



Kalkaska Alumni Association Newsletter

Mission:

Blazers Showing:

- P**= Passion
- R**= Respect
- I**= Integrity
- D**= Dedication
- E**= Engagement.



What are We? We are an organization attempting to showcase all of the positive and amazing people and attributes of Kalkaska's past and present.

Vision: The KPS Alumni Association will:

- Establish Lifelong Connections with alumni
- Promote interaction with and among alumni
- Highlight the achievements of its alumni
- Provide alumni with rewarding opportunities to serve KHS, its faculty, students, and community

What's Good and New at Kalkaska Public Schools?

State of the Art Auditorium - On February 23rd, 2010 the Citizens of Kalkaska approved a School Improvement bond that updated our schools and allowed for our community to have the best of the best. Part of this proposal included the construction of a State of the Art Auditorium that is used for our World Class Band, Plays, Meetings, Presentations and much more!



One to One/ Technology - Kalkaska has been able to integrate technology into our curriculum and daily lives to keep up with an ever changing World, while keeping the relationship and face to face connections of our staff that has long made Kalkaska proud. With needing to go virtual, KPS has been able to go 1-1 with Google Chromebooks for students 6-12 and for virtual students K-5. This has permitted our students to not miss a beat of the state of the art education KPS staff provides.

Teen Clothes Pantry - The Kalkaska Teen Clothes Pantry provides clothes, items, and dignity to our students. If a student doesn't have something, it is provided discreetly and with no questions asked. Karen's Corner as it is known at the High School is named after KPS Alum Karen Hodgman ('64) for her work in building up this great resource. Recently the community got behind an initiative to help support this cause, and raised nearly \$10,000 for our students through a Golf Tournament at Grandview Golf Course (Owned by Robert ('84) and Jamie Dunn)

Community Projects/ Community Day - Giving back to the community is a way KPS instills service and community pride. This is accomplished in many ways, including Community Projects and Community Day. Community Projects is a year long assignment for all 8th grade students in which they choose and plan how to improve and help the local community. One of many examples of a Community Project was Box of Love where Bethany Casteneda ('21) and Cheyne Weir ('21) collect items and care packages to send to American Servicemen and women serving in the Middle East. Community Day is held every Spring and is where each advisory class goes somewhere in the community and does work, from raking leaves, weeding and sprucing up common areas used by all, or cleaning up Chalker Park.



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Blazer Alum Spotlight

David Barr - Class of 2001

Education - Loyola Chicago (BS), Yale University (MS), American University (Ph. D)

Career - Professor University of Chicago Divinity School

Best Thing About KHS - The connections with the teachers that have continued beyond High School.

What advice do you have to our current KPS students? Use everything as a learning opportunity.



Maria Kasza - Class of 2004

Education - Michigan Tech University '09. Michigan Tech University MBA '12

Career - Asst. Basketball Coach at Bowling Green State University

Best Thing About KHS - The dedication and support that I still receive today.

What advice do you have to our current KPS students? Take advantage of everything that KPS has to offer inside and outside the classroom.



Ron Winter - Class of 1965

Education - Michigan State University

Career - NFL Official 1995-2013, Professor at Western Michigan University

Best Thing About KHS - The opportunity to learn and grow as an individual.

What advice do you have to our current KPS students? Value all of the information that the teachers and staff have to offer, you'll never have that much great advice again in your life.



Amy (DeOtte) Taranko - Class of 1988

Education - University of Michigan

Career - Principal: Spitler Elementary School, National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Best Thing About KHS - The rigorous academics that taught me hard work.

What advice do you have to our current KPS students? Soak it in, make connections, do good.



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