



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023

# McTeacher Staff Raises Money for Yearbook

McTeacher Night made a comeback after a three-year absence and the turnout was incredible. The event has traditionally served as the major fundraiser for the KHS journalism program, and this year was no exception. Thanks to McDonald's and many of their generous patrons, the program earned \$2,300.

McDonald's has hosted the event on Trout Festival Thursday for many of the last 17 years. The main draw is that students of all ages can come to see high school teachers taking orders and cooking their dinners at McDonald's. As if that wasn't a big enough attraction, the journalism class distributed coloring pages to the elementary schools, so that every child who colored it and brought it in received a free children's ice cream cone.

Teachers worked in all areas of the restaurant. The journalism students sold pies, also donated by McDonald's, to anyone inside or in the drive-thru line for donations. Pie sales alone brought in \$400. Franchise owner Tom Holka and McDonald's donated \$1,900 to the cause.

"I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the community and McDonald's," said journalism adviser Stacey Hicks. Although this is Hicks' fourth year teaching in Kalkaska, this was her first McTeacher Night. "I had no idea how well it would do, but this is well beyond my expectations."

Not only were teachers working the event, but many came in to eat and make donations, as well. Students and families stopped by in droves to have a great dinner, check out the new McDonald's building, and donate to the cause.

"It was nice to see everyone come and see the teachers help out," said sophomore Carly Arsnoe, a yearbook staff member.

■ *Written By Hailey Malbouef*

► Senior Emily Wood sells pies in the McDonald's lobby to raise money for the Journalism program during McTeacher Night. Gail Lugiewicz, French teacher and former yearbook adviser, last worked the event in 2019 before the pandemic caused it to be canceled. Math teacher Kerry Wilson takes orders during McTeacher Night. Tom Holka of McDonald's presents a check for \$1,900 to Stacey Hicks, journalism teacher, to benefit the journalism program at the high school.



Read more about the adventures at Rapid City Elementary School on Page 2.



INSIDE THIS EDITION

**BULLETIN**  
Kalkaska Public Schools  
315 S. Coral St.  
Kalkaska, Michigan 49646

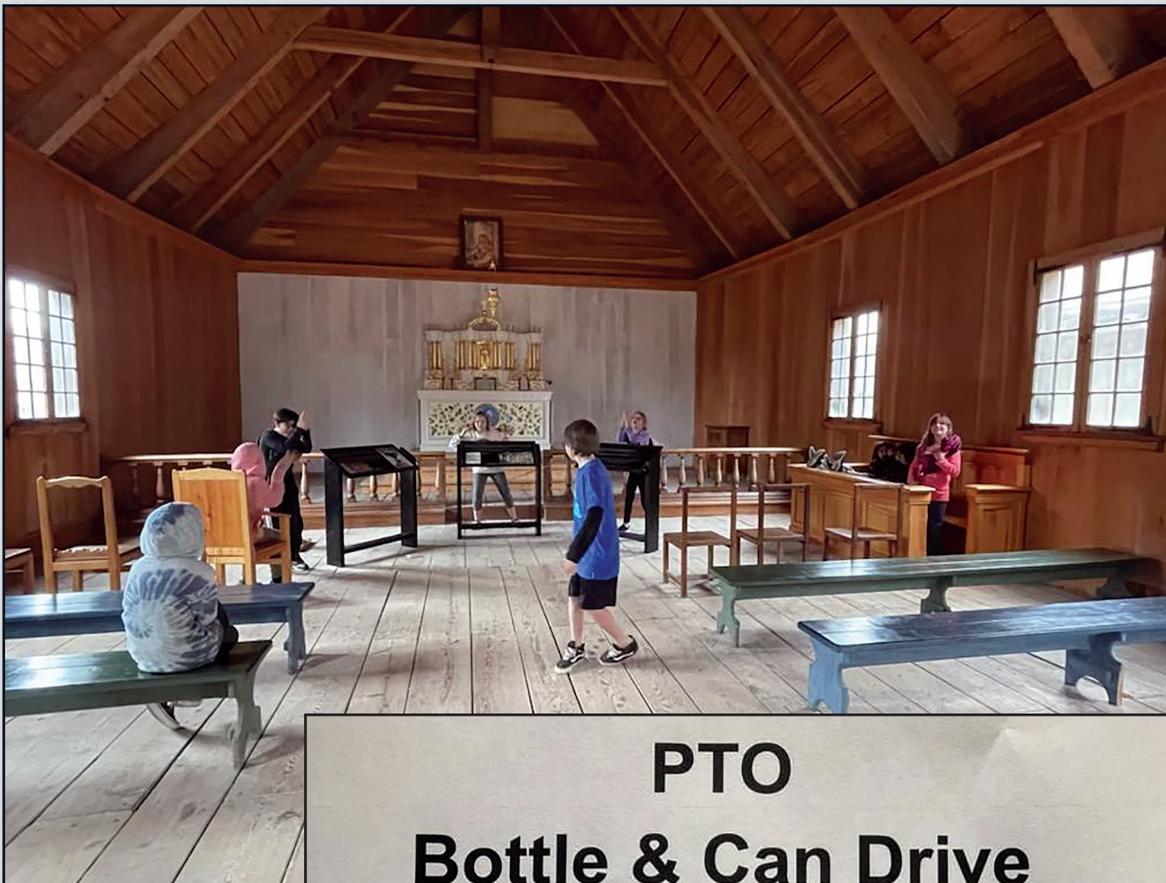
PRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CADILLAC MI PERMIT #147

**BOX HOLDER  
KALKASKA MI 49646**

# Rapid City literacy night a HUGE success



RCE Rockstars Rocked a very successful literacy night! First, second, and third graders demonstrated their exemplary reading skills by performing plays from Readers Theater. Grades four and five performed music using Boomwhackers. To conclude the performance, all Rockstars joined together to sing "Count On Me" by Bruno Mars. Rockstars are ending the school year with a few well earned and very exciting trips. Grades K-2 will be visiting Antrim County's Grass River Natural Area. Rockstars will be hiking trails and participating in hands-on activities at the interactive nature center. Third Grade students will embark on a journey to Fort Michimackinac and experience what life was like on the fort first hand. Grades 4 and 5 will be heading to Suttons Bay's Inland Seas Education Association. Rockstars will gain insight on stewardship and what it is like to sail the Great Lakes. The grand finale will be an all Rockstar trip to the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes in June! Rapid City Parent Teacher Organization is hosting a recyclable bottle & can drive!



## PTO Bottle & Can Drive

May 1st - June 2nd



Join our PTO & Students in supporting Rapid City Elementary School by collecting and donating returnable bottles and cans (glass, plastic, and metal). All proceeds will go to the school, future events, and projects. Clean out your pantry and garage and support our school at the same time!

Help us reach a school goal of 2,000 returnable bottles and cans for a school ice cream party. **LETS GO ROCKSTARS!**

There will be a few options provided on how you can donate your returnables.



- **Rapid City Elementary**-Drop your returnables to the trash can provided in the back of school during drop off or to the trash can provided within the front entryway of the school.
- **Clearwater Township Hall**- (gym)-Drop of returnables within the Township Hall to the trash can provided and labeled. Clearwater Township Hall hours of operation 6:30am-5pm Monday-Friday.

If you need assistance and would like to have returnables picked up please contact Michelle Freeland at 231-590-9611.



# BSE ready to welcome Class of 2036

## *New kindergarteners excited by round-up activities, look forward to school*

Kindergarten Round-up was a success. If you didn't make it, please don't worry. Call the office and we can help you get started with enrollment!

### **Kalkaska Kid's Closet**

Counselors Kiel Clothier and Shawna Shepard of Kalkaska Elementary Schools worked together with donor Katie Zemsta, Elementary Art Teacher, to stock up their new "Kid's Closet" at each elementary school.

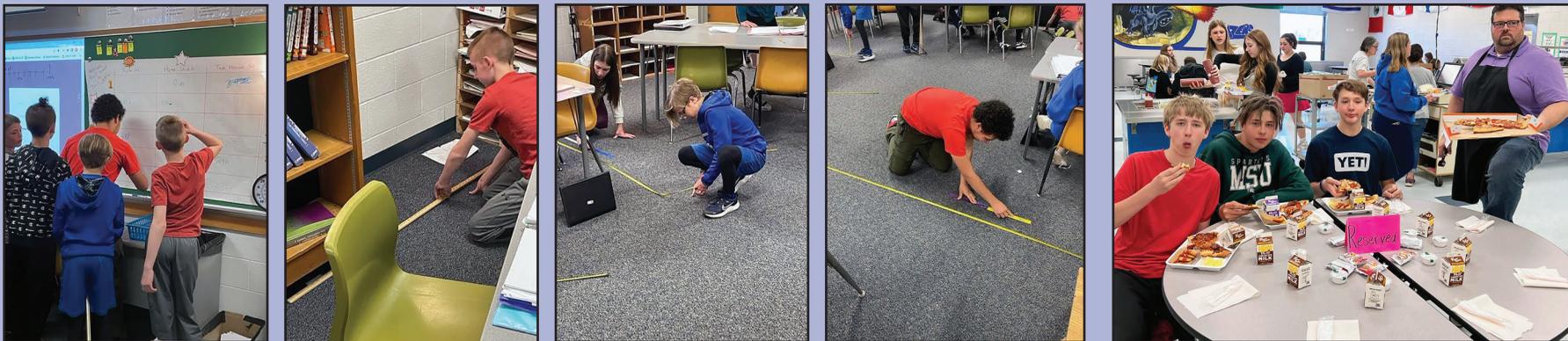
The Kid's Closet is here to help students who are in need of hygiene items and clothing. Mrs. Zemsta helped stock almost \$1,000 worth of items for the closet. All money donations were made possible through help of her local church, Kalkaska Seventh-day Adventist and Adventist Community Services.

Donations are accepted at each school to help continue fund this effort. Go Blazers!

We have a half day of school on May 26 and no school the following Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.



The Birch Street Elementary photos from above feature our adulting class, the Preschool visit to the Grass River, and the first grade field trip to the hospital.



▲ Mrs. Willis's advisory students are decorating bags to donate to Project Feed the Kids. The meals are packed and sponsored by J&S Hamburg South Airport. Mrs. Crawford's algebra class, students were given an Exponential Growth or Decay Real Life Situation. Using multiple representations, they had to create models and answer questions relating to the situation given. 7th graders worked on measurement precision with multiple tools and recorded their data. A group of 8th graders used their Blazer Bucks to purchase a pizza party served by Mr. Price!

Congratulations to our Q3 4.0 students! We celebrated with donuts the morning of April 13. 6th Grade: Vera, Elizabeth, Asher, Deagan, William, Scott, Isabella, and Hunter (not pictured). 7th Grade: Kaden, Kaylee, Joselynn, Alivia, William, Xavier, Collin, Easton, and Andrea. 8th Grade: Caylee, Raelynn, Grace, Lane, Emma and Courtney (not pictured).



Congratulations to our April Musicians of the Month! L—R: Kaylee, Audra, Isabella, Jackson, and Kohen.



Congratulations to our April KMS Pride Students of the Month! Back Row 8th Grade L—R: Aiden, Grace, Alexis, Saige, and Adrianah. Middle Row 7th Grade L—R: Afton, Owen, Alexis, Xavier, and Andrea. Front Row 6th Grade L—R: Macy, Riaz, Chase, Layla, and Isaac (not pictured).



The weekend of April 15, northern Michigan middle schoolers performed in the annual MSBOA District 2 Solo and Ensemble Event. Students perform either a solo or an "ensemble" event such as a trio, duet, or others. The rating scale is from a Division 1 to 5, with 1 being the best and 5 being the worst. KMS was proudly represented by the following students and their hard work! Alexis—Division 2 Rating on a solo. Erica—Division 2 Rating on a solo. Erica and Kevin—Division 2 Rating on a duet. Ava—Division 1 Rating on a solo. Courtney—Division 1 Rating on a solo.

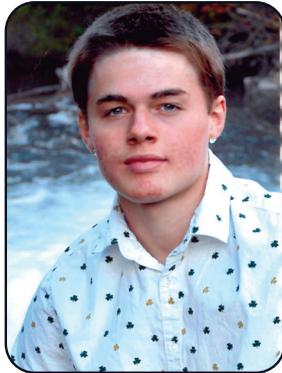
# SENIORS



Alex Alderson



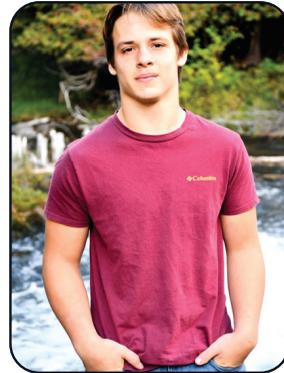
Alyssa Anderson



Timothy Anderson



Spencer Antaya



Nathan Babich



William Baker



Tyler Ball



Jamal Bernard



Kayle Bilkey



Beck Birgy



Madison Birgy



Lydia Bissonette



Thorston Booy



Logan Bordash



Sabreena Bowman



Alexandria Buchholz



John Buck



Diego Buyze-Prieto



Hope Cassio



Milan Claus



Maurine Coon



Lane Cotton



Kayla Cuadros



Madison Czaplicki

# CLASS



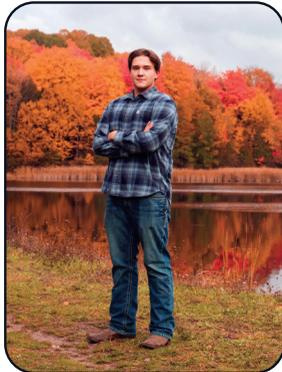
Samuel DeMoss



Delaney Denike



Robert Dent



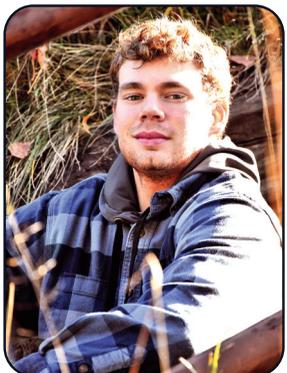
Eli Dodge



Sonny Douglas



Keanna Eiseler



Bradley Elkins



Destiny Elmy



Alivia Farr



Luciana Federico



Christopher Gay



Charlotte George



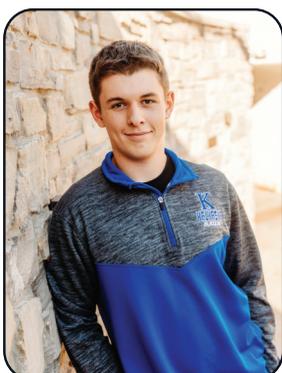
Corbin Gersch



Felisha Green



Isabella Grenzer



Hunter Griffith



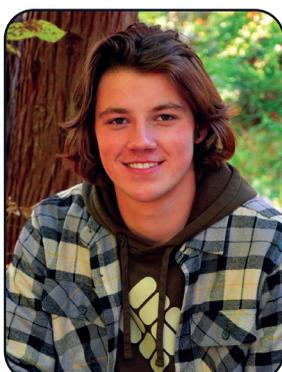
Tyeson Griffore



Elizabeth Hagler



Amelia Hahenberg



Landen Hart



Elisabeth Holka



Anabelle Horton



Emily Horton

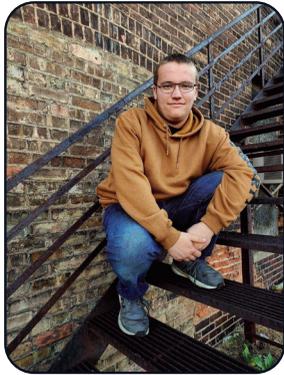


Anna Hunter

# of 2023



Riho Imura



Austin Johnson



Justin Kinsella



Lacey Kitter



Cayden Knight



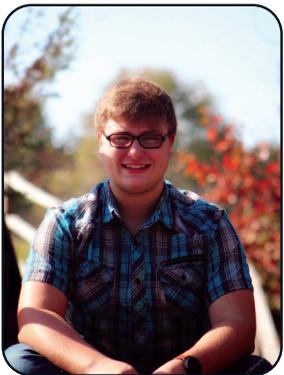
Emily Koski



Nicholas Little



Aurora Loose



Cle Lorenz



Anna Luke



Ronnie Magee



Grace McDowell



Michelle Michelin



Emberlynn Miller



Aaron Mitchell



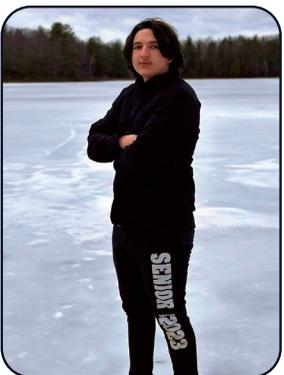
Jaycee Mitchell



Montana Mitchell



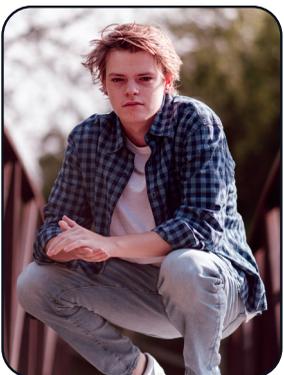
Julia Moore



Austin Morgan



Annabelle Morris



David Piechocki



Abigail Price

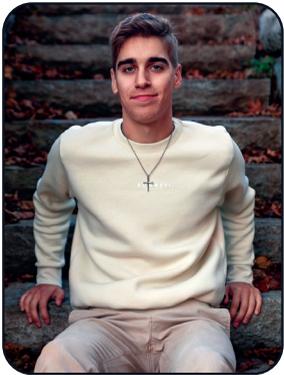


Destany Robertson



Anthony Rodriguez

# K Kalkaska's CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2023



Braden Rohring



Jenna Rosin



Brooklin Royston



Tanapon Rungkittanasan



Eyllys Saunders



Michael Scoby



Gavin Sizemore



Jonathan Smith



Ryan Snyder



Kristen Spink



Adyson Steiner



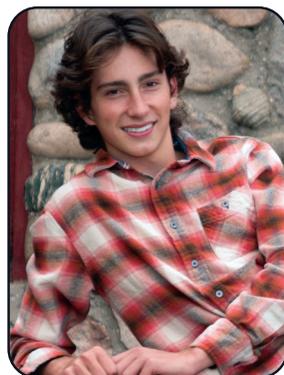
Jayden Stevens



Jai'Vyera Stevenson



Alyssa Stoops



Cooper Swikoski



Hayley Swikoski



Kyle TenEyck



Devon Tussey



Kailey Wainman



Avrie Weighman



Brooklyn Whiteford



Nevaeh Wise



Emily Wood

# Spring weather wreaks havoc on spring sports season for Blazers

The scramble is on! With the poor weather of April we have had to wedge about 2 months worth of spring sports into 3 weeks of calendar space, which is not easy. We appreciate our parents, players, and families bearing with us as we rearrange schedules and travel plans. As always, the most up-to-date location for tracking schedules is our website: [www.kalkaskablazers.com](http://www.kalkaskablazers.com)

## OUTDOOR EVENTS – Reminder about our sports venue rules

Kalkaska Public Schools prohibits the following on school grounds: Tobacco and tobacco products, vaping devices, alcoholic beverages, weapons, and pets. We also do not permit audio devices such as karaoke machines, smart speakers, or bullhorns at our outdoor events. Thank you for cooperating and keeping our campus a pleasant environment for our teams and spectators.

## INTRODUCING THE NORTHERN SHORES CONFERENCE

The 2023–24 school year will be the final year of competition for schools in the Lake Michigan Conference. Kalkaska was a proud charter member when the league was formed in 1996, and we are excited to be a charter member of the Northern Shores Conference when it begins conference play in the 2024–25 school year. Along with Kalkaska, the other founding members include Boyne City, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Elk Rapids, Grayling, Harbor Springs, and Kingsley. These eight schools are unified in our vision for educational athletics, and our future cooperation in sports, academics, student leadership, the arts, and other activities.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The Varsity Boys Golf team brought home the championship trophy from the Manton Frostbite Open held on April 20th. Congratulations to Coach David Wedneski and the team!

The Varsity Boys Track & Field team also brought home a trophy for winning the Lake Michigan Conference quad meet held in Boyne City on Saturday, May 6th. Congratulations to Coaches Doug Brown, Andy Henderson, and the team!

## SPRING MHSAA TOURNAMENTS ARE ON THE HORIZON

- Boys & Girls Track & Field Regionals: Friday 5/19 at Clare High School
- Boys Golf Regionals: Tuesday 5/30 at Red Hawk Golf Club, East Tawas
- Softball District Opening Round: Tue 5/30 vs. Charlevoix at Elk Rapids High School
- Softball District Semifinals & Finals: Sat. 6/3 at Elk Rapids High School
- Baseball District Tourney at Charlevoix High School: Sat. 6/3. Game 1 vs. Boyne City



**BIRCH STREET ELEMENTARY  
HOSTS THREE GREAT START TO  
READINESS PROGRAM (GSRP)  
PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS!**

## **GSRP IS A FREE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

**FOR CHILDREN 4 YEARS OLD BY SEPTEMBER 1ST**

### **WHAT DOES GSRP OFFER?**

- Research validated core curriculum with objectives aligned to social-emotional, language, literacy, and mathematic development
- Aligned to the state's Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Preschool
- Child to adult ratio of 1:8
- Ongoing and individualized student assessment of growth
- Child led learning and engagement
- Multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS)
- Play based learning with embedded academics
- Family Participation Groups
- GSRP Associate Teachers have a Child Development Associate Credential
- Lead and Associate Teachers complete annual 16 hours of LARA training
- Lead and Associate Teachers are CPR and First Aid certified

## **MEET OUR LEAD TEACHERS!**

### **ABBY PRESTON**



- Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education
- 6 years Lead Teacher experience in GSRP
- 2 years Associate Teaching experience in GSRP
- 15 years experience working with young children
- Researched and written numerous educational grants
- Continuous partnerships with community programs
- Collaborates with outside agencies for family resources

### **SAMANTHA WAGNER**

- Master's Degree in Early Literacy
- Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with Mathematics and Reading Endorsements
- Valid Professional Teaching Certificate
- 9 years teaching experience in GSRP
- 3 years teaching experience in kindergarten and one year experience teaching 1st grade
- GSRP GURU and Mentor for Northwest Education Services



### **KARA BONTRAGER**



- Master's Degree in Instruction & Curriculum with an emphasis on Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor's of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis on Psychology and Education
- 5 years of teaching experience in GSRP
- 9 years experience directing and facilitating 21st CCLC afterschool programs for K-12
- GSRP GURU and Mentor for Northwest Education Services

# Woodland Creek helps CSI students celebrate annual Trout Festival

Woodland Creek donated wooden suns and fish to each fourth and fifth grade student at Cherry Street Intermediate and Rapid City Elementary School to decorate for this year's Trout Festival theme, "Wishin' I was Fishin'." Katie Zemsta, KPS elementary art teacher, provided instruction and paint for students to create and make fun designs on their project. Students were able to take their project home once completed. A big thank you to Woodland Creek for their donation.

Fifth grade students had their final classroom visit with Mr. Paul Wiemerslage from the AuSable Institute. Students have had the opportunity to discover native plants in our area, explore the importance of biodiversity, and learn the key factors of establishing a healthy ecosystem. Students have successfully completed nine learning sessions as part of the REYS program and will be conducting their final project later this month. Our students will help establish a healthy ecosystem along the Boardman River where a bridge was recently reconstructed.

Our fifth grade students are preparing for their transition to Kalkaska Middle School. One way our students have been preparing is through exploring the idea of joining our middle school band. Students have had the option to try several instruments to see which ones grab their interest for the upcoming year.

The fifth grade students and many chaperones are preparing to explore Mackinac Island this upcoming June. Students have been learning about many different things about the island and have made many connections to our curriculum. Recently, our students were able to visit with a historian from the fort to discuss how the land that would become Michigan impacted the American Revolution. While on the island, students will have the opportunity to visit Fort Mackinac, enjoy a carriage ride focused on native plants, and enjoy the many joys of Mackinac Island.





**THE Father Fred Foundation™**  
Our Mission: Based on the founding belief that each of us is created in God's image, we offer help, hope and compassion to anyone with essential needs.

## BACK TO SCHOOL SHOES

**Event Includes**

- New shoes and socks for toddlers to teens
- Eye exams and glasses (if needed)
- School supplies (while supplies last)

All services are offered at no cost



Call  
**231-947-2055**  
to register

Register by July 29

**Event Locations**

- July 31 – Benzie
- August 1 – Leelanau
- August 3 – Kalkaska
- August 4 – Antrim
- August 8 thru 11 – Grand Traverse



**Event Supporters**



## KPS seeks school bus drivers

KPS is looking for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. who would like to drive children to school and home safely. **AND GET PAID TO DO IT!**

If you are interested, please contact the Kalkaska Public School Bus Garage at (231) 564-1518 and ask for Jim Vandeffier. We will help you get your license to be able to drive a school bus!



## TEEN HEALTH CORNER

### COME SEE US!

Your physical and mental health matter to us!

Need a physical/check up...come see us!

Need to talk to someone...come see us!

Need immunizations...come see us!

Need referral to specialist...come see us!

Feeling sick...come see us!

Cant get into your primary...come see us!

Questions about how you are feeling...come see us!

We can help, call us, come see us.

We are open YEAR ROUND!

Let's work together to find the best way to serve your child. We accept all types of insurance, use a sliding scale for the uninsured and can provide Medicaid application assistance.

**Teen Health Corner-3 convenient locations**

**KMHC Campus**  
419 South Coral St.  
Kalkaska, MI 49646  
231-258-7791  
Fax: 231-258-7795  
Monday-Friday  
Open all year round

**FAHS/MS Campus**  
7741 Shippy Rd.  
Fife Lake, MI 49633  
231-369-2000  
Fax: 231-392-7344  
Mon, Wed, Thurs.  
Open all year round

**Kalkaska Middle School, Behavioral Health Services ONLY**  
1700 Kalkaska St.  
Kalkaska, MI 49646  
231-258-7922  
Monday-Friday (closed in summer)



## Seeking Kalkaska Host Families

**Our Host Families:**

- Provide 3 meals a day, a bedroom and treat the student like a member of the family.
- Pass criminal background checks
- Receive \$400 per month stipend to offset the expense of hosting.
- Come in all shapes and sizes.

**Our Students:**

- Speak proficient English
- Are between 15 and 18 years old
- Stay for one school year.
- Maintain at least a C average in all classes.
- Have their own health insurance and spending money.



Emma - German Girl

Emma's hobbies are dance and swimming. First semester only.

Ririho - Japanese Girl

Ririho loves dance, reading and family activities. Coming on a scholarship!



Kevin - German Boy

Kevin likes football, soccer and basketball. First semester only.



Kohki - Japanese Boy

Kohki has lived in Japan, Shanghai and Berlin. He loves basketball and most other sports.



Make someone's dream come true! Call Donna at 231-384-1209

wednieskid@gmail.com

www.student-management.com

# Congratulations, Seniors!

From Your Kalkaska County Librarians

We wanted to take a moment to congratulate you on reaching this milestone in your life! Whether they were visits to the public library or to your school library, we have had the pleasure of watching you grow and learn over the years, and we are so proud of all that you have accomplished.

Whether you are heading off to university, joining the workforce, starting a family, or embarking on another trail, we wish you all the best in your future strivings. Be kind, work hard, and everything will turn out great. We hope that you will continue to pursue knowledge and learning throughout your life, and that you will never lose your curiosity or love of reading.

Remember that your librarians will always be here for you, no matter where your trail takes you. We hope you come back and visit us, whether it's to check out a new book or just to say hello.

Once again, congratulations on your graduation, and our best wishes to you for a happy, interesting, and long life.

Sincerely,

Your Friends at the Kalkaska County Library

# Valedictorian named for Class of '23

**K**alkaska Public Schools has named a Valedictorian for the Class of 2023 .  
 The Kalkaska High School Class of 2023 Valedictorian is Anna Hunter. Anna's parents are Rusty and Ashley Hunter.

Anna has been involved in several clubs, sports, and school activities while in high school. She has been involved in student council, class council, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, basketball (4 years), and volleyball (3 years).

In addition, Anna has been in several elected positions, including student council president, National Technical Honor Society vice president, and class council secretary.

Moreover, Anna has been involved in the community, including volunteering to help with the Iceman Cometh race for three years and helping with the youth parade of 2023.

Finally, Anna received several awards or honors including Lake Michigan Conference Academic Top 12 and Academic Top 10 for Kalkaska High School.

Her future plans include attending Central Michigan University for a business degree.



Anna Hunter, Class of 2023  
Valedictorian

# #BLAZERPRIDE

## KALKASKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORTED FAMILIES. SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS.

### Board of Education

Rachael Birgy	—	President
Regan Foerster	—	Vice President
Wendy Watson	—	Secretary
Mary Scobey	—	Treasurer
Richard Hodgman	—	Trustee
Sarah Dudek	—	Trustee
Steve Ordway	—	Trustee

### Central Business Office — 258—9109

Rick Heitmeyer, Superintendent	1120
Cari Jo Roberts, Executive Assistant	1101
Jeffrey Scroggins, Director of Finance	1104
David Tucker, Human Resources Director	1116

### Senior High — 258—9167

Staci Short, Principal	2103
Aaron Ostrander, Assistant Principal	2170
Mary Deb Rabourn, Secretary	2173
Rhonda Wurtz, Secretary	2102

Published by KPS

Superintendent: Rick Heitmeyer

The *Blazer Bulletin* is published during the school year from September—June. If you have any suggestions, or questions, please contact the office at (231) 258—9109 between the hours of 8 a.m.—4 p.m. Editorial assistance provided by Kalkaska County Library Director John P. Roberts.

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### Middle — 258—4040

Ryan Moore, Principal	3205
Linda Colvin, Secretary	3203
Sara Waterman, Secretary	3201

### Birch Street Elementary — 258—8629

Arica Zenner, Principal	4204
Tracy Dimon, Secretary	4200
Melissa Patnode, Secretary	4202

### Cherry Street Intermediate — 258—9146

Brian Klauer, Interim Principal	5106
Sue Woodruff, Secretary	5107

### Rapid City Elementary — 331—6121

Laura Gehman, Principal	6103
Robyn Czuk, Secretary	6101

