



KALKASKA BLAZER BULLETIN

April 2023
Vol. II | No. 7
#GoBlazers

GRADUATION IS MAY 25 AT 7 P.M.



Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony

Kalkaska High School and Kalkaska Alternative Program Graduation Ceremonies will be held on Thursday, May 25, at the Kalkaska High School Gymnasium. The ceremony will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. for spectators to begin seating. This is one of the most important days in the lives of our students and parents. We want our ceremony to be a classy event that is remembered in a positive way by all. Please keep the following information in mind as you make your graduation ceremony plans:

- Both gym entrances will be open, and spectators are encouraged to park in the student parking lot behind the high school.

The commencement ceremony will take place on May 25 in the Kalkaska High School Gymnasium. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. sharp.

- Spectators arriving after 6:50 p.m. will be directed to the balcony for the ceremony. Please arrive prior to 6:50 p.m. if you would like seating in the lower level bleachers.

- Anyone requiring handicap seating or wheelchair seating should contact the KHS office at (231) 258-9167 prior to May 24.

- Please limit movement into and out of the gym to emergencies once the ceremony has started.

- Kalkaska Public Schools are alcohol, drug, nicotine, and tobacco free. There is no consumption of alcohol, smoking, or vaping allowed on the premises. Spectators who are participating in any of these activities will be escorted out of the building.

No pets are allowed. If you have a service animal that must attend the ceremony with you, please contact the high school at (231) 258-9167 to make appropriate arrangements. Proof of current vaccinations (including rabies) and service dog certification is required.

No artificial noise makers are allowed. Spectators using air horns, etc. will be escorted out of the building.

Following the ceremony, please remain seated until all graduates and staff have left the gym.

Thank you for your participation in the lives of the students graduating in 2023 — everyone attending the ceremony has played a role in the achievement of this milestone. We appreciate all of you, and appreciate your cooperation at the ceremony.



Read more about slime on page 3. Everyone has some awesome March is Reading Month stories to share. Read on, if you dare.

Class of '23 Events

- ✓ April 26 — NHS Senior Farewell and Induction Ceremony 7 p.m. in the KHS Auditorium
- ✓ May 17 — Senior Awards Ceremony 6 p.m. in the KHS Auditorium
- ✓ May 19 — Last Day for the Class of 2023
- ✓ May 22 — Class of 2023 Exams (1st – 3rd Periods)
- ✓ May 23 — Class of 2023 Exams (4th – 6th Periods)
- ✓ May 23 — Last day for credit (All assignments MUST be turned in by 3 p.m.)
- ✓ May 25 — Senior Breakfast at 8 a.m. in the KHS cafeteria with Senior Slide Show to follow in the auditorium. Parents and grandparents are welcome (no siblings please)!
- ✓ May 25 — Graduation Ceremony practice immediately following the slide show. It is REQUIRED that you be present for practice if you plan on walking in the graduation ceremony!
- ✓ May 25 — Graduation at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. Doors open at 6 p.m. Seniors need to report to the KHS library by 6:15 p.m. SHARP!
- ✓ Senior All Night Party 9:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. Please register if you haven't already. Forms are in the office. Deadline to register is May 5!

INSIDE THIS EDITION

BULLETIN

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

PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CADILLAC MI PERMIT #147

BOX HOLDER
KALKASKA MI 49646

Rapid City Rock Stars enjoy busy March



Rapid City Rockstars gleam in Green for St. Patrick's Day. A few leprechauns were let loose in Rapid City Elementary the week of St. Patrick's Day. If a Rockstar was fortunate enough to catch one of our mischievous friends, they were able to redeem them for a free book from our very own Ms. Root. Rapid City Rockstars closed third quarter flaunting their best ensembles for spirit week. Monday was Blazer Blue and White Day. Tuesday was Camo Day, Wednesday was Beach Day and Thursday was, a Rockstar fave, Pajama Day. Kalkaska Public Library accompanied RCE will host a literacy night to celebrate our Rockstar Readers. Rockstars will gather at RCE to participate in a number of exciting activities and discuss future activities that will take place during the summer. KPL will provide exciting programs that will encourage and support literacy skills among our young Readers. Congratulations 3rd quarter Rockstar Gold Honor Roll recipients! 4th grade: Brennan, Dayton, Ransom, Gwendalyn, Clair and Aubrey. 5th grade: Trey, James, Eiley, Amelia and Carter.



Literacy Night

April 20th, 2023
5:00-7:00

Join us for student literacy celebration! We will be serving pizza, showing art, singing, performing plays, painting kindness rocks for the new rock garden out front, watching technology demonstrations, and the local librarian will be here to discuss summer programs at the library!!

Rapid City Rockstars



Some days are worth getting slimed!

To motivate students to read, the principal was willing to go green.

State Representative John Roth visited Birch Street Elementary this month to read "Touch the Brightest Star" and surprised all of our students with a coloring book at the end. A huge THANK YOU to Representative John Roth!

Dr. Aaron Swoverland with Pursuit Physical Therapy visited preschoolers to teach them the importance of daily stretching.

MSU Health and Wellness visited preschool students to teach them about germs and the importance of handwashing.

On April 28, we will have a half-day for all students as this is Trout Friday! Dismissal is at 11:25 a.m.



March's Reading Month: Spirit Week and Mrs. Zenner getting slimed. Representative John Roth reading to the students. Dr. Aaron Swoverland with Pursuit Physical Therapy. MSU Health and Wellness presenting. So many great activities during March is Reading Month at Birch Street Elementary School.

KHS hosted District 2 Middle School Honors Band and students from all over northern Michigan were invited to play in an ensemble under the direction of Mr. Matt Shepherd, from Meridian Schools. Kalkaska had four students in the ensemble and a fifth to help out for the day, so please give a warm congratulations to Aliyah, Courtney, Cece, Zach, and Angel!



Some of our students learned about archery with Mr. Ray during Exploratory Wednesday. Students who signed up for the CIS career exploratory had the opportunity to learn all about firefighting and first responding from Kalkaska's own fire fighter Mr. Mark Holston! The kids tried on gear, sat in the truck and sprayed the hose! (Thanks for joining us year after year Mr. Holston!) In Mrs. Clark's exploratory session students learned about domino chain reactions! Mrs. Vyverberg is excited to announce that 11 KMS student artists were showcased at the Crooked Tree Arts Center Annual Youth Art Show in Traverse City. Lily — Honorable Mention from Kendall College of Art & Design for her Ceramic Mushroom House. Marissa — Experience award from ClaySpace TC for her Ceramic Bobble Cow. Zachary — Honorable Mention from Crooked Tree Arts Center for his Ceramic Hot Dog.



▲ Above Left — Congratulations to our KMS March Pride Students of the Month! Back Row L-R 8th Grade: Courtney, Nathaniel, Kiera, Nathan, and Tiffany. Middle Row L-R 7th Grade: Carter, Riley, Kaden, Violet, and Emily. Front Row L-R 6th Grade: Lili, Hunter, Sophia, Vivian, and Lily (not pictured). Right — Congratulations to our March Musicians of the Month! L-R: Elizabeth, Weston, Joseph, Erica, Destiny, Kaden, and Erica.

▲ Congratulations to current and new members of the KMS Honor Society, who were inducted Wednesday, March 22. Current members: 8th Grade — Courtney, Nathaniel, Dixon, Dannielle, Sofia, Jared, Erica, Lily, Carson, Gwendolyn, Alivia, and Emma. 7th Grade — Kenneth, Wyatt, Kaden, Helena, Carter, Aaliyah, Kaylee, Aryanna, Riley, Kylee, Joselynn, Elizabeth, Marissa, Skyla, Alivia, Leah, Owen, Xavier, Collin, Dylan, Afton, and Easton. New Inductees: 7th Grade — Jett, Owen, and Charles. 6th Grade — Vera, Asher, Iris, Erica, Scott, and Isabella.

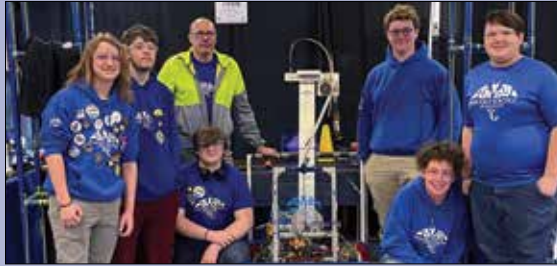
High school students venture out, represent school and community

Several high school classes and clubs organized trips or participated in competitions to expand their knowledge and demonstrate what they have learned. Spring is a great time to showcase some of those opportunities and the students who took part in them.

Students from the Spanish 2–4 classes traveled to Wealthy Theater in Grand Rapids on March 15. They watched, listened, and even participated in a professional music and dance performance by the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet. They are a group of professional musicians and dancers from places like Cuba, Spain, Colombia, and Puerto Rico that travel and perform throughout the US. Junior Adam Williams (back row, far right) and Sophomore Kaylynn Liverance (partially hidden) joined the ballet troupe, and other students from schools around the state, on stage to learn some of their dance steps. Wesley Bassett's Spanish 2–4 students pose for a photo outside the Wealthy Theater in Grand Rapids before they saw the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet perform.

Sophomore Zach Musser hustles as Senior Richard Baxley tries to maneuver the 7808 Robot from the game field. The Robotics team poses with their 7808 Robot during the FRC East Kentwood High School Robotics Competition held on March 31–April 1. Assistant Coach Jill Vyverberg said the team gained lots of experience over the weekend competition. "We may not have finished well in the standings, but we had lots of personal success with the robot as a team," she said. "We are very proud of how this team drove this weekend." The team is (from left) sophomore Keller Torrey, Senior Richard Baxley, Mentor Don Vyverberg, Coach Riley Vyverberg, freshman Jason Neubecker, (kneeling) sophomores Zach Musser, and William Minion.

Art teacher Barb Crambell and some of her Advanced Art students traveled to Crooked Tree Art Council in Traverse City to expand their art knowledge by sitting in on classes with the instructors there. Here, Freshman Celeste Magee (seated at left) and Sophomore Autumn Peck (standing, right) join other students from the area to learn pottery techniques. Willow Lund, Autumn Peck, Celeste Magee, Mrs. Crambell, Ruby Short, Emberlynn Miller, and Montana Mitchell enjoyed their day on NMC's campus learning about art from instructors at the Crooked Tree Arts Council. The French students enjoyed a rare sunny day in March when they traveled to TC Crepes and Company. Food is a big part of French culture, so the students liked having the opportunity to sample some of the country's best-known dishes. The entire group posed outside in the sun after their meals.



Upper ele. students enjoy basement read!

CSI had several fantastic events in March! Title I teacher Mrs. Rogers crafted an incredible Reading Month full of fun and interactive activities. Of course, the highlight of March is Reading Month is the basement flashlight read! Mrs. Rogers also organized Passport Day to wrap up March is Reading Month "Reading Around the World!" Each student was able to rotate through the school to "visit" eight different countries. Spain, Japan, France, Italy, Brazil, Ireland, Canada, and New Zealand. Each student had a passport that was stamped and they were able to try snacks from those countries (even Vegemite!).

Students listened to read alouds that gave them a background of the place that they had traveled to in Spain. Mr. Bassett's high school Spanish students also presented cultural information and taught the elementary students a dance.

Students were able to invite an important grown up (or two) in their lives into the building to have a donut for breakfast and browse the book fair. Nearly 260 students and grown ups attended. What a smashing success! Thanks to Mrs. Rogers for organizing such a fun event!

Mr. Paul from the AuSable Institute taught a lesson on erosion. Our students will complete a river restoration project this spring! Mrs. Biehl's students are experimenting with soil, water, and clay to simulate the effect of plants on erosion. In May, students will participate in planting native plants along the Boardman River to help build up a river bank that has been destroyed by erosion.

In a unit on matter and mass, students measured and took the weight of gummy bears, then let them soak in water for 24 hours and took a second set of measurements!




Kalkaska Public Schools (KPS)

Birch Street Elementary

2023 Kindergarten Round-Up
Tuesday, April 18

Sign up today by scanning the QR code below!




Enrollment will be completed electronically. Once the above form is completed, we will send you a link via the email you provided in the form above.

Kindergarten

- Student must be 5 years old by September 1, 2023.
- Students turning 5 between Sept. 1 – Dec. 1 can be enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten.

Transitional Kindergarten

- Transitional Kindergarten is the first phase of a two-year Kindergarten program. TK is designed to teach social and emotional skills, such as self-confidence, cooperation, and early academic skills, such as numbers and letters.
- Student must be 5 prior to December 1st, 2023.




KPS seeks school bus drivers

KPS is looking for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. who would like to drive children to school and home safely.

AND GET PAID TO DO IT!

If you are interested, please contact the Kalkaska Public School Bus Garage at (231) 564-1518 and ask for Jim Vandefifer. We will help you get your license to be able to drive a school bus!

Well child/physicals at Teen Health Corner



- ★ **Get physical done anytime, or after April 15th for the following entire school sports seasons, don't wait until last minute**
- ★ **Physicals screen for anemia, vision, joint/muscle conditions that may lead to injury, and potential heart conditions that would cause sudden death**
- ★ **Easy to set up appointments to fit your busy schedule**
- ★ **Each visit allows enough time for teens to address all their concerns which may include immunizations, acne, asthma, stress, moods, and sleep**

More reasons to visit Teen Health Corner

- ★ **Injury/physical therapy referrals**
- ★ **Sick visits/Urgent care**
- ★ **Concussion management**
- ★ **Behavioral health Counseling**
- ★ **3 locations: KTHC, KMS, FAHS/MS**
- ★ **Medicaid enrollment assistance**

Kalkaska Teen Health Corner Hours:

Monday 9:00am-5:30pm
Tuesday 10:00am-4:00pm
Wednesday 8:00am-9:00am*
*appointment only
Thursday 9:00am-5:30pm
Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

K 258-7791/FA 369-2000

Kalkaska High School


MAY 5TH

KHS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS


TALENT SHOW

7:00 PM

\$3 FOR STUDENTS \$5 FOR ADULTS



IT'S AN ALIEN INVASION!




• Reading Month at Birch Street Elementary was an amazing success – just look at all these aliens that landed at the KCL!

The Kindergarteners came in first place – and will be enjoying a cookie decorating party to celebrate.

CONGRATULATIONS!

And parents, remember, your kids' library books can be returned at the library or at the school!



(231) 258 - 9411

INFO@KALKASKALIBRARY.ORG

Strategic Plan Survey Coming Soon

Kalkaska Public Schools is finalizing a five-year strategic plan. During the five years, the district was able to accomplish many of the goals and objectives it set out. The staff should be commended for holding true to the plan for five years — five years interrupted by a global pandemic!

The district will enter into a NEW strategic plan, beginning with the 2023–2024 school year. As part of the process, developed with assistance from the Northwest Education Services District, KPS held focus groups earlier in the year. The next step will be to gather as much input from constituents as possible. EVERYONE can take the upcoming electronic survey. We are looking for feedback, and hope to hear from our community, parents, students, and staff. The survey will launch on April 24 and be live for 10 days.

KPS will make the survey available via Facebook, the school district website, emails to listserves, and QR codes located throughout the community. We value everyone's thoughts, so please take a few minutes and give KPS feedback.

Our overall hope is to provide a first-class learning environment with phenomenal teachers facilitating learning for our awesome kids. We have nearly 1,400 students and value each and every one of them. Your opinion matters. Please help us out!



Above left, Mr. Wesley Bassett adds a check mark to the completed goals and objectives on the strategic plan board in the Board Office. Above, Mrs. Ashely Boger, Mrs. Amanda Cherwinski, and Mr. Ryan Moore discuss goals and objectives during a recent District School Improvement Committee meeting. The District will begin a new strategic planning process in June.



The link will go live on April 24, Please take a moment to help KPS!

#BLAZERPRIDE



◀ Congratulations to Jenna Spence for her performance in the USA Powerlifting High School national championships. She took home first place in her weight class!

KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORTED FAMILIES. SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

Board of Education

Rachael Birgy	—	President
Regan Foerster	—	Vice President
Wendy Watson	—	Secretary
Mary Scobey	—	Treasurer
Richard Hodgman	—	Trustee
Sarah Dudek	—	Trustee
Steve Ordway	—	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

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. Editorial assistance provided by Kalkaska County Library Director John P. Roberts.

All content copyright © MMXXIII by Kalkaska Public Schools



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

Brian Klauer, Interim Principal	5106
Sue Woodruff, Secretary	5107

Rapid City Elementary — 331—6121

Laura Gehman, Principal	6103
Robyn Czuk, Secretary	6101

