



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

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

Follow Us

Twitter: @Kaukaunasd
 Facebook:
 Kaukauna Area School District
 Instagram: wearekaukauna

WRAP AROUND CARE PROVIDES OPTIONS FOR PARENTS


At the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, the Kaukauna Area School District added a new wrap-around care program for our 4-year-old kindergarten students. The decision to move forward with the program came after discussion about providing our district's youngest children a good foundation for learning, while addressing busy parents' needs for flexibility.

With the addition of the new wrap-around care program, parents have been able to drop off and pick up their children any time between 6:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Students receive supervised care before and after classes, provided by experienced and qualified staff of the YMCA of the Fox Cities (Heart of the Valley YMCA), who already partner with our district to provide before- and after-school care at our school sites.

Our classes, now halfway through the first year, have been very successful! Currently, 55 students participate in the wrap-around care program. Students come to school ready to play and learn. They read books, play games, and have both structured and unstructured time in the morning and in the afternoon. Our goal is to make learning fun for these early learners!



KASD's wrap-around care program is located at Tanner Early Learning Center, the same school that currently accommodates the majority of the district's Early Childhood through Grade 1 classes. Care is available on weekdays from the first day of school through the last, and is also offered on district in-service and vacation days. Summer care will also be offered, starting in June 2016. All children enrolled in Kaukauna Area School District 4-year-old kindergarten are eligible to attend.

If you have additional questions about enrollment, please call District Registrar Debra Dakins at (920) 759-6109. If you'd like to learn more about all available wrap-around care options, contact YMCA School Age Coordinator Claire Nodolf at (920) 678-7747. 

LET'S TALK ABOUT... TECHNOLOGY


On Monday, January 25, 2016, The Kaukauna Area School District Board of Education approved a five-year technology plan. The goal of the new plan is to ensure that staff and students have the proper hardware, internet access, software and training to align technology with curriculum and needs.

The new plan, with average costs between \$450,000 and \$500,000 annually, includes the increase to one-to-one technology devices for students in grades 7-12 and one-to-three devices for students in grades 4K-6, as well as an additional 2.6 FTE staff positions to support the new tools.

The District's Technology Committee was instrumental in the development of a mission and vision for instructional technology. The group designed the plan to provide resources for diverse technologies, such that students could attain the skills necessary to be innovative and productive global and digital citizens, and staff could participate in professional development

activities to help utilize best instruction practices, incorporate computers into classroom instruction in a meaningful way, and promote the safe and ethical use of technology.

Director of Secondary Education Matthew Smith is excited about what these changes mean for student achievement. "By increasing student access to technology and providing additional training and development for our staff, this new technology plan helps our teachers maximize student engagement and learning."

The additional 2.6 FTE staff positions will support the increase, allowing for full-time Library Media Specialists at Tanner Early Learning Center, River View Middle School and Kaukauna High School Libraries, and a full-time Technology Coach at the elementary level who will help support the use of technology by students and will work directly with teachers to integrate the use of technology into their daily instruction. 

TEACHER SPOTLIGHTS: WE ARE KAUKAUNA STRONG!

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



Liz Thoreson
Tanner Early Learning
Center Principal

Years at KASD: 6

Favorite Local Landmark:
Countryside Golf Course
– the Thoreson family
LOVES to golf!

Favorite Principal Moment: This Fall, I attended a meeting at Victor Haen Elementary School. I was walking down the hallway, and suddenly, a first grade student came running toward me so fast and gave me a HUGE hug! I almost fell over, but I couldn't have been happier in that moment, as I knew I had made a difference in her life, and she had done the same for me.

Greatest Success: Leading a magical building filled with an incredible staff and fascinating students every single day. This inspires me, brings me joy and makes me proud.

Favorite Learning Moment: Throughout my career, I have been a teacher or administrator in secondary education. My first day with students at Tanner Early Learning Center was such an incredible and momentous experience! I realized how critical this first

school experience is for both kids and their families. Watching parents and kids shedding tears as they entered the building or left their child for the day brought tears to my eyes as well. I knew I needed to work hard to inspire our staff to do great things with kids, and assure parents that their children are in great hands. This is the age where we need to capture students' attention and teach those key academic and social skills that will aid in success. The staff and I are determined to make that happen each day.

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? The communities within the Kaukauna Area School District are passionate about providing students with the best learning experiences, and are committed to keeping all of us strong, safe and healthy. Go Ghosts!



Rhonda Stewart
EBD Educational Assistant

Years at KASD: 13

Favorite Local Landmark:
1000 Islands; I used to
take my kids there when
they were little. I loved the


walks through the woods. I am lucky enough to still go there with the children I now work

with. I love watching them learn and experience new things.

Favorite Teaching Moment: Watching the "light bulb" come on in children when they finally GET IT!

Greatest Teaching Success: I was once working with a student who had limited verbal skills. It was hard to know what that student truly understood. Day after day, I would practice words with him. We would practice both saying and reading them. One day, the student called me over. "Mrs. Stewart, come look." To my amazement, the student read every word we had been practicing for months – all by himself! It was then that I really realized that with determination and perseverance, all kids can be successful.

One thing I've learned as a teacher: I have learned that every child is special and they all need our love and compassion. Although some may need our guidance more than others, it is important to build positive relationships with all students you come in contact with.

What does "Kaukauna Strong" mean to you? Kaukauna Strong means that we, as a group, work together and support one another. We stand strong as a school, city and community. 

FACILITIES UPDATE: MOVING IN!

The KHS facility upgrades have been the topic of a number of conversations and stories lately – as they should be. When the facility is finished, it's going to be one of the finest in the state and serve as an amazing resource for KASD students and the Kaukauna Community. We are well on our way!

While we're still working hard to keep with our timeline, some of the facilities are already being put to good use! In the beginning of January, the Aurora BayCare Sports Medicine Fitness Center opened to KHS Students. Physical Education classes are already utilizing the equipment in daily lessons.



In the middle of February, the Auxiliary gym opened for business, and throughout the coming months, we will continue to work hard to prepare these new, top-notch facilities for sporting events, practices, youth programs and special events. At the beginning of March, we are moving into and beginning to use the indoor practice facility. In the spring, we're expecting to have our track team practice and compete inside the Bank of Kaukauna Stadium; our soccer teams will be able to use the new turf field and the stadium;

Continued on Page 3





Superintendent's Corner

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Recently, Kaukauna High School held two very prominent events: The Cheesehead Wrestling Invitational and the Kaukauna Dance Classic. Both events were very successful, and between the two, Kaukauna High School hosted several thousand visitors.

Interestingly, at both events, I was asked about our unique mascot. To paraphrase, "What is the story behind the Galloping Ghosts?"

While our school-community proudly honors the Galloping Ghost, it occurred to me that not everyone understands the significance within our community and why we are, and proudly support, the Galloping Ghosts.

"Actually, there are two versions of the story behind this mascot," I started my explanation.

I described the first story of a foggy, damp Halloween evening in the 1920s when the Kaukauna High School football team dressed in all white and, looking like a large group of ghosts, galloped over the

Appleton Terrors. I then went on to tell the second story which attributes the name as an emulation of Harold "Red" Grange, a lighter than average, but very speedy football player (said to be true of Kaukauna's football players in the 1920s) known as the Galloping Ghost.

Whichever story you believe (my intention is not to start a community quarrel!), we can all appreciate and honor our unique school mascot, and continue to proudly dress in orange and black, supporting and lifting up the students of this generation. It's another part of what makes our school, our community, Kaukauna Strong.

We talked in the last Community Ghost Story about the significance of Kaukauna Strong, and the mindset it invokes at the Kaukauna Area School District. Whether we're talking about our high school's mascot, the District Vision Committee (which you can read more about below) that was created to engage our school-community in a continuous improvement process, our new Instructional Technology Plan (check out the details on the front cover) and the opportunities it presents for KASD students and staff, or the continuous work on our upgrades at the high school (did you



see the new pictures below?) to create a state-of-the-art facility for our students and athletes, we have a lot to be proud of. Our forward motion, our progress, our successes, and our understanding of continuous improvement and getting better every day – those are things that make us Kaukauna Strong.

In the 1920s Kaukauna became the proud home of the Galloping Ghosts. Today, that pride inspires us to envision and provide better schools for our students.

Enjoy the Community Ghost Story.

Mark P. Duerwaechter, Superintendent
Kaukauna Strong: It's a mindset.



Facilities Update: Moving In! ...from Page 2


and our softball field should be ready for use midway through the 2016 season.

On August 26, 2016, Kaukauna High School will host our first home game of the 2016 Varsity Football season, at which time, we will also hold our Grand Opening! You'll have a chance to see what we've been up to, check out the new facilities, and get the first peek at our donor wall, located in the KHS Athletic Facility Plaza.

The donor wall will be filled with plaques celebrating the support of those families and businesses throughout our community whose financial contributions helped turned the facility from a vision into a reality. Each plaque represents an individual, family or business that invested in Kaukauna Strong: strength, resilience, growth and unity within the Kaukauna Area School District.

If you're interested in joining our support team by purchasing a plaque on our donor wall (a one-time contribution), you can visit


www.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/invest.cfm or call Deb Dakins in our District office at (920) 759-6109 for additional information. We'd love to add to the wall and commemorate the legacy of our supporters and fellow Galloping Ghosts for generations to come!

Our facilities are growing, but so, too, are our mindsets and our potential for success. We're getting better every day. We are  Kaukauna Strong.



DISTRICT VISION COMMITTEE UPDATE

KASD's District Vision Committee, created to engage our school community in a continuous improvement process, has been steadily working on step one of our process: "Educate." The committee, which meets monthly, has spent time examining the current perception and reality of our district's culture, fiscal sustainability and student achievement. In studying our perceptions of our brand and our culture, data from our School Perceptions survey and student achievement data, the committee has been able to identify a number of trends and themes that we will use as we move toward answering the question "Who do we want to become?"

Step two, "Vision," will begin at our next meeting. We'll take the information that we learned during step one, and visualize ways to improve our system of services in an effort to move our district toward our final vision. We're on our way, and getting better every day. 



CHALLENGE DAY

The first week of February, students at Kaukauna High School and River View Middle School took part in Challenge Day, a program designed to help build connection and empathy among students by breaking down barriers that separate them and promoting understanding, acceptance and respect.

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

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

- 3/10 All District Band Bash, 7 pm, RVMS Auditorium
- 3/16 SLURP fundraiser, 5 pm, KHS Commons
- 3/23–3/28 Spring Break – No School
- 3/25 End of Quarter, Elementary and Middle Schools
- 4/1 KHS Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 4/7 KHS Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 4/15–4/16 The Lion King, Jr., River View Musical (Grades 5-8)
- 4/18 No School
- 4/21 6th Grade Academic Night, RVMS Auditorium
- 4/21 NHS Blood Drive at KHS
- 4/23 Kaukauna High School Prom
- 4/26 7th and 8th Grade Academic Night, RVMS Auditorium
- 4/28 6th Grade Choir Concert and Jazz Choir Concert, 6 pm, KHS Auditorium
- 4/28 7th and 8th grade choir concert, 7:15 pm, KHS Auditorium
- 5/2–5/6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/16 Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 pm, KHS Auditorium
- 5/17 RVMS 5th & 7th Grade Band Concert, 7 pm, RVMS Auditorium
- 5/19 RVMS 6th & 8th Grade Band Concert, 7 pm, RVMS Auditorium
- 6/2 KHS Graduation, 7 pm