Eagle Insider

We will provide a nurturing learning environment and educate ALL students to be lifelong learners.

November 2026

Administration
200 N Clover St
Kent City, MI 49330
(616) 678-7714

Elementary School
29 College St
Kent City, MI 49330
(616) 678-4181

Middle School
285 N Main St
Kent City, MI 49330
(616) 678-4214

High School
351 N Main St
Kent City, MI 49330
(616) 678-7714



School Psychologist of the year finalist

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news from the Michigan Association of School Psychologists!

Our very own Steve Johnson has been recognized as a top statewide nominee and finalist for School Psychologist of the Year! With 26 years of dedicated service, Steve goes far beyond traditional student evaluations. He serves as a safety trainer, university mentor, and regional advocate who continuously improves support systems for our students.



Join us in congratulating Mr. Johnson on this well-deserved statewide honor!

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Superintendent Update

Back when I was a building principal, I used to love starting conversations with our students and staff by asking one simple question: "What type of day is it?"

Without hesitation, the response came back loud and clear: "It's a Great Day to be an Eagle!"

I always shared that the real magic behind that response is not just school pride. It's the reminder that greatness is not something that just happens to us. We choose every single day to make it great through our choices, our attitudes, and our effort.

As I look at how smoothly this school year is progressing, I've realized it's time for me to start asking that question much more often. In a world full of distractions, we all benefit from that quick daily reminder that we hold the power to set the tone for our day.



Fortunately, our district already has a fantastic roadmap that guides those daily choices. Our school community has grounded itself in our district-wide GREAT expectations.

In our classrooms, on our athletic fields, and throughout our hallways, our students and staff continue to live out these core values every single day. Whether it's supporting a classmate, staying focused in the classroom, or creating a welcoming space for everyone, the positive momentum across Kent City Community Schools is contagious.

Because of our hard-working students, dedicated staff, and supportive Eagle families, the start of this school year is going exceptionally well. In fact, it is truly going GREAT.

Thank you for partnering with us and choosing every day to make Kent City a wonderful place to learn and grow.

As always... It's a Great Day to be an Eagle!

Bill Crane, Superintendent

Attendance Update

As we settle into the new school year, we want to take a moment to highlight our ongoing commitment to student attendance across Kent City Community Schools. Building strong routines now is essential. Being in class every day directly impacts student growth, connection to our school community, and overall academic success.

Below is a summary of our current attendance trends, broken down by district and individual school building. A student is classified as chronically absent when missing 10% or more of enrolled school days. As of this data collection, students have been in session for 25 school days.

Chronically Absent Students	Total Number of Students	Percentage of Chronically Absent Students	
124	1197	10.36%	District Percentage
41	556	7.37%	Elementary
33	287	11.50%	Middle School
50	354	14.12%	High School

Through our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), our teams are actively monitoring attendance data from these first months to catch early warning signs and step in with personalized support, whether that's through regular student check-ins, direct family outreach, or helping clear hurdles that make getting to school tough. While we are excited to see so many students starting the year strong, we remain fully dedicated to supporting any family facing attendance challenges.

Strong attendance is a true partnership between our schools and your homes. If your student is struggling to attend regularly, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's school team so we can partner on a plan to help right from the start.

Thank you for your continued partnership in making every single school day count for our Kent City students!

Celebrating 10 Years of Walking, Learning, and Growing Together!

The KCE Walkathon is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, and we couldn't have asked for a better day to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this beloved tradition! On September 24, students enjoyed a morning filled with walking, games, dancing, music, movement, and most of all, FUN!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community sponsors and donations from students, staff, family, and friends, we raised over $41,000 this year! A portion of the proceeds will be used to enhance our elementary physical education program, improve playground spaces, and purchase new, high-quality nonfiction books for our school library. Additional funds will support academic and social experiences for students and provide resources for our classrooms.

In addition, we would like to congratulate Mrs. McKay's 4th grade class for raising the highest class total of $3,336 and to our top earners Beau Dine (1st place), Hailyn Larson (2nd place), Haven Sabin (3rd place) & Ella Gonzalez (4th place), who will receive a gift card & a special lunch with the principals, Mrs. Gee and Officer Wells.

We are so grateful for the generosity and support of our KCE community and look forward to celebrating this wonderful tradition for many years to come!

Visit our walk-a-thon website https://sites.google.com/kentcityschools.org/kent-city-walk-a-thon/home for a funds update, sponsor list, photos, & more!

KCE & GVSU Team Up for Speech & Language Screenings

At KCE, we know that strong communication skills are an important part of student success and this fall, our speech team got a little extra help!

On September 8th, 12 first-year graduate students from Grand Valley State University's SLP program joined our KCE speech pathologists to conduct articulation and language screenings for students in Developmental Kindergarten through 3rd grade. These screenings help our speech pathologists identify students who may benefit from additional support with speech sounds, language skills, or communication development. For the GVSU students, the day provided valuable hands-on experience and clinical hours as they begin their graduate training.

It was a win-win partnership, our students received additional support, and future SLP's gained valuable experience working with young learners. We're grateful to GVSU for partnering with KCE and look forward to continuing this collaboration!

Math Facts: More Than Just Memorizing!

At KCE, we are putting a fun new spin on the way students practice and think about basic math facts. Instead of racing against a timer or simply memorizing flashcards, students are exploring patterns, using strategies, playing games, and explaining their thinking to become stronger, more confident mathematicians!

In our classrooms, you might see students rolling dice, playing card or domino games, studying visual patterns, or using strategies like doubles and making tens to solve problems. These strategies help students build a deeper understanding of numbers while developing accuracy and confidence.

Why does this matter? Strong math fact fluency gives students a foundation for more complex math, from fractions and multi-digit multiplication to algebra and problem-solving. When basic facts become easier to recall, students have more brainpower available for tackling challenging problems.

Most importantly, students are learning that math is something they can figure out! Through games, conversation, patterns, and practice, we're building confident, creative math thinkers—one fact at a time.

KCE Recognized by the State of Michigan



We're proud to share that Kent City Elementary has been recognized by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) for our work connecting the Literacy Essentials to our Reading Program. The Literacy Essentials are research-supported teaching practices designed to strengthen children's reading and writing skills.

As a participant in "Spotlighting Effective Strategies in Language Essentials," KCE was recognized for our innovation, collaboration, and commitment to continuous improvement. We received a framed certificate and a handwritten thank-you note from MDE Education Consultant Dave Carlson.



We are proud of the incredible literacy work happening every day at KCE and grateful for our teachers' continued dedication to helping our students grow as readers and writers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

End of year Field Trips

6th, 7th, and 8th graders will have the opportunity to attend our end of the year field trips. 6th graders will be attending Camp, 7th graders will travel to Chicago for the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Museum of Science and Industry, and 8th graders will visit Mackinac Island. In an effort to reduce the burden on Kent City Families, the cost for all three trips will be reduced by half. 6th graders will pay $25 and the 7th and 8th trips will cost $50 for all students. Parent costs will be full price. Trip information will be sent home via email at a later date.

Scripps National Spelling Bee

6th–8th graders will have the exciting opportunity to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee for the fourth year at KCMS! English teachers will begin by hosting classroom-level competitions to identify the top spellers in each grade. These students will then advance to our school-wide spelling bee in January, where they will showcase their skills and determination. From there, the top two spellers will earn the honor of representing our school at the Regional Spelling Bee, competing against students from across the area. This longstanding tradition is much more than a competition—it encourages students to expand their vocabulary, develop confidence and poise, and cultivate a lifelong appreciation for language and learning. We are thrilled to continue providing this enriching experience, which celebrates curiosity, academic growth, and the joy of achievement.

Middle School Student Council

Students at KCMS are able to represent their peers through the executive board student council as well as WIN Seminar representatives. 7th and 8th graders had the option to campaign for a spot on the middle school executive board as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Class Officers. Students completed an application to run for a role of their choice, created campaign posters, and then delivered a campaign speech in front of the entire middle school body. Students then participated in a paper ballot voting process to elect each position. All grade levels will also have the ability to campaign for the position of WIN Seminar Representative, which will occur within each separate WIN Seminar class. The elected individuals will run our student council, plan and run activity nights, and inform building activities like 0.5 Club.

HIGH SCHOOL

Exploring Careers at General Formulations

For Kent City High School students, learning about future careers sometimes means getting out of the classroom and seeing the workplace firsthand.

Recently, 18 KCHS students visited General Formulations in Sparta for a job shadow experience designed to introduce them to the many different careers that exist within a successful local company.

Students had an opportunity to explore much more than the manufacturing floor. During the visit, they learned about careers in manufacturing and engineering, human resources, scheduling, sales, customer service, purchasing, and other areas of the organization. Students were able to see how employees with very different skills and responsibilities work together to keep a company operating successfully.

Experiences like this are especially valuable because they help students connect their interests and abilities with careers they may not have previously considered. A student interested in engineering may discover the manufacturing process behind a product. Another may see a future in business, sales, logistics, human resources, or customer service.

Career exploration is an important part of preparing students for life after high school. While some students already have a clear idea of what they want to pursue, many are still discovering the possibilities available to them. Getting inside a real workplace, meeting professionals, and seeing different careers in action can help students make more informed decisions about college, career training, and employment.



We are grateful to General Formulations for opening its doors to our students and investing time in their future. Partnerships with local businesses provide experiences that simply cannot be replicated in a classroom, and help our students see just how many opportunities exist right here in West Michigan.

Health Career Foundations Brings KCTC Opportunities to Kent City High School

A new partnership is bringing career and technical education even closer to home for Kent City students.

This school year, Kent City High School is proud to host the Health Career Foundations (HCF) program right here on the KCHS campus through a partnership with the Kent Career Tech Center (KCTC). The program gives students an opportunity to explore careers throughout the healthcare field while participating in the hands-on, career-connected learning traditionally associated with a KCTC program, all without leaving Kent City High School.

Health Career Foundations introduces students to a wide range of possibilities within healthcare, including nursing, allied health, emergency services, and other medical careers. Through hands-on activities and industry-connected curriculum, students begin developing the knowledge and skills that can help them make informed decisions about education and careers after high school.

What makes the program especially exciting for Kent City is where that learning is happening.

Through this new partnership, KCTC brings the instructor, equipment, lab resources, and program directly to Kent City High School. Students receive the benefits of a KCTC career and technical education experience while remaining on the KCHS campus as part of their regular school day.

The program is also an example of what can happen when students help demonstrate a need. During the planning process last year, 25 Kent City students attended an initial interest meeting for Health Career Foundations. That strong student interest helped make it possible to bring the program to Kent City for the 2026–2027 school year.

For a smaller school district, creating access to specialized programs can sometimes be challenging. Partnerships like this allow Kent City Community Schools to expand opportunities while maintaining the advantages of attending their hometown school.

Not every student who participates in Health Career Foundations will ultimately choose a healthcare career, and that is part of the value of the program. High school should give students opportunities to explore their interests, discover new possibilities, and make better-informed decisions about what comes next.

The launch of Health Career Foundations reflects a larger goal at Kent City High School: to continue expanding meaningful pathways for students beyond the traditional classroom experience. Whether students plan to attend college, pursue career and technical training, enter the workforce, or take another path after graduation, we want them to leave Kent City with experiences that help them understand both their opportunities and themselves.

We are grateful for our partnership with the Kent Career Tech Center and excited to see where this opportunity takes our students.

Most importantly, we are proud that Kent City students can now explore a future in healthcare without having to go very far at all, the opportunity is happening right here at home.



Kent City Community Schools
200 N Clover St
Kent City, MI 49330

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School Calendar

November 25-27	**No School** – Thanksgiving Break
November 30	School Resumes
December 18	**Early Release for Students
Dec 21 - Jan 1	**No School** – Winter Break
January 4	School Resumes
January 22	**Early Release for Students
February 12 & 15	**No School** - Mid-Winter Break
February 16	School Resumes
February 26	**Early Release for Students
March 26	**Early Release for Students

Early Release Times -Lunch is served on ER Days
6-12 students release at 11:50 am
Elementary students release at 12:00 pm

