



KAUKAUNA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY GHOST STORY

1701 County Road CE • Kaukauna, WI 54130

Fall Edition 2013

Common Core State Standards

The State of Wisconsin, along with 44 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CCSS is a set of standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics for what students should know and be able to perform in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Kaukauna Area School District (KASD) is in the second year of implementation. While this transition is challenging, it is necessary. KASD is making effective progress and becoming more confident in teaching to the new standards each day.

The KASD categorically supports the CCSS, as the standards are rigorous and relevant and when taught with fidelity, they will prepare students for the 21st century workplace.

Additionally, the CCSS are the foundation from which local school districts can build upon.

Please visit this website if you would like to learn more about the CCSS:

www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us

Focus on Culture, Fiscal Sustainability and Student Achievement

Hello to the greater Kaukauna Area School District Community! I am pleased to share the fall 2013 KASD Community Ghost Story edition with you.

Spanning over three different counties, Kaukauna Area School District proudly serves eleven different townships, villages and the City of Kaukauna.

Since I arrived in July of 2012, I have learned that the communities that make up KASD are very proud, hardworking, genuine people who care about their schools. Frankly, your community pride inspires us to deliver an educational program that meets and exceeds the needs of our students.

Currently, we are pleased to report that the District, as well as all individual schools, are meeting the Department of Public Instruction's accountability expectations.

However, we also have the expectation to exceed them, and our school improvement plans are based on the continued support of three District goals; to improve student achievement, to improve the culture of KASD, and to maintain a fiscally sustainable educational program.

In this issue, I would like to give you a progress report and share some methods that we are incorporating to reach our goals. The action steps of the three goals are creating conditions that are improving KASD every day.

We know we have much work ahead of us; however, we can be proud of the work that has been accomplished in the past few months as well. The mindset of KASD is that "Our sun is rising."

We are focusing our work on the following three KASD goals:

1. Culture – To maintain and to improve the culture of KASD by creating a safe and enjoyable place to learn and work;

2. Fiscal Sustainability – To maintain a five year fiscal sustainability plan; and

3. Student Achievement – To improve student achievement, including implementation of the Common Core, bringing students to 80% at grade level in reading and math & 24 in 5 years (ACT)

I have listed a few examples of the work being done to meet several "focus areas" for these goals that we've set for the 2013-14 school year.

Student Achievement and College & Career Readiness

- KASD has adopted and implemented the Common Core State Standards which has "raised the bar" for all students.
- We are providing our teachers and principals with 21st Century tools and resources so that they can better support student needs.
- We are currently in the middle of a District wide Literacy Program audit. We expect to see the result before the end of the calendar year, and we plan to recommend revisions to the current program by the end of the school year.
- We will continue to place a particular emphasis on the social and emotional wellness of our students by the implementation of the District Student Assistance Program initiatives.



Mark P. Duerwaechter
Superintendent

Student Achievement and Supervision and Evaluation

- KASD is in the second year of using a new supervision and evaluation process for all staff.
- Although the program is in the early implementation stages, we are finding it beneficial as it is "stretching" staff to learn more deeply about their individual performance, and to improve their effectiveness.

Fiscal Sustainability and Employee Compensation and Benefits

- An analysis and application of staff compensation and benefits must continue to be a priority for KASD.
- While fiscal sustainability is a "moving target," the KASD Business Office continues to use a five-year budget projection plan that is consistently used during the decision-making processes.

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Focus... *continued*

Culture and Working Conditions

- For the past two and half years, KASD staff members have been analyzing the District's working conditions and have been making recommendations to the Board of Education in an effort to improve the policies and practices of the District. I am very pleased to report that recommendations have been approved and changes have been made. This school year, I expect to see more recommendations emerge.
- For example, the KHS Focus Group is researching an instructional day that hosts a block schedule. A goal of submitting recommendations to the Board of Education in late 2013 or early 2014 has been set. Expected outcomes of block scheduling will be to focus on increasing the current level of engaging relationships between students and teachers due

to more contact time in class, to focus on improving student achievement, to create more opportunities for students, and to reduce the current stressors of the instructional day for our staff.

We will continue to review teacher collaboration time; professional development, our calendar, and the results of focus groups.

Culture and Community and Parent Satisfaction

- KASD must continue to develop a more positive and more trusting relationship with the parents and the community of KASD.
- I am excited to report that we will be launching an internal and a parent/community survey. Frankly, we need your input into what KASD is doing well and what we need to improve upon. The survey results will assist us in developing action steps to close the gaps that

exist in the services we provide students and families. This process is a part of developing and implementing a District Communication Plan.

In closing, a few weeks ago I was meeting with three high school student leaders and the high school principal. Through their innovation and determination to share their spirited unity for their school and community, they developed a *Kaukauna Strong* campaign. To them, and now to me, Kaukauna Strong stands for unity, resiliency, and a collective effort to resolve problems and celebrate successes with compassion, integrity and fidelity. *Kaukauna Strong!*

Mark P. Duerwaechter
Superintendent



KEY DATES FALL 2013

Nov. 6: P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) at the P.A.C. for 10th grade students

**Nov. 7-9:
KHS Fall Musical Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Bernie Hupperts Center for Performing Arts, KHS**

Nov. 12, 18: 4:00-7:30 p.m.: KHS & RV Parent/Student/Teacher Conference dates

Nov. 14, 19: 4:00-7:30 p.m.: Elementary Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

Nov. 15: 12:30-4:00 p.m.: All schools Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

Dec. 5, 7 p.m.: 6th, 7th and Jazz Band Concert, River View Auditorium

Dec. 10, 7 p.m.: 7th and 8th Choir Winter Concert, Bernie Hupperts Center for Performing Arts, KHS

Dec. 16, 6 p.m.: KHS Band and Choir Concert, Bernie Hupperts Center for Performing Arts, KHS

Dec. 17, 7 p.m.: 8th and Jazz Band Concert, River View Auditorium

EARLY RELEASE AT 11:30 A.M.:
Nov. 15, Nov. 27, Dec. 12

NO SCHOOL: Nov. 28, 29

WINTER BREAK: Dec. 23 - Jan. 1

ATHLETIC CALENDARS CAN BE FOUND AT:

<http://www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/activities/athletics/default.aspx>

(Click on the Athletic Schedules link)

