



Kalkaska Blazer Bulletin

May 2022 | No. 5
#GoBlazers



CONGRATS CLASS OF '22

Kalkaska Public Schools
315 S. Coral St.
Kalkaska, Michigan 49646

KHS names four Valedictorians

K

alkaska High School has announced four Valedictorians for the Class of 2022. All of them will address their classmates at the Commencement Ceremony on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 7 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Hayden Moore is the son of Erin and Ryan Moore. He has been a member of National Honor Society

(NHS), the Chess club, and peer to peer. Hayden has volunteered for the Epilepsy Foundation Fundraiser (50 hours), blood drive (12 hours), concession stands (8 hours), and youth basketball program (eight hours). During high school, he participated in track and field, basketball, cross country (captain), and indoor track and field. In the fall he will attend Michigan Technological University and plans to major in Mechanical Engineering.

Violet Porter is the daughter of Steve and Jennifer Porter.

Violet was a four-year class council president as well as a member of the NHS (president junior/senior year). She served as a blood drive donor and volunteer (30 hours), at the Iceman Cometh (8 hours), picking up trash (two hours), gardening (three hours), clean out KHS (3 hours), and as a youth camp coach (20 hours). She played many sports in high school, including three years of varsity volleyball (team captain senior year), one year of JV volleyball, three years of varsity basketball (team captain senior year), one year of JV basketball, three years

of varsity softball (team captain senior year), and one year of JV softball. She plans to attend Olivet College and major in Nursing.

Abby Reinard is the daughter of Jeremy and Andrea Reinard. She was the NHS vice president for two years, class council vice president for two years, student council vice president, KHS school improvement committee, and served on peer to peer. She volunteered at the Iceman Cometh for six hours, handled canned food drives, blood drives for several hours, ran concessions for nearly 20 hours, and served as the JV volleyball manager for her last two years of high school. Abby participated in JV volleyball her first two years of high school. She plans to attend Western Michigan University and major in Biochemistry.

Madelyn VanAlstine is the daughter of Stephanie Gustafson and Brian VanAlstine. She has served in various roles during high school—NHS secretary (12th), class council (secretary for 9th and 10th), student council secretary (11th), student council president (12th), Kalkaska Public Schools School Board Student Representative, and on the KHS School Improvement Committee. In addition she has enjoyed helping at KidZone Camps at New Hope Community Church (Adventure Camp, Volleyball Camp, Soccer Camp, Tennis Camp, etc.), helping in the kitchen at Starwood Ranch, and helping with blood

drives. Madelyn participated in freshman volleyball and JV volleyball. She received the Central Michigan University Centralis Gold Scholarship which includes full tuition and \$5,000 to Study Abroad and plans to focus on Applied Business Communications with a minor in Multimedia Design.



Moore



Reinard



Porter



Congratulations to the
Class of 2022!



VanAlstine

Inside this edition

BULLETIN

Kalkaska Public Schools
315 S. Coral St.
Kalkaska, Michigan 49646

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**BOX HOLDER
KALKASKA MI 49646**



◀ Mr. Russell wanted to share some good news about the recent “Solo and Ensemble” event that took place the weekend of April 9 at Boyne City HS. Solo and Ensemble is an optional opportunity for young musicians to take a prepared piece and perform in front of a judge for a rating from a 1 (best) to a 5 (worst), Please help in congratulating the six students who participated and received ratings. Cash: Division 1 Rating on his solo; Cash and Morgan: Division 2 Rating on their duet; Cash, Morgan, and Courtney: Division 3 Rating on their trio; Erika: Division 2 Rating on her solo; Tyler and Brianna: Division 3 Rating on their duet; Olivia: Division 1 Rating on her solo. As we all know, it is a HUGE deal for these students to take an extracurricular opportunity like this at all.

BLAZER LIBRARIES

A very special thank you this month to our Cherry Street students and faculty, who raised \$470.88 this year for new library books with their penny drive!

While we're happy to see strong usage across all KPS libraries, we're especially pleased to note that our middle and high schoolers are taking out more books — about three times as many compared to the 2020/2021 school year.

Circulation in all buildings for the school year is **14,542** to date. And tons of new books are finding their way onto KPS shelves every month thanks to our many community supporters.

Parents and caregivers, keep an eye out — we'll start distributing information on the library's Summer Reading activities later in May!

Books For Kalkaska County Children Under Age Five

At No Cost To Parents

- Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is now available for children from birth to their fifth birthday who reside within the borders of Kalkaska County.
- Their parent or guardian can register them online at www.imaginationlibrary.com.
- Each child will receive a book in the mail every month until their fifth birthday.
- All costs are covered by generous donors to the local affiliate, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library GTR (Grand Traverse Region).
- Sign up online now so your little one can begin receiving their books!

BLAZING A TRAIL TO EXCELLENCE

Board of Education		
Rachael Birgy	—	President
Regan Foerster	—	Vice President
Wendy Watson	—	Secretary
Mary Scobey	—	Treasurer
Richard Hodgman	—	Trustee
John Rogers	—	Trustee
Sarah Dudek	—	Trustee

Central Business Office — 258—9109	
Rick Heitmeyer, Superintendent	1120
Cari Jo Roberts, Executive Assistant	1101
Jeffrey Scroggins, Director of Finance	1104
David Tucker, Human Resources Director	1116

Senior High — 258—9167	
Staci Short, Principal	2103
Aaron Ostrander, Assistant Principal	2170
Mary Deb Rabourn, Secretary	2173
Rhonda Wurtz, Secretary	2102

Blazer Bulletin

Published by KPS

Superintendent: Rick Heitmeyer

The Blazer Bulletin is published during the school year from September—June. If you have any suggestions, or questions, please contact the office at (231) 258—9109 between the hours of 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

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Middle — 258—4040	
Ryan Moore, Principal	3205
Linda Colvin, Secretary	3203
Sara Waterman, Secretary	3201

Birch Street Elementary —258—8629	
Arica Zenner, Principal	4204
Tracy Dimon, Secretary	4200
Melissa Patnode, Secretary	4202

Cherry Street Intermediate — 258—9146	
Matthew Rogers, Principal	5106
Sue Woodruff, Secretary	5107

Rapid City Elementary — 331—6121	
Laura Gehman, Principal	6103
Robyn Czuk, Secretary	6101

Wishin' We Were Fishin' at the Creek

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Woodland Creek's steak menagerie of bears, deer, cranes and other forest critters. Do you recognize our special guest holding the large trout?

The float is surrounded by fish that were painted by the talented Kalkaska Public School fifth grade art students. A big thank you to Ms. Katie Zemsta and her students.

Watching over the entire scene is a one of our majestic eagles, an emblem of freedom, courage and bravery, bearing our national flag.

GoGo Squeez has generously donated the GoGo pouches being passed out by Woodland Creek's employees and families. Also walking along with the float are Woodland Sweets mascots Redwood the raccoon and Juniper the moose.



Woodland Creek Presents Fish, Donation

Woodland Creek provided a wood fish for every 5th grade student at Cherry Street Intermediate and Rapid City Elementary to paint and help decorate their float for this year's "Wishin' I was Fishin'" themed Trout Festival parade. Students were given their choice to paint their fish in their own creative way! Students will be given their fish back to take home. Woodland Creek also presented Katie Zemsta, K-5 Art Teacher, with a \$250.00 donation towards art supplies.



▲ Aerial photos from Mr. Karazia's STEAM class!

Kalkaska Blazers

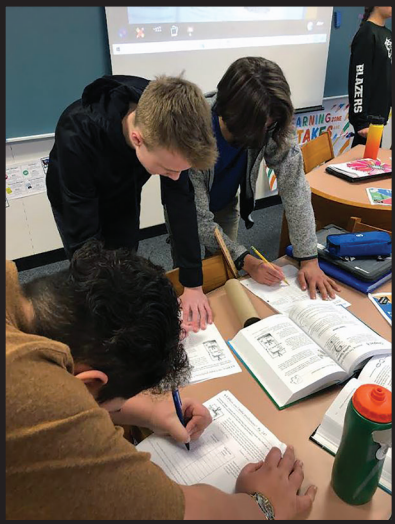
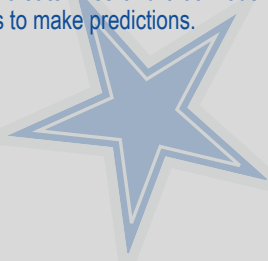


Thank you for supporting the operating millage renewal on Tuesday, May 3! All of us at KPS are extremely appreciative of the community's continued support of the school. The operating millage is now secure for nine more years. This community is AWESOME!

#GoBlazers



Students in Mrs. Crawford's math classes collected data to describe a dependent relationship, called the association, between the two numerical variables. Students used scatter plots of the collected data to create lines and that modeled the data and then use those models to make predictions.



March, April student awards announced

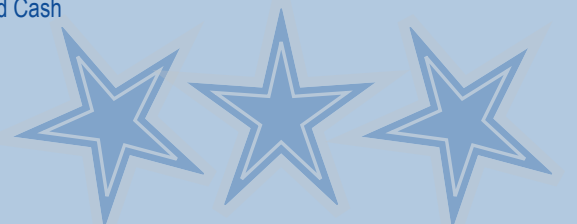


▲ (Above left) Congratulations to our KMS April Pride Students of Month! Back Row L-R 8th Grade: Alex, Jackson, Cade, Danielle, and Mackenzie. Middle Row L-R 7th Grade: Dixon, Isabelle, Caleb, Aliexandra, and Naomi (not pictured). Front Row L-R 6th Grade: Aryanna, Jace, Owen, Angel, and Elizabeth. (Above right) Congratulations to our April Musicians of the Month! L-R: Collin, Riley, Kohen, and Brianna.

◀ (Far Left) Congratulations to our KMS March Pride Students of the Month! Back Row L-R 8th Grade: Theodore, Morgan, Myah, Savannah, and Abbey (not pictured). Middle Row L-R 7th Grade: Alexzander, Atreyu, Sara, Mya, and Carter. Front Row L-R 6th Grade: Isabella, Kenneth, Atom, Violet, and Collin (Left) Congratulations to our March Musicians of the Month! L-R Ava, Kevin, Cade, and Helena (not pictured).



▲ (Above) Congratulations to our Q3 4.0 students! We celebrated their academic success with an ice cream party during lunch on Wednesday, April 20th. Keep up the excellent work Blazers!!! 6th Grade: Kaden, Kaylee, Joselynn, Zachary, Marissa, Owen M., Owen S., Afton, Easton, and Andrea. 7th Grade: Courtney, Raelynn, Grace, Dixon, Emma, Caleb, Lane, Lily, Kiera, and Alivia. 8th Grade: Kali, Coltrane, Zachary, and Cash





▲ The Washington, D.C. trip originally scheduled for April 2020, was a huge success! As tenth graders, this great group of kids were finally able to make it! With a great group, drivers, guide, and chaperones, a special shout out to Mr. Brown for being persistent with the tour company to make this happen! The kids did great when asked to alter plans at the last minute and it was on par with past trips despite the events of the last couple of years. The students' events included the White House Garden Tour (they were able to see the President). Also, the group was in D.C. for the confirmation of a new Supreme Court Justice. Thanks to the parents for sending your kids and for your patience with the postponements.



▲ A huge thank you to Kalkaska's very own Fire Fighter, Mark Holston for sharing all about his career for Exploratory, April 27! The kids had a blast trying on the gear, learning about all the tools of the job and touring the truck!



Equity Club strives to create safe spaces

The Equity Club is a group that began this year at the high school by Science Teacher Dougg Wright. Its goal is to provide a safe place for all members of the school no matter who you are or where you come from. Wright came up with the idea of the club to enhance school climate and ensure all students are accepted.

"I enjoy having the opportunity to provide a safe place for students to be themselves and be able to discuss with each other problems that may have or have seen within our school community, and working with them to find ideas to solve them and spread the message of inclusion and acceptance throughout the school and community," said Mr. Wright.

One of the Equity Club projects was make mittens to donate for people in need in our community. They worked on the project at the end of February, beginning of March, and it took about a week. They used wool from sweaters donated to them by members of the community. After collecting many materials they began to cut out the fabric and then sew the mittens.

Many members of the group participated in this event. Jen Wright, Mr. Wright's wife, also helped a lot during this process as she brought many materials and showed the group how to sew the mittens. She also used her personal time to finish up the remaining mittens that were not done.

The group feels that this is just the start of things they will do to help others and Mr Wright and Club President Ava Bole believe the group "...will only grow from here."





Angel Allen



Damian Allen



Kimberly Allen



Emma Angerbrandt



Jeffrey Barbiero



Blaine Barkovich



Seth Bassett



William Berkshire



Stacy Berndt



Jacob Birgy



Robert Bishop, Jr.



Taylor Bissell



Aaron Booth



Morgan Bourne



Mia Brautigam



Skyleigh Breiholz



Trenton Brooks-Cross



Conner Cameron



Hunter Chanchavac



Nicholas Coan



Audrey Comai



Robert Comai



Lane Cool



Alyssa Copland



Ludovica Costantini



Naomi Currie



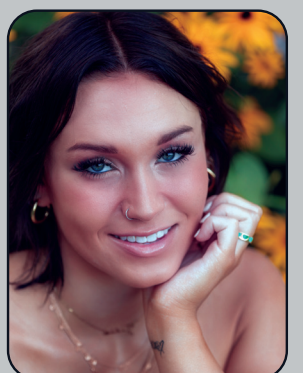
Robert Daniels



Kaden Davis



Laura De LaRosa



Julia Demusky



Owen Dennis



Ian Dishman



Amelia Downey



Kristen Dykgraaf



Alexis Eastman



Ashley Erickson



Hailey Fitzpatrick



Jaidynn George



Gavin Gilbert



Avalon Gray



Karra Groesser



Tyler Guggemos



Justin Harlan



Caleb Hart



Evin Hart



Lillian Hatch



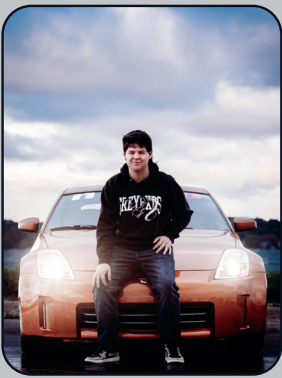
Emma Heerink



Caleb Hicks



Jaden Hiller



Blake Hobson



Kelsey Horton



Aubrey Howe



Kaitlin Hurd



Marianna Intorre



Zander Jackson



Meghan Jones



Lauren Judd



Katrina King



Lily Klein



Chase Kores



Jason Koski



Spencer Lance



Caleb Lesinski



Coy Little



Madelyn Luke



Mia Miller



Nathan Mitchell



Hayden Moore



Joslynn Neubecker



Vivien Ngirarsaol



Peter Noble



Kaden Novath



Mackenzie Nyson



David Olds



Jacob Olds



Devin Ordway



Alessandra Palacios



Nicholas Patnode



John Popa



Violet Porter



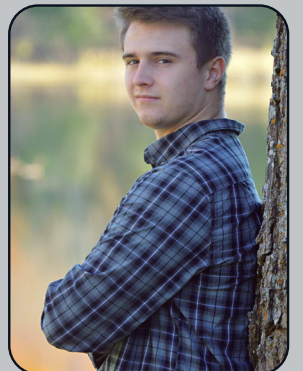
Emma Price



Abigail Reinard



Baylee Reust



Hunter Rhoat



Alexis Rosenberg



Iris Rulander



Bryan Sam



Damian Scarborough



Lillian Scarborough



Jacob Schaub



Sidney Shetler



Gage Siddall



Lorelei Simkins



Deziray Smith



Rachel Smith



Daniel Spence



Taryn Spencer



Emma Stachnik



Jack Stewart



Desirae Stinley



Elexis Stoll



Gabriella Swikoski



Anthony Thornburg



Madelyn VanAlstine



Benjamin Wednieski



Maggie Zattlin

Class Facts

- Class Song: "22" by Taylor Swift
- Motto: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." — Dr. Seuss
- Class Color: **Blazer Blue**
- Class Flower: Snapdragon



Seniors at Prom!



Seniors on the Homecoming Court.



Seniors at various events.



Class of 2022 court members.

Seeds provides after school programs

SEEDS EcoSchool is a very popular after school program at Rapid City Elementary School. Every week 40–50 kids attend the Monday through Thursday program that runs from 2:50–5:30 p.m. The teaching staff at SEEDS prioritize hands-on and outdoor activities that develop leadership, life skills, and resilience. The students get dinner, healthy role models and mentors and really fun hands-on activities.

In May, SEEDS plans to spend more time outdoors as our forest and river comes alive. They have spent a lot of time learning about rocks this year, and on tumbling rocks to create polished beauties. To end this year they plan on getting into the river and getting some Rapid River rocks to tumble. While indoors this month, there will be some seed planting and their Place Based Roleplaying game. The final day for SEEDS this school year is May 19, which will be a family party night. SEEDS will start its Summer Program on June 13.

■ By Mr. Brett Bontrager, SEEDS Site Coordinator



**YOU can make
Kalkaska Public
Schools YOUR
school of choice.**



TEEN HEALTH CORNER

COME SEE US!

Your physical and mental health matter to us!

**CALLING ALL
SENIORS...**

Give us a call...

- You may need to finish MCV4 (Meningococcal A C WY). Completed series is 2 doses by age 18.
- We would love to talk about Meningococcal B as it is also recommended between the ages of 16-18.
- We can make sure you are complete on any other series of immunizations that you may need before age 18.



Let's work together to find the best way to serve you/your child. We accept all types of insurance, use a sliding scale for the uninsured and can provide Medicaid application assistance.

**Teen Health Corner has
3 convenient locations**

KMHC Campus 419 South Coral St. Kalkaska, MI 49646 231-258-7791 Monday-Friday	FAHS/MS Campus 7741 Shippy Rd. Fife Lake, MI 49633 231-369-2000 Mon, Wed, Thurs	Kalkaska Middle School, only Behavioral Health Services 1700 Kalkaska St. Kalkaska, MI 49646 231-258-7922 Tuesday-Friday
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Get outside and play — every day!

Children who play outside engage more of their senses by exploring the outdoors and are more likely to develop observational and reasoning skills. Being outdoors also lets them explore the world from a different perspective. You might wonder why outside play is necessary. Here are a few reasons why outside play is beneficial for your children:

- ★ Playground activities, like swinging, have many physical benefits for kids.
- ★ When you're pushing your child in a swing, all their muscles become engaged as they figure out how to hold on, sit up and follow the swing's movement. It helps young children develop muscle strength.
- ★ Outdoor toys like scooters and bikes require your child to engage and strengthen various muscle systems.
- ★ Outdoor play often requires imagination and teamwork, which helps children have positive interactions with each other. In general, kids who consistently play outdoors are more likely to get along with their peers and find common ground.
- ★ When kids are running around outside, they are inventing games, exploring the world around them and experiencing feelings of independence. They cultivate their organizational abilities and decision-making skills as they work individually and with their peers to create games, solve problems and implement their ideas and solutions. As kids play, they also learn more about the importance of creating and following rules.
- ★ Kids who play outside are more likely to move in ways that challenge their muscles, bones and physical endurance. When children are outside, they have the space to run, walk, jump, swing and throw. They can play catch, crawl under bushes, climb trees and ride bikes.

Thank you

For all of our community helpers who came in and presented to our students.

- ★ Deputy Ray – Sheriff's Department
- ★ Deputy Jeff – Sheriff's Department
- ★ Mason Moses – Fire Station #7
- ★ Mr. Bak – Weather Station



CSI starts publishing club, creates art, and develops all school photo



School Picture

We had an opportunity to take a picture of all of our 21/22 students. We have had an amazing year and we are hoping to finish it strong! Thank you to Miranda Lucyk for designing and printing our CSI t-shirts this year.

Publishing Club

Cherry Street has a new club! Mrs. Stewart and Ms. Molenkamp are hosting students in a publishing club. Students are working on personal projects like cartoons, stories, books, and other works. We will be highlighting some of these in the next few weeks, but here is a sample of what is in the works!

Turtles in Space – By Derek, Kellen, and Kenny

Is a story about a turtle that was minding his own business, swimming in the ocean, when all of a sudden, a UFO came by and took him into space.

The Shapes – By Reece and Jackson –

Is a story abouts shapes that have come alive. The shapes are terrified of being erased and are working together to stay safe.

We will be previewing and printing these stories and others! We are excited to share our students’ finished products!

Trout Art

Our students painted some trouts for the Woodland

Creek float for Trout Fest Parade. They did a great job!

Testing Season

We are in the middle of the testing season! We are doing a great job so far! Our students are working hard on doing their best and trying to show growth. We are currently working on taking NWEA and our intervention assessments. These help us understand where our students are and how we can help them. Please help us by encouraging your students to do their best. We want them to be able to do their best.

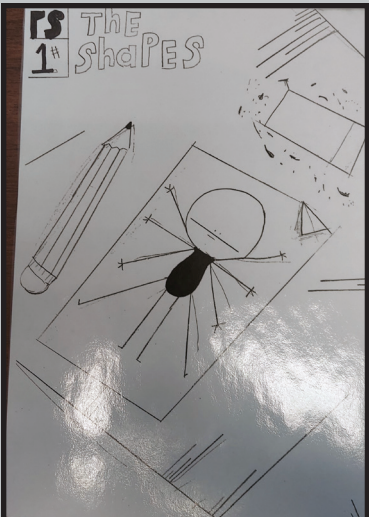
May is a Busy Month

We have a busy month ahead! We have two trips; 4th grade zoo trip and 5th grade Mackinaw. We also

have smaller events like field day and visits to Chaulker Park. Our 5th graders are also visiting the middle school, building gardens with Au Sable Institute at Birch Street, and 5th grade graduation on June 3rd. If you have any questions about any of our events, please contact our office!

Teacher Appreciation Week!

Thank you to all the students, parents, and community members that showed our teachers their support and appreciation during their Teacher Appreciation Week! We love what we do and we look forward to coming to school every day to help our students grow and learn!



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