

KNIGHTLY NEWS

EDUCATION INSPIRED | KHPS.ORG | FALL 2022



Kenowa Hills Administration
2325 Four Mile NW
Grand Rapids
616-784-2511

Kenowa Hills High School
3825 Hendershot NW
Grand Rapids
616-784-2400

Pathways High School
3950 Hendershot NW
Grand Rapids
616-785-3225

Kenowa Hills Middle School
3950 Hendershot NW
Grand Rapids
616-785-3225

Kenowa Hills Alpine Elementary
4730 Baumhoff NW
Comstock Park
616-784-0884

Kenowa Hills Central Elementary
4252 3 Mile Rd NW
Grand Rapids
616-453-6351

Kenowa Hills Zinser Elementary
3949 Leonard NW
Grand Rapids
616-453-2461

Kenowa Hills Early Childhood Center
3971 Richmond Ct. NW
Grand Rapids
616-647-0910

CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS



NATIONAL SHOWCASE SCHOOL TWO YEARS IN A ROW

By Ross Willick, Zinser Elementary Principal

Our very own Zinser Elementary was honored for the second school year in a row as a National Showcase School through Capturing Kids' Hearts and the Flippen Group. Zinser was one of 376 schools nationwide to be honored with this award in 2021-22, earning it previously in the 2020-21 school year. Kenowa Hills puts relationships with students as our top priority. So, in order to build relationships with each and every student, staff receive professional development called Capturing Kids' Hearts from the Flippen Group, to develop our relationship skills and learn how we can best relate to and connect with students.

If you have a child's heart, you have their mind.

The foundation of Capturing Kids' Hearts training is, "if you have a child's heart, you have their mind." The trainings focus on everything related to positive and impactful relationships with students. Through expert coaching and a character-based curriculum

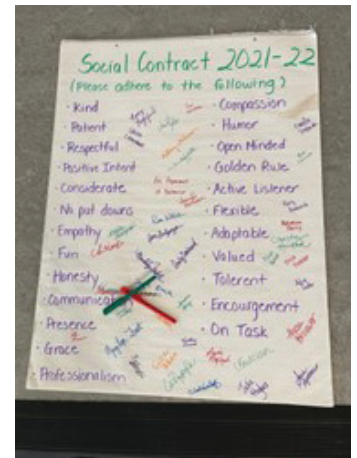
for students, these trainings equip us to implement transformational processes focused on social-emotional well being, relationship-

driven campus culture, and student connectedness. Knowing no one is perfect and we are all flawed to some extent, our most recent training included the opportunity for us to also learn and grow through our own personal constraints, creating a plan for self-reflection and improvement as educators.

Part of winning the National Showcase School honor two years in a row meant that Zinser had to show proof of following the training's expectations and putting relationships first. These past two years have been difficult for educators as they try to catch many students up on learning loss stemming from the pandemic. So, how did we do it?

If you were to visit Zinser Elementary, you would see:

- Students being welcomed positively into the class with a handshake, high-five, fist bump, or even a hug if needed and desired (or an elbow bump with any COVID concerns)
- A Social Contract posted, which is an agreement of behavior, created with student input and buy-in and signed by everyone in the class



Continued on page 3

KNIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

KHHS 2022 TOP TEN

This graduating class persevered with grace and grit, and lead with love and kindness and we couldn't be prouder of their success. We are confident that the class of 2022 is going to change the world for the better. Congratulations Knights!



ADAM BUCKWALTER (VALEDICTORIAN)

This fall I will be leaving for Guayaquil, Ecuador to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. After two years, I will return home and attend Brigham Young

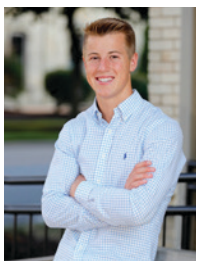
University in Provo, Utah where I plan to study Biology. During my time at Kenowa Hills, I played Varsity Tennis, Basketball, and Golf, and I was the first chair Bassist in the Orchestra. I have also been the Vice President of the Class of 2022 and was the co-Historian for the National Honor Society this last year. My favorite thing about Kenowa Hills is how friendly all the teachers and students have been to me. I am very grateful for all the support from my friends, teachers, and family during high school and with my plans for after graduation. It's a great day to be a Knight!



TREASA BELL (SALUTATORIAN)

I plan on attending the University of Michigan to study secondary education. While at Kenowa, I received an academic letter. I have also been stage manager of the theater program

and saxophone section leader for marching and concert bands. I have also participated in jazz band, the debate team as an alternate and a judge, and National Honor Society. I deeply appreciate all the amazing teachers at Kenowa who have helped me grow as a person, taught me to grow and learn from hardship and change, and who have inspired me to be a high school teacher. I hope to be able to impact my future students the way they have impacted me.



EZEKIEL DYKSTRA

I will be attending the United States Naval Academy this summer to study General Science. During my time here at Kenowa Hills, I have served as Class President, National Honor Society President,

Student Council Member, Athletic Leadership Team member, Young Life member, Fellowship of Christian Athletes member, and have been the

captain of the Varsity Cross Country, Bowling, Basketball, and Track and Field teams here. I have also volunteered for Special Olympics Basketball, Kids Food Basket, youth sports camps, and church events, and have been a part of the Spring Service Projects for our National Honor Society Chapters. Throughout my time here and especially this year, I have learned that love and positivity are always the answer. It is how our graduating Class of 2022 is going to change the world. I am incredibly grateful for the encouraging and striving community here at Kenowa Hills. All of the support has allowed my post-high school dreams to come true. Knights Forever... and Go Navy!



ELEANOR WIDMAIER

I will be attending Grand Valley State University to study English in the fall. One of my main goals for the future is to own an epic car or any car really. During my time at Kenowa Hills, I have participated in marching

band as tuba section leader and concert band as first chair tuba. My main passions outside of school are playing Minecraft and wearing pink. I am so thankful for the teachers, students, and community members who have inspired me throughout my time at Kenowa Hills.



AUSTIN VAN PUTTEN

I will be attending Cornerstone University this fall to study pre-physical therapy. Throughout my time here at Kenowa Hills I have received 4 academic letters and multiple varsity letters, and I received

All Conference for softball and honorable mention for volleyball. I have participated in golf, volleyball, and softball for the school as well as played travel softball and volleyball. In addition to extracurriculars at Kenowa, I was heavily involved in my church, volunteering, mission trips, etc. I have made memories here that will last me a lifetime, and I can't wait to see what God has planned for the future.

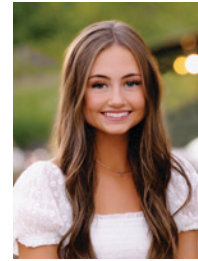


JACOB BERGSMA

I will be attending the University of Michigan hoping to pursue a career in business. During my time here at Kenowa Hills, I have received many different awards, either for academics or sports. I have also

participated in National Honor Society. I have learned many different essential life skills over my time here that will help me in my future endeavors.

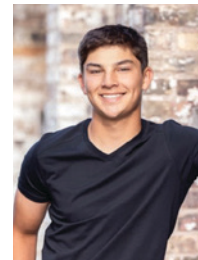
I appreciate all that this community has done for the class of 2022 and me. Go Knights and Go Blue!



LUCY JENNETTE

I will be attending Michigan State University this fall studying Business and Spanish. During my time here at Kenowa Hills, I have served as the co-historian and the secretary for the National Honor Society,

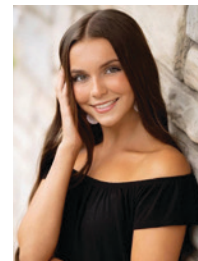
was a representative for Student Council, and played on the volleyball team. I have also spent time volunteering as a Kenowa connector and for Kids' Food Basket, along with helping with blood drives and sports competitions. My favorite things about Kenowa Hills are the close relationships it has brought me over the years with both students and staff. I will carry with me far into the future, these connections, along with the many important life skills I have developed during my time as a Knight.



DYLAN NGUYEN

I will be attending Lansing Community College this fall for my pre-med studies. While at Kenowa Hills, I have received an academic letter during each of my four years, and have also been a member of the National

Honor Society. I also played 4 years of varsity baseball and will continue to play at Lansing as well. My favorite memories from Kenowa Hills have been the relationships that I have created with the staff, students, and community that endlessly supports us. I'm thankful for my experiences and am anxious to find out what the future holds for me.



AVA MENZEL

I will be attending the University of Michigan this upcoming fall to further my education in dance and pre-medical sciences. Throughout my time at Kenowa Hills, I have received four academic letters,

engaged in the Kenowa Connector program, and served as Co-Historian of the National Honor Society. Outside of school, I have been actively involved as a competitive dancer and assistant at Dance Dimensions. During my time here I have made meaningful, lifelong relationships with both the students and staff, which has ultimately left me with a feeling of connectedness to my community. I would like to thank my parents, instructors, friends, and teammates for providing me with countless memories and endless opportunities over these past four years. Go blue and thank you, Kenowa Hills!



CHLOE LHAMON

I will be attending Michigan State University in the fall studying nursing and biology. During my time here at Kenowa, I have received four academic letters, volunteered at local elections for the City

of Walker, and volunteered for Kids' Food Basket through their Youth Action Board Committee. My favorite thing about Kenowa Hills is the connections I've made with teachers and other students. Go green!



ONCE A KNIGHT, ALWAYS A KNIGHT.

CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES!

The following Knights finished strong through another challenging year. They have all served the Kenowa Hills community with great pride and dedication and will be missed. Congratulations to all our retirees. We wish you a long and happy retirement!

Karen Bekins	Kathy Hawkins
Tracy Brown	Christy Huizen
Nancy Corneil	Dean Lazowski
Donna Crow	Tammy Lovett
Beth Donnelly	David Lyons
Pamela Flint	Michelle Stark
Diane Grandia	Mary Stitt

CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS

Continued from page 1

- A focus on affirmations
- If students misbehave, there are four questions to help them reflect on their actions with the goal of self-improvement
- Students sharing Good News as a way to positively start the day or class. This is our students' favorite part!
- Teachers encouraging students in a positive manner before exiting through things like reflections and sharing inspiring quotes or videos
- Zinser staff modeling these expectations at staff meetings

While Zinser has received this honor for two years in a row, the work is not done. This next school year, Zinser's goal is to use student agency more to lead some of these efforts. This means that students will have more opportunities to learn through activities that are meaningful and relevant to them - driven by their interests. Student agency gives students a voice and often, choice, in how they learn.

If the last few years have done anything, they have challenged educators to think of ways to be great differently. With all of the many obstacles, it has challenged us to keep our focus on why we do what we do. It is clear to us that if you don't create positive relationships with students, other teaching and learning efforts could be wasted. Capturing Kids' Hearts helps us continue to prioritize the value of relationships and use research-based methods to positively impact our students.



Zinser's motto and code of cooperation for over a decade has been "Kids Who Care." It is also extremely important to me as a building leader to have the most positive culture and climate possible. Being honored as a building that has proven relationships at the heart of what we do means everything to our school community. We're a staff that cares about the positive culture we aspire to and work for. It's our "why" as educators to make a positive difference in the lives of our students through relationships. I felt the building had this focus prior to our training but being part of the training and the National Showcase School process has affirmed our efforts and skills. I always say, if you're looking for a perfect school, you won't find it at Zinser or in Kenowa Hills - or anywhere for that matter. We're definitely not perfect at Zinser, but the efforts and focus with Capturing Kids' Hearts for our school and district are undoubtedly perfect for our students and our purpose as educators.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

By Bill Dinkelman, Assistant Superintendent

The Spring 2022 edition of the Knightly News highlighted the district's structured process of stakeholder engagement, data analysis, and long range planning to produce a strategic plan to guide our efforts over the next four years. The largest phase of this work has focused on data collection, research, and analysis to guide the development of the district's next strategic plan.

This data was used by the district's Strategic Planning Task Force to identify key themes and critical issues for the district. This past spring the Task Force worked closely with student focus groups, all K-12 teachers, and the school board to explore and refine draft versions of the district's mission, vision, and core values, this work resulted in approval of the District's updated mission, vision, and core values during the June 27 Board of Education meeting.

These will be used to drive the development of Strategic Goals and Objectives for inclusion in the district's Strategic Plan upon return to school in August and September.

A mission states the purpose of an organization. Mission statements provide clarity and focus by calling attention to what is at the heart of an organization. Mission statements also serve as a filter for determining how to proceed when faced with the need to prioritize attention and resources.

The district's new mission statement is "Kenowa Hills Public School values, supports, and empowers all learners to achieve their full potential."

A vision highlights an organization's future aspirational state. Vision statements challenge the organization and its members by calling attention to a level of quality and performance that is greater than current practice. Vision statements also motivate and clarify the path ahead by defining characteristics of future success.

The district's new vision statement is "Kenowa Hills Public Schools will provide meaningful learning experiences for every student, every day."

Core values define the organization's collective beliefs. These foundational ideas are contained in the DNA of the organization and guide how we operate individually and as a school district.

The district has identified **eight core values and definitions** for inclusion in the next strategic plan. These include:

Equity: KHPS makes decisions that promote the success and inclusiveness of all students, staff, and families.

Meaningful Learning: KHPS provides engaging learning experiences that build on individual learning styles, inspire curiosity, and connect to a student's future.

Relationships: KHPS expects all to grow in their abilities to understand multiple viewpoints, solve shared problems, and build trust.

Diversity: KHPS recognizes visible and nonvisible differences that make people unique to support an individual and collective sense of belonging.

Community: KHPS brings people together to support and celebrate education, extracurricular activities, and the accomplishments of our students.

Communication: KHPS invites respectful conversation and provides information in a timely, transparent, and accessible manner.

Growth Mindset: KHPS embraces challenges, learns from failures, and sees effort as a crucial element to future success.

Safety: KHPS values and protects the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all of our learners.

For more information and a deeper look into the progress to date, please visit the district's Strategic Planning website at khaps.org/khaps-strategic-plan.

TITLE I INFORMATION

Kenowa Hills Public Schools receives federal funds under Title I. This requires us to notify all parents that you may request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's teacher, including:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the level(s) and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by Title I paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Those requesting information may do so by contacting Mr. Bill Dinkelman, Assistant Superintendent, Kenowa Hills Public Schools, 2325 Four Mile Road NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544. 616-784-2511 ext 8202.

ANNUAL NOTICES

Please visit our web site at khaps.org/annual-notices for information on required annual notices. These notices include important information about:

- Asbestos Management Plan
- Environmental Safety
- Integrated Pest Management Program
- US Department of Agriculture
- Water Quality

If you do not have internet access or would like a printed copy of any or all of these notices, please contact Kenowa Hills Public Schools at 616-784-2511.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

FOOD SERVICE

This fall, meals are no longer free for all students and income requirements for free and reduced lunch have recently changed. Please complete and submit a meal application online to ensure that additional funding for our school is available to meet the needs of our students. Visit khps.org/food-services to access the application and for ongoing updates. Paper applications are also available at all school front offices. Students new for the 2022-23 school year may not be able to complete an application until PowerSchool is rolled over for the upcoming school year.

TRANSPORTATION

Bus routes for the upcoming school year will be posted online mid-August. Watch for updates and find more information at khps.org/transportation.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING/MCKINNEY VENTO HOMELESS SERVICES

If you find your family in transitional housing due to economic reasons (living in a shelter, hotel/motel, or doubled up with another family), your children may qualify for assistance with their educational needs including school supplies, transportation and food service (free lunch and breakfast).

Please contact your building secretary if you believe you may qualify for services. You may also contact our district Homeless Liaison, Cindy Ruscett, at 616-784-2511 Ext. 2252 if you are unable to reach your building secretary. ☎️

BOND UPDATE

CONTINUED COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND IMPROVEMENTS — SUMMER 2022

In 2020, our community voted to approve \$67,000,000 to fund the following 10 years of improvements at Kenowa Hills. Major focus areas of this bond include our Early Childhood Center (ECC), Middle School, and High School.

Final stages of work at the ECC are underway which include:

- Finishing touches on the four newly constructed classrooms, a large shared learning space, and three-season room;
- Installation of the outdoor playscapes, paving work, and the addition of ground cover throughout the playground areas.

In contrast, work has begun at our Middle School where all classrooms, restrooms, and common spaces will be renovated in phases over the next few years. Areas currently being renovated include:

- Auditorium and media center, which will become re-purposed spaces;
- Four classrooms, one set of restrooms;
- Courtyard between the cafeteria and media center to accommodate outdoor use. 🌳



UPCOMING EVENTS

GUS MACKER GR

SEPTEMBER 10-11

Register by August 22 at www.macker.com/local/grand-rapids-mi

COMMUNITY KNIGHT

SEPTEMBER 16

Food, fun, games, and prizes – and the second-annual school spirit contest! This event is free for all Kenowa Hills families.

HOMECOMING

SEPTEMBER 23

Cheer your Knights to victory on the KHHS football field!

KNIGHT TIME CLASSIC

SEPTEMBER 24

Come watch your Marching Knights host this annual band competition.

CHEER ON YOUR KNIGHTS

Get a **season pass** to the sport of your choice and cheer on your favorite Knights team!

One Season Pass - Family	\$80
One Season Pass - Student	\$35
One Season Pass - Adult	\$45

Are you a Knights super-fan? Don't miss a game with our **annual pass**, good at all our home sporting events!

Annual Family Pass	\$160
Annual Student Pass	\$60
Annual Adult Pass	\$80

Online payment options available through e-Funds, via khps.org.

GOLDEN PASS

Any resident age 60 and older can pick up a Golden Pass at the District Office with picture ID. A Golden Pass gains you free admittance to any athletic contest at participating schools, including Kenowa Hills.

HAVE A STUDENT-ATHLETE?

For information on participation fees and physical form requirements, visit khps.org/athletics.

KNIGHTHOOD AWAITS

THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER

Kenowa Hills Public Schools is accepting students for the 2022-23 school year. To begin the process of enrollment, please visit khps.org/registration.

HAVE QUESTIONS, WANT A SCHOOL TOUR, WANT TO CHAT WITH A PRINCIPAL?

We understand choosing the best school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. The registration team at Kenowa Hills is available to set up school tours, meetings, or phone calls with principals, and answer any questions you might have about Kenowa Hills Public Schools.

Visit khps.org/school-tours or call 784-2511 option 2 to set up a tour or for registration information.



KHPS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board

Tracey Hart, President
Erin LaBotz, Vice President
Melissa Courtade, Treasurer
Eric-John Szczepaniak, Secretary

Trustees

Jeff Gustinis
Danielle Roberts
Stan Truskoski

Meetings

Aug. 8 – Administration Building
(Committee of the Whole Workshop)
Aug. 22 – Administration Building
Sept. 12 – Administration Building
(Committee of the Whole Workshop)
Sept. 26 – Pathways High School
Oct. 10 – Administration Building
(Committee of the Whole Workshop)

Oct. 24 – Zinser Elementary
Nov. 14 – Administration Building
(Committee of the Whole Workshop)
Nov. 28 – High School
Dec. 12 – Middle School
Jan. 9 – Administration Building

Public comment is welcome at Board of Education Meetings. Board of Education meetings are meetings of the Board held in public, not public meetings. Visit khps.org for more information.

2022-2023 PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AT KENOWA HILLS

Community Education Preschool | Child Care and Learning Center | Great Start Readiness Program

3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL	4 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL	CHILD CARE	
3 DAYS PER WEEK Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	4 DAYS PER WEEK Monday–Thursday 8:45 AM – 11:15 AM		Ages 6 wks. to 5 th grade 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM. <i>Care available before and after school, half days, and during school breaks. Enrollment not limited to Kenowa Hills residents.</i>
2 DAYS PER WEEK Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Monday–Thursday 12:30 PM – 3:45 PM		

We currently have a wait list for Preschool and Child Care.

To be placed on a wait list or for more information on preschool, day care, or before and after school care, contact the KH Early Childhood Center at (616) 647-0910, the Registrar at 784-2511 option 2 or visit khps.org/day-care-and-learning-center.

IMPORTANT DATES



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
August 23



LABOR DAY BREAK
September 2–5



THANKSGIVING BREAK
November 21–25



WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK
December 19–Jan. 2



MID-WINTER BREAK
February 20–21

REGISTRATION/OPEN HOUSES

	ALPINE	CENTRAL	ZINSER	KHMS (6-8)	KHHS (9-12)	
KINDERGARTEN & K-KNIGHTS TESTING	THURSDAY, AUG 4 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM	TUESDAY, AUG 9 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	TUESDAY, AUG 9 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM	TUESDAY, AUG 9 – THURSDAY, AUG 11 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	TUESDAY, AUG 9 – THURSDAY, AUG 11 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	FALL ORIENTATION
OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION	MONDAY, AUG 22 Kindergarten 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM 1 st -5 th 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	MONDAY, AUG 22 Kindergarten and K-Knights 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM WEDNESDAY, AUG 17 1 st -2 nd 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM 3 rd -5 th 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	MONDAY, AUG 22 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	MONDAY, AUG 22 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	MONDAY, AUG 22 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Open House and Scheduling WEDNESDAY, AUG 17 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM (Pathways Classrooms)	PATHWAYS

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	Teacher Meet and Greet WEDNESDAY, AUG 17 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
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Meet the Team TUESDAY, AUG 16 6:00 PM	Athletic Office is open for Pink Permission slips LIMITED OFFICE HOURS BEGIN MONDAY, AUGUST 1 Check the website and social media for updated information. Fall sports begin August 8.	ATHLETICS
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Kenowa Hills Public Schools

2325 Four Mile Road NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544

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YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL HUB

For everything back-to-school, from the school calendar to supply lists, visit khaps.org/backtoschool

The Kenowa Hills Knightly News is published three times per year. KHPS is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination of all its programs in relation to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, age, national origin, disability and genetic information.

SUPER NOTES

VALUE, SUPPORT, AND EMPOWER

Over the past year, the leadership team and Kenowa Hills Board of Education have been listening to parents, community members, and staff to develop a new Strategic Plan (see page 4 for more details), which includes an update to our mission statement. A mission statement is essentially our purpose; it's the heart of what we do.

As highlighted on page 4, our new mission statement is **Kenowa Hills Public Schools values, supports, and empowers all learners to achieve their full potential.**

The words, value, support, and empower are compelling words from which we, as educators, draw great meaning.

We **value** each learner: we see greatness in each and every one of our students. They are important to us, and we take great honor and pride in being their educators. We are also learners and value growing in our own professional development.

We **support** each learner: we provide the necessary time, attention, and resources to help each of our students succeed. We answer questions, we provide positive feedback, and ultimately walk alongside our students, so they can go on to do and be something great.



Gerald Hopkins – Superintendent @khpssuper

We **empower** each learner: we give students the confidence and strength to make decisions and take control of their successful future. Collaborating with parents/guardians, we're helping to ensure that each and every student reaches their full potential.

Our promise to our students, parents/guardians and community is that we will live out our mission every single day. As

we head into the 2022-23 school year with great anticipation and hope for a positive year, we ask our community, our local businesses, and especially our parents and guardians to join us in working together and believing that all learners at Kenowa Hills Public Schools can and will reach their full potential through feeling valued, supported, and empowered. 