



KAUKAUNA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S Community Ghost Story

FALL 2016

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 – Abby Frischmann
Park – Ken Kortens
Quinney – Stacy Knapp
Tanner – Elizabeth Thoreson

Board of Education

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

Contact Us

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KUDOS TO OUR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS TEAM

As the Kaukauna Area School District continues to take leaps forward, we should recognize that a good part of that success can be credited to the hard work of KASD's Building and Grounds Team. During the 2015-2016 school year, the team worked hard to implement a number of projects to ensure top-notch facilities for our students.



When the School Board approved the funding plan to complete an extensive re-design and update of the District's existing athletic facilities, the Buildings and Grounds team made it happen, implementing an advanced timeline and working with our contractors to have the facilities ready for student use as soon as was possible. This extensive project culminated in a successful Grand Opening Celebration prior to the first home football game of the 2016-2017 school year.

More recently, the Buildings and Grounds team was an essential part of the School Board's approval of an energy efficiency project plan using Wisconsin Act 32 to exceed our revenue limit (not to exceed \$48.4 million) to implement energy efficiency improvements to our schools. During the coming school year, the Kaukauna Area School district will proceed with a number of upgrades to our schools, taking steps to maintain and upgrade our \$200 million of District Assets and saving \$5 million over the next 20 years.



LET'S TALK ABOUT ... SUCCESS

KASD has so much to be proud of. Our amazing and dedicated staff members and our incredibly talented students exceed expectations daily.

Our staff members live the Kaukauna Strong way every day. These teachers work tirelessly, model success, and consistently strive for growth every day. During the 2015-2016 school year, 12 staff members reached an outstanding benchmark: 25 years of service to KASD. Dedication.

This year, KHS Counselor Michelle Feucht was also named the 2016 High School Counseling Professional of the Year by the Wisconsin Association for College Admission Counseling and Superintendent Duerwaechter was recognized as one of "25

Superintendents to Watch" by the National School Public Relations Association.

As for students? In the classroom, we saw student achievement take great strides. Our assessment scores increased and remain well above state averages.

At KHS, success was everywhere you turned your head. Many students chose to tackle AP courses and tests, twelve of them earning AP Scholar status, three "With Honor" and one "With Distinction." KHS also awarded 10 valedictorians and 3 salutatorians, and presented 50 Presidential Awards, 73 academic certificates and 46 academic letters. A KHS Civic Engagement class won the "Change your Community Sharing your

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TEACHER SPOTLIGHTS: WE ARE KAUKAUNA STRONG!

There's no denying it – KASD has the best teachers around! Here's a chance to get to know a few of them a little better. Each honored with "Teacher of the Year" awards in 2016, these three are top-notch models of Kaukauna Strong.

Vicky Siegel
Art Teacher at
Quinney, NDLC
and Tanner



Years at KASD: 20

Favorite Kaukauna Pastime: My Favorite thing to do in Kaukauna is to teach art! I also love to watch my nieces and other former students play sports.

Favorite Teaching Moment: I love to help all of my students to be creative, respectful, and to believe in themselves! The greatest satisfaction is having students communicate to others what they have learned in the art room, to use what they have learned and think outside the box, and to value the arts.

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? Kaukauna Strong refers to the schools and community working together! I've taught in many schools for KASD, and you always find staff, parents, and students working as one to make us stronger.

Laura Lindberg
Alternative
Education, grades
7&8 at River View
Middle School



Years at KASD: 21

Favorite Kaukauna Pastime: 1,000 Islands Nature Center is definitely a favorite. It is a true gift for our community. On March 1 Dick's Drive In becomes a must go to place after the long winter.

Favorite Teaching Moment: There are so many wonderful "aha" teaching moments with students; however, my favorite memories usually surround the Breakfast Club students. The students come into room 138 at River View from 7-7:40 daily to talk, play games, watch the news, or do homework. It is a wonderful way to start the day with unconditional love and laughter.

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? Kaukauna Strong is a deep commitment to being better every day.

Becky VanCuyk
English Teacher
at Kaukauna High
School



Years at KASD: 18

Favorite Kaukauna Pastime: Going to Dick's Drive In, of course!

Favorite Teaching Moment: Every year when I get to see the seniors walk into their graduation ceremony. I love the excitement in the air and the pride in all of their faces!

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? Kaukauna Strong means bringing my very best to my students every day; celebrating our successes, and evaluating and re-evaluating what they need most; and loving my job and loving my kids.



UPCOMING EVENTS

10/10	School Board Meeting	12/1	6th and 7th Grade Band Concert, 7pm, River View
10/24	School Board Meeting	12/2	KHS Only: 11:30 Dismissal
10/28	NO SCHOOL	12/6	Kaukauna Christmas Parade
10/29	NO SCHOOL	12/8	7th and 8th Grade Choir Concert, 7pm, River View
11/11	Veteran's Day Ceremony, River View Auditorium	12/12	6th thru 12th Grade Orchestra Concert, 7pm, KHS
11/14	School Board Meeting	12/12	School Board Meeting
11/17	NHS Blood Drive, KHS	12/13	NO SCHOOL
11/17	Elementary and River View 11:30 Dismissal	12/15	8th Grade Jazz Band Concert, 7pm, River View
11/23 - 11/27	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break	12/23	Winter Recess Begins
11/28	School Board Meeting		

In the past several issues of the CGS, we've talked about the **District Vision Committee (DVC)**, a group created to engage our school community in a continuous improvement process and examine the current reality of our district's culture, fiscal sustainability and student achievement, and how they relate to our vision for the district. As we continue through our four steps—Educate, Vision, Explore and Prioritize, and Action—we'd like you to keep in mind that very soon in our process we will be soliciting help from you ... our community members! It's input from all of you, through this upcoming survey, that keeps this process moving forward on this path of success.

MORE INFO COMING SOON

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

A NEW YEAR AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES



One of the things that I love about working in a school district is that each September as the new year begins, staff and students are presented with a unique opportunity: the chance for a new start. Everyone approaches this a little differently, and for many, it's a bit of a challenge. But I truly enjoy observing these blank slates being filled with new goals and plans of success and I'm amazed each year at how quickly students and staff are able to meet their challenges head-on and tackle the hard work that faces them as they move forward on their journeys.

I proudly share that this year begins with new goals and plans for success at the district level as well; District staff spent a significant amount of time this summer making revisions and improvements to continue our STRONG push forward. Here are some of the highlights:

- We hired nearly fifty highly-qualified and dedicated new staff members to support our students. I'm very proud to report that every elementary school is now supported by a full-time principal.
- A comprehensive Instructional Technology plan has been launched, getting Chromebooks into the hands of every 7th and 9th grade student (and all students in the coming years). We've also added Chromebooks at each elementary school and increased our instructional technology staff to better support learning.
- The KASD Board of Education approved a certified compensation plan that is based on professional development, rather than experience.
- The Board approved the use of ACT 32 to address the maintenance, and preservation of the District's \$200 million in building assets, upgrading many systems to more energy-efficient alternatives.
- The District Vision Committee continues down the path of defining District goals and discovering innovative instructional practices. You can view the work that we've been doing by visiting the KASD website – there's a quick link to the page on the right.
- And, throughout the summer, staff took full advantage of a number of rigorous and relevant professional development opportunities specifically in the areas of literacy and math. We've also upgraded the mentoring program for incoming certified staff and educational assistants to better share our wealth of knowledge.

In late August, after our action-packed summer, we invited staff back to school by hosting our Opening Day Ceremonies. During this time, I shared with what I believe to be an essential part of what makes KASD special: We are building a Culture of Success.

What does that mean? Success is a mindset that requires us to seek out challenges as opportunities to learn and grow, rather than avoid them. We must embrace criticism, rather than dismiss it. And each of us must model this effort for group success. Success is a process – and failure is part of the process. But failure doesn't define us. Instead, we're defined by our persistence; by how we get back up and apply the lessons we've learned; and by how we support each other through the obstacles during difficult times.

Never has this been so evident.

During the first week of school, we experienced a tragic accident that took the life of a seventh grade student at River View. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of a new school year, this tragedy required each of us to pause ... to support all those involved. It was a test and a testament to the spirit of our community. While we continue to grieve and move forward in our healing, I challenge you to recognize acts of kindness that have taken place: schools throughout the Fox Valley have offered support and aid; rival football teams put aside their jersey colors and came together as one to collect donations for a grieving family; youth programs did the same; rival volleyball teams offered remembrance ribbons to KHS players; a memorial account has received an overwhelming response. We continue to support the family and each other through this process. These actions define Kaukauna Strong.

To all who have shown your support, thank you.

On behalf of the District, I wish you all safe, enjoyable moments as you create new opportunities with your family and friends during this new school year. I wish you success.

Enjoy the Community Ghost Story,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Duerwaechter'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mark Duerwaechter, Superintendent



New Staff 2016-2017

Front Row: Sarah Pickering, Erin Clausen, Kristin Heller, Stefanie Stainton, Angela Brown, Kristina Sheth, Nancy West-Sawyer, Lori Phillips, Holly Hoffmann, Nikki Shefchik, Kailey Clemons, Mariah Peotter, Brooke Weyers, Katie Nesemann, Brian Reindl; Back Row: Lucas Cromell, Andrew Swanson, Stephen Paske, Matt Binsfeld, Michael Baumann, Corey Baumgartner, Mitch Rottier, Greg Franzen, Katie Weyers, Luke Gajewski, Robert VanderHeiden, Emily Haffley, Kim Schaefer

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

SUCCESS STORIES: IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

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HEART” award for their continued dedication to making a difference in the community. And at the end of the 2015-2016 school year, KHS seniors received more than 200 awards and scholarships totaling more than \$1.6 million. We live in a *special* community.

Success outside of the classroom broke records. Nearly 60% of our students participated in school-related extra-curricular activities. And the 2015-2016 school year was an outstanding year for KHS extracurriculars and teams.

KHS saw four Post-Crescent Athletes of the Year, and our talented teams of athletes earned five Fox Valley Association Conference titles, four Sectional titles and three State championships. 17 students were awarded all-conference status during the fall season, 18 during the winter (plus a Coach of the Year) and 35 during the spring.

One KHS senior was first runner up as the “Distinguished Young Woman of Wisconsin.” Our drama students put on two plays that received rave reviews. A record 53 soloists and groups were invited to perform at the state

Solo & Ensemble competition; *four* of them earned “Exemplary Soloist” awards, the highest honor. And three band students brought home awards for teamwork and outstanding achievement from the Fred J. Miller Band camp over the summer.

The KHS Forensics team also brought home a record 23 gold medals and 5 silver medals from the state competition in April. A 6th grade student from River View had her photograph hang in Vice President Joe Biden’s residence during April through her achievements in a National Geographic photo competition.

And KHS National Honor Society students organized a number of different community events, food drives, blood drives, and even a polar plunge, raising money for the Special Olympics.

Whether we’re talking about achievement in the classroom or success in extra-curricular activities, Kaukauna Area School District is truly an amazing place.

