



Kenowa Hills Public Schools
Education inspired.

Get a quick glimpse of what Education Inspired looks like inside the classrooms at Kenowa Hills Public Schools.



Students Present to the State Board of Education

Just a few weeks ago, 16 representatives from Kenowa Hills, including four students, and a group of parents, teachers and administrators, visited our State's Capitol to share the impact Competency-Based Education, also known as Personal Mastery, has on students at Kenowa Hills. Students presented to the State of Michigan's Board of Education, highlighting benefits of Competency-Based Education.

Kenowa Hills Central Elementary third grader Dominic prepared his thoughts on Personal Mastery as he has experienced in Char Hartley's classroom. Dominic defined Personal Mastery as:



"Keeping track of what you know and knowing what you need to work on. It says Personal Mastery because it's what you mastered and it's personal. You're not working on the same thing as others, because you may have passed that already and are ready for a bigger challenge or ready to move on. Some kids need a little extra time because kids have different smarts or talents in different subjects."

Dominic also shared how Personal Mastery integrates student leadership in his classroom:

"Student leadership is one of the most important things about school. In our class we have Shino-O-Meters. Shine-O-Meters help the class stay on task and do our best. We decide if we are a 1, 2, 3, or 4 and give suggestions about how we can improve our Central SHINES.

Procedures Starters help us get organized for large group, small group, or independent work and make sure we know what we're supposed to do. Student leaders are like filling in for the teacher."

Other Kenowa Hills students shared their thoughts on six different benefits they see in Personal Mastery.

Students are met at their level of instruction.



Ms. Piccard's kindergarten students at Kenowa Hills Alpine Elementary have individual goal tubs that include tasks students must complete as evidence toward achieving established goals. Students are met with in small groups to discuss goals and receive feedback on their learning. While students work in their goal tubs, the teacher is able to provide guided instruction daily, tailored to meet the specific needs of individual students.

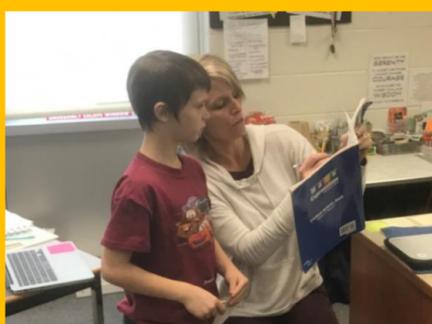


Students can excel in their areas of strength.

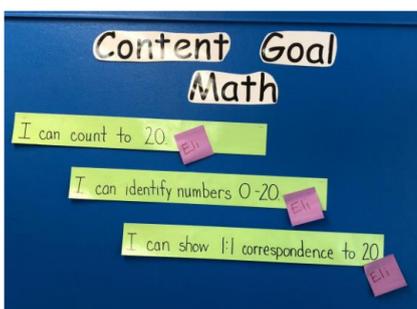
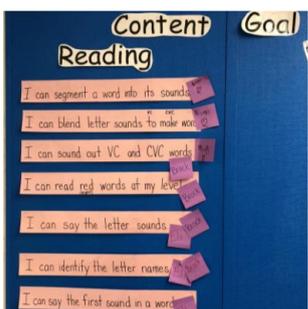
Among the many ways where Personal Mastery has a positive impact on students at the Kenowa Hills Early Childhood Center, we are able to utilize each student's area of strength to build upon as we improve their areas of need. Students may be challenged with practice on categorizing/patterning using skills they have already mastered, but increasing difficulty to focus on their area of need. This approach keeps students engaged in their learning.

Students can spend more time in areas of needed growth.

At Kenowa Hills Zinser Elementary, there are many options for students to receive extra time and support for their needed growth. These include our Fearless Knights after school program, our Camp Kenowa summer learning opportunity, reading and math intervention during the day in the classroom or by an interventionist, and Personal Learning Time (PLT) where students can have extra time to learn a concept, or push forward in an area of strength.



Students have a realistic picture of what they know and can do.



In Lisa Wentland's class at Kenowa Hills Central Elementary, every student has an individual goal. They post their name by their goal, and when they enter her room, they know exactly what they need to learn for the day. Students "rate" themselves on how well they met their goal for that day.

Students take ownership of their learning.

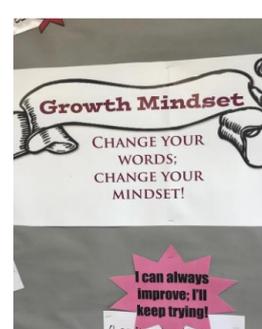


Students at Kenowa Hills High School initiate collaboration activities to help push their learning forward. A focus on ownership and student voice and choice has allowed students to realize that true learning can be accomplished when students push on each other's thinking, making collaboration and teamwork a go-to tool to help them master content.

Students have learning goals leading to long range plans as opposed to extrinsic goals, such as high grades.



At Kenowa Hills Middle School, the focus is always on learning, not task completion. As such a growth mindset is fostered in all students. Kenowa Hills Middle School knows all students can and will learn; when they do, there is a celebration!



We are proud of the students, staff members and parents that shared their experience with the State Board of Education. We believe in education inspired by the individual learner. The experience for students at Kenowa Hills is nothing like a classroom where each student sits for the same amount of time learning curriculum the same way. It's everything about instruction to engage individual students to master, retain, and apply needed curriculum for a successful future.

What to see Education Inspired for yourself? Parents and guardians are welcome in our classrooms anytime. Just call or email your child's teacher to set up a time to see how Personal Mastery techniques help all students learn, master and apply curriculum so they are prepared for a bright future.