



Eagle Insider

We will provide a nurturing learning environment and educate ALL students to be lifelong learners.

November 2025

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Fresh Canvas for Young Creators

We're excited to announce that our KCE art room underwent a full transformation over the summer! The newly renovated space features updated flooring, cabinetry, countertops, furniture, lighting, and a fresh coat of paint. Students now enjoy a bright, modern environment that inspires creativity and artistic expression. The added storage has also improved organization, reduced clutter, and enhanced overall efficiency. This refreshed space is already sparking greater engagement and imaginative exploration.



Before



After

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Kent City Community Schools – Fall Season Update

Growth has been the defining theme of this fall at Kent City Community Schools. From the first day of classes, our students have shown excitement for learning and a strong commitment to improving every day. Teachers have worked hard to create engaging lessons that encourage curiosity and critical thinking, helping each student reach their full potential.

Relationships continue to be at the heart of our success. Across all buildings, staff members are intentionally building connections with students and families to ensure everyone feels supported and valued. These positive relationships are what make our schools such welcoming places to learn and grow.

Engagement in learning has been outstanding this fall. Classrooms are alive with discussion, collaboration, and creativity. Students are not only mastering academic content but also developing the skills they need to problem-solve, communicate effectively, and work together as part of a team.

Achievement is being celebrated in many ways. Through academic progress, personal growth, and acts of kindness that strengthen our school culture. Our teachers and support staff continue to challenge students with high expectations while providing the encouragement and guidance needed to help them succeed.

Together, we are ready for the next season of learning and growth. As we move into winter, our focus will remain on supporting every student academically, socially, and emotionally. The pride and spirit of the Kent City community continue to shine bright, reminding us that we truly are stronger together.

For those reasons, every day is a G.R.E.A.T. day to be an Eagle!

Bill Crane, Superintendent

The Attendance Imperative

Regular school attendance is essential for students to develop the academic, social, and emotional skills they need to succeed. Strong attendance builds good habits that prepare students for lifelong success, while chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school days for any reason) can have lasting effects on learning and future opportunities.

At Kent City Community Schools, we track all absences, excused and unexcused, to identify students who may need additional support. Addressing attendance challenges is an important part of our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), which provides targeted interventions to help students overcome barriers and stay on track.

Through MTSS, teachers, support staff, and families work together to provide encouragement, resources, and personalized strategies for students struggling with attendance. By intervening early, we aim to prevent chronic absence and ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.

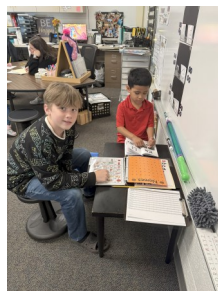
Below are the numbers and percentages for students who are chronically absent this school year, which guide our MTSS efforts and help us provide the right supports for success.



# of Absent Students	Building Count	Percentage	
73	555	13.15%	Elementary (K-5)
33	274	12.04%	Middle School
61	384	15.89%	High School

Students Connect Across Grade Levels

Our peer-to-peer support is a powerful initiative that bridges connections across grade levels, with upper elementary students assisting in lower elementary classrooms and high school students (13 on rotation) supporting fifth-grade recess. This opportunity not only strengthens relationships within our district but also transforms the experiences of some of our most challenging learners. Students who may struggle within their own classroom setting often “soar to greatness” when given the chance to mentor and model positive behavior for younger peers. The program fosters empathy, leadership, responsibility, and self-confidence while providing an alternative environment for students to practice the best version of themselves. In addition, it enhances social skills, promotes teamwork, and cultivates a sense of belonging and purpose, empowering students to see themselves as valued contributors to their school community.



A Community in Motion: Walk-a-Thon 2025

The KCE Walk-a-thon is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year, and what a perfect day we had for our 9th annual event! On the morning of September 25th, students of all grades enjoyed participating in a variety of activities that included walking, games, dancing, music, movement, and most of all....FUN!!

Thanks to the generosity and support of our community sponsors and donations from students, staff, family, and friends, we were able to raise over **\$41,000** this year! A portion of the proceeds will be used to update our KCE robotics program. Additional proceeds will help fund academic and social experiences for our students and support our classrooms. Visit <https://sites.google.com/kentcityschools.org/kent-city-walk-a-thon/home> for a funds update, list of sponsors, photos, & more!

In addition, we would like to congratulate Mrs. Schutt's 3rd grade class for earning the highest class total of \$2,761.47 and to our top earners Elijah Thompson (1st place), Pearl Witt (2nd place), Desmond & Declan Sheehan (tie for 3rd) & Major Thompson (4th place). These earners received a gift card & a special lunch with the principals, Ms. Heiss, and Officer Wells.

Words cannot express how much we appreciate your generosity and support and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come!



Leadership Lessons with the Lions

Kent City Elementary was filled with excitement on Wednesday, September 17, as Roary, the Detroit Lions mascot, and representatives from the Detroit Lions Education Department visited to speak with students about leadership.

Their visit was part of the Lions Leaders for Life outreach program, which encourages students to develop strong leadership character traits for success both in and out of the classroom.

During the engaging hour-long assembly, they highlighted six key leadership qualities: Listening and Learning, Education, Ambition, Discipline, Encouragement, and Responsibility. They also discussed the importance of nutrition, fitness, and setting achieving goals. These concepts effectively support our school-wide initiatives, such as promoting positive behavior, healthy eating, and physical activity.

Perhaps the most entertaining part of the assembly was the interactive activities that got students, teachers, and Roary involved, making it a fun and memorable experience for all!



NWEA MAP Testing

All middle school students started the year with the NWEA MAP test in the areas of Math and English Language Arts. This continues the data collection that began at the elementary level and now extends into high school. Teachers use this data to track student growth over time and identify trends in learning, which allows them to adjust instruction to meet individual and group needs. The results help guide curriculum planning, identify areas where students may need additional support, and ensure that instruction is targeted and effective. By using NWEA data strategically, we can better personalize learning, set meaningful goals, and monitor progress toward academic growth throughout the year.



Griffins Game

Each middle school grade level that maintained at least a 90% attendance rate in the month of October earned a ticket to the daytime Grand Rapids Griffins game on Wednesday, November 12. Lunch was provided by KCCS Food Service and tickets were purchased by the Kent City PTCO. Prior to the game, students had the opportunity to interact with booths around the stadium focused on STEM and Health & Wellness. Before departing the middle school, each class will work through Griffin's related lessons with real-life applications.

Scripps National Spelling Bee

For the third consecutive year, our 6th–8th graders will have the exciting opportunity to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee! English teachers will begin by hosting classroom-level competitions to identify the top spellers in each grade. These students will then advance to our school-wide spelling bee in January, where they will showcase their skills and determination. From there, the top two spellers will earn the honor of representing our school at the Regional Spelling Bee, competing against students from across the area. This longstanding tradition is much more than a competition—it encourages students to expand their vocabulary, develop confidence and poise, and cultivate a lifelong appreciation for language and learning. We are thrilled to continue providing this enriching experience, which celebrates curiosity, academic growth, and the joy of achievement.

ORV License

7th and 8th graders will be earning their Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) license starting in the second quarter Exploratory PE course. Kent County Sheriff's deputies teach the course, which culminates with the ORV test. Having our **School Resource Officers (SROs) directly involved** in this program is a tremendous benefit for our students. Beyond teaching safe vehicle operation, our SROs provide positive mentorship, model responsibility, and strengthen the connection between students and law enforcement in a supportive, educational setting. Their presence in the district helps create a safer school environment while offering students unique learning opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have.

eSports

We're excited to introduce our new Middle School eSports Team! Students in grades 6–8 can now compete in three-person teams playing Super Smash Bros on the Nintendo Switch. This after-school activity offers a fun and engaging way for students to develop teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship while participating in friendly online competition. The eSports program promotes a positive team atmosphere and encourages healthy competition in a structured, supervised environment.



End of year Field Trips

Students will have the opportunity to attend our end of the year field trips.

- 6th graders, for the first time, will be attending Greenfield Village
- 7th graders will travel to Chicago to visit Lincoln Park Zoo and the Museum of Science and Industry
- 8th graders will visit Mackinac Island.

The cost for each trip will be \$100. World's Finest Chocolate bars are being sold to help cover these costs. Check with the middle school office for more information. Trip information will be sent home via email at a later date.

Mr. Hendricks Named WZZM's Teacher of the Week

Earlier this fall, **Mr. Todd Hendricks** was recognized by WZZM 13 as their *Teacher of the Week*, celebrating his creativity, enthusiasm, and connection with students.

Mr. Hendricks' math classes are known for their energy, humor, and memorable moments, sometimes even a chest bump or two. Beyond the fun, his approach helps students build confidence and see math as something they can enjoy and succeed in.

As Mr. Hendricks shared with WZZM, his goal is simple: *"I want us to value this time together and make the most of those moments and really make some good memories."*

We're proud to see his dedication and passion highlighted in the community. Congratulations, Mr. Hendricks, on this well-deserved honor!



Kent City Marching Band



The Kent City Marching Band has been hard at work perfecting their fall production, *The Veilmark Grand*. Loosely inspired by Disney's *Haunted Mansion*, the show transports audiences to the mysterious Veilmark Grand Hotel—set in the 1970s—where the guests aren't always what they seem. You can check in...but you can't check out.

The Eagles kicked off their competitive season with a strong opening performance at Rockford, followed by an exhibition at our home show and a solid showing in Sparta. With each event, the band has continued to grow stronger and more confident. They wrapped up their season at the State Championship Prelims on Saturday, October 25, at Okemos High School. Congratulations to the Marching Eagles on qualifying for the State Championship at Ford Field!

College Visit Field Trips

Kent City High School students will have the opportunity to explore college campuses on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**. These trips give students a chance to experience college life, ask questions, and start planning for their post-high school future.

- **9th Grade:** Muskegon Community College
- **10th Grade:** Davenport University
- **11th Grade:** Ferris State University

Seniors are encouraged to arrange either a **college visit or job shadow** independently to support their individual post-secondary plans.



Kent City Celebrates Homecoming 2025

This year, our Homecoming celebrations were themed "Destination: Homecoming 2025." Spirit Week featured fun dress-up days, including Class Color and Anything But a Backpack Day, Tropical Tuesday, Decades Day, and Comfy Clothes & PJs. Students also had the opportunity to vote for Homecoming King & Queen.

The week culminated with Spirit Day on Friday, where students proudly wore Red & White to show their Kent City pride and participated in our lively pep rally. Each grade also competed in the Float Building competition, adding an extra element of creativity and excitement to the week.





Kent City Community Schools
200 N Clover St
Kent City, MI 49330

It's a great day to be an Eagle!

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK



Kent City Community Schools



Kent City Elementary



Kent City MS/HS



Kent City Athletics
School

School Calendar

November 26-28	No School – Thanksgiving Break
December 1	School Resumes
December 19	**Early Release for Students
Dec 20 - Jan 4	No School – Winter Break
January 5	School Resumes
January 23	**Early Release for Students
February 13 & 16	No School - Mid-Winter Break
February 17	School Resumes
February 27	**Early Release for Students
March 27	**Early Release for Students

****Early Release Times -Lunch is served on ER Days**
6-12 students release at 11:50 am
Elementary students release at 12:00 pm

**SAFETY AROUND
OUR SCHOOLS!**

1. ALWAYS USE CROSSWALKS
2. FOLLOW ALL TRAFFIC SIGNS

