



# KNIGHTLY

## News

VALUE. SUPPORT. EMPOWER. | SPRING 2023

khps.org

### 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



## ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENING SOON

Kenowa Hills is brave and bold and bursting with excitement about 2023-2024! The Knights of Kenowa Hills understand the true meaning of the words courage, compassion, and community. As a community, we are committed to our mission to Value, Support, and Empower all learners to achieve their full potential.

### KNIGHTHOOD AWAITS

Be the first to know when enrollment is open for the 2023-24 school year! Visit our website at [khps.org/registration](http://khps.org/registration) for links to our early-enrollment interest form, information on school of choice, and more!

### KINDERGARTEN SCREENINGS

Our dedication to all learners starts with our youngest Knights. Kindergarten and Young 5s (known as K-Knights) students at Kenowa Hills experience a school culture and climate that supports learning. To enroll, your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2023. Kindergarten and K-Knights are offered at all three of our elementary buildings.

### Make your appointment today!

If your child will be attending Kindergarten or K-Knights this fall, please call to schedule a screening appointment:

**Alpine Elementary**  
May 4 | 616.784.0884

**Central Elementary**  
May 2 | 616.453.6351

**Zinser Elementary**  
May 3 | 616.453.2461

Students currently attending programs at the Early Childhood Center will be evaluated during their regular school day; no appointment will be needed.

FIND EVERYTHING  
YOU NEED AT  
**khps.org**

[khps.org/HUB](http://khps.org/HUB)

Ongoing updates and information about the 2023-24 school year

[khps.org/REGISTRATION](http://khps.org/REGISTRATION)

Information and links to register

## WE ARE KENOWA HILLS

Serving our students and families are amazing educators who also have interesting lives when they step outside of their classrooms and buildings. Get to know a few of our Knights! These are the incredible people who are Kenowa Hills.



**Rebecca Perry,**  
ZINSER ELEMENTARY  
TEACHER



**Nate Robrahn,**  
KENOWA HILLS HIGH  
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



**Stacy Salmon,**  
ALPINE ELEMENTARY  
TEACHER

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2023  
**CAREER EXP**  
Wednesday, April 19 | KHHS Field House

## KNIGHT COUNSELING TEAM

### Middle School Student Services Team is here to help

The KHMS Knights' Student Services team is a group of mental health and child behavior professionals working together to support **every student, every day** at the middle school. This team works to build meaningful relationships and create trust with all students. This year, the team has fine-tuned processes and procedures to be more accessible and supportive of students not only at the middle school level but also in their transition to high school.

They are there to help when Knights have questions about their classes or workload, have a problem with a friend, or if they just need someone to talk to.

#### DANIELLE AYERS, COUNSELOR

Hello! My name is Danielle Ayers, and I serve as the school counselor at the middle school. This is my sixth year in education. Prior to coming to the middle school, I worked in a high school/alternative setting. I am experienced in working with diverse populations and understand the value of representation. Additionally, I am skilled in creating career development lesson plans which is beneficial to students as they begin looking ahead toward their futures beyond Kenowa. I enjoy the students and my colleagues here at Kenowa Hills Middle School. Our team is amazing and the candidness and silliness of the middle school environment is delightful.

#### JESSICA FLANDERS, BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONIST

My name is Jessica Flanders, and I am the Positive Behavior Interventionist. This is my fourth year working in education, and I became a Knight in late 2021.

Middle school is such a unique experience in a student's life, and I'm excited that I get to be part of that journey. Middle schoolers have an unparalleled sense of humor, are keen to cultivate relationships with those around them, and are fiercely loyal. Every day is a new adventure as they are learning, exploring, and becoming their adult individual selves and they are eager to take us along on that ride!

I am a member of the KHMS Behavior Intervention Team. As an interventionist, I often provide guidance and a quiet space for students to be calm and reflect during the school day when needed. Much of my work, however, happens behind the scenes: logging data around behavioral issues and coordinating communication between teachers, students, and families.

#### CONOR DAHLQUIST, PSYCHOLOGIST

My name is Conor Dahlquist, and I'm a School Psychologist. This is my seventh year working in public education and my second year as a Knight.

What I love most about working at the middle school is making



From left to right: Danielle Ayers, Pat Latham, Marcus Chandler, Deric Chiles, Jessica Flanders, Conor Dahlquist

connections with the students. Middle school-aged students are going through a complicated stage of transition while establishing their own identities. Our students are funny and, at times, still very childlike.

As part of the student services team, I collaborate with and support students who are struggling academically or social-emotionally. Creating and establishing support systems for students that build upon their strengths and focus on increasing positive academic and social behaviors in school is where I believe we will be able to help our students the most.

#### DERIC CHILES, LMSW (LICENSED MASTER SOCIAL WORK)

My name is Deric Chiles, and I have over six years in education, four of which have been at Kenowa Hills.

The aspect of middle school I most enjoy is that though there are vast differences between middle schoolers with respect to background, culture, and viewpoints, they can inherently identify with one another and their shared journey as middle school students. They are more alike than they are different.

I am a School Social Worker, and my work is directly related to mental health. I bring a positive and solutions-focused approach to the middle school and always work toward an effective solution for everyone involved. I am also very effective at engaging the community in support of our students.

#### MARCUS CHANDLER, CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST

I am Marcus Chandler, the Child Behavior Specialist at the middle school. In this role, I provide behavioral interventions for students who need additional support due to trauma or other adverse

factors. These interventions range from individual support and skill building to small group settings where students can gain skills through Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

This is my second year working in education and my first year as a Knight at Kenowa Hills Middle School. What I love most about my role here at the middle school is making connections with the middle schoolers. I am intentional in my daily efforts to build rapport because I know how important it is for students to feel understood and seen for who they are as individuals.

### PAT LATHAM, STUDENT SERVICES SECRETARY

My name is Pat Latham and I have been at Kenowa Hills Middle School for almost 40 years. I got my start here supervising students in the lunchroom, then worked in the media center as a Librarian para pro. Later, I transitioned to working part-time in student services as a secretary to the counselors, where I have remained for the last twenty years in a full-time capacity.

I love interacting with middle school-age students. Every student is unique. I try to treat each student like I want others to treat my grandchildren.

As a Student Services Secretary, I assist in student scheduling, report cards, state testing, and other support for Student Services. I bring my many years of experience working with middle school students. I'm very proud of my work and value the relationships I've built with students and their families over the years.

## KNIGHT ATHLETICS

### Athletic Boosters

The district's athletics program is growing! With turf coming to the Knight Stadium in fall 2023, Knight athletes have a lot to celebrate, and Knight Pride is fierce! Kenowa Hills Athletic Booster (KHAB) members are working hard to raise funds for our student-athletes. Supporting KHAB helps provide new jerseys, equipment, and much more to all our Knight sports teams. Want to help? Reach out to the KHAB online by searching Kenowa Hills Athletic Boosters on Facebook.

### Youth Sports Summer Camps

Watch [khaps.org/camps](https://khaps.org/camps) for all the summer youth sports opportunities and updates!

11<sup>th</sup> Annual

## Knight Golf Classic

Presented by KHAB

**Saturday, August 12**  
Gracewil Country Club

Details to come – watch [kenowahillsathleticboosters.com](https://kenowahillsathleticboosters.com) and follow us on social media!



## IMPORTANT DATES



### Half Days

April 21  
May 5 & 26  
June 1–2



### Memorial Day/No School

May 29



### Commencement

May 31



### Last Day of School

June 3

## KHPS BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Board

Tracey Hart, President  
Erin LaBotz, Vice President  
Jeff Gustinis, Treasurer  
Danielle Roberts, Secretary  
Melissa Courtade, Trustee  
Mark Robinson, Trustee  
Corey Turner, Trustee

### Meetings

April 24 Administration Building  
May 8 Administration Building  
May 22 High School  
June 12 Administration Building  
June 26 Administration Building

Community members are welcome to join in the Board dialogue regarding agenda items. Board of Education meetings are meetings of the Board held in public, not public meetings. For more information, visit [khaps.org/board-of-education](https://khaps.org/board-of-education).

## SAVE THE DATE

September 16-17, 2023



## GRAND RAPIDS GUS MACKER

Register at [macker.com/local/grand-rapids-mi](https://macker.com/local/grand-rapids-mi)

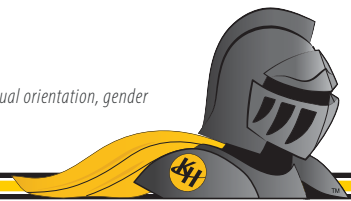


**Kenowa Hills Public Schools**

2325 Four Mile Road NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49544

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## SUPER NOTES


Spring is always a great time of year as we start to experience warmer temperatures, see more sun, and get to spend more time outside. In that regard, we are looking forward to some exciting improvements that will soon be underway on our grounds.

Construction begins at the Athletic Complex within the next few weeks, replacing the natural grass competition field with an artificial turf. The track around the field will also be resurfaced, and the scoreboard and sound system will be replaced with a video scoreboard

and integrated sound system. This work is scheduled to be completed this summer.

The artificial turf will expand the use of the field, making this the home competition field for the Marching Knights, lacrosse, soccer and football. The new turf will also reduce annual maintenance costs associated with lining, irrigating and mowing a natural grass field. Artificial turf fields typically last about ten years, making this a long-term investment that our athletes and community can enjoy for the next decade.

The bleachers and press box at the Athletic Complex are not included in this scope of work; however, they will need to be replaced within the next ten years. As such, the Board of Education has requested that a committee be convened to review the District's existing athletic fields and green spaces. This committee will provide a comprehensive recommendation to the Board of Education that outlines how to best use our grounds to support the growing needs of our youth sports, as well as define and improve practice and competition fields for our middle and high school athletics and a practice area for the marching band. It is anticipated this committee will meet in the evening a couple times each month throughout the rest of this year. **Please contact Julie Lanka (616-784-2511 or [jlanka@khps.org](mailto:jlanka@khps.org)) if you are interested and available to participate on this committee.**

Thank you for your continued support of our students as they learn and grow in our classrooms and participate in extracurricular experiences. 

#KnightPride

Gerald Hopkins – Superintendent  
[@khpsuper](https://twitter.com/khpsuper)

