



Kalkaska High School

*Staci Short, Principal
Aaron Ostrander, Assistant Principal
Bryan Hawkins, Athletic Director
Kalkaska High School*

February 13th, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-24 educational progress for Kalkaska High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Staci Short for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website www.kpschools.com, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2024/2025 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2023-24. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2021-22. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state, had a graduation rate at or below 67%, or failed to exit ATS status in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school was has not been given one of these labels.

Key challenges at Kalkaska High School include the subject areas of Math and ELA, and attendance. To address these issues, we continue to use curriculum that was newly employed in 2019, CPM in Math and My Perspectives in ELA. Both curriculums employ preparation for the PSAT and SAT tests used by the State of Michigan for evaluative purposes. All teachers in these two disciplines receive ongoing training in the use of these tools to improve student achievement. We also continue to employ a Tier 2 and a Tier 3 Intervention Program in Math that identifies students with gaps in their learning and supports those gaps with mastery of necessary standards. Homework labs are available daily both before and after school, and we continue to offer transportation home after the homework lab in the afternoon. To address attendance issues, we are partnering with Communities in Schools, providing both incentives for good attendance and consequences for excessive absences.



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State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Kalkaska High School provides education to approximately 441 students in grades 9-12 for Kalkaska Public Schools. Our district in Northwestern Lower Michigan covers 440 square miles in Kalkaska County, and includes approximately 1300 students. All of the students in the district in grades 9-12 are assigned to the high school.
2. Kalkaska High School is in the 1st year of a 3-year Strategic Plan. Each year, the District's Strategic Planning Committee in coordination with the School Improvement Committee reviews student achievement, goals, and strategies in order to determine how to keep learning moving forward. These documents are available upon request. Please contact Staci Short.
3. Ninth through twelfth grade students in our school district attend Kalkaska High School. As juniors and seniors, some students attend the Northwest Education Services Career Tech Center (CTC). This past year, over 75 students attended the vocational school. Northwest Ed. also provides center based programming for CI and EI students.
4. KHS follows the Michigan Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for graduation. Curriculum maps for the courses are located on the district's website.
5. KHS 9th and 10th graders take the PSAT each spring, and 11th graders take the SAT. Spring 2023 results indicate that 44% of 9th grade students met both benchmarks, 25% of 10th grade students met both benchmarks, and 29% of 11th grade students met both benchmarks in Math and Evidence Based Reading and Writing. These marks are all approximately at or above the state average for the spring 2023 test, with the exception of the 10th grade score, which was 4% below the state average. Spring 2024 results indicate that 30% of 9th grade students met both benchmarks, 28% of 10th grade students met both benchmarks, and 23% of 11th grade students met both benchmarks in Math and Evidence Based Reading and Writing. Regarding the decline in percentage of students meeting both benchmarks from the 2023 to the 2024 school year, high staff turnover in Math and ELA are affecting teacher efficacy at the middle and high school. This also impacts the use of the vetted and purchased curriculum as new staff must be trained and have practice using it with fidelity.
6. Attendance at Fall 2023 Parent Teacher Conferences was 21%. Attendance at Fall 2024 Parent Teacher Conferences was 18%.

1. All high schools are required to report on the following:



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- a) In the 2022/2023 SY, 8 students enrolled at NMC either through dual enrollment or early college. This is approximately 2.5% of the students that are Juniors or Seniors. In 2023/2024 11 students participated in college courses at Ferris State University either through traditional dual-enrollment or the early college program. This represents approximately 6% of the Junior Class and Senior Class.
- b) In 2022/2023 7 AP Courses were offered at Kalkaska High School. In 2023/2024 7 AP Courses were offered at KHS.
- c) In 2022/2023 58 or 18% of Juniors and Seniors enrolled in an AP class. In 2023/2024 59 students or 13% of our total enrollment were enrolled in an AP Class.
- d) Of the 80 AP tests taken in 2023, 27 students (34%) received a score leading to college credit. Of the 59 AP tests taken in 2024, 39 students (66%) received a score leading to college credit.

Our vision is that “Kalkaska Public Schools will be a model of excellence in education and a source of community pride.” We recognize that our school community must offer layers of support to our families. In addition to academic supports, we provide social and emotional supports, and access to our Karen’s Kids Teen Pantry, which provides basic needs to struggling families and students. Additionally, we are supported by a Communities in Schools Site Coordinator and a Dropout Prevention Specialist. Additionally, we are taking steps to hire and retain quality staff in core teaching areas. We are proud of our school, and we remain committed to becoming one of the best schools in our intermediate school district.

Sincerely,

Staci L. Short

Principal, Kalkaska High School