem highlighted a variety of accomplishments of our students and staff that have taken place inside and outside of the classroom.

In his address, he focused on the district's four pillars of its Strategic Plan—*personalized learning, safe and secure environment, well-managed finances, and an engaged community*—with the goal of producing empowered citizens. He discussed the challenges of learning through a pandemic and how Kirtland Local Schools have had in-person learning taking place all school year.



### Personalized Learning

The staff has been working on developing the “Profile of a Hornet” that includes soft skills that are important to the future successes of our students. They are being a collaborator, innovator, problem solver, communicator, critical thinker and self-directed learner. These skills are being integrated into student work and performance-based assessments. Students will be setting goals while self-reflecting and taking ownership of their learning. Our students are 1:1 with devices and have access to adaptive learning programs. The students in grades 6-12 are taking part in the speaker series that allows them to hear presenters from a variety of career backgrounds that gives relevance to their learning. The personalized learning experience also includes opportunities to participate in the fine arts in grades K-12. All extracurriculars, including concerts and plays, have resumed this school year.

### Safe and Secure Environment

The district has provided a variety of programs for students to support their social and emotional needs. The district also has a variety of physical safety features to help keep students and staff safe. This fall, the staff ran a full scale emergency evacuation and relocation drill coordinated with the Kirtland Police Department, Kirtland Fire Department,

Lakeland Police Department and parent volunteers. This drill helped streamline the process and enhance communication across all the departments.

### Well-Managed Finances

The district takes pride in being good stewards of taxpayer dollars, by implementing cost saving measures, including shared services for the following: lunch, transportation technology, treasurer and payroll, in order to save on costs while still providing quality services. However, the district receives far less state aid than other districts across the state (4% compared to the state average of 41%). Even in light of this, Kirtland still is ranked only fifth out of the nine districts in Lake County for millage rates, putting the district in the mid-range among neighboring districts. Despite 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 since 2012, and the district works hard to flatten the expense increases and avoid deficit spending. As a result of increased costs and flat revenue, the district will need to seek a renewal levy on May 3, which could result in \$2.2 million to the district, without increasing taxes.

*continued on page 2*



**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. — Chad VanArnhem, Superintendent**

## STATE OF THE SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

### Engaged Community

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 2021 had more than 4,000 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.

### Permanent Improvement Update

*(Recent updates to the PI plans)*

With supply chain issues, inflationary costs, and labor shortages taking place in our country right now, the proposed projects are facing numerous challenges.

The playground resurfacing project was put out to bid three different times with only one bid coming in at double the expected cost. Solutions are being explored.

On March 2, three construction managers (CMRs) gave presentations and their bids on renovating the science lab and stadium. All three bids came in significantly over the initial expected costs from the fall estimates and above our given budget. The district intends to remain fiscally responsible by continuing to seek alternative solutions to maintain the permanent improvement money necessary for the rest of the facility.

The updated five year capital improvement plan can be found on our district website under Departments.

The Board is currently working with ThenDesign Architecture (TDA) to reevaluate the scope of the work and have it rebid by the three CMR's again. The district is still committed to updating the KHS Science Lab and delivering on the stadium renovation that includes a turf field, new lights, a resurfaced track and updated scoreboard. When the updated plans and timelines are established, they will be communicated. Delaying the work is not what we had hoped for, but we want to remain fiscally responsible and make sure this project is completed correctly.

## STUDENTS AND STAFF RAISE FUNDS FOR LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

Kirtland Middle and High School students and staff held several fundraisers for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) this winter.

Kirtland Middle School (KMS) students competed in a fundraiser February 22-25, called "cash and coins to crush cancer" to raise money for cancer research. Students competed in their first period class to see which class could raise the most money. The winning class earned a donut party. These activities were led by the KMS Student Leadership Council. Overall, KMS raised more than \$1,000.

Another KMS initiative involved students participating in a Spirit Week February 22-25. The goal of this Spirit Week was to keep the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraiser top of mind for students. Themed days included:

- Tuesday - Olympic Inspired/Red, White and Blue Day
- Wednesday - Favorite College Team Day
- Thursday - Superhero/Positive Message Day
- Friday - Red Day to Support LLS

Both events at KMS were a huge success thanks to the efforts of our students and staff.

Kirtland High School students organized student-led bake sales during both lunch hours and athletic events to raise money for the LLS.

At Kirtland Elementary School, there will be an online contribution contest and Spirit Week in April.



*KMS students that raised the most money for LLS and enjoyed a donut party.*

## WINTER SPORTS SHORTS

### WRESTLING

Kirtland's winter sports season will come to a close in Columbus as Will Davidson will represent the Hornets at the 2022 OHSAA State Wrestling Championships. Davidson, who placed third at the 2021 state tournament, finished third at the Division III Garfield Heights District tournament on March 5. He enters the state tournament with a record of 40-2 and will wrestle Ashland Crestview's Hayden Kuhn (46-6) in the first round at state on Friday, March 11.



As a team, the Hornets put together a magical run as they won the Chagrin Valley Conference Valley Division title and then claimed their first sectional title since 2015.

Kirtland placed 11th at the Garfield Heights District with four wrestlers placing among the top six.

Davidson finished third and Gaetano Savelli (144), Louka Babic (165), and Brennon Braud (190) each placed sixth.

Davidson, Babic, and Gencarelli also won CVC titles while Braud was second. Drew Duncan placed third and Savelli was fourth at the CVC championships.

Duncan, Davidson, Savelli, Babic, and Gencarelli each won sectional titles. Eddy Podojil-Schlesinger and Braud both finished fourth at the sectional tournament while Tyler Turk, Ian Borthwick, and Aiden Reed placed fifth.

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Kirtland's boys' basketball team closed out the season with a 10-12 record overall and a 9-6 mark in the CVC Valley Division. It came down to the final game of the regular season, but the Hornets clinched the CVC Valley Division title. Head



coach Shawn McGregor was named the league's Coach of the Year and senior Ramon Lescano earned Co-Valley Division MVP honors.

Lescano and Owen Mueller both were named first-team all-conference while Jonathan Withrow was a second-team selection. Mason Rus and Gage DiFabio earned honorable mention all-conference honors.

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Kirtland's girls' basketball team also claimed the CVC Valley Division title. The Hornets finished 17-7 overall and 14-4 in conference play. Head coach Brittany Zele earned the league's Coach of the Year award while senior Reilly Greenlee was named the league's MVP.



Greenlee and senior Macy McIntosh both earned first-team all-CVC honors while Alex Rosson was named to the second team. Corinne Greenlee and Marissa Carmosino both earned honorable mention all-conference.

### SWIMMING

Kirtland's Kaley Ream was named the CVC's Most Valuable Performer at the 2022 CVC Swimming and Diving Championships.

Ream was a first-team selection in the 200-yard freestyle and teamed up with Claire Dumstorff, Sophia Shepard, and Giorgi Mei to earn second-team all-conference honors in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Dumstorff also earned first-team all-conference honors for her finish in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Hailey Valencic and Carmela Kovach both earned honorable mention all-conference.

Ream closed out her decorated career by earning All-Ohio honors at the state swimming and diving championships.

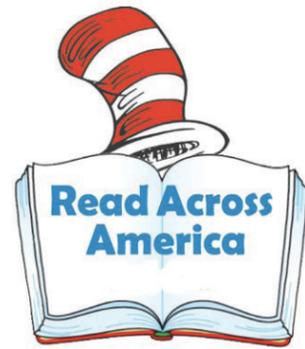
She placed sixth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:04.42 and also won the B final of the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 57.05.

## KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ENJOY GUEST READERS FOR “READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Kirtland Elementary School celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday and Read Across America Day on March 2. The school also recognized it as Read Across Kirtland Day.

Ever since the 2020-21 school year, building administrators visit kindergarten classrooms to read Dr. Seuss books. This year, they expanded their guest reader group to include not only building administrators, but also guidance counselors, support staff, and teachers. All kindergarten and first-grade classrooms enjoyed a guest reader throughout the day. They read a variety of books by Dr. Seuss including “Mr. Brown Can Moo Can You,” “One Fish Two Fish,” “The Lorax,” and others.

The school hopes to continue expanding this reading celebration each year. “By welcoming staff members from other buildings into the elementary school, our youngest Hornets become familiar with the adults who will support them throughout their time as a Kirtland student,” said Principal Katy Nagaj.



Special thanks to these individuals for reading to our students:

- Mr. Chad VanArnhem, Superintendent, Kirtland High School
- Mr. Scott Amstutz, Principal, Kirtland High School
- Mr. David Leone, Assistant Principal, Kirtland Middle School
- Mr. David Beans, Intervention Specialist, Kirtland Middle School
- Mrs. Kara Prosuch, Guidance Counselor, Kirtland High School
- Mrs. Mary LaVerde, Guidance Counselor, Kirtland High School
- Ms. Kristen Schutte, Director of Pupil Services
- Mrs. Linn Bowen, Guidance Counselor, Kirtland Elementary School
- Mrs. Kayla Mertz, School Psychologist

## KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PARTICIPATES IN INTERACTIVE LEADERSHIP SESSIONS

The students in Kirtland Middle School’s (KMS) Student Leadership Council are taking part in four leadership sessions over the course of this school year. The group of 18 is made up of students from grades six, seven, and eight that were nominated by teachers who saw leadership potential within them.

The leadership sessions are facilitated by Crossroads Health CTE-Prevention Specialist, Tammy Kraft, BA, OCPSA, and KMS Assistant Principal David Leone.

The Student Leadership Council has been around in some capacity for several years, but this is the fourth year it has existed under the current name. “We want to put the students first,” said Leone. “It’s about them, their leadership, and their capacity to lead within our building and within our district at large.” They take action in several different ways including fundraising, spirit weeks, raising awareness, and spreading kindness.

These leadership sessions allow the group to focus on building leadership skills. “This program jumped off the page to me as a great opportunity to expand the capacity for leadership within our middle school students,” said Leone.

The sessions are based around the books “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” and “The 6 Most Important Decisions You’ll Ever Make: A Guide for Teens” both written by Sean Covey. Each student will receive a copy of “The 6 Most Important Decisions You’ll Ever Make” which was based on the 7 Habits Book. “Covey does a good job of taking the habits and finding a common language for teens,” said Leone. “It is geared toward kids and helping them understand the agency they have in their own lives and in the lives of other people.”

There are four total sessions for the students with the duration around 1.5 hours each. The total program time is between 5 and 6 hours. The sessions contain a variety of methods. “In education, we don’t do a lot of talking at kids

anymore,” said Leone. “It’s about talking to them and giving them an opportunity to talk back. It’s about being a facilitator of ideas and helping them find the connection and agency within their own lives so they can see how it applies and see how they can use it for themselves and others.”



The interactive sessions consist of lecture time, discussion time, think time, and activity time. “It was a nice blend of giving them information, letting them process it, doing something with it, and then having collaborative discussions,” said Leone. Kraft also presents the students with a challenge to take home. The first session’s challenge was gratitude journaling, a way to get the students to work on a positive habit before the next session.

Kraft’s goal for the sessions is for the students to absorb the information and apply it to themselves. “It really gets them thinking about their future,” said Kraft. “It helps them realize that the decisions they make now slowly direct their paths. It really gives them a framework to live by, lets them think about what their goals are and what kinds of decisions they could be making and what the results of them are.”

While the students have only participated in one session so far, Leone said there has only been positive feedback from them.

These leadership lessons go hand-in-hand with new PBIS initiatives. KMS and KHS are both restructuring their PBIS program. The 6-12 grades will be using a three-tiered program that they are beginning to roll out: Improve Yourself, Empower Others, Impact the World. “Getting our leadership kids focused on Covey’s message is going to help them be the stewards of the new PBIS program,” said Leone.

## PLEASE JOIN KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN APPRECIATION NIGHT

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 21, 2022

**WHO:** Senior citizens living in the Kirtland Local School District

**DINNER:** 6 p.m. in the Kirtland High School Cafeteria

**THE PLAY:** “Acting Can Be Murder” written by Eddi McPherson 7 p.m. at the Kirtland Elementary School Hornet Hall

**COST:** \$5 for pizza and pasta dinner. Payment can be dropped off at the Kirtland Community Center (checks should be made out to: Kirtland Local Schools). **The play is FREE!**

**RSVP for Dinner:** <https://www.kirtlandcommunity.com/book-online> or call 440-256-4711

## Pizza/Pasta Dinner & Play

**PLAY IS FREE TO SENIOR CITIZENS**



## STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SPELLING BEES THIS WINTER

Students in grades 4-8 at Kirtland Local Schools recently competed in their annual spelling bees for a chance to advance to the Lake County Spelling Bee. Grades 1-3 are not eligible for the county spelling bees so their spelling bees will happen later this spring.

These spelling bees are in conjunction with the Scripps National Spelling Bee which was established in 1925 and administered by the E.W. Scripps Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“At Kirtland, teachers value the spelling bee for more than the obvious reason of compelling students to be better spellers,” said Spelling Bee Coordinator Linn Bowen. “It also develops vocabulary, provides opportunities for public speaking experiences, and helps the participants build confidence and poise. We are lucky to have the support of so many teachers in the district who assist with keeping the spelling bee alive.”

The students first completed spelling tests in their classrooms to determine participation in the grade level spelling bee. Typically, Kirtland has 12-24 students competing at each grade level.

### Grade level winners are:

Liliana Giavara, Grade 4  
Grace Kostelnik, Grade 5  
Tommy Loncar, Grade 6  
Karen Hill, Grade 7  
Charlie Whittaker, Grade 8

Whittaker was the overall Kirtland winner and went on to compete against other district winners in the Lake County Spelling Bee on February 1. Whittaker won that competition and advanced to the Tri-County Bee on March 1. He competed in 19 rounds and was the runner-up.



## KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS PARTICIPATES IN SAY SOMETHING WEEK

March 21-25, Kirtland Local Schools participated in Say Something Week, a program run through the Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit organization founded and led by several family members whose loved ones were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December

14, 2012. Thousands of schools and youth organizations participate every year.

Say Something Week serves grades 4-12 in schools

that want to create a culture to prevent school violence through a Say Something program. Their program trains students how to look for the warning signs of someone at-risk of hurting themselves or others and how to tell a trusted adult to get help. Over 14 million students have

participated in the “Know the Signs” program since its inception.

On Monday, March 21, students learned about Say Something Week during the morning announcements. On Tuesday, the students were challenged to show that they care. They were encouraged to reach out to someone new or talk to someone they don’t normally talk to to show kindness and care to others. On Wednesday, everyone wore green for “Green Out” Day which is the color theme of the Say Something program. Thankfulness was Thursday’s theme and the students were challenged to tell someone why they were thankful for them and how they make their life better. For the final day of Say Something Week, students participated in an Intentional Acts of Kindness challenge and were asked to go out of their way to do something nice for someone else.

## KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE IN WRITING AND MATH COMPETITIONS

### Power of the Pen

Eight Kirtland Middle School students qualified to compete in the 2022 Lake Erie Power of the Pen Regional online tournament on March 5. There were 34 middle schools who participated in this regional tournament.

Students included seventh graders Karen Hill, Braden Picard, Ellie Spencer and Kevin Urbanick. Eighth graders included Faith Blankenship, Avery Carlisle, Isabelle Copeland and Naomi Wuliger.

Regional winners will move forward to the May 12-13 in-person Power of the Pen State tournament at Otterbein University.



Power of the Pen Team

### Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics Middle School Math Competition

The Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics Middle School Math Competition took place on March 5 at Heritage Middle School in Painesville.

Teams consist of three students from the same grade level. There were 12 teams from Painesville, four teams from Chardon and three from Kirtland.

The competition consisted of four events. All events were timed for 20 minutes each. One of the events was using mental math only (no paper, pencils or calculators.)

### Congratulations to...

Sixth-Grade Team: David Blankenship, Bram Crisci, Daniel Taich  
Seventh-Grade Team: Ben Brandal, Karli DiFranco, Danika Schaum  
Eighth-Grade Team: Faith Blankenship, Matty Jankowski, Charlie Whittaker

All three of Kirtland’s teams were medal winners.



Left to Right: Sixth grade: Daniel Taich, David Blankenship, Bram Crisci



Left to Right: Seventh grade: Karli DiFranco, Ben Brandal, Danika Schaum



Left to Right: Eighth grade: Charlie Whittaker, Matty Jankowski, Faith Blankenship