

Induction

National Honor Society Students Welcomed During April Ceremony

The KHS National Honor Society induction ceremony occurred on the evening of April 9, 2025, celebrating the achievements of our school's most dedicated and accomplished students.

This annual event recognized KHS students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship and leadership throughout their high school careers. Family and friends gathered in the KHS auditorium, filling the room with pride and gratitude. The ceremony began with a warm welcome from NHS advisor Jeremy Guggemous, who emphasized the importance of the values upheld by the organization.

New inductees were individually called to the stage, where they received their certificates of completion, symbolizing their commitment to the principles of the National Honor Society. As each student took the stage, their unique contributions to the school community were highlighted, showcasing their hard work and unwavering devotion.

The atmosphere was filled with applause and encouragement, reminding everyone present of the impact these students have made at KHS. The evening concluded with two heartfelt speeches from the former NHS president, Natalie Moore, and the newly inducted NHS president, Zachary Porter. All in all, both NHS members continued to inspire all attendees to never stop striving for excellence and to support one another in their academic and personal endeavors. This year's ceremony was a beautiful reminder of the bright futures that await these remarkable individuals.

■ **By Samantha McMillan**

KHS Yearbook Staff



INSIDE THIS EDITION

BULLETIN

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RCE focuses on friendship, fun, memories

Students celebrate “Fabulous February”

Spring Break gave our Rockstars an energy boost, and they’re back for the final quarter! The year’s last stretch promises action, learning, and plenty of smiles.

Spring Starts with Family Fun

April brought the community together for our annual Rapid City Elementary Literacy and Family Game Night. Kids and families gathered at school to celebrate the joy of reading. From stories to games and hands-on activities, everyone had a reason to smile. Tables filled with books and art supplies set the stage for a night focused on family and

connection.

SEEDS Shines Bright at RCE

Our SEEDS program continues to spark excitement every week. Mr. Bontrager keeps the fun going for students of all ages. On Monday nights, 4th and 5th graders bump and spike their way through volleyball basics. Tuesdays belong to gymnastics with Ms. Haylee from Leap of Faith Gymnastics

& Movement, where every child can flip or climb their way through new challenges. Wednesdays turn the kitchen into a classroom. Aspiring cooks join Mr. Bontrager for hands-on lessons and tasty treats. Quesadillas, omelets, and chocolate chip cookies have quickly become favorites.

Congratulations to our 3rd quarter Honor Roll students. Their drive and focus set an example for everyone.

- ★ 3rd Grade: Orianna Amidon, Azelle Finley Underhill
- ★ 4th Grade: Ella Deater, Glenn Howe
- ★ 5th Grade: Dyson Dyell

Let’s finish the year strong and celebrate every win, big or small. Thanks for making Rapid City a place where kids grow and shine!



MARCH FUN!

RCE has had many events and activities throughout March! The plan is to keep the fun happening throughout the year!

Spring hops in!

BSE celebrated a wonderful reading month!

Happy Spring!

As the school year comes to a close, we're excited to share what's happening at Birch Street Elementary.

We had a blast at the reading month assembly getting to watch the Zenner Bee and the Moore Bee compete to win the obstacle race! The kids always look forward to this event at the end of reading month and this year did not disappoint!

Kindergarten Enrollment / Preschool Enrollment

If you did not make it to Roundup please

stop by the Birch Street Office and get a packet. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Field Trips

Spring Field Trips: We'll be taking some exciting field trips to celebrate the end of the school year. Please watch your student's classroom communication for information.

Classroom News

End-of-Year Celebrations: Our classrooms will be filled with end-of-year celebrations,

including parties, awards ceremonies, and special projects.

Important Reminders

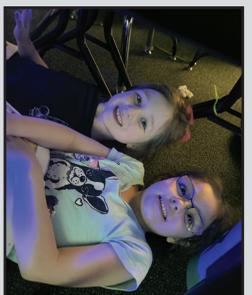
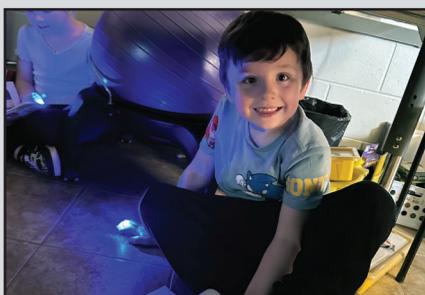
May 22 — Graduation

May 23 — No School

May 26 — No School — Memorial Day

Summer Reading: Regular visits to the library this summer will keep our students' reading skills sharp!

We hope you have a wonderful May filled with sunshine and celebrations!



DTE presents to students at UE

Upper elementary students “electrified” by energy

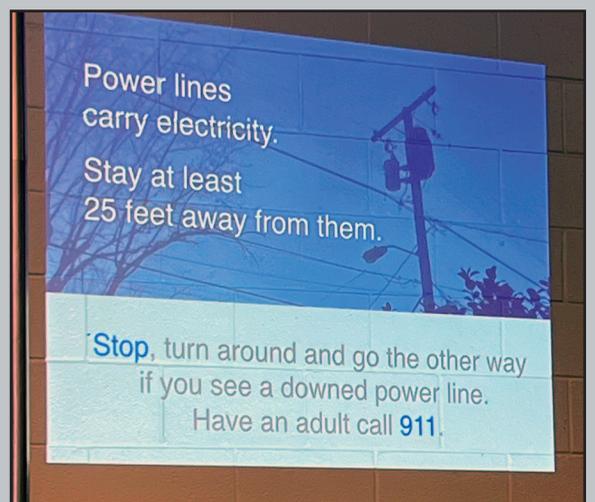
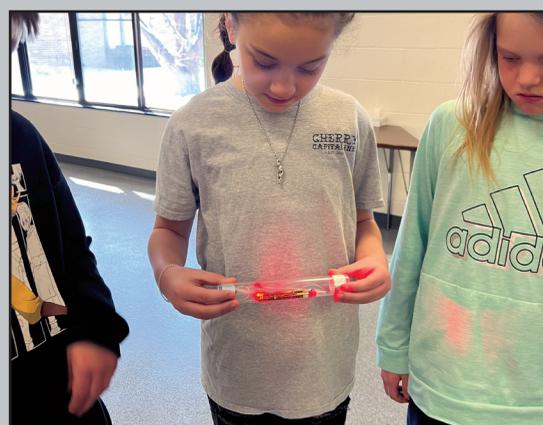
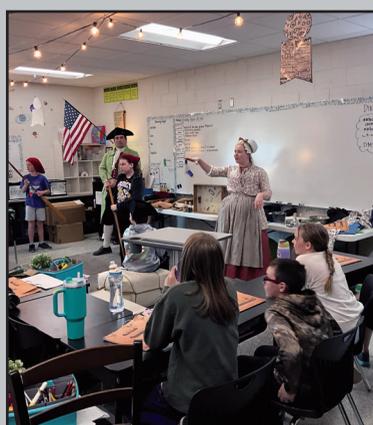
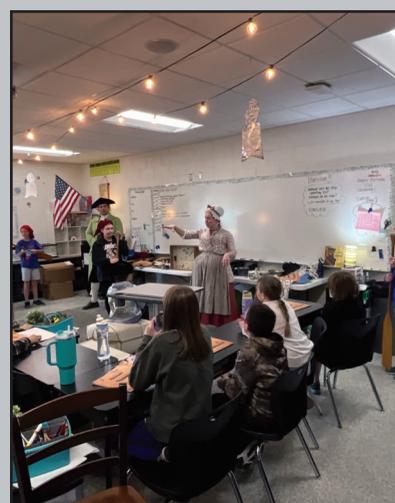
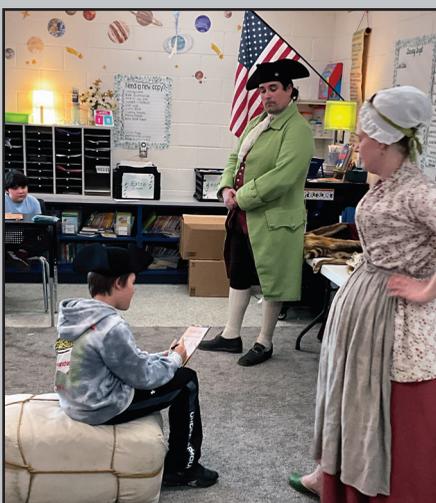
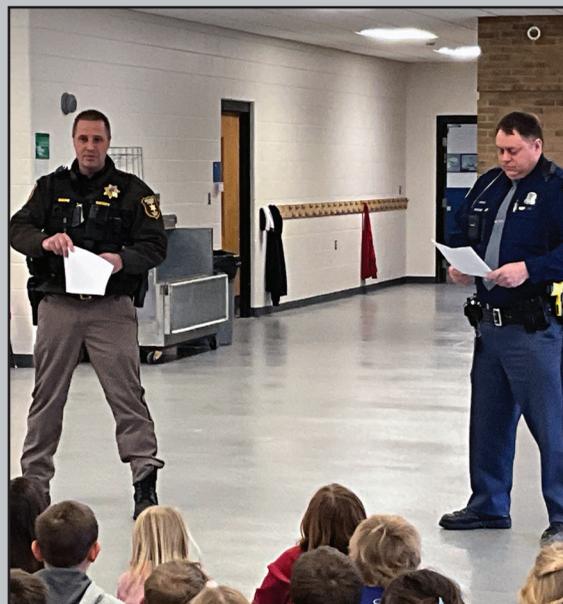
The 4th grade has partnered, again, with DTE to hold a presentation for our students. This presentation focuses on renewable and nonrenewable energy, powerline safety, electricity (conduction), and how to make their home energy efficient. Students received a grab bag with supplies for their home.

Our 5th grade was able to have the

Mackinac State Historic Parks visit our classrooms with a presentation on life in Colonial Mackinac. Students were able to learn about life as traders and merchants of the time. Role playing allowed the students to feel as if they were part of that era!

Officer Rohring and Trooper McCauley visited the Upper Elementary to talk

with students about language that is not appropriate for schools. This focused on students issuing threats of harm toward other students. The students listened very well and had some great questions for the officers.



FUN AT THE UE!

Kalkaska Upper Elementary School students have been involved in many activities.

KMS leaning “outside” of the classroom

Students at Kalkaska Middle school have been participating in a lunch time Dungeons and Dragons group in partnership with Communities in Schools and hosted by our very own Dungeon Master and social studies teacher, Mr. Wojdan!

This weekly group has become very popular within our middle school community. 6th grader Rebecca D. says, “Everybody is kind in our group. They are always willing to teach you the rules and how to play!”

Mr. Wojdan believes D&D is important in a middle school setting.

“Dungeons and Dragons brings magic and imagination together without screens!” he said.

The students agree.

Ben M. says about his experience, “It is so much fun! Probably even more fun than my video games!”

Not only is tech not necessary to play, D&D also teaches some very important life and educational skills. Players are learning extra academic skills while having fun! Group members are solving math problems, practicing critical thinking, reading stories, even dabbling in some history and science! Problem-solving skills, creativity, empathy, teamwork and imagination are just a few skills and tools needed to run a successful D&D campaign.

Each Dungeons and Dragons group member is walking away with newfound confidence, caring friends (who they may not have interacted with previously), as well as life skills.



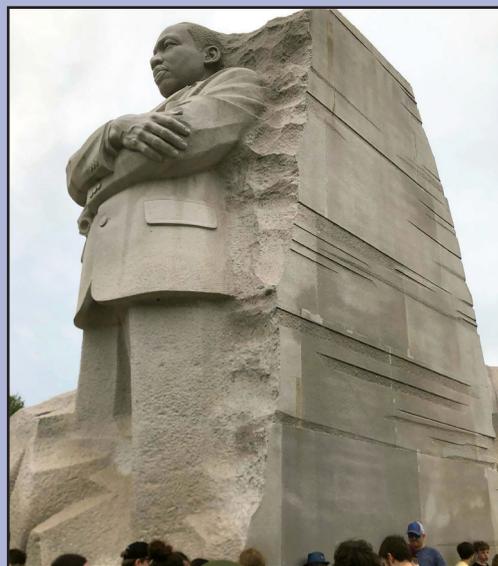
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

(Above from left) 6th Grade: Ransom Comfort, Joncee Arnold and Tristan McKinney. 7th Grade: Ryan Ramsey, Taylor Giganti and Sophia Garcia. 8th Grade: Amelia VanHorn, Asher Guggemos and Lucci Fortuna



QUARTER THREE 4.0 STUDENTS

(Above from left) 6th Grade: Joncee Arnold, Madison Carr, Ransom Comfort, Alexis Freeland, Bentley Henning, Issac Muzikar, Jack Rowell, Kason Stumm and Joshua Urquhart. 7th Grade: Brynn Foerster, Sophia Garcia, Alexia Kniss, Aubrey Paynter, Harrison Sutton and Nicholas Wegener. 8th Grade: Elizabeth Emery, Asher Guggemos, Scott Urquhart and Isabella Wegener.



KMS

(From Above Left) The D&D students and many pictures from the East Coast Trip. See Pg. 8 for additional information.

Athletically Speaking

What's Happening in Blazer Nation

TRI-COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CHARITY BASKETBALL A SUCCESS!

On April 16, Kalkaska High School hosted the second annual event between police and deputies from Kalkaska, Crawford, and Roscommon counties, along with troopers from the Houghton Lake post of the Michigan State Police. Each team included some high school “ringers” to add to the fun, and KHS athletes Zachary Porter, Keira Curry, Hunter Wilkinson, Hannah Gay, Jackson Shetler, and Aaliyah Hillier got in on the action. While the team from Roscommon County won the basketball tournament, the biggest winners were the charities who benefited, including the Kalkaska County Commission on Aging.

VARSITY BASEBALL PLAYING AT TURTLE CREEK STADIUM

The games scheduled for April 18 were postponed to May 8. Mark your calendars and get your tickets at GoFan (www.gofan.co). See you in Traverse City as the Blazers take on the Evert Wildcats. First pitch is at 5 p.m. Gates open at 4 p.m.

KIRKLAND TO LEAD VARSITY VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

Autumn Kirkland has been selected to take over as varsity head coach of the volleyball program. Coach Kirkland is a graduate of Laingsburg High School and played collegiately at Lansing Community College. She began her high school coaching career in the state of Georgia before returning to Michigan and establishing herself in Kalkaska. Coach Kirkland coached our 8th-grade Blazers last fall, and has been active in coaching

our youth volleyball players this spring. We are tremendously excited to have her on board and leading our program into the future!



NEW COACH NUZZO TAKES OVER BOYS VARSITY GOLF

Nick Nuzzo has been selected as varsity head coach of the boys golf program. Coach Nuzzo is a graduate of, and former collegiate athlete at, Southern Illinois University. He and his family established themselves in the Kalkaska community after living and working in the greater Louisville, Kentucky area. He brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the position, and we could not be happier to have him leading our boys golf program!

THINKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

Parents and athletes should be aware that any sports physical given after April 15 is good for the following school year. Avoid the last minute crunch before the start of the 2025-26 fall sports season and schedule your physical now. Fall sports practices begin Monday, August 11.

KHS ATHLETES OF THE WEEK FOR MARCH, APRIL – CONGRATS!

- ★ Week of 03/03- Freshman Aaliyah Hillier (JV girls basketball) and sophomore Evan Carlson (varsity wrestling)
- ★ Week of 03/10- Freshman Kenny Baker (JV boys basketball) and junior Myah Little (varsity girls basketball)
- ★ Week of 04/14- Sophomore Edda Grusnik (varsity girls track & field) and junior Carlos Morton-Clark (varsity boys track & field)
- ★ Week of 04/21- Freshman Owen Shetler (freshman boys basketball) and freshman Sydnee Haver (varsity softball).

Kalkaska Blazers Fight Song

Smash right through
that line big Blue.
Watch the points keep
growing.
Blazer teams are
bound to win.
They're fighting with
the vim.
Rah, rah, rah!
See that line, it's
weakening.
We're going to win
this game.
Fight, fight, rah,
team fight!
Victory for Blue and
White!

Go, Blazers.

Explore Family Friendly films and TV series with Kanopy

kanopy is an an ad-free video streaming service dedicated to quality, thoughtful entertainment. Best of all, with **kanopy**, kids watch free!

How do I watch kanopy?

To get started, visit kalkaska.kanopy.com and click the 'Add a Library Card' button. Then, enter your KCL library card number (*remember, all KPS students have a card!*) and preferred email, and begin streaming!

What about my kids?

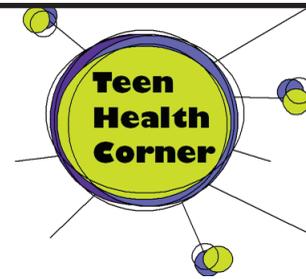
To set up a parental lock on your **kanopy** account, log in and click your initial in the upper right corner. Then, select 'My Account,' then 'Parental Controls' to create a Parent PIN. Once a Parent PIN is set, your child won't be able to leave the **kanopy kids** catalog without it!



Questions about Kanopy?

Contact the library!

info@kalkaskalibrary.org
(231) 258-9411



TEEN HEALTH CORNER

Helping kids find the help they need

It's **PHYSICAL TIME**...get it done **NOW** for next year's school sport's season!

Call **today and schedule, do not wait until July or August.**

K 231-258-7791/FA 231-369-2000

A physical completed anytime after April 15th is good the for entire following school sports seasons. (Scan the QR below for the MHSSA form)

-Physicals screen for anemia, vision difficulties, joint/muscle conditions that may lead to injury, and potential heart conditions, that could cause sudden death.

-Each visit allows enough time for teens to address all their concerns which may include immunizations, acne, asthma, stress, moods, and sleep.

-Labs, X-rays, and specialty referrals, are just a few services available as well.

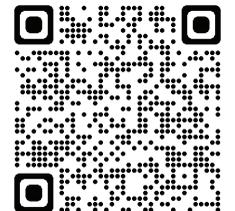
-Easy appointments to set up at Teen Health that fit your busy schedule.

We accept all insurances, provide Medicaid enrollment assistance, offer a sliding fee scale for the uninsured, and do not turn you away for an inability to pay.

CONTACT US:

- (231) 258-7791 Kalkaska**
419 South Coral St, Kalkaska
 - (231) 258-7922 KMS-E3**
Behavior Health services **ONLY**
Kalkaska Middle School
1700 West Kalkaska St, Kalkaska
 - (231) 369-2000 Forest Area**
7741 Shippy Rd, Fife Lake
- Three convenient locations**

All services are billable to all insurances or we offer a sliding scale fee for those with no insurance. We also offer assistance with applying for Medicaid.



#BLAZERPRIDE

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Blazer Bulletin

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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Birch Street Elementary — 258-8629

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Rapid City Elementary — 331-6121

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Athletics — 258-9167

Bryan Hawkins, Athletic Director	2236
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BLAZERS



Eighth Graders Make Journey to the Nation's Capital

Kalkaska Public School's eighth graders have been traveling out East for a long, long time. Mr. Doug Brown, 8th Grade U. S. History teacher, has been chaperoning KMS students via charter bus to our Nation's Capital for more than 25 years — and there is never a dull moment!

From 6 a.m. wake-up calls, an average of 11 walking miles per day to their 10 p.m. door locks, students were learning, engaging, and seeing an amazing glimpse of American history including the Gettysburg battlefield, Mt. Vernon, the U. S. Capitol, Embassy Row, the National Cathedral, the National Zoo, Arlington National Cemetery (including Kennedy's grave site) and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the National Mall and the Smithsonian, the Museum of American History, the Museum of Natural History, the National Gallery of Art, the White House and LaFayette Square and the Washington Monument. Additionally, the students and chaperones viewed the following Memorials: Jefferson, FDR, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II, Korean War, Vietnam Veterans, Lincoln, and FDR.

A huge "thank you" to our guide, chaperones, driver, and especially Mr. Brown for helping provide an excellent experience during our 1,500 mile round-trip adventure. *You can see more pictures from the "trip" on the middle school pages within the newsletter.*



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