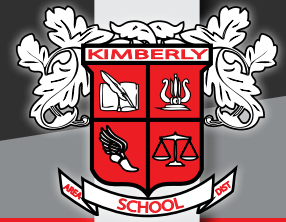


School Matters



Special Insert
October 2015

School News for Residents of the Kimberly Area School District



Robert S. Mayfield, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Welcome to this Special Insert section to our School Matters newsletter. Great public schools are the heart of our community. They are supported by the efforts of parents, taxpayers and local organizations who know that when their public schools succeed, their community succeeds. The community also benefits from partnerships with KASD, be it a suitable location for a group to hold a special event, the revitalization of an empty building in the community for school purposes or the economic impact of an educated workforce.

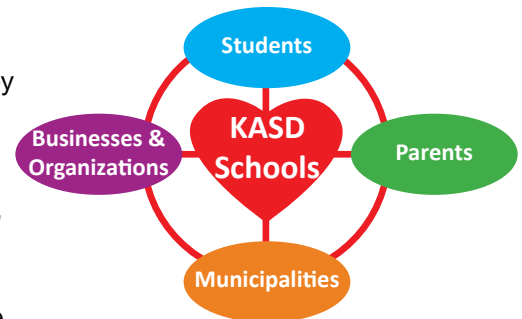
Preparing all children in our community for their future is of the utmost importance. Students graduating from Kimberly public schools need a well-rounded education to be contributing members of our community and workforce. It takes a collaborative community effort to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities.

-- Bob Mayfield

Kimberly Public Schools: The Heart of Our Community

If you want to measure the pulse of a community, look no further than its local public schools. Our public schools are one of our community's biggest strengths. Great public schools are the heart of the Fox Valley because they are supported by the efforts of students, parents and taxpayers who know that when their schools succeed, their community succeeds. Families new to the area and real estate agents cite strong public schools as the reason many families choose to live in the Kimberly area. The District also serves as a hub for municipalities, businesses, clubs and organizations as they make connections to help the children in our community and to create youth-focused programs and events.

Preparing all children in our community for their future is of the utmost importance. Collaborating with the community to identify and use community resources strengthens schools and families, and enhances student learning. The District's mission is to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities. Community collaboration is an integral part to providing students with these opportunities to reach their potential and graduate prepared for college and careers.



Keystone of the Kimberly Area

It can be easy to forget just how big of an impact the Kimberly Area School District (KASD) has in our small community. While the attendance area for our nine schools only covers about 17 square miles, our schools serve 5,052 students. It takes 533 staff members to carry out the District's mission of helping all children reach their potential. KASD is the largest employer in the Village of Kimberly and the largest school district in the Heart of the Valley area.

The Village of Kimberly works collaboratively with the District on many projects. Senior Quest, a program put on by KASD and the Village of Kimberly for senior citizens in the area, is a well-attended gathering of nearly 100 people each month during the school year. The Village works closely with the District to plan summer offerings and activities in cooperation with summer school. The District helps identify and connect youth organizations with the Village as they undertake a variety of projects and special events.

Another initiative taking shape in the Town and Village of Harrison is the creation of a new community park. Harrison approached the District as a community partner to help identify co-curricular groups, clubs and organizations in the community that are in need of additional park facilities. "We were able to



Senior citizens from the community are invited to the monthly Senior Quest program hosted by the District and the Village of Kimberly.

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assist Harrison by facilitating connections with school and youth focused groups needing space,” said Bob Mayfield, Superintendent of KASD. “The District provided figures for estimating and collected additional input for Harrison in order to help them create a new park built to serve the needs of the community.” As the plans and construction come together, the clubs and groups in turn will support the park like they do other community parks – through donations and volunteering.

New School Initiatives Revitalize Unused Community Buildings

Vacant and unused buildings have a negative impact on a community - without intervention, they can deteriorate to dangerous states. Our community is fortunate that a variety of people and organizations put considerable effort into bringing life back to empty buildings. When KASD has a need for additional space, the District first looks at empty buildings in the community as potential options. Over the summer, two empty community buildings were re-purposed by KASD and are once again full of activity.

The 4K Center for Literacy, located in downtown Kimberly, revitalized a community building that was sitting empty due to the closure of the Appleton Christian School in 2014. While one of the first districts in the state to have four-year-old kindergarten, KASD was last to offer a full-day five-year-old kindergarten option. The District found that parents wanted the District to offer a full-day 5K option. This change doubled the amount of classroom space needed for 5K in 2015-16. In order to keep the 4K program, the District created the 4K Center for Literacy. The response to the 4K Center has been very positive, 301 students now attend school in the revitalized building.



Kimberly's 4K Center for Literacy opened for the 2015-16 school year.

Another underused community building was renovated and revitalized to become the home of the Kimberly Area School District's new Health & Wellness Center. It opened in a previously unused portion of a large building located next to the District's Administrative Offices. The Center opened just in time for staff returning for the school year and is an innovative step to improve the wellbeing of staff while reducing health care costs. The building is home to several other entities but the street facing portion had been vacant for over 5 years. Staffed and managed by ThedaCare™, it is a full scope care center providing quality health and wellness services for employees, spouses, dependents and retirees covered by the District's health insurance plan. Several school districts in northeast Wisconsin offer on-site health services and have found that it supports the health of employees while reducing costs for health care. The Center is an extension of KASD's well-developed and award-winning wellness program.

Helping Community Partners While Providing New Student Opportunities

Throughout the school year, a variety of organizations and businesses approach the District with a need they have in our community. One example is a recent partnership with We Energies that is providing new opportunities for Kimberly students. The company installed energy equipment on a small piece of KHS property late this summer and in return We Energies established a \$30,000 scholarship fund for KHS students pursuing further education related to the trades at a two-year technical college. We Energies also provided donations to support the construction of a covered Outdoor Learning Shelter in the KHS school forest and placement of an educational sign in the forest.



Support from We Energies is helping to make the future Outdoor Learning Center in the school forest at KHS a reality.

District facilities are built and maintained for the education of children enrolled in Kimberly public schools. The District recognizes that members of the community support public schools and attempts to balance the top priority of educating students with the community's requests to use District facilities for special events and programs. Beyond school and school-sponsored activities, more than 10,000 community events take place each year in District facilities. The events range from intramural or club athletics, to local scouting troop meetings, community art and holiday programs, and events put on by a variety of local civic organizations.

Student parking at KHS has been exceeding capacity and causing concern for some of the school's neighbors regarding students parking on side streets. Through negotiations with Christ the King Church, adjacent to KHS, Christ the King agreed to lease 50 parking spaces each year for 10 years to the District for student use. The District will also pay a portion of the snow removal costs when school is in session. “I hope this effort and budget expense demonstrates to the Combined Locks community our willingness to continue to find solutions rather than only identify problems,” said Mayfield. Christ the King Church was able to use the additional funds from the lease to help support their parking lot upgrade.

There are many more ways municipalities and organizations collaborate with the Kimberly Area School District. These partnerships provide resources and learning opportunities to students, staff, and parents. Through these connections, resources are provided to students who may otherwise not have those opportunities. The community also benefits from these partnerships, be it a suitable location for a group to hold an annual event, the revitalization of an empty building or the economic impact of an educated workforce. The future holds many opportunities for future collaborations between Kimberly public schools and the community. When our public schools succeed, our community succeeds.