



Community Ghost Story

FALL 2017

KASD serves all or portions of these communities

City of Kaukauna
Town of Kaukauna
Village of Sherwood
Town of Buchanan
Village of Harrison
Town of Holland
Town of Vanden Broek
Town of Woodville
Village of Combined Locks
Village of Little Chute

Leadership Team

Superintendent
Mark Duerwaechter
Business Manager
Robert Schafer
Director of Elementary Education
Kelli Antoine
Director of Secondary Education
Matthew Smith
Director of HR, Legal Services
Scott Mikesh
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services
Sarah Newberry

Principals

KHS - Corey Baumgartner
River View - Daniel Joseph Haen - Holly Magness
NDLC - Abbey Frischmann
Park - Ken Kortens
Quinney - Stacy Knapp
Tanner - Elizabeth Thoreson

Board of Education

President: Giovanna Feller
Vice President: Chris Bouressa
Treasurer: Kathy Breitzman
Clerk: Sam Kelly
Board Members:
Chad Berken
Sue Gertz
John Moore

Contact Us

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NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELEMENTARY LEARNING

The Kaukauna Area School District opened the 2017-2018 school year with some big changes in our elementary schools. In an ongoing journey to create instructional days that provide for both the academic needs of students and the necessary collaboration time for staff, our elementary school days will now reflect a six-day cycle, meaning classes will rotate on a "Day 1" through "Day 6" schedule, as opposed to a traditional Monday-Friday schedule.



With this change, students will benefit from extra class time for music, art and physical education. While many Districts continue to reduce encore offerings taught by licensed specialists, KASD believes that these classes are integral to student success and the development of the entire child.

Additionally, all staff will have 60 minutes of collaboration/preparation time each day, coordinated with their grade level team (or clusters within the team), to analyze student data and strengthen our core instruction, as well as provide increased collaboration with specialists for those students needing support.

Another highlight of this school year has been the addition of a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) classroom at each of our elementary buildings. Students in Kindergarten through 4th grade will experience the course for one 30-minute session within the six-day rotation, creating a new, student-directed exploratory learning opportunity for students to problem solve, create and collaborate.



Throughout the summer, our staff worked diligently to develop engaging lessons organized within five units. Each STEAM classroom was outfitted with new flexible classroom furniture conducive to this type of exploratory learning. Additional materials and

supplies were purchased by the District, supplemented by donations from generous members of the community, as well as a number of our business partners.



It's going to be another great year at Kaukauna Area School District, and we can't wait to see where these changes lead us.



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

WE DIDN'T COME THIS FAR, TO ONLY COME THIS FAR



Welcome to a new school year.

This year, I proudly celebrate my 30th year in public education, and I must say, I am so grateful to be spending it here, serving the Kaukauna Area School District. It's a special year, in a special place and for that, I thank you. And while these thirty years have gone by more quickly than I care to dwell on, I must say that I have learned so many amazing lessons, and still have so many more to learn.

My enthusiasm and energy for the year(s) ahead is grounded in a mindset of continuous improvement. As we continue to learn, we will continue to grow and get better every day, every month, every year.

KASD is a *special* District - and each year, the evidence of this shines brighter. Take a look below at some of our accomplishments from last school year. Or read through the article on the first page about the new opportunities we have available for our students. We will continue to share and celebrate our growth as a district and as a community. That is how we rise together.

We didn't come this far, to only come this far.

Our recent past is evidence that Kaukauna Area School District continues to meet and exceed the needs of students, staff and community; and our past will continue to inspire our future. Our growth in the understanding of the needs of those within our District and how we can better meet those needs will light the way for the journey ahead.

Our next level of success is going to be challenging, but I have no doubt that our District — our community — will rise to the challenge, work with pride and passion, and continue to get stronger every day.

I would like to thank you for an exceptional start to the school year and look forward to your continued support.

Enjoy the Community Ghost Story.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Duerwaechter'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Mark Duerwaechter, Superintendent

OUR PAST INSPIRES OUR FUTURE

Kaukauna Area School District has so much to be proud of. The 2016-2017 school was outstanding, filled with growth and opportunity for our students and staff members — who continue to exceed expectations.

Our staff members lead by example — the Kaukauna Strong way — working tirelessly to model success and continuous improvement. This year, four dedicated staff members reached the 25 years of service to KASD benchmark. Two dedicated coaches, Varsity Wrestling Coach Jeff Matczak and Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Mike Schalow were awarded “Coach of the Year” distinction. And five staff members were chosen as employees of the year, from an overwhelming pool of nominations. Narrowing to only five was a difficult task, but a good problem to have, and a tribute to the incredible talent and heart we have within our school family.

Our students continue to follow these examples.

Kaukauna High School saw one student earn recognition as a National Merit Program semifinalist. Another received the Herb Kohl Initiative scholarship, a \$10,000 award for students who have demonstrated high motivation to achieve, displayed a broad range of activities and leadership in the classroom, and show strong promise for succeeding in college and beyond. KHS also awarded 7 valedictorians and 1 salutatorian, and presented 39 Presidential Awards, 70 academic certificates and 47 academic letters. Nine KHS students were recognized as AP scholars for their hard work and exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement program exams. And at the end of the 2016-2017 school year, KHS seniors celebrated more than 200 awards and scholarships totaling more than \$2.1 million.

River View Students came together to read during the One School, One Book initiative. Every student in the school received a copy of Sharon Draper's **Out of My Mind** as part of this unique program designed to create a shared reading experience across an entire school community.

As a District, we celebrated a number of milestones as well. This year, student achievement continued to soar. Our assessment scores increased and remain well above state averages. Our District Report Cards released in

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LET'S TALK ABOUT ... TECHNOLOGY

Technology and education go hand in hand.

At the Kaukauna Area School District, we continually strive to find new ways to integrate technology into our District education plans, providing digital tools that engage students throughout the learning process. That keeps our Instructional Technology department pretty busy, not only handling the day-to-day responsibilities of keeping our District's technology up and running, but continuously researching new ideas and ways to support classroom learning through integrated technology. This summer, we found ourselves exceptionally busy preparing to support student learning.



We unboxed, labeled, entered into inventory and enrolled 1,300 new Chromebook devices for use District-wide and prepared eight carts of Chromebooks to supplement classroom sets and meet the increased demand for the devices for students in grades 1-6. After enrolling these devices (and streamlining our process to do so), we set to work preparing our network to handle all of them by upgrading our firewall, replacing our virtual servers (devices used to control everything from printing to phone systems to door access), and upgrading our WiFi network across the entire District. We purchased and configured new devices necessary for use in our new STEAM classes at the elementary level. 28 BenQ Interactive Flat Panels were assembled and distributed to elementary classrooms throughout the District as well.

And now, school is in, and we're continuing to support our students, along with these new learning tools. We can't wait to see what learning opportunities these updates will create for our students as we continue to grow and transition.

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November by Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction showed improvement in all KASD schools. Victor Haen Elementary School earned the "Significantly Exceeds Expectations" distinction, and Electa Quinney Elementary School, New Directions Learning Community, Park Community Charter School and River View Middle School earned a place in the "Exceeds Expectations" category. Because of the significant growth and success at the school level, our combined district accountability score and rating, landed KASD in the "Exceeds Expectations" category. Electa Quinney Elementary celebrated 50 years of serving the Kaukauna Community with a Birthday Bash open house event. And we continued to celebrate our many unique and always strong community partnerships.

The past school year also provided many opportunities for our kids to excel outside the classroom, with more than 61% of our students participating in co-curricular activities/athletics. Record number of students and hours were registered volunteering and serving the community. The Kaukauna High School Blood Drive continues to lead the Valley in donations. Service groups supported "Rock the Block" in Kaukauna. Instrumental and choir students excelled in State competitions, Forensics saw two state champions, Destination Imagination won the state-level competition, competed in a global competition and finished in the Top 10. Elementary students saw their artwork on display at the State Capitol Art Show in Madison during Youth Art Month. Two KHS Drama performances earned rave reviews. Six students from the Class of 2017 received athletic scholarships. The Fox Valley High School Figure Skating Team (including one member from KHS) won the Wisconsin High School Skating Series 2017 State Championship. KHS earned five WIAA sectional titles. And to cap off student activities, the Kaukauna High School Wrestling team won their fourth consecutive Division 1 state title, and the Lady Galloping Ghost Softball team won the Division 1 state title as well.

"All of this is continued evidence that we are on the right path – a continuous path of growth and toward success," said Superintendent Mark Duerwaechter. "We will continue to meet each challenge that brings us to each new level and we will continue to celebrate all of the successes along our journey. Our staff and students are putting in the work, are achieving success, and continue to grow every day. It's a proud time for KASD."

Kaukauna Area School District is truly an amazing place. **Kaukauna Strong.**

The Kaukauna Area School District will educate students to be effective lifelong learners who can successfully meet the challenges of their lives and be positive contributors to society. We will do this, in partnership with our community, by providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum through best instructional practices which emphasize student success and accountability, delivered in a safe and caring environment.

The **Mission** and **Vision** of the Kaukauna Area School District directly relate to three essential goals: student success, culture and climate, and fiscal sustainability. Our commitment to these goals serves as a launching point for our success.

In 2011, our renewed commitment to these goals began with a \$1.2 million investment into what is now Park Community Charter School. The oldest building in our fleet, and a rich part of Kaukauna's history, Park was in need of some extensive infrastructure updates. It was just after this investment, that outreach and engagement began: A community survey sent to all Kaukauna residents requesting feedback to help us better define a long-range plan for our District.

In April 2015, ground was broken on a new athletic facility at Kaukauna High School, a multi-faceted site upgrade which included a new weight training room, auxiliary gymnasium, an outdoor stadium to host football, soccer and track, a renovated soccer stadium, a renovated softball stadium and an indoor training facility. Students, staff and many community youth groups use the new spaces for teaching and learning while the Kaukauna High School student athletes and coaches now have upgraded facilities to use for co-curricular activities.

In October 2015, the Kaukauna Area School District launched its District Vision Committee to engage our staff and school community in a continuous improvement process. The group met monthly to examine the current reality of the District's three goals, discussed where we needed to be, and created an action plan for how to get there. The nearly two-year process resulted in a recommendation from the committee to the Board of Education to further explore potential changes in structure and configuration that will help provide a better environment for learning within our District.

In August 2016, the Board of Education authorized the investment of \$48 million for infrastructure and energy efficiency updates at all of our school sites to address issues in our aging buildings. Using Wisconsin's Act 32 legislation, the District was able to secure the investment in our buildings while maintaining the existing mill rate. The first phase of this project included borrowing \$23 million to maintain existing roofs and update systems and infrastructure at KHS and the elementary schools which began in June 2017. Approximately \$25 million in similar significant infrastructure upgrades will occur at River View Middle School starting in June 2018.

We didn't come this far, to only come this far.

We have and will continue to invest in our school buildings to ensure safe, comfortable and welcoming learning environments for our students. But we need to do more; we must extend our continuous improvement plan to also focus on the improvement of the learning environments from an instructional lens.

In August 2017, the District took the next step along our path of continuous school improvement, making the decision to partner with Eppstein Uhen Architects (EUA) to utilize their Master Planning services. The process of Master Planning is centered around the concept of identifying instructional needs and ensuring that our learning facilities and environments match those needs. Together, we will develop a long-range facilities master plan that aligns with the District's three strategic goals, reflects the community's values and priorities and best supports our vision for the future. This process will include but is not limited to:

- Developing innovative pathways and solutions to effectively honor the rich history of our existing facilities while modernizing learning spaces
- Exploring building and site capacity and current utilization
- Examining the current reality of some building safety and accessibility options, and the availability of flexible, collaborative learning spaces
- Exploring grade-level configuration options
- Soliciting staff and community input and feedback using a number of engagement tools such as surveys, focus groups, community workshops and district committees
- Developing and refining options with preliminary cost estimates and conceptual site plans

Our District's three main goals do and will remain at the forefront of this master planning process.



STUDENT SUCCESS

ALL KASD STUDENTS WILL GROW EMOTIONALLY, SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY.

KASD WILL CULTIVATE SAFE AND POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE DYNAMIC NEEDS OF THE STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY.



CULTURE AND CLIMATE



FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

KASD WILL MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF ALL LEARNERS WHILE MAINTAINING A BALANCED BUDGET WHICH REFLECTS THE VALUES AND PRIORITIES OF THE COMMUNITY.



KASD is committed to continuous improvement.

We haven't come this far, to only come this far. We will continue to listen to our staff and our community, to learn, to grow, and to keep moving along this path toward success. Please follow us through this process, by keeping your eyes to the Kaukauna Area School District's website (Master Planning 2018 site), the District's Board of Education packets and meetings, social media, and our newsletters, where you'll find information about the process, invitations for involvement and an area specifically requesting your feedback.

STRONG

Kankana



Tanner students arrange their own game of Duck, Duck, Goose at recess!



KHS Ignition students and new freshmen work together on day 1.



Park students research the early lifestyles of Native American tribes during a trip to 1000 Islands Environmental Center



The community works together with KHS Boys Soccer to raise money for a Tanner student.



Celebrating International Dot Day at NDLC



Harvesting lettuce from NDLC's Growing Machine



Haen students learn how to drum to a beat during music class.

IN OUR SCHOOLS

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR!

There's no denying it – KASD has the best teachers and staff around! At the District's closing ceremonies for the 2016-2017 school year, five Kaukauna Area School District employees were recognized and celebrated for their accomplishments.



Jim Geoffrey, Elementary Certified Staff

Jim, Technology Coach for KASD elementary schools, was nominated for his ability to inspire others to incorporate innovative technology within the curriculum. He was described as patient and professional while enthusiastically sharing his knowledge with both students and staff and his positive attitude was commended. Jim has made strong connections with students and staff across the District in his role as Technology Coach, both looking forward to his classroom visits; he's truly made a positive impact on both staff and students at Kaukauna Area School District.



Kyrstn Bergh, Middle School Certified Staff

Kyrstn, 7th Grade Math Teacher at River View Middle School, was described as an incredible role model to her students (and her colleagues), always bringing to school an upbeat, positive and encouraging attitude. Her students will tell you that she's not only helpful, but fun, and someone that they can trust and in whom they can confide. Her colleagues describe her as helpful, adventurous, a leader in sharing new ideas and trying new things. She has been an inspiration to River View students and staff.



John Stangel, High School Certified Staff

KHS Band Teacher John Stangel was recognized for his ability to foster a love of both learning and music in his students. His ability to not only continue the marching band, but turn it around and help it grow into a 170-student strong team, is a tribute to his leadership, flexibility, and passion for music and children. Mr. Stangel has proved himself as a model of energy, enthusiasm, positive attitude and commitment, and his ability to create opportunities for his students has exposed them to life experiences and perspectives they may not have otherwise had; he extends learning beyond traditional curriculum and has touched the lives of many.



Sue Vanevenhoven, District Support Staff

Sue, Administrative Assistant at River View Middle School, was described as supportive, caring, welcoming and dependable. She goes above and beyond her call of duty regularly to help keep River View running smoothly. This school year, Sue took on several additional responsibilities, while successfully maintaining and excelling within her existing role. Sue has proven to be an invaluable member of the River View office staff, and has had a positive impact on all River View students and staff.



Abbey Frischmann, Administrator

Abbey, Principal of New Directions Learning Community, was nominated for the positive impact she's had at New Directions Learning Community, advocating for their mission and vision in all that she does. Abbey was praised for her wisdom, professionalism, personality and balance and described as a natural leader. She puts others first and works to develop strong, trusting relationships with anyone she meets, celebrating victories and working through challenges with kindness, openness and maturity. The work that Abbey does with students, teacher and parents makes KASD a better place to work and learn.

Superintendent Duerwaechter presented the awards during the closing ceremony. "We received an overwhelming number of nominations for the 2016-2017 Employee of the Year awards. It was a very difficult decision, but that, itself, is a tribute to the incredible talent and heart we have within our school family. I'm proud to be a part of a community that values their schools – and each other – it's why we are, and will continue to be, Kaukauna Strong."

CONGRATULATIONS!



Reading with Littles

Superintendent Duerwaechter spent some time this summer reading to some of our soon-to-be students during Summer Storytime at the Kaukauna Public Library. It was a fun and silly time for all!

This publication was produced for the residents of the Kaukauna Area School District. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Residential Customer



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------|--|
| 10/9 | School Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m. | 11/30 | 6th/7th Grade Band Concert; RVMS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. |
| 10/23 | School Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m. | 12/1 | Love Lights; Kaukauna Library, 5:00 p.m. |
| 10/23-10/25 | Red Ribbon Week | 12/1 | 11:30 Dismissal - KHS students only (End of Trimester) |
| 10/26-10/27 | NO SCHOOL | 12/5 | Kaukauna Holiday Parade |
| 11/4 | Lawrence University Jazz Fest | 12/7 | 7th/8th Grade and Jazz Choir Concert; KHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. |
| 11/9 | KHS Pep Band Concert; 7:00 p.m. | 12/11 | 6th-12th Grade Orchestra Concert; KHS Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. |
| 11/10 | River View Middle School Veteran's Day Ceremony | 12/11 | School Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m. |
| 11/13 | School Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m. | 12/12 | NO SCHOOL |
| 11/16-11/18 | KHS Fall Play - <i>Footloose</i> | 12/14 | 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Concert; RVMS Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. |
| 11/17 | 11:30 Dismissal - River View & Elementary Students Only | 12/14 | KHS Winter Choir Concert; KHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. |
| 11/22-11/24 | NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Recess | 12/18 | KHS Band Concert; KHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. |
| 11/27 | School Board Meeting; 5:30 p.m. | 12/22-1/1 | NO SCHOOL - Winter Recess |