



# KNIGHTLY

## News

VALUE. SUPPORT. EMPOWER. | WINTER 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



## KNIGHTHOOD AWAITS

At Kenowa Hills, we create a spirit of belonging for all our Knights, a place where everyone is valued, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential. From age 6 weeks at our Early Childhood Center childcare to year 13 through our Middle College program, there are a variety of paths where all students will not only succeed but thrive.

Considering enrollment for 2023-24? Get on the list for enrollment interest!

Ready to become a Knight? **Your journey starts here.** 



### EARLY ENROLLMENT

Complete the 2023-24 Early Enrollment Interest Form at [khps.org/hub](https://khps.org/hub) and get on the list to be notified when enrollment opens

#### Contact KHPS

 [INFO KHPS.ORG/HUB](https://khps.org/hub)

 [CALL 616-784-2511](tel:616-784-2511)

 [TEXT 616-419-8694](sms:616-419-8694)

 [EMAIL REGISTRAR@KHPS.ORG](mailto:REGISTRAR@KHPS.ORG)

THE KENOWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# EMMA

## A POP MUSICAL

March 23-25, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Emma is certain she knows what's best for her classmates' love lives and is determined to find the perfect boyfriend for shy sophomore Harriet. But will Emma's matchmaking get in the way of her own happiness? Featuring pop hits from the '60s through today, including songs by Sara Bareilles, Katy Perry, and Shania Twain, Emma's journey will keep you dancing!

**Tickets are \$12.00** and can be purchased at: [khps.org/play](https://khps.org/play).

## ENCOURAGING KNIGHTHOOD

### New Freshman Academy Supports Students' Shift from Middle School to High School

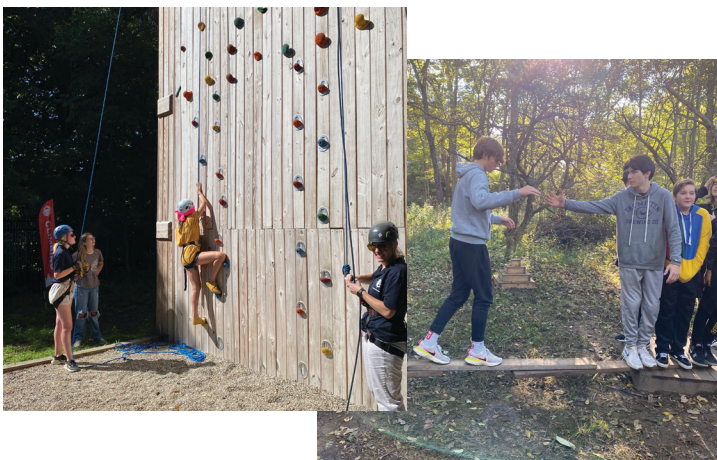
At Kenowa Hills, we strive to ensure our students adjust successfully as they move from one of our school buildings to the next. As our 8th graders transition into high school, we understand the pressure to succeed increases. Academic stakes are higher, athletics become more competitive, and our Knights are not only managing school work but many times part-time jobs and beginning to think about life after graduation.

**“70% of students that fail a class in 9<sup>th</sup> grade do not graduate high school! But of the 30% that do, it is because of a caring adult.”**

—Mike Mattos, Education Author

To support our students, we launched the Kenowa Hills Freshman Academy at the start of this school year. The mission of the Freshman Academy is to provide a safe, supportive, structured, and academically challenging environment to help students transition from middle school to high school, allowing them a space to mature into accountable, independent learners.


Our 9th grade students are placed in a small learning community where they can adjust to the challenges of high school with the support of a dedicated group of teachers. This school year our Freshman Academy includes 10 teachers representing the four core content areas (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies), as well as the Spanish, and Health and Physical Education departments. These Freshman Academy teachers eagerly and intentionally support students in their academic and extracurricular activities as a member of this smaller, more personal learning environment.



All 9th grade core content classes are near one another within the high school, creating the sense of a “freshman campus.” This helps establish a smaller, close-knit learning community that encourages positive academic and social development. It also nurtures meaningful relationships between students and staff, and between the students themselves.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- The Freshman Academy supports the transition to high school for all students by increasing the success rate of each and every incoming freshman.
- Ten teachers, with the support of four counselors, collectively focus on meeting the academic, social, and behavioral needs of all Freshman Academy students.
- Freshman Academy staff partner with AdventurePoint staff in Walker to provide specialized learning experiences. Our students and staff attend AdventurePoint outdoor day camps to make connections with each other while developing skills in listening, team building, and leadership.
- Students will have the opportunity to learn outside the school by attending local events like the opera and professional athletic contests.
- AdventurePoint staff come to the high school to help students continue the development of skills learned during outdoor day camp experiences.
- Freshman Academy learning experiences support student growth in all five domains of the District's Profile of a Graduate.

The Kenowa Hills Freshman Academy is designed to offer students high levels of academic, behavioral, and social guidance and support. This assistance will help ensure that our 9th grade students finish their freshman year with the confidence, skills, and knowledge to succeed while at Kenowa Hills High School and beyond. 

# FUNDING IMAGINATION

## Kenowa Hills Education Foundation (KHEF)

We are thankful to all of the staff who submitted applications this year for the Kenowa Hills Education Foundation grants. As is the case every year, we are amazed and impressed by the innovation and excitement the KHPS teaching staff brings to their students every day. Congratulations to the winners of this year's grants! These approved grants align with our vision and we are excited for the students and staff who will have access to new programs and equipment!

Name	Grant Title
Sarah Kirby	Advisory Yoga
Lisa White	Knight Hike Boardwalk
Tammy Gerig	Re-Write Boogie Boards
Ashley Lesperance	Snowshoeing – Outdoor Pursuits
Tracey St. Pierre	Play That Looks Like Me
Cara Gregory	Sharing Our Voices – Podcasting in 7th Grade



## DONATE TODAY

The Kenowa Hills Education Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit founded in 1986 and is a separate entity from the Kenowa Hills Public Schools and the Board of Education. Since its inception, over \$190,000 in mini grants have been awarded to staff. With your support, we can continue the work that was started in 1986. The need still exists, and each dollar contributed is an investment in the future of Kenowa Hills Public Schools and its students. Please use the QR code to donate to the KHEF online safely and securely.



## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

@KenowaHillsEF

[khef@khps.org](mailto:khef@khps.org)

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

Subscribe on YouTube



## FUNDING OUR COMMUNITY

As part of our continued efforts to support our community, our KHPS Knights raised **\$9,661** for The United Way.

# #KNIGHTSGIVE

# EARLY KNIGHTS



## Kindergarten and K-Knights (Young 5s)

Our dedication to supporting every student, every day starts with our youngest learners. Kindergartners 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.

### 2023-24 PARENT MEETINGS

Meet staff, learn more about the district, and ask questions. Find more information at [khps.org/hub](https://khps.org/hub).

2023-24 Parent Meetings		
Parent meeting times will be 6:30-7:00 PM at each building. All meetings will be in-person.		
Alpine	Central	Zinser
Wednesday, March 15	Tuesday, March 14	Thursday, March 16
2023-24 Screening Dates		
Alpine	Central	Zinser
Thursday, May 4 Call 616.784.0884 to make an appointment	Tuesday, May 2 Call 616.453.6351 to make an appointment	Wednesday, May 3 Call 616.453.2461 to make an appointment
<b>Please note:</b> Students currently attending programs at the ECC will be evaluated during their regular school day so no appointment will be needed.		

For more information, visit [khps.org/registration](https://khps.org/registration) or call us at 784-2511 option 2.

## Early Childhood Center

Knighthood can begin early! The Early Childhood Center (ECC) accepts Knights as young as 6 weeks old in our newly developed infant room! The ECC offers programming focusing on safety, care, development, and kindergarten readiness. The ECC houses several programs including Community Education Preschool, Great Start Readiness Preschool, and a Daycare and Learning Center, which includes both before- and after-school childcare for children from kindergarten to fifth grade, as well as all-day childcare with educational enrichment for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old.

For more information visit [khps.org/early-childhood-center](https://khps.org/early-childhood-center) or call us at 616-647-0910.



## PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

**KH Early Childhood Center**  
3971 Richmond Ct. NW, Grand Rapids  
Thursday, February 2 | 5:00PM-7:00PM

### 2023-24 ECC OPEN HOUSE

Save the date! The ECC is holding a Learning Center & Preschool Open House on Thursday, February 2, 2023, from 5:00–7:00 PM.

Look for more information to follow regarding programming, registration, screening, and options for parents to get answers and meet staff. Watch [khps.org/hub](https://khps.org/hub) for new information and updates.

**NOTE:** Our Daycare and Learning Center currently has a wait list! Contact us if you are interested in being added.

# KHPS BOARD OF EDUCATION



## January is School Board Appreciation Month!

We would like to take this opportunity to give our Board of Education a sincere thank you for their commitment and vision for the students at Kenowa Hills Public Schools. Our community is fortunate to have a Board with a strong drive to establish our vision, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure we are accountable to the community, and strongly advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. We'd also like to welcome to the Board newly elected Member Mark A. Robinson, who will begin his term in January 2023.

## Meetings


The 2023 Organizational meeting was held on Monday, January 9, 2023. During this meeting, the Board set the 2023-24 meeting schedule and elected officers. Visit [khps.org/board-of-education](https://khps.org/board-of-education) for details.

Board of Education meetings are meetings of the Board held in public, not public meetings. Every meeting includes a time for public comment.

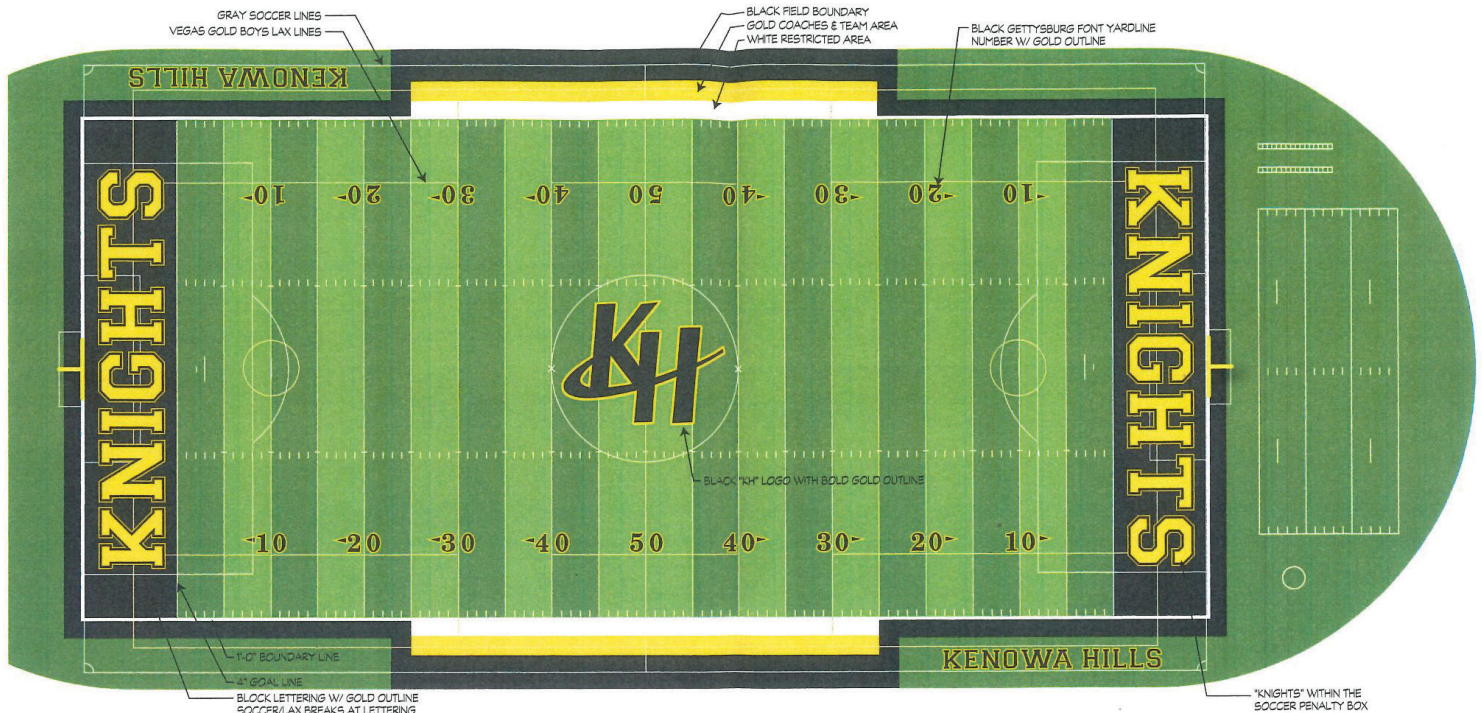
**Thank you!** 

# BOND UPDATE

## Turf is Coming to KHPS!

The Knight Athletic complex is getting a new turf field and resurfaced track. Work is scheduled to start this spring. The goal is to have the project completed for use during the fall 2023 season. Marching Band, Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, and Track are just some of the many groups and organizations that will be able to compete and perform on the new field and track. **Go Knights!** 

### KENOWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL 2023 STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS



## KNIGHT ATHLETICS

### MIGHTY KNIGHTS

Congratulations to our student-athletes who were recognized for their high level play and performance in their Fall 2022 sport:

#### Cross Country

Austin O'Brien\*  
Erika Posthumus\*

#### Soccer

Peyton Mull  
Caden Stoepker\*

#### Football

Nolan Thayer  
Joe Wisnewski  
TJ Steenland  
Juliusz Andito\*  
Andrew Bradley\*

#### Tennis

Logan Tenbrink

#### Volleyball

Shelby Porter

\*Recognizes our Honorable Mention All-Conference Athletes

### STAY INFORMED WITH KNIGHTS YOUTH SPORTS

Youth sports programs and camps continue all year at Kenowa Hills! Want to stay informed?

   Kenowa Hills Youth Sports

✉ Contact our Youth Sports Coordinator, Adam Kregel at [youthsports@khps.org](mailto:youthsports@khps.org) with questions and more information.

## KH BOOSTERS

### Knight Out Raffle March 11, 2023

Grand Celebration Center  
925 Four Mile Road | Grand Rapids  
Doors 5:00 PM | Raffle 6:30 PM

Please support our largest athletic fundraiser of the year! 100% of the proceeds go back into our sports programs.

#### Early-bird ticket discount before January 15!

To purchase tickets: Venmo  
[@KenowaHills-AthleticBoosters](https://www.venmo.com/KenowaHills-AthleticBoosters)  
(comment one name per ticket).

Or contact Bob Mull at 616-540-3304  
or [mullybigblue@comcast.net](mailto:mullybigblue@comcast.net)

Visit [KenowaHillsAthleticBoosters.com](https://www.KenowaHillsAthleticBoosters.com) for more information!



## CHEER ON YOUR KNIGHTS

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

One Season Pass - Family \$80

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 Adult Pass \$80

Online payment options available through e-Funds, via [khps.org](https://www.khps.org).

#### Have a student-athlete?

For information on participation fees and physical form requirements, visit [khps.org/athletics](https://www.khps.org/athletics).

#### Student Admission

Kenowa Hills students can attend any home athletic contest at no cost when wearing Kenowa Hills logo wear. PreK-8th grade students must also be accompanied by a paid adult.

#### Golden Pass

Any resident age 60+ 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.

#### Stay up to date on Knight Athletics

Would you like to receive our new Athletic Newsletter? Contact [youthsports@khps.org](mailto:youthsports@khps.org) and request to be added to our email list!


#### Looking for a way to get involved?

Kenowa Hills Athletic Boosters is always looking for help in the concession stands. Use the QR code to sign up today.



## PROVIDING SUPPORT DAY AND KNIGHT

In honoring our commitment to being a family and student-centered district, Kenowa Hills has partnered with Pine Rest to provide mental health support to all its stakeholders through its Student Assistance Program (SAP). The SAP offers online and in-person counseling, legal services, financial consultations, and so much more.

- When accessing assistance, you must state: "I am part of the SAP at Kenowa Hills Public Schools" to access benefits and avoid receiving an invoice for services.
- Visit [khps.org/mentalhealth](https://www.khps.org/mentalhealth) for more info regarding this invaluable service available to all KH Stakeholders. 



## BECOME A KNIGHT TODAY


### Ready to Enroll Now?

Kenowa Hills Public Schools is still accepting students for this school year. To begin the process of enrollment, please visit [khps.org/registration](https://www.khps.org/registration).



### HAVE QUESTIONS, READY FOR A SCHOOL TOUR OR 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](https://www.khps.org/school-tours) or call 784-2511 option 2 to set up a tour or for registration information. 

## IMPORTANT DATES



Mid-Winter Break  
February 20–21



Spring Break  
March 31 – April 9



High School  
Commencement  
May 31



Last Day of School  
June 2

## 2023 COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

### Mayors Cup Hockey Tournament

January 6–7 @ Walker Ice and Fitness Center

### Easter Egg Hunt

April 1 @ City Central Park

### Community Safety Day

May 6 @ City Central Park

### Memorial Day Parade

May 29 @ Remembrance Rd

### Summer Concerts

June 8, July 13, and August 10 @ Community Park

### Walker Pumpkin Bash

Sept. 30 @ KDL Walker Branch

### Walker Winterfest

Nov. 30 @ Walker Ice & Fitness Ctr.



Visit [www.walker.city](https://www.walker.city) for more info.

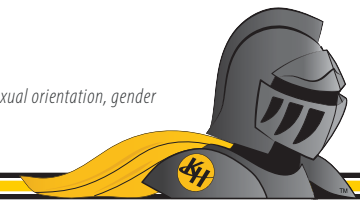


**Kenowa Hills Public Schools**

**2325 Four Mile Road NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49544**

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## SUPER NOTES



With the pandemic behind us, our efforts have been focused on recovery and making up for missed experiences and opportunities. With respect to recovery, we are utilizing all available state and federal funding resources to address the impact COVID had on learning.

Kenowa Hills received \$4.7 million through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding. These funds are being used to address the health and academic needs of our students during the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-2024 school years.

In the area of student health, these funds have allowed us to provide school nurses in each of our elementary schools, middle school, and high school. We have also increased social worker and behavioral supports to address the mental health needs of our students.

With respect to meeting the academic needs of our students, ESSER funding was used to increase summer school programming in 2021. Elementary and middle school students needing additional support in reading and/or mathematics attended summer school for five (5) days per week for eight (8) weeks throughout the

summer. We have also added math interventionists at the elementary and middle school to provide students with additional math instruction in small group settings and hired an elementary mathematics coach to help our teachers grow in their teaching of mathematics. Finally, mathematics software was purchased to enable anytime, anywhere teaching and learning.

We have also applied for and anticipate being awarded funds from the State of Michigan to additionally address learning loss, health, and safety needs. We expect to learn how much we will be awarded this month but have already begun planning for the use of these funds. We have partnered with Grand Valley State University to provide 12 weeks of reading tutoring for identified students in first through third grade and math tutoring for students in 6th through 9th grade. Any additional learning loss resources will go toward increasing elementary interventionist support. Health funds will be used to extend existing mental health and nursing support.

The impact of the pandemic has been extraordinary. I am very proud of our focus on identifying needs and the intentionality of how the additional funds are being used.

It is evident students (and adults) also missed being able to interact with each other and attend events as a result of the pandemic. It has been fun to see large crowds cheering on our athletic teams now that the pandemic is behind us.

To make up for missed opportunities during the pandemic, Kenowa Hills students are invited to attend all home athletic contests for free when wearing black and gold or Kenowa Hills swag. PreK through eighth grade students must be accompanied by a paid adult. #KnightPride 🏰

Gerald Hopkins – Superintendent  
@khpssuper