



Community Ghost Story

1701 County Road CE | Kaukauna, WI 54130 | 920.766.6100 | www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us

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 Human Resources, Legal Services – Scott Mikesh
- Director of Secondary Education – Matthew Smith
- Director of Special Education, Pupil Services – Sarah Newberry

Principals

- Haen, Park – Ken Kortens
- KHS – Michael Werbowski
- NDLC – Abby Frischmann
- River View – Daniel Joseph
- Quinney – Stacy Knapp
- Tanner – Elizabeth Thoreson

Board of Education

- Chris Bouressa
- Giovanna Feller
- Sue Gertz
- Sam Kelly
- Mark Miller
- John Moore
- Tim Reichenberger

Contact Us

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 1701 County Road CE
 Kaukauna, WI 54130
 (920) 766-6100
 www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us

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DISTRICT VISION COMMITTEE OFF TO A GREAT START

KASD's District Vision Committee, created to engage our school community in a continuous improvement process, is off to a great start. 19 staff members and 7 members of our community have held two meetings already, and are working hard to examine the current reality of our district's culture, fiscal sustainability and student achievement, and how they relate to our vision for the district. Soon, we'll explore the necessary steps to get from our reality to the vision.

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.

Our Goal: Answer the question "How will we accomplish this?"

- Step 1: Educate**
Who are we? This step is grounded in exploring the current reality of the district in relationship to our three goals: culture, fiscal sustainability and student achievement. We'll examine, evaluate and present data for each of these goals.
- Step 2: Vision**
What do we want to become? In step two, we apply the information that we learned during step one, and visualize a new or improved educational system of services for the future to improve student and staff achievement.
- Step 3: Explore and Prioritize**
What can KASD do? During this step, we'll prioritize the elements of a new, emerging vision that are attainable in relation to our district's goals.
- Step 4: Action**
How will we accomplish the vision? Finally, in step four, we'll develop a plan for implementation of each of the action steps to get from our current reality to our district vision. This step also includes development and submission of a recommendation to the Board of Education for potential action.

LET'S TALK ABOUT... KAUKAUNA STRONG

Nearly two years ago Kaukauna High School was in search of a unifying moment – a moment that would build a stronger, more cohesive school community. We held meetings with staff and students, and explored a number of ideas; but none resonated more than Kaukauna Strong, which has since grown into a mindset within our school community – a brand that the greater community has adopted, now proudly displaying (in the form of decals on cars, boats, motorcycles, bikes, t-shirts, helmets, computers and more!), and more importantly, living, within our community.

we've encouraged staff, students and members of the community to spread this growth mindset and show us their decals and photos from anywhere in the world. Kaukauna Strong can be seen in Prague, Canada, Italy, France, Alaska, Disney World, mission trips in Nassau, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Rocky Mountains... and even with Elvis!



But what, exactly is Kaukauna Strong? While everyone has a different interpretation of what Kaukauna Strong means to them, the overall message is the same: it's a mindset

of strength, resilience, growth and unity, within our school and within our community. Kaukauna Strong embraces and perseveres through chal-

lenges. For the past two summers,

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TEACHER SPOTLIGHTS: WE ARE KAUKAUNA STRONG!

There's no denying it – Kaukauna Area School District has the best teachers around. Here's a chance to get to know a few of them a little better! Each honored in 2015 with "Teacher of the Year" awards, these three teachers are top-notch; they understand and live Kaukauna Strong each day.



Jennie Gries
Park Community
Charter School,
2nd Grade Teacher

Years at KASD: 22

Favorite Local Landmark:

My favorite places in Kaukauna are all the beautiful parks and softball diamonds. I spend many hours watching my daughters, Madisen and Makenna, play Kaukauna Fast Pitch softball.

Favorite Teaching Moment: Each day has a favorite teaching moment. Little successes by little people need to be celebrated each day! I hope my love of teaching has impacted my students to love learning.

Greatest Teaching Success: My greatest teaching success is knowing I have provided a safe, nurturing and respectful learning environment for my students. I want to leave my classroom each day knowing that I have made a difference in the lives of my students.

Favorite Learning Moment: My favorite learning moment as a teacher has been implementing Conscious Discipline. I believe creating a school family by making connections with students and building relationships with families are crucial components to their success as lifelong learners.

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? Kaukauna Strong means that "we are all in this together." It is our responsibility as

educators, parents and community members to create a safe and caring place to live, learn and grow. I am blessed my daughters are receiving a first-class education at KASD. I am proud to be a Ghost!



Michael Vanderscheuren
River View Middle School
5th and 6th grade General
Music; 7th and 8th grade
Band; and Jazz Band

Years at KASD: 4

Favorite Local Landmark:

Eating Dick's Drive-In Ice Cream at 1000 Islands.

Favorite Teaching Moment: My favorite teaching moment is any time I can help a student find intrinsic motivation – and they plot out the steps they need to reach their highest potential.

Greatest Teaching Success: Any time students reach and recognize their success and achievements.

Favorite Learning Moment: Learning is a social act; the expression of ideas and facts that changes the way we think or behave. Because social activities should be fun, learning should be fun. All students need then, is the motivation and the proper tools.

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? Kaukauna Strong means getting better at what you do every day, making each day a step forward and progress toward a goal.



Karla Miller-Flynn
Kaukauna High School,
Health Educator

Years at KASD: 27

Favorite Local Landmark:

Van Abel's, for the family-style meals (especially the green beans!); the Ghost Field House to watch sports action, and Frogg's Ice Cream.

Favorite Teaching Moment: I remember when, on the first day of school, one student told me he was excited to take my class because his mom, a former classmate of mine, said I was nice to her in high school; because of that, he wanted to meet me!

Greatest Teaching Success: Working with National Honor Society is very rewarding for me, both personally and professionally. It's very fulfilling to watch students begin to really understand the importance of service to their community and giving back.

Favorite Learning Moment: Every student matters. I try to make a difference in the life of a student every day – even in a small way.

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? Kaukauna Strong means you work your way through any adversity you encounter in an effort to be successful. Resiliency is something we strive for, both as professionals and as a teaching point for students. Pride in our school and community and being the best we can be ... that's Kaukauna Strong.



ENROLL ANY TIME!

At Kaukauna Area School District, students truly come first – that's part of what makes us Kaukauna Strong! Throughout our district, students, teachers and staff members are learning every day, and having fun doing it. We strive to get better every day, and, as a result, great things are happening in the Kaukauna Area School District – both in and out of the classrooms.

We're proud of our district and our pursuit and evolution of constant improvement, and we'd love to have your child be a part of it. Call us at (920) 759-6109 for a registration packet, call one of our school offices to schedule a tour, or visit our new website at www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us and click on "How to Enroll."

When you register, please bring along your child's birth certificate, immunization record, and, if the child has previously attended school elsewhere, a report card from the child's previous school.

We are, and will continue to be Kaukauna Strong. Join us; Choose KASD.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for our concerts, parades and more to celebrate the season!

- 11/24 Appleton Christmas Parade, 6 p.m.
- 12/01 Electric City Christmas Parade, 6 p.m.
- 12/03 River View Middle School 6th and 7th Grade Band Concert, 7 p.m.
- 12/08 River View Middle School 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
- 12/14 River View Middle School Orchestra Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
- 12/21 River View Middle School 7th and 8th Grade Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
- 12/23 Victor Haen Elementary School Holiday Sing-along, 2:10 p.m.
- 01/11 Kaukauna High School Winter Band Concert





Superintendent's Corner

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I hope that this edition of the Community Ghost Story finds you and your family doing well, and finding the time to enjoy the moments of

life. Through the years, I continue to get better at enjoying those moments myself. Some of those most enjoyable moments as a superintendent come when I get the opportunity to visit schools and to observe teaching and learning. Amazing learning is occurring every day in the Kaukauna Area School District (KASD). I leave each school visit with a sense of pride and accomplishment because I have been able to witness the passion and expertise of our staff as they develop positive connections with their students. These connections are the foundation for resilient, persevering and inspired students; each of these qualities is essential to meeting the challenges of life. Thank you to KASD for providing me with the privilege to experience and enjoy these moments; they're part of what makes this a great place to learn.

Another reason KASD continues to be a great place to learn, are the programs, projects and initiatives that have been developed to keep moving our district forward. Some of these initiatives are very visible to the community, some nearly invisible.

The first, I am very proud to report, is our effort to continue lowering class sizes at all grade levels. The combination of highly-effective teachers and smaller class sizes is a formula for success. While this initiative is a much less visible to the greater community, it's important to keep in mind that our district continues to make a long term commitment to student achievement. KASD now spends approximately \$3.1 million more on staffing than we did during the 2011-2012 school year. These annually-recurring costs are directly related to staffing classrooms and support programs. Add to that our successful professional development pro-

grams – KASD continues to provide our staff with purposeful and engaging professional development focused on wellness, literacy, math and technology – and you'll find that our high-quality, effective instruction continues to evolve and improve.

Also new this year, River View Middle School has implemented a new instructional day that provides more core academic time and more enrichment and support for student learning. The early indication is that both students and teachers are enjoying the new school day. With this change, KASD can proudly note that both the high school and middle school have reinvented their instructional day in the past two years. Frankly, this is an outstanding accomplishment.

Another pride point is the new Wrap Around Care program, operated by the Heart of the Valley YMCA at Tanner Early Learning Center. The program currently serves approximately fifty students, and was developed based on our parents need for before- and after-school care.

A visible initiative this year was the launch of our new website: www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us. I hope that you have had a chance to visit and explore the new site, and find it to be user friendly, and filled with relevant, up-to-date information. You can also get to the district's three other social media sites – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram – from the home page. If you haven't, please take the time to check out these new tools which we hope will help us to better communicate with you.

Perhaps the most visible project in the District is the new activities and athletic facility additions at Kaukauna High School. The finished project will include a new fitness and weight training facility, an auxiliary gymnasium, a ProGrass Turf outdoor stadium to host football, soccer, track and field, a ProGrass Turf indoor training facility, a ProGrass Turf soccer field, and a remod-



Over the summer, River View staff worked tirelessly to ready the school with renovations and classroom updates to prepare for the changes to the schedule and the learning day.

eled softball field. The District and the community are very excited about these new state-of-the-art facilities as they will serve our students for many years to come. We are proud to note that the project is on-budget and on-schedule; we expect to be able to use the indoor facilities in January 2016, and the outdoor facilities will be ready for the spring practice and completion. This project is an excellent example of the will of KASD to provide the very best facilities for our students.

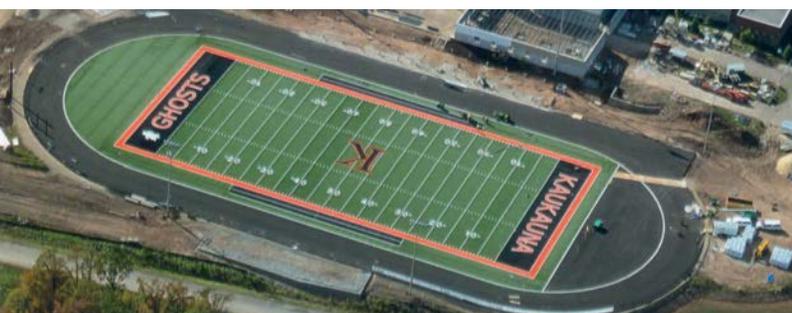
Finally, I proudly share that the Board of Education has approved a budget for the 2015-16 school year with a tax levy mill rate that is \$9.13 per \$1000 of property value – the second lowest mill rate in the Fox Valley. This year's mill rate is 20¢ lower than in the fall of 2012, and remains unchanged from last year. KASD will continue to stretch ourselves to achieve our District goals and to provide a high quality education for our students while being fiscally prudent.

Kaukauna Area School District is a great place for students to learn and to grow. The passion and determination that I see from students, staff, parents and the community to improve our school programs is inspiring.

Enjoy the Community Ghost Story.

Sincerely, Mark Duerwachter,
Superintendent

Kaukauna Strong: It's a mindset.



Let's Talk About... Kaukauna Strong ...from Page 1

Challenges, sees effort as a path to learning and mastery and learns from criticism, finding lessons and inspiration from the success of others. It's a collection of community values that has driven continuous improvement for generations.

As you continue to see Kaukauna Strong throughout the community, take the time to think about exactly what Kaukauna Strong means to you.





WRAP AROUND

The first year of KASD's wrap-around care program has had a great start! More than 50 students are currently enrolled in the program, which was created to address the needs of busy parents and to give children a good foundation for learning.

*****ECRWSEDDM****

Residential Customer

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.

BE PREPARED: SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES

At KASD, safety of our students and staff is our greatest concern. The decision to close schools during inclement weather is made based on review of regional weather data and forecasts from the National Weather Service, as well as conversations with leaders from other local districts and our transportation company.



Severe weather may result in:

- **Delayed Start Time:** School begins two hours after normal start time, generally allowing time for streets and highways to be cleared and/or temperatures to rise.
- **School Closing:** The school day is canceled due to bad weather or unsafe conditions that are expected to last throughout the day.
- **Early Release:** Students may be released early due to conditions that would impact the safety of after-school transportation.

Stay Informed!

If the decision is made that affects the scheduled school day, families will be notified in a number of ways:

- **KASD's Emergency Call System:** Please update your contact information in Infinite Campus – Parent Portal
- **District Website:** www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us
- **District and School Social Media Sites:** Follow our Facebook and Twitter pages for quick updates
- **Local TV and Radio Stations:** WBAY TV 2, WFRV TV 5, WLUK TV 11 and WGBA 26, as well as WHBY 1150 AM, WAPL 105.7 FM, WGEE 1360 AM, WIXX 101.1 FM, WNCY 100.3 FM, WKSZ 95.9 FM and WZOR 94.7 FM.

Note to our families: If KASD opts not to change the school schedules or close schools, parents have the right to keep a child home if they feel that it is in the child's best interest. We ask that parents call the school to inform staff of the child's absence.

