



# ALKASKA

## BLAZER BULLETIN

September 2022 | No. 1  
#GoBlazers



SUPPORTED FAMILIES,  
SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

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

# WELCOME BACK, BLAZERS!



## INSIDE THIS EDITION

**BULLETIN**

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**BOX HOLDER**  
**KALKASKA MI 49646**



# Blazer sports are roaring!

The Fall sports season is in full swing, and our Blazers have been competing for several weeks now. We appreciate the great support from our community, and look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming home events.

Inflation? Not with our ticket prices! Entry is still \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Seniors (60+), veterans, military, law enforcement, fire fighters, EMS, and first responders are FREE! Season family sports passes are available for \$140 for a family of five.

Are you looking for additional ways to support our Athletics programs? Here are some options:

- Have an athletic training or medical background? We are looking for a Certified Athletic Trainer and/or sideline medic who can administer basic first aid and conduct triage.
- Volunteer as an event worker. Statisticians, announcers, scoreboard operators, and ambassador positions are open. Email [athletics@kpschools.com](mailto:athletics@kpschools.com) for more information.
- Join the Sports Boosters. Contact president Chuck Hill for more info: [chill@kso.org](mailto:chill@kso.org).
- Become a donor. Multiple opportunities for one-time or recurring sponsorships are available. Email [athletics@kpschools.com](mailto:athletics@kpschools.com) for more information.
- Coach a team. Open positions are listed at [kpschools.com](http://kpschools.com); Click 'About Us', then click 'Job Postings.'
- Drive a bus. We need drivers! Contact Transportation Director Jim Vandefifer for more information: [jvandefifer@kpschools.com](mailto:jvandefifer@kpschools.com)
- Become an MHSAA sports official. Making calls from the bleachers doesn't do any good. Register to become a referee or umpire today! Navigate your web browser to: [mhsaa.com/i-am/officials](http://mhsaa.com/i-am/officials) or visit [nsoa.org](http://nsoa.org) to learn more.

Athletics schedules can be located at [kalkaskablazers.com](http://kalkaskablazers.com) Please be aware of ongoing construction around our sports facilities and the impact on parking. Do not park in unauthorized areas or on the grass. Thank you for your cooperation!

BRYAN HAWKINS, Director of Athletics  
[athletics@kpschools.com](mailto:athletics@kpschools.com)  
 (231) 258-9167 ext. 2236

EMILEE SCOTT, Athletic Secretary  
[escott@kpschools.com](mailto:escott@kpschools.com)  
 (231) 258-9167 ext. 2185





# KPS is Growing Quickly

## The Project Begins!

KPS has had a busy summer! Work began on Birch Street Elementary the day after school ended in June and continued throughout the summer. Much has been done on the new auxiliary gymnasium and the new classrooms! We will keep you updated here in the *Blazer Bulletin* every month!



## Childhood trauma affects everyone

Kalkaska teachers started the year off with a special presentation from one of the nation's leading experts on the adverse effects of childhood trauma, Dr. James Henry. Dr. Henry is one of the co-founders of the Childhood Trauma Assessment Center located on the campus of Western Michigan University.

Dr. Henry presented to the KPS staff on September 1 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. He covered a great amount of information about childhood

trauma, secondary effects of trauma, and what we as educators can do to help all students become successful. In addition to a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Henry included interactive segments, asked for volunteers to role play, and spent time in the afternoon during a Q&A session to help everyone grow.

KPS looks forward to continuing the relationship with Dr. Henry and the CTAC.





# Cherry Street Intermediate Gearing Up

## New Staff

We are excited to be adding a new teacher to our Cherry Street Intermediate family. Carrie Hall comes to us with tons of experience and excitement for teaching our students. She has been a teacher for over 20 years and has spent a good portion of that at Dearborn Public Schools. She received both her Bachelors and Masters at University of Michigan—Dearborn.

She has recently moved to South Boardman with her husband. Her two children, Brendon and Kaitlyn, still attend college downstate. She has two dogs named Daisy and Enzo. She enjoys kayaking, fishing, and walking the dogs in the woods. She is excited for all the opportunities that northern Michigan has to offer outdoors!



▲ Hall

## AuSable Partnership with REYS program

We are excited to announce that we are going to continue our partnership with the AuSable Institute's REYS program in 5th grade. Our students will be learning about our ecosystem through hands on field trips and classroom visits. At the end of the year, our students will help restore a local ecosystem back to its former glory. Thank you to Paul Wiemerslage and his team for working with our students!

## Cherry Street Upcoming Events

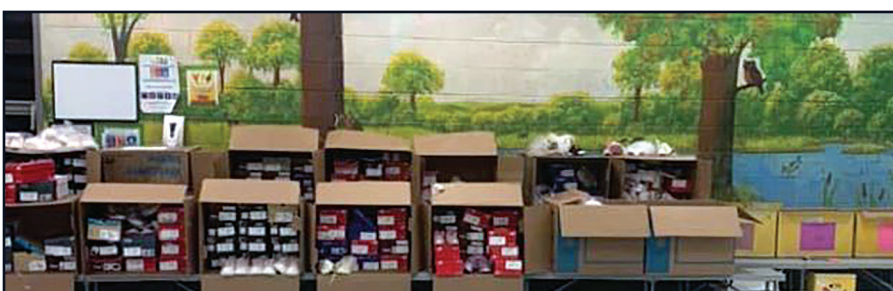
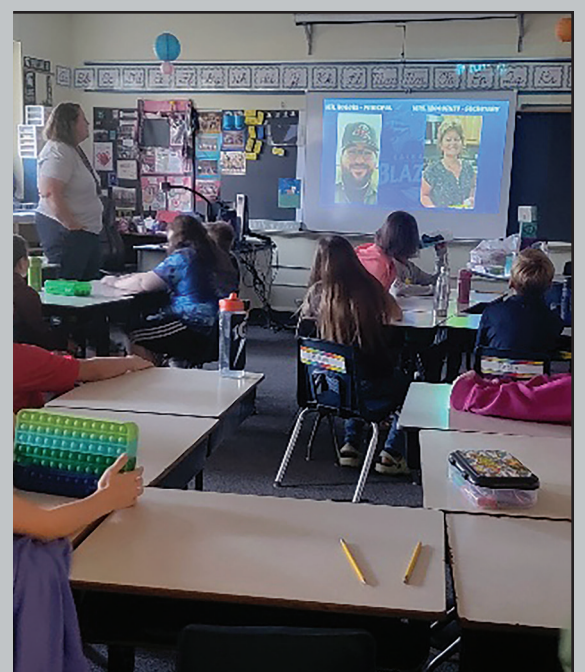
The book fair is coming back to Cherry Street on October 3–7. On October 5, we will be running the book fair from 3-5 p.m. after school, with the help of the high school's National Honor Society, to allow families to come in and buy books! The book fair will also be open all week for our students and will be open during our Grand Event's happening on October 6 and 7!

The Grand Event is coming back to Cherry Street! Each student gets to invite one "Grand"-person in their life! This person can be a grandparent, parent, or family friend of their choice. They will get time to browse the book fair, complete a few activities, have some snacks, and show their "Grand"-person the school that they attend. The 4th grade's grand event is October 6 at 1:30 p.m. and October 7 for 5th grade at 1:30 p.m.. More information will be sent home soon!

Mr. Fun is coming in the middle of September to promote our fall fundraiser. Students will get to enter raffles and win prizes for selling the most chocolate bars. Two students will have the chance to win a \$100 bill just for selling a box of chocolate.

## First Week of School

We had a great first week of school! Here are a few pictures from our classrooms.



▲ The Father Fred Back to School Shoes and vision screening helped 170 kiddos with new shoes and 32 received glasses! All free of charge! So thankful for Father Fred and the services they provide! Thank you to all the volunteers who were there to help make this happen for our kids!!!







▲ The Kalkaska High School Marching Band is on the precipice of a great marching season! Madison Birgy, Madison Czaplicki, Abigail Price, and Michael Scoby are returning for their 4th season with KHS. They are bringing energy and leadership to the marching band that is supported and matched by the underclassmen. This is their second year under the direction of Band Director C.J. Russell. Mr. Russell comments, "It is clear that as I enter my second year, the students and I are learning how to work with each other even better." Marching Band students participated in a Band Camp, braving some hot weather and rolling out of bed early for a week, in order to prepare a magnificent halftime show for Blazer fans. Featuring music from Elvis, Beyonce, Paramore, and Lady Gaga, the students and community have already fallen in love (pun intended) with this show. This season is special as, for the first time in many years, the Blue Blazer Marching Band will be attending a full fledged marching competition where they will earn a rank on this show. Even if you are not a football fan, we encourage you to come on out to a home game and see this talented and dedicated Blue Blazer Marching Band in action, under the direction of Mr. C.J. Russell and Drum Majors Senior, Madison Czaplicki and Junior, Octavia Kurth. The Homecoming Football Game and Halftime Show is October 7, and the final performance of the season will be on October 21.

# Middle school welcomes new staff

KMS welcomes several new staff for the school year. Ali Bridson, Josh England, Remmi King, and Cailey Wagner!

Bridson is coming from Cherry Street Intermediate and will be teaching 8th grade ELA this year. England will continue to work at KHS in the morning and finish his day with us as a Learning Specialist. King attended MSU, student taught in Chicago, and is from Kingsley; she will be teaching math for us this year. Wagner joins us after teaching and serving as the athletic director at Grayling High School. Welcome aboard! We are so excited to have you all with us!

▲ Bridson

▲ England

▲ King

▲ Wagner

## Garden coming back to life

▲ Mrs. Reust has been working hard to clean up and update our flower garden.

▲ Kalkaska Royalty was featured during the Blazer Bash!



# RCE gearing up for a great year

We're gearing up for a great year at Rapid City! Our GSRP and SEEDS after-school program both start on September 19. SEEDS is again at full capacity. We still have room in our GSRP (preschool) program. This program is open to children who are four years old as of September 1. It is a federally funded no cost program for most families. Call the school office at (231) 331-6121 for more information.

We have a community garden group that is partnering with us this year to revitalize the school garden. They have lots of ideas about expanding the garden and incorporating some educational programs!

## Big Thank You's to...

- ★ Renae Maeder—she pulled many buckets full of weeds out of our 'Native Garden' bed over the summer and put down wood chips. The butterflies will love it; it looks fantastic!
- ★ Rob Reese and the KPS maintenance and grounds crews — they spread woodchips over our playground and painted two new 4-Square courts on the cement.

## Upcoming Events

September 19: 1st day of GSRP

September 19: 1st day of SEEDS after-school program

September 27: Picture Day



## WELCOME BACK, BLAZERS!



With a new school year back in session, we want to remind you that KPS Libraries have merged with the Kalkaska County Library! What does that mean?

It means your student's library card works EVERYWHERE!

### What do Blazer Libraries do for you?

Check out books, magazines, movies, and more!  
 Enjoy free access to thousands of eBooks.  
 Conveniently return your items to any location.  
 Technology help for parents and students.  
 Lots of skills learning and creativity apps.  
 Supplemental research resources  
 STEM Kits & Audiobooks  
 3D Printing  
 Helpful, friendly staff.  
 & so much more!

All KPS Students and faculties *automatically* have a public library card.

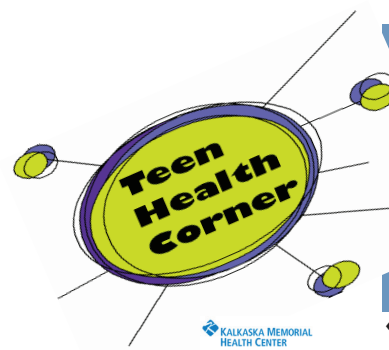
### AFFILIATED SCHOOL LIBRARIES:

BIRCH STREET  
 CHERRY STREET  
 RAPID ELEMENTARY  
 KALKASKA MIDDLE  
 KALKASKA HIGH

Questions?  
 Contact us!

[info@kalkaskalibrary.org](mailto:info@kalkaskalibrary.org)

231 - 258 - 9411



## Primary Care for Adolescents

Staff with over 10 years of experience providing quality care to adolescents

- ♦ Annual Physical/Well Child
- ♦ Mental Health Services
- ♦ COVID-19 testing
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- ♦ Sports injury/Concussion
- ♦ On-Site Medicaid enrollment
- ♦ Tele-Health Visits
- ♦ Much More

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231-258-7791 K

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OPEN DURING UNFORSEEN SCHOOL CLOSURES, BREAKS, AND ALL SUMMER



## YOUR HEALTH MATTERS TO US



Teen Health Corner takes pride in providing compassionate and comprehensive care to youth in a teen friendly setting for 10-21 year olds at the Kalkaska Clinic and 5-21 year olds at the Forest Area clinic. We also provide Behavioral Health services for 5-21 year olds at the Kalkaska Middle School clinic.



# Birch Street is “under construction”

## Construction! Construction! Construction!

We are making great progress, daily. Updates will be shared with you throughout the year. Thank you for your continued patiences as we navigate through changes. Please follow posted signs to ensure your safety and the safety of your child during morning drop-off and dismissal.

## Kalkaska County Library Partnership

We are continually grateful for our partnership with the Kalkaska County Library again this year. Mrs. Porter, our primary support from the library, is looking forward to supporting our students beginning on September 26.

## Please welcome the new staff BSE:

- Dana Monks — third grade teacher; Kiel Clothier — counselor; Karen Garrison — Special Ed. and Title 1; Rebecca Muraida — music teacher; Rylie McKinley — preschool assistant ; Ellen LaTulip — preschool assistant; Kara Bontrager — GSRP Teacher.

## Events

- ★ September 23 – ½ day students – Dismissal is at 11:25 a.m.
- ★ October 20 – ½ day students – Parent Teacher Conferences 12:15–8 p.m.
- ★ October 21 – ½ day for everyone – Dismissal is at 11:25 a.m.



▲ Monks



▲ McKinley



▲ Muraida



▲ Clothier



▲ Garrison



▲ Bontrager



▲ LaTulip

► Kids having fun at BSE the first week of school. Welcome back to all.



# SUPPORTED FAMILIES. SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

### Board of Education

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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





# KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Fall Sports Schedule

### VARSITY VB

8/25/22	5:30 p.m.	@	Quad @ Mancelona
8/27/22	9 a.m.	@	Reed City Tournament
9/8/22	7 p.m.	VS	East Jordan
9/13/22	7 p.m.	VS	Boyne City
9/15/22	7 p.m.	VS	Bellaire MS/HS
9/20/22	7 p.m.	@	St. Francis
9/21/22	7:30 p.m.	@	Mio-Ausable
9/24/22	9 a.m.	VS	KHS Varsity Volleyball Invitational
9/27/22	7 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
9/29/22	5:30 p.m.	@	Lake City Quad
10/4/22	7 p.m.	VS	Harbor Springs
10/6/22	6:30 p.m.	@	Ogemaw Heights
10/11/22	7 p.m.	@	Grayling
10/13/22	5:30 p.m.	VS	Tri
10/18/22	7 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids
10/26/22	6 p.m.	VS	Manton MS/HS
10/29/22	8:30 a.m.	@	Mt. Morris Tournament



### JV VB

8/25/22	5:30 p.m.	@	Lake City Quad
8/27/22	8:30 a.m.	@	Grand Blanc
9/8/22	5:30 p.m.	VS	East Jordan
9/13/22	5:30 p.m.	VS	Boyne City
9/15/22	5:30 p.m.	VS	Bellaire MS/HS
9/17/22	9 a.m.	@	Boyne City
9/20/22	5:30 p.m.	@	St. Francis
9/21/22	6 p.m.	@	Mio-Ausable
9/27/22	5:30 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
10/1/22	8:30 a.m.	@	Mt. Morris Tournament
10/4/22	5:30 p.m.	VS	Harbor Springs
10/6/22	5 p.m.	@	Ogemaw Heights
10/8/22	9 a.m.	VS	JV Volleyball Super Quad
10/11/22	5:30 p.m.	@	Grayling
10/15/22	TBA	@	Remus/Chippewa Hills
10/18/22	5:30 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids



### VARSITY FB

8/25/22	7 p.m.	VS	Glen Lake
9/1/22	7 p.m.	@	Ogemaw Heights
9/10/22	4 p.m.	@	Bark River-Harris
9/17/22	12 p.m.	VS	Tawas Area
9/23/22	7 p.m.	@	Boyne City
9/30/22	7 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids
10/7/22	7 p.m.	VS	Mancelona [Homecoming]
10/14/22	7 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
10/20/22	7 p.m.	VS	Grayling



### JV FB

8/24/22	6 p.m.	@	Glen Lake
8/31/22	6 p.m.	VS	Ogemaw Heights
9/10/22	1 p.m.	@	Bark River-Harris
9/15/22	6 p.m.	@	Tawas Area
9/22/22	6 p.m.	VS	Boyne City
9/29/22	6 p.m.	VS	Elk Rapids
10/6/22	6 p.m.	@	Mancelona
10/13/22	6 p.m.	VS	Charlevoix
10/20/22	6 p.m.	@	Grayling



### VARSITY SOCCER

8/23/22	5 p.m.	VS	Oscoda Area
8/29/22	5 p.m.	VS	Benzie Central MS/HS
9/1/22	5 p.m.	@	Grayling
9/8/22	5 p.m.	VS	Boyne City
9/12/22	5 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs
9/15/22	5 p.m.	VS	Charlevoix
9/17/22	TBA	@	Suttons Bay Invite
9/19/22	5 p.m.	@	Elk Rapids
9/21/22	5 p.m.	@	Oscoda Area
9/22/22	5 p.m.	VS	Grayling
9/26/22	5 p.m.	@	Boyne City
9/28/22	5 p.m.	@	Traverse City Christian School
9/29/22	5 p.m.	VS	Harbor Springs
10/3/22	5 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
10/5/22	5 p.m.	@	Pine River
10/6/22	5 p.m.	VS	Elk Rapids



### FRESHMEN VB

8/25/22	TBA	@	Petoskey Petoskey Invitational
8/26/22	8:30 a.m.	@	Mt. Morris Mt. Morris Tournament
8/30/22	TBA	@	Mt. Pleasant Quad @ Mt. Pleasant
9/13/22	5:30 p.m.	VS	Boyne City
9/27/22	4:30 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
9/29/22	6 p.m.	VS	Alpena Public School
10/1/22	TBA	@	East Jordan East Jordan
10/4/22	5:30 p.m.	VS	Harbor Springs
10/6/22	5 p.m.	@	Ogemaw Heights
10/20/22	5:30 p.m.	VS	Tawas Area
10/22/22	9 a.m.	VS	Freshman Volleyball Invitational

### MS FOOTBALL

9/13/22	5 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs HS
9/20/22	5 p.m.	VS	Grayling
9/27/22	5 p.m.	@	Cheboygan
10/4/22	5 p.m.	VS	Boyne City
10/11/22	5 p.m.	VS	Benzie Central MS/HS
10/18/22	5 p.m.	@	Mancelona

### CROSS COUNTRY

8/23/22	5:30 p.m.	@	Petoskey's Taco Tuesday Two-Mile Invite
8/27/22	9 a.m.	@	Benzie Central MS/HS Benzie Central
9/10/22	TBA	@	Charlevoix Mud Run
9/20/22	TBA	VS	Kalkaska Invitational @ Twin Birch
9/24/22	TBA	@	Petoskey Kiwanis
9/27/22	TBA	@	Elk Rapids
10/5/22	TBA	@	Mancelona Mancelona Invite
10/22/22	TBA	@	LMC Conference Meet
10/29/22	TBA	@	XC Regionals
10/30/22	TBA	@	Regionals



### VARSITY GOLF

8/25/22	TBA	@	St. Francis (9 Holes)
8/29/22	TBA	@	East Jordan (9 Holes)
9/1/22	4:30 p.m.	@	Charlevoix
9/8/22	TBA	@	Boyne City (9 Holes)
9/12/22	TBA	@	Grayling
9/19/22	11 a.m.	@	Harbor Springs
9/29/22	10 a.m.	@	Harbor Springs [Conference Championship]



### MS VB

8/27/22	9 a.m.	@	Mio-Ausable Volleyball Tournament
9/19/22	4:30 p.m.	@	Cherryland MS
9/21/22	4:30 p.m.	VS	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton MS
9/26/22	4:30 p.m.	@	Harbor Springs
9/27/22	4:30 p.m.	VS	Traverse City East MS
9/28/22	4:30 p.m.	VS	Charlevoix MS
10/3/22	4:30 p.m.	VS	Grayling MS
10/5/22	4:30 p.m.	@	Boyne City MS
10/10/22	4:30 p.m.	VS	East Jordan MS
10/12/22	4:30 p.m.	@	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton MS
10/17/22	4:30 p.m.	VS	Cherryland MS
10/19/22	4:30 p.m.	@	Grayling

