



khps.org

KNIGHTLY

News

VALUE. SUPPORT. EMPOWER. | WINTER 2024

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



KNIGHTS UNITE!



UNITED WAY UPDATE

KHPS met their goal of raising \$10,000 for the United Way Campaign through staff pledges, bake sales, and penny wars. As part of our continued efforts to enrich our Knight Community, the district raised \$10,085.73 for the Heart of West Michigan United Way!
THANKS, KNIGHTS!

IMPORTANT DATES



MID-WINTER BREAK
February 16–20



SPRING BREAK
March 28 – April 5



HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT
May 29



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
June 6

SPRING MUSICAL



Thursday, March 21 & Friday, March 22 – 7:00 PM
Saturday, March 23 – 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Purchase tickets online at: khps.org/musical

Frozen JR. brings Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life, onstage. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, with music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, plus five new songs written for the Broadway production.

A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, Frozen JR. expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. With a cast of beloved characters and loaded with magic, adventure, and plenty of humor, Frozen JR. is sure to thaw even the coldest heart!

BROADENING THE LEARNING LANDSCAPE

A DECADE OF STUDENT-CENTERED INITIATIVES

2012 Pathways

Kenowa Hills Pathways High School is an alternative option for high school students. Pathways offers a blend of in-person and virtual learning with more flexibility and support offered to students who may need a different experience than the traditional high school setting. Pathways offers an individualized approach to learning, where the curriculum is delivered online while KHPS teachers facilitate the learning process. Students at Pathways are provided breakfast and lunch free of charge daily, use KH transportation, and can participate in KH athletics/extracurricular activities. For more about Pathways visit khps.org/pathways-high-school.



2016 Safety & Security

In 2016, KHPS asked residents to help fund a plan to increase student safety. With overwhelming support from the community, a bond was passed in May 2016. Throughout 2017 and 2018, extensive work was completed to finish secure entrances on all six of our school buildings. Knights have also invested in extensive emergency preparedness to keep students safe at school. Funds from this bond proposal also renovated all of our elementary schools.

2018 STEM

Not only does Kenowa Hills offer STEM Academy as an elective in two-hour blocks at the middle and high school level, but STEM is a weekly special at all three elementary buildings, as well! Every Knight at Kenowa Hills is exposed to STEM lessons from an early age!

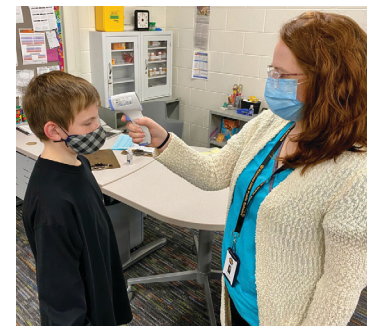
2020 Mental Health Services

Amid the COVID pandemic in 2020, we knew our students and staff needed more support. We partnered with Pine Rest to bring a Student Assistance Plan to the district that provides resources and no-cost services to support the health, energy, focus, and well-being of students, teachers, and staff so they can succeed in and outside of the classroom. Learn about services available at khps.org/mentalhealth.



2022 Freshman Academy

Formed in the fall of 2022 as a way to provide freshmen with a more intimate learning experience, the Freshman Academy for 9th graders at the high school harnesses the power of community. The Knight Freshman Academy has 10 dedicated staff members and its own section of the high school. In small groups, the classes attend day-long workshops at Adventure Point to form bonds and build on social-emotional skill sets such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork.



2021 Health Matters

When we returned to the classroom during the pandemic in 2021, we knew that having trained medical staff in the buildings would be essential for students and staff battling sickness and other health issues. We're proud to partner with HealthBar and have remained committed to keeping full-time nurses in our buildings to support the day-to-day minor health care needs that come up in the classrooms. Meet your KHPS Nurses at khps.org/nurse.

2023 Athletic Improvements

In the fall of 2023, Knights enjoyed their first season on a beautiful new turf field. The athletic improvements provide our students with a state-of-the-art track, and a playing field for football, soccer, lacrosse, marching band, and more.



Not only have our outdoor athletic facilities seen improvements, but the weight room in the high school has been upgraded thanks in part to a hefty donation from our Athletic Boosters. In addition, our field house at the high school and outdoor areas have been adorned with new branding and signage that powerfully expresses our Knight Pride.

2023 Facility Therapy Dog

Our newest and furriest staff member began in the fall of 2023 at the high school. Lovingly referred to as Sir Saffron, the KHHS Facility Therapy Dog has easily become the most popular staff member at the high school. Quickly proven to be a calming, supportive, and loving friend of students and staff alike, we are so proud to partner with Paws for a Cause to bring Saffron into the district and hope to add future furry pals in additional buildings in coming years. Learn more about Saffron at khps.org/therapy-dog.



2024 Athletic Conference Move



In what may be the biggest and brightest change to athletics in Kenowa Hills history, KHPS will join six other area public school districts to form a brand new athletic conference named River Cities Alliance in the fall of 2024. In an ongoing commitment to ensuring the best interests of our students and their families, the new conference will offer opportunities for not only athletics but also academic groups and fine arts programs to compete with local area rivals, enriching the experiences of all students involved. We are so excited about the possibilities of this new endeavor. Learn more about the new conference at rivercitiesalliance.org.

2023 Middle College

Kenowa Hills has partnered with GRCC to provide middle college to students at the high school beginning their sophomore year. Created to give students an opportunity to pursue an Associate Degree while in high school, students take a blend of high school and college courses for four years (grades 10-13). The college tuition is paid by Kenowa Hills High School, providing substantial savings for parents and students. Estimated college tuition savings (compared to a university, not including textbooks) is \$30,000 per student.

There are currently 125 students — 43 of them seniors — enrolled in our middle college program, the largest enrollment for a public high school in our area! This



equates to **\$3.75 MILLION in savings for all Knights in the middle college program!**

BOND UPDATE

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITIONS – WINTER 2024

Work continues to progress on time at the middle school. Phase 2 was completed in August, which included renovating four classrooms, two science rooms, the media center, replacing lockers, and repurposing the old auditorium into a flexible learning space. We're thrilled to be close to completion of Phase 3 at the middle school which includes:

- Renovation of five regular classrooms and two science classrooms.
- Addition of a new music wing with band and orchestra rooms.

Phase 4 work begins in January 2024.



PROVIDING SUPPORT DAY AND KNIGHT

In honoring our commitment to our Knight Community and to supporting the whole student, Kenowa Hills maintains a partnership 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 for more info regarding this invaluable service available to all KH Stakeholders.



KNIGHTHOOD AWAITS!

At Kenowa Hills, students are valued, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential. From age six weeks at our Early Childhood Center childcare, to year 13 through our middle college program, there are a variety of paths where all students can not only succeed but thrive.

READY TO REGISTER NOW?

Kenowa Hills Public Schools is still accepting students for the 2024-25 school year. To begin the process of enrollment, please visit khps.org/registration.

CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT FOR 2024-25?

Your journey starts here! Complete the 2024-25 Enrollment Interest Form at khps.org/hub and get on the list to be notified when enrollment opens.

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.

TODAY IS THE DAY TO BECOME A KNIGHT!

Learn: khps.org/hub

Call: 616-784-2511

Text: 616-419-8694

Email: registrar@khps.org

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



EARLY KNIGHTS



KINDERGARTEN AND K-KNIGHTS (YOUNG 5S)

Kindergartners and Young 5s (known as K-Knights) students at Kenowa Hills experience a culture and community that values, supports, and empowers learners. To enroll, your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024. Kindergarten and K-Knights are offered at all three of our elementary buildings.

2024-25 PARENT MEETINGS

This is a parent informational meeting. Your child will have an opportunity to meet the teachers and see the classrooms at a later date. Find more information as it's updated on khps.org/hub.

2024-25 PARENT MEETINGS		
Parent meeting times will be 6:00-7:00 PM at each building. All meetings will be in-person.		
Alpine Monday, March 18	Central Monday, March 4	Zinser Tuesday, March 5
2024-25 SCREENING DATES		
Alpine Tuesday, April 30 Call 616.784.0884 to make an appointment	Central Thursday, May 2 Call 616.453.6351 to make an appointment	Zinser Wednesday, May 1 Call 616.453.2461 to make an appointment
*Please note: 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 or call us at 784-2511 option 2.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

The ECC offers programming that focuses on safety, care, development, and kindergarten readiness. We house several programs including Community Education Preschool, Great Start Readiness Preschool, and Child Care through our Learning Center. For more information visit khps.org/early-childhood-center or call us at 616-647-0910.

The ECC is hiring! Visit khps.org/job-opportunities for more information or to apply.



PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

KH Early Childhood Center
3971 Richmond Ct. NW, Grand Rapids
Wednesday, January 31 | 5:00PM-7:00PM

2024-25 ECC OPEN HOUSE

Save the date! The ECC is holding a Learning Center & Preschool Open House on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 5:00–7:00 PM.

Look for more information to follow regarding programming, registration, screening*, and options for parents to tour the facility and meet staff. Watch khps.org/hub for new information and updates. 📱

KNIGHT ATHLETICS

! Would you like to receive our new Athletic Newsletter? Contact youthsports@khps.org and request to be added to our Email list!

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

ANNUAL KOZMINSKI FUNDRAISER GAME

February 10 – Staff game begins at 5:00 PM

KH ATHLETIC BOOSTERS KNIGHT OUT

Saturday, February 24, 2024
Eastern Avenue Hall
506 Eastern Ave NE, Grand Rapids
Tickets are \$45 through Jan. 15 via Venmo @KenowaHills-AthleticBoosters. More info at kenowahillsathleticboosters.com.

KHAB GOLF OUTING

Saturday, July 27, 2024
Gracewil Country Club
More details to come!

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GUS MACKER

Save the date! September 7-8, 2024
Kenowa Hills High School
macker.com/local/grand-rapids-mi

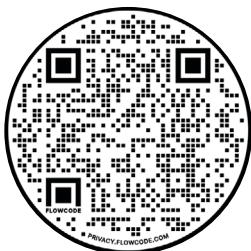
DID YOU KNOW?

Your participation in these events helped to support Kenowa Hills Athletic Booster's donation of \$50,000 for the new weight room equipment in the high school!

Thank you for supporting the KH Athletic Boosters and all our Knight Student Athletes!

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GET INVOLVED?

Kenowa Hills Athletic Boosters is always looking for volunteers and donations. Use the QR code to sign up today or 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 for all home sporting events!

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

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

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 grants 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.

YOUTH SPORTS

Youth sports programs and camps continue all year at Kenowa Hills!



MEET ADAM!

Adam Galindo is the K-8 Youth Sports Coordinator for the district.

Galindo joined the Knights this past fall and made his debut at Community Knight Out in September! Adam brings extensive experience in the creation and coordination of student recreation for cognitive and physical development. He holds a master's degree in Sports Administration and a bachelor's in Sport Management from Central Michigan University.

The K-8 Youth Sports Coordinator is an important role with goals to grow involvement and participation with our youngest Knights, with the hope that it continues to build success in our students and our community!

WANT TO STAY INFORMED?

Follow "Kenowa Hills Youth Sports" on social media! Or contact Adam Galindo at youthsports@khps.org for questions and more information.


THANK YOU TO OUR 2023-2024 ATHLETIC BANNER SPONSORS

Aldun Properties	Gracewil Country Club	Radco
Ambrose Automotive	Lake Michigan Heating Cooling Plumbing	Rodenhouse
Beaches & Braces	Peppinos	Standale Dental
Elite	Pro Collision	Walker Car Wash

KENOWA HILLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION (KHEF)

Approved grants align with the KHPS Vision & Mission to Value, Support, and Empower students and we're excited for the staff and students who will have access to new programs and equipment. Congratulations to our 2023-24 Grant Award Recipients below.

NAME, BUILDING	GRANT TITLE
Mrs. Haines, Middle School	Free Little Library
Mrs. Martin, Central Elementary	Motivating Math Games
Mrs. Goller, Zinser Elementary	Books to Motivate Readers
Mrs. Haines, Middle School	Enhancing Education Through Nine Squares
Mr. Hoonhorst, Central Elementary	Pickleball
Mrs. St.Pierre, Central Elementary	Soft Play STEM Bins
Mrs. VanderStoep, ECC	Augmentative Alternative Communication Device
Mrs. Herman, Zinser Elementary	Stacking Up Math
Mrs. Martin, Central Elementary	Start the Day in a Positive Way
Mrs. Robrahn, Pathways	Because of Books Club
Mrs. Johnson, Alpine Elementary	Science of Reading Games

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 have been awarded. 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 at the top right to donate to the KHEF online, safely and securely. 



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

2024 SPRING YOUTH SOCCER

Registration Online Beginning Feb. 1 at: walkericeandfitness.com.

*Soccer Officials Needed - Learn more at walkericeandfitness.com.

ADULT SOFTBALL

Registration Online Beginning Feb. 5 at walkericeandfitness.com.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

March 23 at City Central Park at 11AM.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

May 27 at 12PM.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

June 6, July 11, and August 8, at Walker Community Park beginning at 6:30PM.

PUMPKIN BASH

October 5 at Walker City Hall campus.

WALKER WINTERFEST

December 5 at Walker Ice and Fitness Center from 5:30-7PM.



Visit www.walker.city for more info.

KHPS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Melissa Courtade

Jeff Gustinis

Tracey Hart

Erin LaBotz

Danielle Roberts

Mark Robinson

Corey Turner


Meetings

The 2024 Organizational meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 8, 2024**. During this meeting, the Board will set their meeting schedule and elect officers for 2024.

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.

Visit khps.org/board-of-education for details.

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. 



Kenowa Hills Public Schools

2325 Four Mile Road NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544

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UPCOMING COFFEE CHATS

7:00-9:30AM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18TH
Interurban Depot Café, Marne

MONDAY, JANUARY 22
Pop's Restaurant, Walker

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Mr. Burger, Comstock Park

Connect with KHPS Superintendent Gerald Hopkins through our Coffee Chat events. Stop by for coffee, conversation, questions, or to share anything that is on your mind.

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



The Kenowa Hills Board of Education recently made the strategic decision to move from the OK Conference to the newly formed River Cities Alliance beginning fall 2024. This decision came after careful consideration and thoughtful planning.

Kenowa Hills has been part of the OK Conference for 58 years, and we appreciate the relationships and athletic competition it has provided. However, it became apparent that a change was necessary to better align with our needs, values, and goals.

SO, WHY DID WE CHOOSE TO JOIN THE RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE?

ENHANCED COMPETITION AND GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY

The River Cities Alliance presents an opportunity for our academic, athletic, and fine arts teams to compete against schools

that are not only geographically closer but also share similar values and aspirations. This will reduce travel time for our students and families, allowing more time for academics, rest, and community engagement.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Being part of a newly formed alliance gives us the chance to build a sense of community for our students and local families from the ground up. Collectively, we aim to create strong relationships with neighboring schools, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship that goes beyond the competition. This move aligns with our commitment to promoting a positive and inclusive environment for our students.

ADAPTABILITY AND INPUT

The River Cities Alliance provides Kenowa Hills with the opportunity to be actively involved in shaping the future of the conference. As founding members, we have a voice in the decision-making process, allowing us to contribute our insights and ensure that the alliance reflects the values and priorities of our district.

SHARED VALUES AND GOALS

The River Cities Alliance was formed by schools that share similar educational philosophies and commitments to excellence. By aligning ourselves with like-minded institutions, we believe our students will benefit from a more cohesive and supportive community.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS

The River Cities Alliance is committed to providing opportunities for students of all skill levels and interests. This inclusive approach aligns with our belief that co-curricular experiences should be a platform for personal growth, teamwork, and leadership. This move allows us to be part of an alliance that values the development of each student.

SO, WHO ARE THE INAUGURAL MEMBER SCHOOLS OF THE RIVER CITIES ALLIANCE?

Please join me in welcoming our friends from Allendale, Cedar Springs, Coopersville, Greenville, Lowell, and Sparta. We look forward to hosting and visiting these schools as rivalries are developed and a sense of school spirit and pride are enhanced.

As we embark on this new chapter, I want to assure our community that this decision was not made lightly. I believe that joining the River Cities Alliance will bring about positive changes that will enhance the overall experience for our students and contribute to the success, pride, and growth of our district.

We appreciate your continued support as we embrace this exciting opportunity and look forward to the many accomplishments that lie ahead for our students and community.

#KnightPride

Gerald Hopkins – Superintendent
@khpssuper