

THE **Kirtland** CONNECTION

A Quarterly Newsletter for Kirtland Local Schools

Summer 2024

SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHTS KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS' ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTLINES STRATEGIC VISION IN ANNUAL STATE OF THE SCHOOLS ADDRESS

In his annual State of the Schools address, Superintendent Chad VanArnhem celebrated the remarkable achievements of Kirtland Local Schools' students, staff, and community while outlining the district's strategic vision for the future. The comprehensive presentation showcased the district's commitment to personalized learning, safe and secure environments, well-managed finances, and engaged community partnerships.

Highlighting the district's academic excellence, VanArnhem proudly announced that 21 Kirtland High School students were named AP Scholars in recognition of their exceptional achievement on college-level AP exams, with 11 students earning the prestigious AP Scholar with Distinction honor. Additionally, 44 students graduated with an Honors Diploma, 17 students achieved an ACT score of 28 or higher, and one student was recognized for earning a perfect ACT score.

"Our students' outstanding academic performance and dedication to their studies are a testament to the exceptional education provided by our talented staff," said VanArnhem. "We are committed to fostering an environment that promotes intellectual curiosity, develops college and career pathways, and leverages the use of technology to support personalized learning."

VanArnhem also emphasized the district's unwavering commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for students and staff. Initiatives such as partnering with local safety officials, promoting wellness, implementing trauma-

informed practices, and conducting regular safety drills ensure a supportive and nurturing learning environment.

Addressing the district's financial management, VanArnhem highlighted the successful passage of the March 19 renewal levy, which generates \$1,552,615 annually without resulting in tax increases. He also outlined the district's efforts to control costs, explore alternative revenue options, and educate the community on school finances.

Community engagement remained a crucial aspect of VanArnhem's address, as he emphasized the district's partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and alumni. He also commended the students' commitment to community service, with the Class of 2024 contributing over 5,250 hours of service.

"The success of our district is a collective effort, and we are grateful for the unwavering support of our community partners," VanArnhem said. "Together, we will continue to provide personalized education for all students and empower them to become engaged and responsible citizens."

The State of the Schools address concluded with VanArnhem expressing his gratitude to the district's teachers, staff, parents, and community members for their ongoing dedication and support, ensuring that Kirtland Local Schools remains a beacon of excellence in education.

The State of the School video presentation can be found at www.kirtlandschools.org.

CLASS OF 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

21

AP SCHOLAR
STUDENTS

44

RECEIVED
HONORS DIPLOMAS

17

GRADUATED WITH
A 28+ ON THE ACT
(1 PERFECT SCORE)

3

NATIONAL MERIT
COMMENDED
SCHOLARS

5,250+

COMMUNITY SERVICE
HOURS LOGGED

KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED BY OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & WORKFORCE FOR 2022-2023 REPORT CARD

Kirtland Local Schools has achieved the prestigious Overall Five-Star Award for the district's results on the 2022-2023 traditional report card. This award recognizes districts that exceed state standards by earning an overall five stars on the traditional report card for their performance across the five rated components: Achievement Component, Progress Component, Gap Closing Component, Early Literacy Component, and Graduation Component.



The overall Five-Star Building Award was given to Kirtland Elementary School and Kirtland High School. This is awarded to buildings that exceeded state standards by earning an overall five stars on the Traditional Report Card for their performance across these components: Achievement Component, Progress Component, Gap Closing Component, Early Literacy Component, Graduation Component, College, Career, Workforce and

Military Readiness Component. Kirtland Middle School received the Momentum Award. The Momentum Award is for districts and buildings that have demonstrated outstanding improvement in achievement while also continuing to show growth. They improved their performance index by three or more points from 2021-2022 report card to the 2022-2023 report card and received a value-added progress rating of four or more stars.

"This recognition is a testament to the collective effort of our entire staff, who contribute to the supportive and nurturing environment that enables our students to thrive academically and personally," said Superintendent Chad VanArnhem, Kirtland Local Schools. "The combined commitment of excellence from our students, staff, and community is truly commendable."



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Chad VanArnhem, Superintendent, Kirtland Local Schools

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Kim Ruggeri - Business Teacher



Steven Milazzotto - Computer Science Teacher



Tim Florjancic - Grades 5-12 Band Teacher



Marissa Formichelli - School Nurse



Caitlyn Henderson - Grade 3 Teacher



Julia Loncar - Occupational Therapist



Ryan Beeler - KHS Math Teacher



At the May 20, 2024, Board of Education meeting, AI Russ was recognized for 50 years of service.

THIRD GRADERS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE WITH WAX MUSEUM PROJECT

Kirtland Elementary third-grade students brought history to life through an engaging living biography project on famous Americans for their Wax Museum. With support from parents and teachers, the young scholars embarked on extensive research, taking detailed notes from biographies and utilizing digital tools to create visual presentations.

On May 24, students confidently shared findings through Google Slide presentations and note cards. They vividly described the lives and impact of iconic figures from

American History books. The presentations showcased significant growth in the students' writing, speaking and listening skills as they recalled details and spoke clearly about their research subjects. The interdisciplinary project integrated language arts skills with social studies content.

After gaining a deeper understanding of important Americans and the valuable capability to analyze information from multiple sources these students are ready to take on fourth grade.

FOURTH GRADERS PRESENT HANDS-ON SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

Every spring, Kirtland Elementary School fourth graders take the lead on choosing and conducting their own science experiments as part of an end-of-year independent project in the annual Fourth Grade Science Fair. The annual experiment presentations allow students to explore topics beyond the standard curriculum as each student chooses their own area of study. They then develop their own research question, gather materials, carry out the experiment at home, and analyze the results. On presentation days, the young scientists share their process and findings with their homeroom classmates through live demonstrations and explanations of why their results occur.

"This allows the students to not only independently learn, but to also practice public speaking," said Principal Katy Nagaj.



KIRTLAND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS

Over 2,550 high school students throughout the state of Ohio are being honored for their service through ServeOhio. Kirtland High School is one of the 50 schools that has students being honored for their service 2023-2024 school year.

In collaboration with InnerView Technologies, ServeOhio, the state's commission dedicated to promoting service and volunteerism, takes great pride in honoring exceptional Ohio high school students who have made significant contributions to their communities and the state through their commitment to volunteer work and community service.

The ServeOhio Community Impact Award honors high school students (grades 9 – 12) at any public or private school in Ohio who serve 20 hours in 4 or more service activities in the last year. Recipients will receive a certificate and letter of appreciation.

It fills us with gratitude to see Kirtland students enthusiastically dedicating themselves to effecting positive change and having a meaningful impact within our local community!

KIRTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPRING CELEBRATION BREWS UP LEARNING, LAUGHTER, AND A 'LATTE FUN

Kirtland Elementary School's (KES) Celebration of Learning took place on May 23 and featured a "StarBOOKS" theme which turned KES into a coffee shop for the evening.

This event, which saw more than 400 families in attendance, showcased students' academic progress and their learning journey this year, allowing them to personally guide their loved ones through their portfolios and classwork. What started off as an idea for a literacy night event became an unforgettable celebration that perfectly wrapped up the 2023-2024 school year for the KES community.

"It was our goal to provide an opportunity for all KES families to celebrate the learning that has taken place throughout this school year, both in classrooms and in the related arts areas, and offer a variety of engaging activities for everyone to participate in and enjoy," said KES Principal Katy Nagaj. "I'm proud to say that we accomplished both!"

"An occasion like this fosters bonds between our school staff and our students and their families," said KES K-5 Literacy Interventionist Julie Bonacci. "As educators, we strive to nurture not only our students' academic achievements but also their overall development as individuals. This is particularly true in an elementary setting, where we collaborate closely with parents and guardians year-round. Establishing strong relationships is vital for fostering successful partnerships."

The building was transformed into a coffee shop through the generosity of parent donations that allowed the organizing team to bring the event to life through white lights, streamers, balloons, and green aprons for the "baristas."

The festivities kicked off with "This is How We Brew It," where students from grades K-5 had the opportunity to walk their families through classroom visits and showcase their knowledge from the school year.

KES families got to explore outside the classrooms as well. First up was the "Sip & Stroll," a KES Art show that was a visual feast for the senses, featuring the students' own artwork. A special feature included the "Glow Gallery." Led by KES art teacher Valerie Jacobucci, the room featured neon artwork that glowed beneath black lights. Families also enjoyed the "I Like to Read A 'Latte'" section, where free books were up for grabs, encouraging a love for reading in the young students.

Adding to the excitement, the Kirtland PTA arranged for a one-night Scholastic Book Fair, providing a perfect opportunity for parents and students to jumpstart their summer reading adventures.

A "Coffee Corner" was set up in the atrium where KES STEAM Teacher Bob Lasecki brought live announcements to life while also quizzing the families on their knowledge and hosting fun games like "finish the lyrics." Participating families had the chance to win prizes donated by four local community businesses. Thank you to Tavern Six, Holden Arboretum, Sweeter than Honeycomb Bakery, and Kirtland Mayor Kevin Potter's office for supporting KES. The "Perfect Blend Cafe" was an actual refreshment area featuring sweet treats for all ages.

Students could indulge in creamy chocolate milk and donuts, while the adults could enjoy cool, refreshing sips of iced coffee! Families also had the opportunity to take home a piece of the "StarBOOKS" magic by purchasing merchandise created for the event as well as regular Kirtland branded items.

"Myself and other parents were absolutely blown away at how incredible it was," said KES parent Kelly Addis. "All the work that went into it did not go unnoticed and is so greatly appreciated...my kids loved sharing all their hard work. The Starbucks theme was so cute and the set up in the gym felt like a fun family night out!"



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*Katy Nagaj, Principal
Kirtland Elementary School*



The KES gym was transformed into "Central Perk," and its many stations offered experiences across various disciplines, including physical education activities, bookmark creations, a coffee filter butterfly science craft, board games, math-based activities, and a photo booth.

An open mic station provided a spotlight for students, allowing them to proudly share their accomplishments from the year. Parents also had a blast jotting down their proudest moments from their child's school year.

Beyond showcasing student achievements and fostering family involvement, gatherings of this nature also have a large impact on the KES staff. "These types of events



bring our staff together, uniting us around a common purpose and shared experience," said Bonacci. "The team-building and camaraderie that result from events like these lead to respect for one another, trust, and lasting memories."

"I am beyond grateful for the dedication and hard-work of all who helped to make this event a success!," said Nagaj. "We are fortunate to have a staff who goes above and beyond for our students, a PTA that supports our every need, parents who love to be involved in their children's education, and the most wonderful student body I could ask for. Kirtland is a special place, and this night of celebration and enjoyment proved that!"





KHS Class of 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations!

The Kirtland High School Class of 2024 held their graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 26 at the Mentor Fine Arts Center.



17

GRADUATED WITH A 28+ ON THE ACT
(12 WITH A 30+, 1 PERFECT SCORE)

44

GRADUATED WITH HIGH HONORS
CUM LAUDE - 13 (3.75-3.999)
MAGNA CUM LAUDE - 8 (4.0-4.249)
SUMMA CUM LAUDE - 23 (4.25+)

282

AP EXAMS TAKEN OVER A FOUR YEAR PERIOD FOR SENIORS

44

RECEIVED HONORS DIPLOMAS

21

AP SCHOLAR STUDENTS

37

GRADUATED WITH A 4-YEAR ACADEMIC LETTER

3

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLARS

3

STUDENTS EARNED TWO ASSOCIATE DEGREES

23

GRADUATED FROM AUBURN CAREER CENTER

5,250+

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS LOGGED

OTHER 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- At least 6 seniors committed to playing athletics in college
- State Championship Football Team
- FTC team qualified for the state competition, and engaged in countless outreach activities
- Academic Challenge took 2nd place on WEWS Academic Challenge show and runner-up in the second annual CVC Academic Challenge Tournament
- National Honor Society Senior members logged over 525 hours of peer tutoring and 760 hours of service
- Key Club seniors \$600 raised for Project Hope
- Sponsored the Charter to start a K-Kids Club at KES
- One student earned Distinguished Club President by the Ohio District Key Club
- Drama Club put on a fantastic production of "Moriarity's Revenge" this spring

Graduating Seniors

Rocco James Alfieri
Leah Christine Appell
Owen James Arnold
Jaden Rayne Attinato
Daniel Joseph Bak
Kasia Marie Balcerski
Moirra Grace Balcerski
Isabel Rachel Baldwin
Nickolas Antonio Barisic
Ean Patrick Bartholomew
William Thomas Bates
Wilson James Beers
Tabitha Louise Blankenship
Gino Colantonio Blasini
Daniel Thomas Booth
Norah Elizabeth Borthwick
Macquire Conaughey Boyd
Brynn Elizabeth Bradac
William John Bradshaw
Blase Karl Buchanan
Braeden George Burich
Charlie Penn Burrows
Isabella McKenzie Caringi
Derek David Clucas
Alexis Rose Cramp
Mariana Roberta Culotta
John-Paul Thomas Daher
Emilee Grace Davidson
Kaitlin Alexandra Davidson
Sander Christian de Zwaan
Georgia Grace DeJohn
Ava Nicole DiFranco
Gianna Marie DiFranco
Olivia Lynn Dolovacky
Paige Elizabeth Dolovacky
Elena Marie Drage
Charles John Drazetic
Myah Elizabeth Drazetic
Stephanie Eileen Drazetic
Nathan Gregory Dudash
Claire Faith Dumstorff
Andrew Patrick Duncan
Luke David Emlaw
Austin James Eppes
Vincent Scott Eveland
Sarah Caroline Fisher
Aric Paul Floyd
Emily Grace Fornes
Aaron Matthew Fortuna
Adriana Maria Freitas

Natalia Marie Freitas
Devon Anthony Friihauf
Ohm Dharmesh Ganesh
Matthew Josip Grbavac
Jack Sullivan Green
Zayda Rose Held
Lucille Felicia Lynn Heller
Lily Bernadette Hocevar
Joseph James Holcknecht
Lauren Olivia Iacobucci
Jessica Anne Jackson
Cecilia-Anne Elizabeth Johnson
Ella Marie Juratic
Allison Elizabeth Kaseda
Vincent Patrick Kastelic
Samantha Mae Kissinger
Carmela Ann Kovach
Sophia Ann LaVerde
Liam Patrick Logan
Nina Marie Loncar
Otto Alan Loschert
Mason Daniel Margheret
Davin James Martinez
Patrick Thomas Mathews
Penelope Nicole McFadden
Nishaan Meet
Jarrett Daniel Morris
Madigan Grace Phillips
Miguel Joseph Podojil-Schlesinger
Ava Rae Puruczky
Maia Grace Raguz
Megan Allison Reed
Caleigh Quinn Reilly
Katherine Elizabeth Reynolds
Nicholas Robert Ritossa
Emily Elizabeth Rupert
Ethan Matthew Sanzo
Fiona Elyse Sanzobrin
William Theron Sayle
Alexis Rose Schaffer
Dakota Madison Schaum
Isabella Grace Schulz
Jason Joel Schwan
Brianna Karina Selvaggio
Naomi Grace Sherman
Madison Ann Skingel
Patrick James Snodgrass
Addison Claire Solnosky
Mikaila Michele Stephenson
Anand Krishnan Sundararajan
Owen Lee Teague
Wayne Francis Thaler

Hailey Paige Valencic
Vincent Vukovic
Aidan Matthew Whited
Lily June Whittaker
Eleanor Ruth Withrow
Sophia Virginia Mary Wojnar
Keely Campbell Young
Jerko Zovko
Avery Christopher Zupancic

Graduates will be attending 22 different colleges

Baldwin Wallace University
Bowling Green State University
Cleveland State University
Cuyahoga Community College
Ithaca College
John Carroll University
Kent State University
Lakeland Community College
Miami University
Ohio University
Siena Heights University
The College of Wooster
The Ohio State University
University of Akron
University of Cincinnati
University of New England
University of Pittsburgh
Utah State University
West Virginia University
Woodbury University
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

STUDENT COUNCIL

Nina Loncar
President
Sophia LaVerde
Vice President
Claire Dumstorff
Secretary
Nora Withrow
Treasurer

CLASS SPEAKERS AT COMMENCEMENT

Nina Loncar
Nora Withrow



KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL'S HONOR CLUB WELCOMES 34 NEW MEMBERS

Kirtland Middle School (KMS) celebrated the induction of 34 sixth- and seventh-grade students into its prestigious Honor Club on May 21.

The ceremony, which marked the 50th anniversary of the club's founding in 1974, recognized students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and a commitment to community service.

To be considered for the KMS Honor Club, students must maintain a minimum 3.6 GPA in their core classes, secure four character recommendations and write a compelling application essay. Once inducted, members are expected to complete at least 16 hours of volunteer work throughout the year, either within the school or in the broader Kirtland community.

"The students inducted this year are wonderful academic role models for their middle school peers," said KMS Honor Club Advisor Susan Summerhill. "The KMS Honor Club will provide these scholars with volunteer



opportunities which will further develop character through commitment and service."

The KMS Honor Club, modeled after the National Junior Honor Society, has a long-standing tradition of fostering academic excellence and civic engagement among its members. This year's inductees join a distinguished

group of students who have gone on to make significant contributions to their schools and communities.

The 34 students honored at the induction ceremony were Luke Abate, Kyla Bauckman, Jaxson Bauckman, Barrett Bernot, Naomi Blankenship, Bo Brauer, Isabella Brkic, Thomas Brown, John Crocker, Owen Dahlhofer, Lillian Fischbeck, Kristiana Fistic, Geoffrey Freeburg, Griffin Gabriel, Lilliana Giavara, Marko Gibbs, Clint Hill, Madelyn Hively, Aria Inghram, Preston Jaros, Delaney Kothera, Daphne Laven, Calvin MacGillis, Taylor McFadden, Mason Paliokas, Lina Raguz, Evan Riebe, Lila Ruggeri, Tomislav Saric, Vincent Scalish, Ava Schimmelpfennig, Ryan Schossler, Benjamin Trem and Evan Zielaskiewicz.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHINE IN OHIO TRIG-STAR MATHEMATICS COMPETITION



Two Kirtland Local Schools' students have brought home honors in the prestigious Trig-Star state contest, which challenges the mathematical prowess of high

school students across Ohio. Sam Gordon secured an impressive second-place finish, earning a well-deserved \$125 award, while Daniel Bak's exceptional performance landed him in third place, taking home \$75.

The Trig-Star competition, sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) and local sponsors, aims to recognize and reward the best mathematics students from school districts nationwide.

This annual event serves as a platform to promote real-world applications of mathematics, specifically in the land surveying profession.

Beyond celebrating academic excellence, the Trig-Star program has a broader mission. It seeks to build awareness about land surveying as a career among high school students, career guidance counselors, and teachers. By showcasing the practical applications of mathematics in this field, the competition inspires students to explore the vast opportunities available in the surveying profession.

Gordon and Bak's outstanding achievements in the Trig-Star contest are a testament to their dedication, hard work, and exceptional mathematical abilities. Their success not only brings pride to our community but also serves as an inspiration for their peers to pursue excellence in STEM fields.

JUNIOR'S EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT BRINGS GAGA BALL FUN TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Kirtland Elementary School students are enjoying the fast-paced inclusive fun of Gaga Ball on their playground thanks to Kirtland High School junior Walter Knoop's recent Eagle Scout project as a member of Scout Troop 286. Gaga Ball is a fast-paced game of dodge-ball contained in a 20' octagon - the trick being you slap the ball rather than throw it, and you are only "out" if the ball hits you below the knee. All players have a chance at winning these quick games encouraging many exciting rounds during a recess period.

Walter's idea for the Gaga Ball pit comes from years of playing this fun game at summer camp. Conceiving and leading a multi-generational community project, Walter organized a team of 21 adults and students to build the octagon on the elementary playground. These volunteers



combined to provide 74 hours of service on March 24. All this was made possible thanks to the financial support of the Kirtland Kiwanis and Barber Williams American Legion Post 609, as well as an in-kind donation of lumber from the Chardon Home Depot.

Walter says that he found the most challenging part of the project was directing people during the building phase, as the project is deceptively difficult to assemble with the heavy wood sections. But as everyone worked together they found their pace and tempo and it was a big success.

With the completion of this fun and exciting project, Walter is grateful to have had so much community support and knows that Kirtland students will enjoy Gaga Ball for years to come. "We are extremely grateful that Walter chose KES for his Eagle Project and created this opportunity for our Hornets," said Principal Katy Nagaj, Kirtland Elementary School.



KIRTLAND LOCAL SCHOOLS RECOGNIZES AP SCHOLARS

At the April 16 Board of Education meeting, Kirtland High School students were recognized as AP Scholars. Congratulations to all these students.

AP Scholars

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

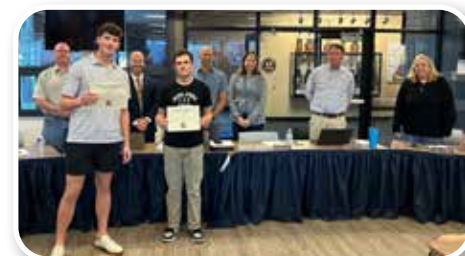
Students include Maksimilyan

Clipov, Knox Crisci, Clare Davidson, Grace Mastrangelo, Sylvia Vosicky, Leah Appell, Daniel Booth, Claire Dumstorff, Sophia LaVerde, Nina Loncar, Penelope McFadden, Nishaan Meet, and Katherine Reynolds.

AP Scholars 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. Students include Daniel

Bak, Nickolas Barisic, William Bradshaw, Stephanie Drazetic, Andrew Duncan, Vincent Eveland, Adriana Freitas, Dakota Schaum, Anand Sundararajan, Lily Whittaker, and Eleanor Withrow.



AP Scholars with Honors

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. Students include Jack Green and Vincent Kastelic.

KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOOK A BREAK FROM SCREENS

In an effort to reduce excessive screen time and promote healthier habits, Kirtland Middle School went completely screen-free for one week from May 6-10. The “Screen Free Week” initiative was organized by the Student Leadership Council.

During this week, teachers modified lessons to avoid use of digital screens like Chromebooks, tablets, and projectors/TVs. Students also were encouraged to take a break from television, video games, and smartphones at home.

“Kids nowadays are always looking at a screen. This week showed them how to have fun and learn without screens,” said Principal Bob Race, Kirtland Middle School. “Our students will be healthier and happier if they spend less time with television, video games and handheld devices. In the future, we hope to make this more of a community event including activities outside of the school day.”

The school hoped the screen-free week raised awareness about the risks of excessive screen time, which can contribute to issues like obesity, sleep problems, attention issues, and social difficulties. Research shows reducing screen time can have significant benefits for children’s health and academic performance.



Students and families were challenged to find alternative screen-free activities as well as sign a Screen Free Pledge Card. Each family decided what “screen-free” meant for them.



The school raised funds during the week for new fitness equipment and STEM supplies through student/family pledges to remain screen-free.



KIRTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT GRACIE KOCH ADVOCATES FOR GIRL SCOUT OVERNIGHT CAMPS AT OHIO STATE CAPITOL

Kirtland Middle School student Gracie Koch recently had the incredible opportunity to advocate for Girl Scout overnight camps at the Ohio State Capitol in Columbus. As part of the new Media Girls program, Koch submitted a compelling video highlighting the importance of these camps in building confidence in young girls. Her video impressed the Girl Scout CEO, who invited Koch to meet with state senators like Vernon Sykes and Jerry Cirino on April 9.

At the State House, Koch explained why funding for overnight camps is so vital, drawing from her own

camping experiences that taught her skills like archery, boating, and increased self-assurance. Her powerful advocacy left a lasting impact on the senators. Koch appreciated the opportunity to meet state leaders and tour the capitol building’s rotunda.

She now eagerly awaits responses, hopeful her pleas will secure funding for more Ohio Girl Scouts to attend the invaluable overnight summer camps.

SPRING SPORTS SHORTS

Kirtland’s spring sports season ended with the girls’ 4x800-meter relay team running the second-fastest time in school history at the 2024 OHSAA Division II State Track & Field Championships on Friday, May 31. The Hornets were inspired by a pre-race dinner with former Kirtland standout Jenna Sayle, who competed collegiately at Miami University.

“These girls have been so focused all season long and really hit their stride starting with conference championships,” said Kirtland coach J.P. Moran. “They are such gamers and always rose to the occasion to reach their goal of competing at the state meet. It was an amazing season and experience for all. This experience will be so beneficial moving forward as all return in cross country and track next school year.”

Izzie Copeland, Megan Urbanick, Ainsley Borthwick, and Sylvia Vosicky teamed up to finish that race in 9:47.83, good for 14th place overall.

“The experience was priceless,” Moran said. “They said they couldn’t even feel their legs, and it was like a dream coming down to the start.”

The Hornets kicked off their postseason run with 10 titles at the Chagrin Valley Conference including seven individual and three relay championships. Both Will Sayle and Borthwick claimed two individual titles and Copeland, Lauren Palagyi, and Chloe Hansen won one.

Sayle won the long jump and 400-meter dash with a jump of 19 feet, 9 inches and a time of 52.72 in his sprint.

Borthwick won both the 1600 and 3200 in 5:25.02 and 11:44.15, respectively. Hansen won the discus with a best toss of 101-4, and Copeland claimed the title in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:26.18. Palagyi won her first CVC title in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 17.36.

Palagyi teamed up with Olivia Dolovacky, Lexi Vosicky, and Macie Susevich to win the 4x200 in 1:55. Lexi Vosicky, Sylvia Vosicky, Copeland, and Urbanick won the 4x400 in 4:17.88. The 4x800 team also claimed a conference title.

Borthwick (1600), Sylvia Vosicky (400), Copeland (800), Hansen (discus), Sayle (400), Joey Ciavarelli (3200), Will Beers (long jump), and Charlie Vignero (discus) all advanced to compete in the regional competition this spring.

Kirtland’s baseball team earned a share of the CVC Valley Division title after finishing the year with a 18-8 record overall and a 10-2 mark in conference play.



Gino Blasini, Trip Thaler, and Tyler Turk earned first-team All-CVC honors while Max Paul, Xavier Lasecki, Will Bates, and Carter Luzar were named to the second team. Macguire Boyd and Luci Cantini were honorable mention selections.

Thaler and Turk also earned second-team All-Ohio honors and Blasini was an honorable mention All-Ohioan.

Kirtland’s softball team struggled to a 1-17 record this spring in head coach Jerry Jeffrey’s first season guiding the Hornets.



Senior Gianna DiFranco had a big year for the Hornets, and she was recognized as a first-team All-CVC performer. Addison Fleming earned second-team All-CVC honors and Kennedy Body and Maggie Kothera were honorable mention selections.



Kirtland’s boys’ tennis team finished second at the CVC Lake Division tournament.

Nik Barisic and Daniel Bak teamed up to earn second-team All-CVC honors at first doubles, Nora Withrow and Stephanie Drazetic earned second-team honors at second doubles, and Sam Gordon was a second-team honoree in third singles.





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UPCOMING EVENTS



- July 8-12 Camp Invention K-5
- July 15 Board of Education Meeting, The Forum
- August 12 Board of Education Meeting, The Forum
- August 15 First Day of School
- August 30 Teacher Workday - No School for Students
- September 2 Labor Day - No School for Students
- September 16 Board of Education Meeting, The Forum

*****ECRWSEDDM*****
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Assistant Principal: Matt Paul
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